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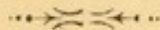
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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.




Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(W. F. YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR 1946.



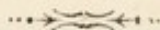
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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(W. F. YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

The Chairman and Members of the

Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

Ministry of Health Circular No. 13/47 requires that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1946 should be prepared on the lines of those for 1945, and suggests that in addition to subjects regarding public health and preventive medicine, matters of current interest should be included.

In the present Report I have accordingly continued to give particular attention to developments in connection with water-supply, sewerage and sewage disposal, and post war housing; the subject of diphtheria immunisation is also dealt with in some detail.

From a number of points of view progress in 1946 fell far short of anticipation. Great difficulty continued to be experienced in connection with the repair of houses, and for a variety of reasons, nation-wide in character, there was much delay with regard to the Council's comprehensive building programme.

The subjects of sewerage and sewage disposal, closely inter-related with that of housing schemes, is referred to in detail in Section C of this Report, where it may be seen that apart from the preparation of schemes and the sanction of a proportion by the Ministry of Health, it had not been found possible to start work.

The incidence-rates in the District of infectious disease (including tuberculosis) may be regarded as satisfactory. Both the birth-rate and the general death-rate show improvement, but there was an increase in the infantile mortality rate to seven per 1,000 births greater than that for England and Wales as a whole. This subject is referred to in Section A.

I may perhaps be allowed to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement and support during the year.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

"THE GABLES,"

TRENTHAM,

STOKE-ON-TRENT.

AUGUST, 1947.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 40,015 acres.

Rateable Value (October 1st, 1946): £58,269.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £228.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population: 16,240.

Number of inhabited houses as at 1st October, 1946: 4,630.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by parishes.

TABLE 1.

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	325	Madeley	..	761
Audley	..	2320	Maer	..	169
Balterley	..	62	Mucclestone	..	126
Betley	..	198	Tyrley	..	230
Chorlton	..	121	Whitmore	..	166
Keele	..	151			

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No change of note in conditions took place during the year.

A slight increase in the number of unemployed men in the District was recorded. The position with regard to women showed little alteration.

TABLE 2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>		<i>England and Wales</i>
		<i>Rates per 1,000 of the estimated resident Civil- ian Population</i>		<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Population</i>
LIVE BIRTHS:		M	F	
Total	.. 302	155	147	18.6
Legitimate	289	148	141	17.8
Illegitimate	13	7	6	0.8
STILLBIRTHS:		M	F	
Total	.. 5	2	3	0.31
Legitimate	4	2	2	0.25
Illegitimate	1	0	1	0.6
DEATHS:				
Total	.. 183	97	86	11.3

				<i>Rates per 1,000 Related Live Births.</i>	
DEATHS UNDER ONE				<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme</i>	<i>England</i>
				<i>R.D.</i>	<i>and Wales</i>

YEAR OF AGE:

		M	F		
Total	.. 15	11	4	50	43
Legitimate	14	10	4	46	— *
Illegitimate	1	1	0	3.3	— *

* Rates not available.

				<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>	
				<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme</i>	<i>England</i>
				<i>R.D.</i>	<i>and Wales</i>
Deaths from		M	F		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis					
under two years of age					
Total	.. ..	2	1 1	6.6	4.4

Table 3 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last five years in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and in England and Wales, and the average rates during this period.

TABLE 3.

YEAR						<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme</i>	<i>England and</i>
						<i>R.D.</i>	<i>Wales</i>
1942	..	..	..	..	..	76	49
1943	..	..	..	..	..	53	49
1944	..	..	..	..	..	43	46
1945	..	..	..	..	..	78	46
1946	..	..	..	..	..	50	43
Averages	..	..	..	..	..	50	47

Increasing attention is being paid at the present time to the question of the prevention of infantile mortality, and particulars of the causes of death under the age of one year in the District may be of interest. These are shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4.
INFANTILE MORTALITY.
Causes of Death during
First Year of Life in 1946.

