

**[Report 1957] / Medical Officer of Health, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough.**

**Contributors**

Newcastle-under-Lyme (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1957

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Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme



# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1957

JOHN WARRACK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

CHRISTOPHER A. WOOD, M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

*B*  
*C.W.*





# BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

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Public Health Department,  
6 Queen Street,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffs.

July, 1958.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on health conditions in the Borough during the year 1957.

As is shown by the Registrar General's estimate, the population of the Borough continues to increase slowly, although this year's increase of 530 is less than that in the previous year when the figure was 940.

Under 'Vital Statistics' it is worthy to note that the birth rate in the Borough has increased from the previous year's figure of 16.63 and that this is still in excess of the average for England and Wales. It is also gratifying that the still-birth rate has decreased to 28.12 from 28.73 in 1956 and that in 1957 no death has occurred from puerperal causes.

Under the table showing diseases notified it will be observed that 104 cases of scarlet fever occurred during the year. This is a marked increase from the 33 cases occurring in 1956 but even so, no cause for alarm exists as this disease is now very mild in character and in no way resembles the infection as I knew it some 25 years ago. Of course there is, however, no guarantee that the organism may not revert to its former severity at any time and consequently supervision of these cases must be continued. In addition, strict control of cases who may be engaged in the handling or manufacture of food and drink for human consumption is necessary. Measles also has shown an increase in the number of cases occurring and although it is not usual to remove these cases to hospital, considerable nursing skill is often required to ensure a complete recovery.

In Table 1 — 'Causes of Death' — the most interesting change from the figures for the previous year is in deaths from all forms of malignant diseases in which there is a decrease of 22. In Table 5 it will be seen that 48 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during 1957, this is a drop of 10 on the previous year's figure and is in accord with the general trend throughout the country.

On the 31st December, 1957, three vacancies existed on the establishment for District Public Health Inspectors and consequently the remaining members of the inspectorate staff continued to work under considerable pressure and because of this, some routine and other duties which should have been carried out could not be undertaken. The situation was, to some degree, worsened by the decision of the Council that slum clearance should take priority over all other duties and so this branch of the Public Health Inspectors' work was the only one which has not suffered from the depleted staff. I feel considerable perturbation that it has not been possible to implement fully the provision of the Food Hygiene Regulations which came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

With the introduction of the Clean Air Act on the 31st December, 1956, much more interest has been taken in the various causes of atmospheric pollution. It is hoped that in the not too far distant future—availability of staff permitting—it will be possible to make some strides towards the preliminary surveying of parts of the Borough to decide their suitability as 'Smoke Control Areas.' In order to have some visible indication of the variation of pollution in the atmosphere a smoke filter apparatus was installed in this Department in May. By this apparatus a measured quantity of air is drawn through a filter paper during each 24 hours. By means of a comparison of the shade of the filter paper with that on a standard scale it is possible to estimate the amount of pollution in the air on any particular day.

In conclusion I wish to record my gratitude to the members of the Council who have continued to support me by maintaining their interest in Public Health matters. I must express also my thanks to the other officials of the Corporation for their co-operation and to the members of my staff for their loyal help during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**JOHN WARRACK.**



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## Area

The area of the Borough is 8,882 acres.

## Population, etc.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for 1957 is 73,690.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957 was 24,016.

## Rateable Value, etc.

The rateable value of the Borough is £709,159 and one penny rate in the £ (General Rate) produces £2,982.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate	England & Wales	
Live Births—	1313	665	648	17·81	16·1	per 1,000
Legitimate	1273	640	633	—	—	estimated
Illegitimate	40	25	15	—	—	population
Stillbirths	38	15	23	28·12	22·4	per 1,000 total live and still-births
Deaths	823	437	386	11·17	11·5	per 1,000 estimated population

Deaths and death-rates from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births :—

		Male	Female	Rate	England & Wales
Total ..	..	23	14	17·51	23·0
Legitimate ..	..	20	14	15·23	—
Illegitimate ..	..	3	—	2·28	—



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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		Male	Female	Rate	England & Wales
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Legitimate ..	..	20	14	15·23	—
Illegitimate ..	..	3	—	2·28	—

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.**

**National Assistance Act, 1948, and  
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

**Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.**

It is gratifying to record that during 1957 no person was found to require removal under the powers contained in the above Acts.

**National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.**

**Burial of Destitute Persons.**

This Section of the Act enables a local authority to arrange for the burial or cremation of "the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made."

During the year three burials took place in which the cost was borne by the Council.

**Post-Mortem Examinations.**

During 1957, 85 bodies were removed to the City General Hospital Mortuary on the instructions of the Borough Coroner and in 80 cases post-mortems were carried out. In addition 2 bodies were accommodated in the Newcastle Borough Mortuary.

**Laboratory Facilities.**

Specimens under the Food and Drugs Acts and the Milk and Cream Regulations are examined by the County Analyst at Stafford. Bacteriological and pathological examinations are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at Martin Street, Stafford. The number of specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory has remained high owing to the continued sonne dysentery infection within the Borough during the year.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR SUPERANNUATION AND SICK PAY PURPOSES.

During 1957, 78 Corporation Employees were medically examined for fitness for admission to the Corporation Superannuation Scheme. The examinations were carried out by the medical staff of the Public Health Department.

Arrangements were made with one of the local General Practitioners for 23 employees to be medically examined for suitability for inclusion in the Corporation's Sick Pay Scheme.

The following table gives details of the numbers of employees and staff examined and the Departments concerned :—

Department	Superannuation Scheme			Sick Pay Scheme		
	Total	Passed	Failed	Total	Passed	Failed
Borough Surveyor's	42	36	6	7	7	—
Borough Treasurer's	2	2	—	3	3	—
Cemeteries	4	4	—	—	—	—
Cleansing	5	4	1	2	1	1
Estate Office	1	1	—	1	1	—
Libraries	4	3	1	4	4	—
Parks	12	11	1	4	4	—
Public Baths	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Health	5	5	—	—	—	—
Town Clerks	2	2	—	2	2	—
Weights and Measures	—	—	—	—	—	—
Markets and Fairs	1	1	—	—	—	—

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

A chemical factory situated in the Ravensdale area, on the Borough boundary, was the cause of a complaint of smells which affected the Tunstall area of the City of Stoke and became known as the 'Tom cat' smell which was eventually the subject of questions in Parliament and received some publicity in the local press.

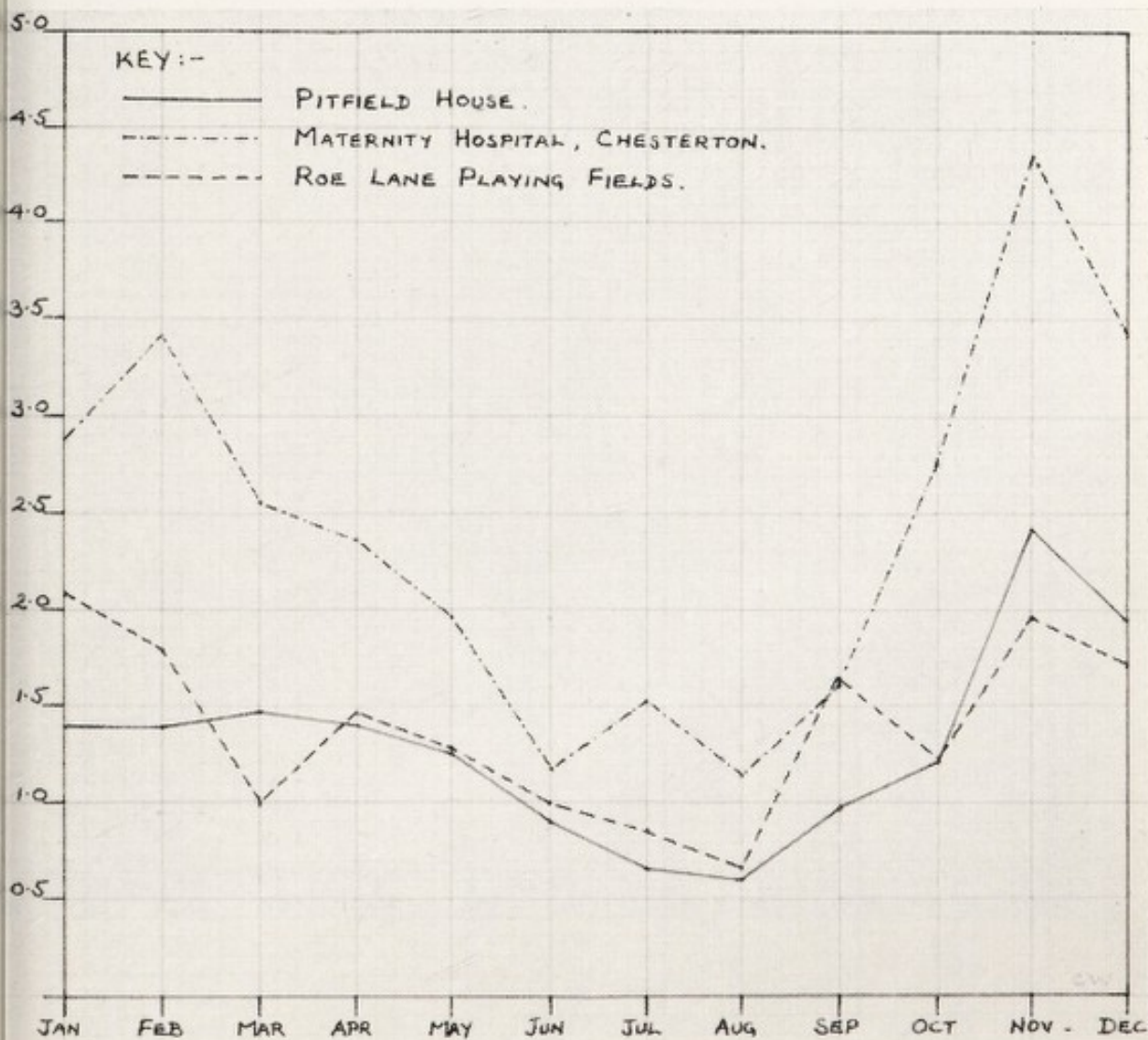
Investigations by this Department revealed that it was emanating from the depositing of an acid sludge waste from the works and as this type of process falls within the province of the Alkali Inspector he was called in.

The problem presented some peculiar complications, but the firm incorporated alterations and additions to the existing plant, involving an expenditure of several thousand pounds, which greatly reduced the smell. Experiments were further continued until eventually it was possible to dispense with the need for dumping of the waste and it is now utilised at another works in the production of one of its products without any nuisance arising.

# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

## Sulphur Dioxide Deposits

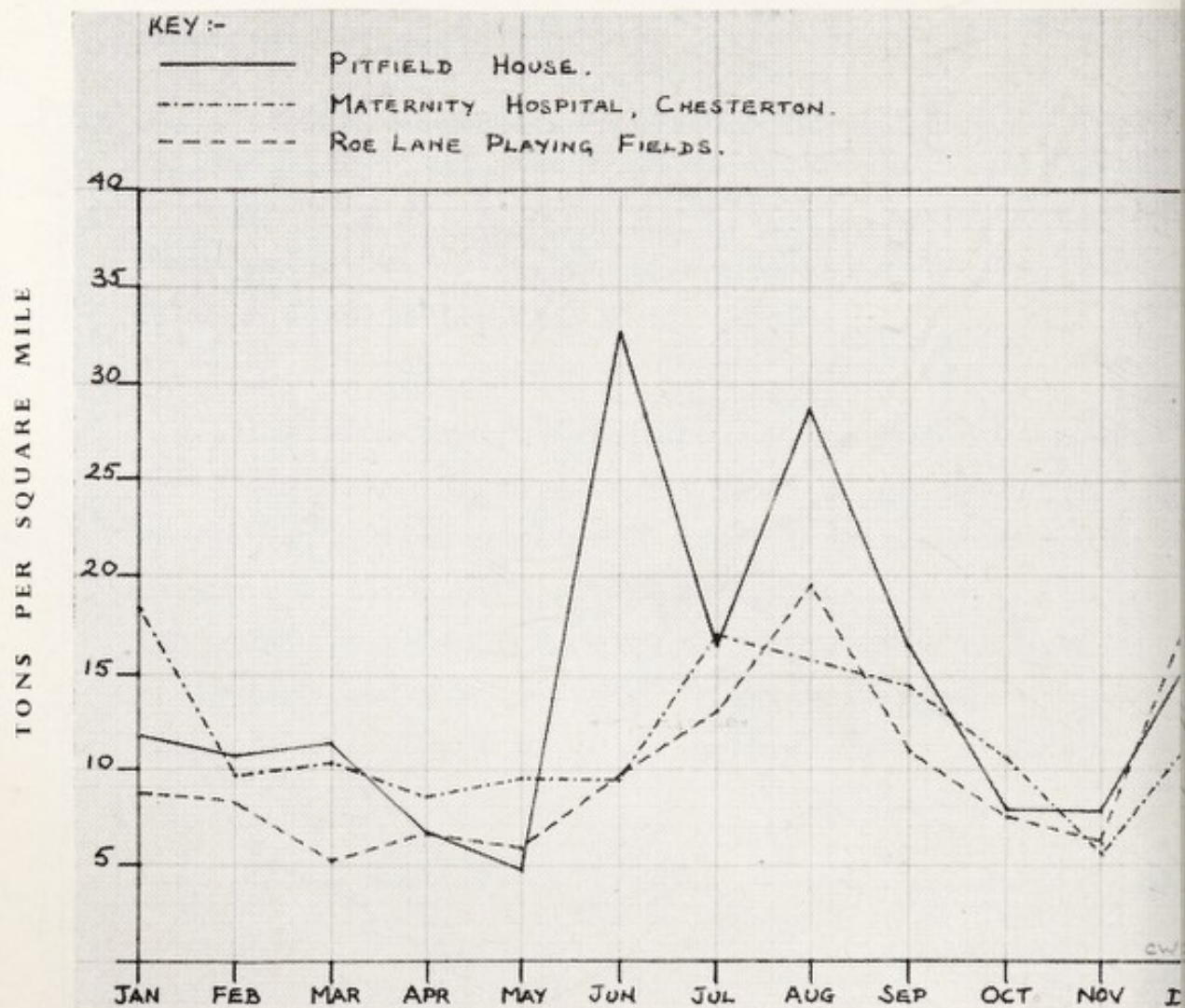
(expressed as  $\text{MG/SO}_3$  / Day / 100 sq. cm. of Batch 'A' Lead Peroxide  
exposed under a louvered cover)



# ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Monthly Deposits in tons per square mile

## Smoke Deposited Matter



A record on the rainfall and the pollution of the atmosphere is kept at three sites within the Borough. The following shows the rainfall and pollution at each station :—