Prematurity	..	..	5
" Rhesus " Factor	..	..	2
Deformities	..	..	2
Atelectasis	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	3
Gastro-Enteritis	..	..	1
Toxaemia	..	..	1
<hr/>			
Total	..	..	15

Of the deaths nine, (60%), occurred during the neo-natal period, i.e., during the first four weeks of life, and of these, five, or more than half, were ascribed to prematurity. Still-births and prematurity are closely inter-related, and together they account for a large proportion of the loss of infant life.

The infantile mortality rate of 50 is based on the number of live births. If however the number of still-births (5) is added to the total deaths during the first year of life (15), and the infantile mortality rate is calculated on the basis of the total births (live *and* still), the I.M.R. increases from 50 to 60; similarly, still-births and deaths from prematurity together (10) account for 50% of the loss of infant life from the combined factors of still-birth plus other causes during the first year.

The picture is still however not complete unless the combined factors of still-birth and neonatal death are taken into consideration. If the number of deaths during the first four weeks of life (9) is added to the number of still-births (5), these factors together account for 70% of the total loss of infant life.

The actual numbers are of course small, but they may nevertheless be taken as a reasonably fair average assessment of the position in this District. They seem to approximate to those for England and Wales as a whole, and it must not be thought that they are less satisfactory than those for other Districts of a similar character.

As I have mentioned, much attention is being given at present to this subject, and the lines along which further progress may be made have been clearly defined. Developments in connection with the prevention of still-births and prematurity are to a great extent a matter for Maternity and Infant Welfare Authorities, and in the

main the subject of prevention is in any case beyond the scope of an Annual Report. There remain however, certain aspects which merit the attention of District Councils, and among these continued improvement in housing conditions (especially the abatement of over-crowding), and further progress in connection with external sanitation are of prime importance.

Until the outbreak of war progress in the District had been highly satisfactory. Great strides had been made in connection with housing, main water-supplies, and sewage disposal. A considerable amount of essential work remains however to be done, and it is most unfortunate that at a time when the desire for further progress is so fervent there should be so much unavoidable frustration. During the first six months of 1947 ground has however definitely been gained, and it is to be hoped that by the end of the year an increased rate of acceleration may have been found possible.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no change to record in the general provision detailed in previous Reports, and there was no change in personnel.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

During the period October 14th-30th a course of film-shows and lectures arranged in conjunction with the County Council Health Committee was given in the District by the Central Council for Health Education.

Film-shows on general subjects were given for school-children at Ashley, Audley, Halmerend and Madeley, and film-shows and lectures on Sex Education for young people were given at Ashley, Audley, and Loggerheads.

The success of the course was to a large extent due to the generous help given by local workers in connection with general local arrangements, publicity, etc.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGN.

Under arrangements made in conjunction with the Staffordshire County Council particulars with regard to facilities for immunisation in this District appeared in local newspapers during the course of the year.

The County Council Infant Welfare Committee continued also to arrange for the display of posters and the distribution of leaflets at the three Infant Welfare Centres in the District.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In my Annual Report for 1944 the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, were referred to in some detail, and a statement of the position in this District by Parishes as at mid-1944, together with an outline of the Council's proposals, was included.

Particulars of further action were referred to in my Report for 1945, and the statement below gives some details of the position as at the end of the first quarter of 1947.

ASHLEY PARISH.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—Early in 1947 a report was received from the Council's Consulting Engineer to the effect that capacity for present and anticipated development in the Loggerheads area, where Ashley, Mucclestone, and Tyrley Parishes meet, might be arranged at the projected extension of the disposal works at the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium.

It appears that grants of £5,000 each will be made available by the Ministry of Health and Staffordshire County Council respectively.

Toward the end of March, 1947, further consideration of these proposals was adjourned pending the receipt of further information with regard to the levels at which housing developments were likely to take place.

AUDLEY PARISH.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—Early in March, 1947, tenders had been obtained in respect of the first section of the final part of the scheme. This section includes part of the village of Halmerend, Wereton, and Miles Green.

There remains urgent need for work on the second section of the final part of the scheme. This section includes the remainder of Halmerend village, Wood Lane, Alsager's Bank and Scot Hay.

BALTERLEY AND BETLEY PARISHES.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—A scheme for the sewerage of Betley village was in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineer.