MONTH	Rainfall in inches		Total solids in tons per square mile		SO <sub>3</sub> MG/DAY/100 SQ. CMS.	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
PITFIELD HOUSE :						
January .. .. .	4.69	2.36	28.04	11.82	2.29	1.39
February .. .. .	0.79	2.96	10.61	10.72	2.73	1.39
March .. .. .	1.93	3.43	17.56	11.44	2.62	1.47
April .. .. .	1.22	0.47	12.34	6.70	1.88	1.40
May .. .. .	0.87	1.18	25.54	4.84	0.89	1.25
June .. .. .	3.62	2.13	29.52	32.53	0.88	0.90
July .. .. .	4.81	5.75	31.07	16.49	1.02	0.66
August .. .. .	5.99	5.99	16.08	28.53	1.53	0.60
September .. .. .	2.21	5.61	9.20	16.48	1.20	0.97
October .. .. .	2.36	2.84	22.99	7.94	1.59	1.21
November .. .. .	1.50	1.93	10.47	7.88	2.38	2.41
December .. .. .	3.19	2.13	11.61	16.16	3.08	1.94
1957 Average .. .. .	3.07		14.29		1.30	
1956 Average .. .. .	2.77		18.79		1.84	
1955 Average .. .. .	2.23		18.53		1.65	
1954 Average .. .. .	3.74		16.35		1.37	
1953 Average .. .. .	2.46		14.13		1.09	
ROE LANE :						
January .. .. .	4.10	2.25	16.24	8.70	1.83	2.08
February .. .. .	0.47	2.72	8.73	8.10	3.27	1.80
March .. .. .	2.01	3.27	10.42	5.12	2.55	0.99
April .. .. .	0.83	0.39	10.12	6.60	1.53	1.47
May .. .. .	0.83	1.34	6.70	5.84	0.69	1.28
June .. .. .	3.27	2.05	16.50	9.49	1.67	1.00
July .. .. .	4.93	5.48	23.67	13.10	0.79	0.86
August .. .. .	5.64	5.95	14.01	19.61	0.50	0.68
September .. .. .	2.05	5.40	8.80	11.08	0.96	1.63
October .. .. .	1.93	2.99	11.82	7.56	1.47	1.22
November .. .. .	1.30	2.05	7.47	6.11	2.97	1.97
December .. .. .	3.07	1.81	9.33	18.87	1.08	1.71
1957 Average .. .. .	2.98		10.02		1.39	
1956 Average .. .. .	2.54		11.98		1.61	
1955 Average .. .. .	2.16		10.61		1.47	
1954 Average .. .. .	3.47		12.00		1.08	
1953 Average .. .. .	2.36		9.11		0.85	

MONTH	Rainfall in inches		Total solids in tons per square mile		SO <sub>3</sub> MG/DAY/100 SQ. CMS.	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
CHESTERTON :						
January .. .. .	4.06	1.77	21.18	18.29	3.55	2.88
February .. .. .	0.43	2.64	8.16	9.76	4.41	3.40
March .. .. .	1.69	2.99	18.60	10.30	3.36	2.55
April .. .. .	1.14	0.35	18.73	8.84	2.43	2.35
May .. .. .	0.91	1.26	13.77	9.55	1.79	1.96
June .. .. .	2.21	1.77	16.90	9.42	1.95	1.18
July .. .. .	4.29	5.52	21.78	16.86	1.55	1.51
August .. .. .	5.36	—	21.39	—	1.27	1.13
September .. .. .	2.05	5.51	18.02	14.42	1.66	1.60
October .. .. .	2.17	2.52	14.18	10.70	2.75	2.76
November .. .. .	1.26	1.73	14.93	5.64	1.92	4.36
December .. .. .	2.72	1.89	16.83	11.89	3.56	3.41
1957 Average .. .. .	2.54		11.42		2.42	
1956 Average .. .. .	2.36		17.04		2.52	
1955 Average .. .. .	2.06		15.54		2.33	
1954 Average .. .. .	3.40		15.10		1.83	
1953 Average .. .. .	2.23		13.56		1.29	

The emission of smoke and smell from a burning spoilbank at Silverdale is still the subject of joint investigation by the Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and this Department.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The following information on water supply has been supplied to me by (1) the Chief Public Health Inspector and by (2) the Engineer and Manager of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board.

(1) "The whole of the area is served by a piped supply on the constant system through the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, the Borough Council being a constituent authority of that Board. Fourteen outlying isolated houses and farm premises derived their water supplies from wells and springs, and in four instances where water is not reasonably accessible, the houses involved are included in the five year housing clearance programme.

One sample of drinking water was examined and reported as satisfactory.

(2) "The water supplied by the Board to the Newcastle Borough area is derived from two sources, being deep wells and boreholes sunk in the New Red Sandstone. All the water is treated with chlorine, being chloramination at both sources.

“ During 1957, bacteriological examinations on 139 samples were made, of which 67 were of untreated waters at the sources, and 72 of the chloraminated water going into supply. All were of the highest purity and 100% free from faecal coli organisms. 18 Chemical samples were analysed, showing moderate mineral and saline content, neutral reaction and an absence of metals. The water is also of moderate hardness ; it is not softened, nor is it plumbo-solvent.

“ All the waters in supply were certified by the Board's chemist as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity and organic quality, indicative of a water pure, wholesome, and suitable for purposes of public and domestic supply.

“ The consumption of water for domestic purposes, unmetered trade and waste in the whole of the Board's area of supply for the year 1957 averaged 44.10 gallons per head per day.”

The Chief Public Health Inspector has reported to me as follows :—

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The greater part of the district is sewered, one portion on the combined system, the remainder having a separate system for surface water. Portions of the area as yet unsewered include (a) Audley Road (part) and Springwood, (b) High Lane and Black Bank and (c) Seabridge.

During the year 1,130 yards of new foul sewers and 940 yards of storm water sewers were laid. Two hundred and forty three inspections regarding sewers, street gullies, etc., were made and twenty one nuisances in connection with complaints were abated.

### **SWIMMING BATHS**

During the year samples of water were taken from the two swimming baths in use in the Borough. The results were as follows :

High School Bath—6 Bacteriological—all satisfactory.

“ “ “ —6 Free Chlorine —3 satisfactory.  
—3 unsatisfactory.

King's Memorial Bath—4 Bacteriological—4 satisfactory.

“ “ “ —4 Free Chlorine —4 satisfactory.

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

## Record of Inspections and Results.

Inspections made with respect to :	No of Inspections	Nuisances or defects reported	Re-visits made re abatement	Nuisances or defects remedied
Public Health Acts—				
Housing	177	602	431	785
Other Nuisances	177	193	185	140
Water Supply	37	24	39	17
Overcrowding .. ..	18	—	—	—
Drains—Inspected .. ..	428	114	289	109
Tested .. ..	203	5	41	4
Sewers, Street Gullies, etc ..	243	15	38	11
Sanitary Accommodation ..	89	10	50	7
Ashes Accommodation ..	1947	2145	—	2145
Accumulations .. ..	141	20	29	19
Swine, Fowl or other Animals	55	2	12	5
Rivers Pollutions Acts ..	4	1	1	1
Rats and Mice Infestations	277	5	11	14
(Visits by Inspectors)				
Houses let in Lodgings ..	5	—	13	—

### Other visits :—

Infectious Diseases	...	644
Verminous Conditions	...	224
Disinfection	...	51
Schools, Public Buildings, Cinemas, etc.		133
Miscellaneous Visits	...	2700
Interviews—owners and tradesmen	...	1128

### Notices served and complied with

	Notices served		Notices complied with	
	Prelim	Statutory	Prelim.	Statutory
Public Health Acts—				
Housing Defects ..	108	36	147	20
Nuisances ..	88	15	86	17
Smoke Nuisance ..	—	—	—	—
Housing Acts .. ..	1	2	1	2
Factories Acts .. ..	3	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Act ..	24	—	14	—
Bye-Laws and Local Acts ..	1	—	—	—
Shops Acts .. ..	1	—	1	—
Prevention of Damage by				
Pests Act, 1949 .. ..	3	—	4	—
Milk and Dairies Act, 1950..	—	—	—	—

## Inspection of Factories.

### (a) Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occu-piers Pro-secuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities .. .. .	50	15	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	201	78	3	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	22	18	—	—
Total .. .. .	273	111	3	—

### (b) Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were :—				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Re-medied	Referred to H.M. In-spector	by H.M. In-spector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	3	1	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ..	2	2	—	1	—
Total .. .. .	11	7	—	6	—

### (c) Outworkers' premises.

Business carried on	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Making of Wearing Apparel .. .. .	14	10
Furniture and Upholstery .. .. .	2	2
Plastics (make-up) .. .. .	24	9
Watch Repairs .. .. .	—	—
Total .. .. .	40	21

## HOUSING.

Housing Census :—

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| (1) Total number of inhabited houses in the Borough | 24,016 |
| (2) Number of new houses erected during the year :— |        |
| (a) by Private Enterprise      159                  | }      |
| (b) by Local Authority      381                     |        |
| 540   |        |

The principal work done under the Housing Act, 1936, can be summarised as follows :—

### Part I Clearance Areas.

Ten areas were represented involving a total of 317 houses and necessitating 1,473 visits.

The following six areas were confirmed by the Minister :—

AREA	No. of Houses involved	No. of Families	No of Persons
Downing Street, Silverdale Area No. 39, C.P.O.	30	31	76
George Street, Newcastle (No. 1), Area No. 101, C.P.O.	189	184	469
George Street, Newcastle (No. 2)— Area No. 102, C.P.O.	8	7	17
Princess Street, Newcastle, Area No. 103, C.P.O.	6	6	16
Liverpool Road, Newcastle (No. 2), Area No. 105, C.P.O.	13	15	39
Crackley Bank, Chesterton Area No. 108, C.P.O.	9	9	25

### Part II.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 126 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 202 |
| (c) Number of unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied                           | 251 |

In addition 15 individual unfit houses were dealt with as follows :—

- Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 — Demolition Orders—6.  
 Section 10 Local Government  
 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 — Closing Order — 8.  
 Section 17, Housing Act, 1957 — Closing Order — 1.

## **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.**

The estimated number of cases recorded as legally overcrowded at the end of the year was 9.

In the absence of a census it is impossible accurately to assess the present position with regard to overcrowding. Two new cases brought to notice were recorded.

## **Housing Act, 1949, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rent Act, 1957.**

### **Improvement Grants.**

78 applications for grant for improvements and conversions have been received and in 62 cases it has been recommended that they are suitable for consideration for grant.

Expenditure ranking for grant approved during the year on 36 applications ... .. £5,736 16 0

Expenditure ranking for grant on 63 applications completed during the year ... .. £8,852 7 0

### **Certificates of Disrepair.**

Under the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954, one revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair was granted. The Rent Act, 1957, which came into force on the 6th July now deals with the question of Certificate of Disrepair and the following is a copy of the return to the Ministry covering the period from 6th July to 31st December, 1957.

#### **Part 1—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.**

(1) Number of applications for certificates	...	63
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates—		
(a) in respect of some but not all defects		42
(b) in respect of all defects	...	21
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	53
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	...	10

#### **Part 2—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.**

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	1
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates		Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	...	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	Nil

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Food Hygiene Regulations.

Despite the definite advancement in improved structural standards of food premises covering storage, protection of displayed goods, sanitary and washing facilities, there are still each year, throughout the country thousands of cases of food poisoning.

Whether there is any truth or not in the old saying "that we all have to eat a peck of dirt before we die" there is no doubt that there is a definite connection between dirt and disease.

Whilst great progress has been made in new packaging methods, the use of easy clean materials and the recognition that good premises are a basic essential, the individual hygiene of everyone in contact with food, whether at the stage of manufacture, distribution or retail, is even more vital if food is to be provided free of any risk of disease.