CHORLTON PARISH.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—A scheme for the sewerage of the Baldwin's Gate area, where the Parishes of Madeley, Whitmore, and Chorlton meet had been approved in principle by the Ministry of Health in 1945, but no further progress was found to be possible in 1946.

Grants of £2,500 each will be made available by the Ministry of Health and Staffordshire County Council respectively.

KEELE PARISH.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—The subject of the sewerage of Keele village is referred to under Madeley Parish.

MADELEY PARISH.

WATER.—The Council's Consulting Engineer was preparing a scheme for an extension of the Council's supply at Manor Road, Madeley, to the remainder of Manor Road and to Barr Hill.

The mains supply in the Madeley village area is provided by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. There appear to be difficulties in connection with adequate pressure, and the installation of fittings for baths and water-closets is not permitted. There seems to be no actual shortage of water at present, but the state of affairs seems likely to have an important bearing on the question of supplies to the considerable numbers of houses planned to be built at and near Madeley village.

A Consulting Engineer's report on the subject of a supply to the Bowsey Wood area was presented to the Council in November, 1946. This dealt with a proposal to bring water from the Nantwich Rural District's main at Wrinehill to existing properties, comprising nine cottages, a small holding and a farm, for which about 2,000 gallons a day would be required. As there are no facilities for sewage disposal in this part of the District the installation of baths and water-closets could not be sanctioned. The cost of the scheme was in the neighbourhood of £1,300.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—A scheme had been prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer in 1936, and in December, 1946 a further scheme was submitted by him detailing the amendments that might be necessary in the light of possible future housing developments.

This further scheme was considered by the Council in January, 1947, and it was decided that proposals on the broad basis given below should be prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health.

- (1) Reconstruction and enlargement of the disposal plant at Madeley, and the laying of new sewers to replace old ones. Provision was also to be made for the drainage of a number of groups of houses, including the existing hundred at Keele village in Keele Parish, and the twenty more proposed to be built there.
- (2) As Leycett village may be scheduled for demolition it was not to be included in the sewerage scheme, but the adjacent group of houses at Park Terrace was to be sewered to the works.
- (3) Sewerage to be carried out in the following areas in the Parish which have been scheduled for domestic development.
 - (a) The frontages to the main road from Madeley Heath to the railway bridge, (where the proposed connection from Keele village would be made). The projected number of new houses here is 130.
 - (b) The two proposed new estates to East and West of the Old Hall, Madeley. Projected number of new houses, 598.
 - (c) An area of about nine acres adjoining Furnace Lane and Beckwood Road, to the West of the Methodist Church. Projected number of new houses, 90.
 - (d) An area of about 54 acres to the West of the main railway line, and enclosed by Barr Hill and Manor Road. Projected number of new houses 540.

The area of land available at the Madeley disposal works is restricted, and it seems probable that the total number of projected houses (1,358) may have to be limited to some degree in accordance with the ultimate capacity of the works.

MAER PARISH. No change.

MUCCLESTONE PARISH. No change.

TYRLEY PARISH.

WATER.—The difficult problem of the provision of adequate supplies to scattered farms and small groups of houses in this Parish was referred to in my Annual Report for 1945.

There is no question as to the need.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—The subject of sewerage in the part of the Parish near Loggerheads is referred to under Ashley Parish.

WHITMORE PARISH.

WATER.—No change.

SEWERAGE, ETC.—Provision for the part of the Parish at Baldwin's Gate is referred to under Chorlton Parish.

The Council's sewage disposal works at Audley were inspected by a Consulting Engineer in February, 1946. Each section was reported to be in good order, the effluent satisfactory, and the plant generally in good condition.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mr. L. Scawn, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“A collection of household refuse is made in the parish of Audley by direct labour. This parish contains approximately one half the population of the Rural District and a collection is made about every two days. A covered freighter is used for this purpose, and a new vehicle is on order.

“In Madeley, Betley, Chorlton and Whitmore parishes contractors are employed to carry out the work; two motor-wagons and one horse-drawn vehicle being used.