During investigations of food poisoning, we have often established that there was direct contamination between worker and prepared foods, which made obvious the lack of knowledge of good hygiene methods.

To provide the foundation for successful production of food free from the risk of disease will require the co-operation of the Public Health Inspectors, with their specialised knowledge, and the food staffs who should be prepared to attain the necessary standard of food hygiene.

### Record of Inspections and Results.

	No. of Premises	Inspection	Re-Inspection	No. of Premises Visited	Nuisances or defects	
					Found	Abated
Dairies & Milkshops	208	96	4	65	4	4
Ice Cream Premises	165	75	4	42	3	2
Food Preparing Premises ..	45	225	11	26	128	83
Bakehouses ..	18	29	1	12	19	16
Slaughterhouses ..	3	364	2	3	6	6
Butchers' Shops ..	72	96	3	33	44	2
General Shops selling Food ..	703	407	37	180	106	43
Market & Stall Inspections ..	23	250	3	23	27	25

(a) **Milk Supply.**

Number of Dairy Farms in the Borough	...	28
Producers of graded milk	... ..	12
Number of Retail Purveyors of milk	... ..	255
(a) Resident	... ..	239
(b) Non-Resident	... ..	16

Of the resident purveyors, 196 retail sterilised bottled milk only.

Number of Dairy Milk Shops ... .. 12

Fifty-nine retail purveyors hold licences for the sale of graded milk.

The following licences in connection with such grades were issued during the year—

Tuberculin Tested	... ..	52
Pasteurised	... ..	59
Two bottling licences were issued during the year—		
Tuberculin Tested	... ..	1
Pasteurised	... ..	1

There is one licensed pasteurising plant in the Borough.

Number of Ice Cream premises registered under Private Act—

Sale only	... ..	175	} 185
Manufacture and Sale	... ..	10	

## Bacteriological Samples.

Type	No. Submitted	No. failed Cleanliness Test
MILK:		
Heat Treated .. ..	*90	—
Ice Cream and Lollipops .. ..	32	1

\* All samples passed Heat-treatment Test

The unsatisfactory sample of ice lolly was due to improper methods of handling and storage and when this was rectified subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Other articles examined in connection with food inspection, etc. :—

Article	Purpose of Examination
Australian Frozen Egg	Presence of pathogenic organisms.
Argentine Dried Egg Powder	Presence of pathogenic organisms.
English Fresh Hens Eggs	Presence of pathogenic organisms.
Tinned Cooked Boneless Ham	Presence of pathogenic organisms and metallic contamination.
Cream Trifle	Suspected food poisoning.
Luncheon Meat	Presence of pathogenic organisms and metallic contamination.
Cooked Chaul	Suspected food poisoning.
Brawn	” ” ”
Potted Meat	” ” ”

### Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

All meat condemned by the Food Inspectors is stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposed of either by the Local Authority by incineration in the case of small quantities or where whole carcasses are involved through approved collectors.

With regard to other foods (tinned goods, etc.,) these are incinerated or buried at the Council's controlled tip.

### (b) Meat and Other Foods.

Number of butchers' shops registered under Private Act (including Market Stalls) ...	71
Number of Preserved Food preparing premises regisered (including Fish Fryers, 34) ...	76
Number of licensed slaughterhouses ...	3

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 13.

Number of Meat and Food inspections ...	497
---	-----

### Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Food, Fatstock Marketing Division, ceased to use the slaughterhouse at Mitchells Wood Farm, Red Street, as a Certification Centre and consequently the Public Health Inspectors, whilst still carrying out the meat inspection, do not now act as Certification Officers for the Ministry.

### Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if known) . .	207	67	6	892	278	—
Number Inspected . . . .	207	67	6	892	278	—
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . .	44	27	—	93	34	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci . .	21.3	40.3	—	10.4	14.4	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . .	44	22	—	—	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis . . . .	21.3	32.8	—	—	4.0	—
<b>Cysticercosis</b>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight condemned, 1 Ton, 6 Cwt, 68 lbs.

## Surrenders of Other Food

	lbs.
Fresh Meat	304
Cooked Meats and Sausages	18
Bacon and Ham	51
Wet Fish	196
Cheese	349
Butter, Cooking Fats, etc.	212
Pickles and Sauces	8
Preserves	14
Dried Fruits	37
Tinned Meat	4575
Tinned Fish	134
Tinned Vegetables	699
Tinned Milk	280
Tinned Soup	184
Tinned Fruit	4710
Frozen Liquid Egg	40
Fresh Fruit	160
Cereals, etc.	8

Total 11,979

(5 tons, 6 cwts., 107 lbs.)

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Total number of samples taken — 167.

Milk	120	Sauce	1
Margarine	2	Essence Coffee & Chicory	3
Butter	2	Liquid Paraffin	1
Bread	3	Seidlitz Powder	1
Flour	3	Raisins & Sultanias	6
Fish Paste	1	Currants	3
Lard	3	Soft Drinks	5
Jam	3	Sausages	4
Tea	2	Cheese	2
Margarine	1	Candied Peel	1

### Observations.

Six samples were adversely reported upon by the Public Analyst.

Sample No.	Description	Result of Analysis	Remarks
287	Formal Milk T.T. Sterilised	At least 0.8% added water. 2.5% deficient in solids—not fat.	Follow-up samples genuine. Warning letter to dairy management.
288	Formal Milk T.T. Sterilised	At least 0.8% added water. 2.7% deficient in solids—not fats.	
337	Informal Currants	Contains 0.49% sand and grit which is excessive.	Formal follow-up samples satisfactory.
339	Informal Sultanas	Contains 0.51% sand and grit which is excessive.	Formal follow-up samples satisfactory.
340	Informal Sultanas	Contains 0.42% sand and grit which is excessive.	Formal follow-up samples satisfactory.

All the milk samples were reported by the Analyst to be free from preservative and artificial colouring matter.

Number of approved premises—

Wholesale Dealers in Margarine ... 6

### Common Lodging Houses.

This type of house is disappearing and in fact for many years now instead, as originally, catering for the casual vagrant who required the odd nights lodging on his wanderings it has become a cheap form of permanent home for certain of the poorer type of individual.

During the year, 71/73 Lower Street, Newcastle, ceased to be a lodging house after being in existence as such for many years and it is proposed that it be acquired by the Council to form an extension to the Public Cleansing Depot.

The one remaining house is at 13 Lower Street, which provides beds for 39 males.

Thirteen inspections were made during the year.

### Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of Vans existing at the end of the year :—

(a) 1 Permanent Site	...	...	...	22
(b) 7 Other Sites	...	...	...	16
Number of vans, etc., in possession of owner-occupiers	...	...	...	38
Number of vans, etc., known to be overcrowded	...	...	...	2
Number of vans, etc., unfit for habitation	...	...	...	4
Number of visits and inspections made	...	...	...	340
Nuisances or defects found	...	...	...	4
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	...	...	16

### Smoke Abatement.

Number of recorded observations made	...	16
Number of notices served	...	—
Number of notices complied with	...	—
Premises visited following observations	...	15

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of action taken is as follows :—

COUNCIL HOUSES				PRIVATE HOUSES			
Inspections	Infested	Dis-Infested		Inspections	Infested	Dis-Infested	
		HCN	Other Insecticides			HCN	Other Insecticides
40	1	—	1	48	7	—	7

### Shop Sanitation

Number of sanitary visits made to shops	...	19
Number of nuisances or defects found	...	7
Number of nuisances or defects remedied	...	6

### Offensive Trades.

Number recorded as being within the Borough		15
Fat Melters, etc.	...	6
Tripe Boilers	...	6
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	2
Bone Boiler	...	1
Number of new offensive trades established	...	Nil
Number of inspections made	...	22
Nuisances or defects found	...	—
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	—

### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The following is a summary of the various types of sanitary convenience existing in the Borough at the end of the year :—

No. of houses served by waste water closets	...	135
No. of houses served by hand-flushed water closets	...	85
No. of houses and premises served by privies (73)	...	57
No. of houses and premises served by pail closets (71)	...	62
No. of houses and premises served by ash pits (2)	...	2

Particulars of conversions made during the year :—

Privies converted to water closets	...	7
Pail closets converted to water closets	...	1
Waste water closets converted to flushed water closets	...	7
Hand-flushed closets provided with cisterns	...	1
Privies converted to pail closets	...	—
Standard dustbins replaced or provided through the Local Authority (excluding new houses erected)	...	2,145

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

#### SERVICES :

The following is a summary of the cleansing services performed during the year ending 31st March, 1958 :—

#### Refuse Collection :—

Number of houses and other premises receiving regular refuse collection service	...	24,564
Number of premises receiving special trade refuse collection service	...	670
Average number of ashbins cleansed per week	...	23,700
Number of separate Waste Food Bins in use	...	110
Average number of privies cleansed per week	...	58
Average number of pail closets cleansed per week	...	61

Number of cesspools cleansed during the year (excluding work undertaken outside the area) ...	46
Total refuse collected—Dry (estimated) ...	21,878 tons
Salvage (estimated) ...	959 tons
Wet (estimated) ...	450 tons
Weight collected per 1,000 population per day (Dry refuse and salvage) ...	16.2 cwts.

#### Refuse Disposal :—

Total estimated refuse dealt with at Destructor Plant or Tips (excluding wet refuse, or covering material) ...	25,000 tons
(Incineration 3%, Tipped 97%).	

Two disused water-filled marlholes have been acquired, the water pumped out and a roadway constructed into the base of one for the reception of over 90% of the total refuse collected in the Borough. Capital expenditure on purchase of this ten acre site, together with preparatory work of emptying, construction of roads, workmen's hut and fencing will cost £2,500. Estimated use for town's refuse disposal is 10 years, thereafter the sites will be levelled, covered and used for industrial development.

#### STREET CLEANSING.

Mileage : Trunk Road (4.36 miles), County Roads (30.68 miles), District Roads (63.45 miles), Unadopted Roads (20.49 miles). Total 118.98 miles.

Mileage of Streets cleansed : 98.49.

#### Frequency of Cleansing.

(a) At least once daily ...	1%
(b) Three to five times weekly ...	3%
(c) Twice weekly ...	8%
(d) Once weekly ...	63%
(e) Less than once weekly ...	25%

Number of Street Gullies :— 6,257.

Number of Gully Cleansings during year :— 32,006.

The Staff employed in these services is as follows :—

	Average
Refuse collection and salvage ...	80
Refuse disposal ...	5
Street cleansing ...	22

In addition to the above there is one cleansing foreman, a foreman mechanic and two mechanics for vehicle maintenance.

**COSTS :—**

The following figures show the estimated total cost for all services, with salvage income shown separately.

**Net Expenditure—**

Refuse Collection	...	...	...	£45,171
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	£3,414
(Salvage Income £6,748).				
				<hr/>
				£48,585
Street Cleansing (all roads)	...	...	...	£13,962
Gully Cleansing	...	...	...	£2,604

**PUBLIC CONVENIENCES :**

The following conveniences are maintained and supervised :—

**Newcastle :—**

Pepper Street (Males and Females)  
Marsh Street (Males and Females)  
Liverpool Road Urinal

**Wolstanton :—**

High Street (Males and Females)  
Bradwell Lane (Males and Females)  
Jubilee Road Urinal

**Silverdale :—**

Crown Street (Males)

**Knutton :—**

Cross Roads Urinal

**Chesterton :—**

Victoria Street (Males)  
Dragon Square (Males and Females)

Nett Cost of Services — £5,697.

## RODENT CONTROL.

One full-time and two part-time operators are employed to undertake treatment on all Council and Private properties and to give advice generally following receipt of complaint. In addition, systematic treatment is carried out in connection with the 55 annual contracts with traders affecting factory and business premises.

Sewer maintenance treatments carried out during September and April with an operating squad consisting of an inspector, a rodent operator, two sewer men and the use of a van. A total of 1,375 sewer manholes were inspected and of these 1,718 were baited and 404 showed pre-bait takes. The evidence as shown from the number of takes, is that infestation is limited to local areas, particularly in the older type of sewers.

3,082 visits were made by the operators and the number of rats destroyed was—

(a) Caught and Trapped 681.      (b) Estimated by baits 2,078.

The rodent problem in the Borough is now mainly reduced to minor scattered infestation and the maintenance treatments of sewers, together with block control measures has kept the centre district of the town comparatively free from rats.

The refuse disposal tips receive regular attention and give very little trouble.

The two methods of rat destruction employed are gassing and poisoning. The poisons and baits used are those approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, which include : oatmeal, sausage rusk, zinc phosphide, warfarin, red squills, arsenic, antu, tracking dust and cymag gas.

The following is a copy of the table included in the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food :—

	Type of Property				(5) Agri- cultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Author- ity	(2) Dwelling houses (in, C'ncil houses)	(3) All other (includ'g business premises)	(4) Total of Cols (1) (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	85	22,654	2,672	25,411	55
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
Notification .. ..	20	124	18	162	2
Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) .. ..	26	147	61	234	7
III. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats { Major ..	—	—	3	3	—
{ Minor ..	10	57	25	92	2
(b) Mice { Major ..	—	—	3	3	—
{ Minor ..	16	45	15	76	—
IV. Number of infested prop- erties (in Section III) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Section III) .. ..	26	102	46	174	2
V. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	36	165	139	340	4

The gross expenditure on rodent control during the year was £850

### Vermin Infestation.

In addition to the service for rats and mice destruction, the Department gives advice on methods to eradicate most known insects found in and about dwellings and other premises.

Where a house from which a tenant is to be re-housed in a Council house is found to be infested with vermin, the house and furniture, etc., are disinfested before removal takes place.

**Table 1—CAUSES OF DEATH**

CAUSES OF DEATH			MALES	FEMALES
All Causes			437	386
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	10	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	—	1
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	1	—
4. Diphtheria	..	..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	..	..	1	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	—
8. Measles	..	..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	3	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	19	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	15	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	—	13
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	—	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			41	32
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	..	..	2	1
16. Diabetes	..	..	1	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	44	50
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	..	65	59
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	15	16
20. Other heart disease	..	..	47	79
21. Other circulatory disease	..	..	24	24
22. Influenza	..	..	16	9
23. Pneumonia	..	..	11	16
24. Bronchitis	..	..	17	14
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	12	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	8	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	1	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	5	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	15	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	..	..	5	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	38	29
33. Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	3	5
34. All other accidents	..	..	11	4
35. Suicide	..	..	7	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	..	—	—

**Table 2—FOOD POISONING**

The following table shows the position regarding cases of food poisoning which occurred in the Borough during the year :

Identified Organisms			Unidentified Organisms		
Outbreaks	No. of Cases	Single Cases	Outbreaks	No. of Cases	Single Cases
3	9	3	2	7	6

The foods involved in these outbreaks were :—

Cooked pressed meat in the case of 2 persons and in all other cases it was impossible to obtain Laboratory confirmation that the suspected food was responsible.

Table 3.—Cases of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	AT ALL AGES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AT ALL AGES										
		Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 65	65 years and over
Small-pox .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	104	2	8	8	22	61	2	—	—	1	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	40	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	3	4	13	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pemphigus Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica (Post-Infectious) .. .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebrospinal Fever .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomylitis and Polio-Encephalitis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic .. .. .	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	810	18	68	80	124	395	12	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	146	15	18	18	22	48	2	—	—	2	3	—
Dysentery .. .. .	13	1	3	2	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	—
Food Poisoning .. .. .	23	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	—
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria .. .. .	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 4.—Deaths from Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1957.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Number of Deaths												
	AT ALL AGES	At All Ages											
		Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 years and over
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth Abortion ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	27	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	13
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 5.—Notification of and Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1957

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 and under 15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 and under 25	4	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
25 and under 35	8	4	—	—	2	—	—	1
35 and under 45	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and under 55	4	5	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 and under 65	5	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	26	19	1	2	10	—	—	1