“No serious difficulties have been encountered during the year.”

TABLE 5.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF WATER
SUPPLIES DURING 1946.

				Bacteriological		Chemical	
				Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
PUBLIC MAINS:							
Audley	..	..	..	4	—	4	—
Bearstone	..	..	..	1	1*	2	—
L.M.S. (Baldwin's Gate)†	..			1	—	1	—
Market Drayton Water Co.	..			—	—	—	—
Staffs. Potteries Water Co.	..			—	—	—	—
				6	1	7	—
PRIVATE MAINS:							
Hales Estate	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Loggerheads Sanatorium	..			1	—	1	—
Maer Estate	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Whitmore Estate	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
				1	—	1	—
OTHER PRIVATE SUPPLIES (By Parishes):							
Ashley	..	..	..	1	—	—	1
Balterley	..	..	..	—	1	—	1
Madeley	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Maer	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Tyrley	..	..	..	5	2	5	2
Whitmore	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
				7	3	6	4
TOTAL NUMBERS OF Analyses:							
Public Mains	..	..	..	6	1	7	—
Private Mains	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
Other Private Supplies	..			7	3	6	4
				14	4	14	4

* Possibly a chance pollution at the place of collection of the sample.

It may be seen from Table 5 that, with the exception of a possible chance contamination in a sample from the Bearstone supply, all the unsatisfactory samples were those of waters taken from private supplies other than mains.

The tenants deriving supplies from unsatisfactory sources were advised as to the precautions to be taken with water used for drinking purposes, etc. In one such case notice to connect to a main supply was served.

The following notes give further particulars of water supplied through public mains.

AUDLEY WATER WORKS.

Of the four samples taken in Audley Parish from the District's own supply, two were taken at the Works before chlorination. These showed a high standard of purity.

Recent analyses show that this water has a total hardness of 24 to 26 parts per 100,000. The question of the installation of softening equipment at the works was the subject of a report made in March, 1947 by the Council's Consulting Engineer, but the matter had to be deferred on account of the high cost.

With regard to mains supplies obtained from outside undertakings, the following information has kindly been submitted by their Officers.

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES WATER BOARD.

"These waters, both before and after treatment, (chlorination), are reported as clear and bright in appearance, and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

On chemical analysis the water is described as "neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. It is hard in character, but not unduly so; contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution, and is of the highest organic quality."

BEARSTONE SUPPLY. (NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.)

The opinion of the Cheshire County Council Analyst was as follows:—"A potable water of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity and wholesome bacteriological quality."

The Engineer to the Nantwich Rural District Council reported that no system of chlorination was in operation at the Bearstone Works. Softening by the base exchange method is carried out, and the treated water shows total hardness of eleven degrees, temporary hardness eleven degrees, and permanent hardness nil.

MARKET DRAYTON WATER COMPANY.

The Secretary reported that the results of Bacteriological analysis were as follows:—

“Untreated water from Blore Springs:—This water is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacteriological purity, consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public purposes.

“Mixed Water from Blore and Brodder Springs:—(Chlorinated). This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacteriological purity consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

No chemical analyses of this water were made in 1946.

Softening does not appear to be undertaken.

No shortage of water from mains supplies was experienced during the year. Insufficient quantity was reported from a few farms supplied privately.

There is no evidence of plumbo-solvent action in any of the supplies.

Particulars by Parishes of estimated percentages of domestic premises supplied (a) from publicly and privately owned mains, and (b) from publicly-owned mains only were given in my Annual Report for 1944. The total estimated percentages in these categories were 91 and 86 respectively. Since 1944 there has been no appreciable change in these figures. With regard to the percentages of *population* supplied, no accurate figures are available. They are likely, however, to approximate to those given for premises.

Approximately twenty houses only are supplied with mains' water through stand-pipes.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Much difficulty continued to be experienced in connection with repairs, and it was not found possible to deal with more than a small proportion of cases.

Table 6 gives some particulars of action taken during the year and of its results.

TABLE 6.

DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Number of informal notices served	23
Statutory notices served under Section 9 (H.A. 1936) ..	2
Statutory notices served under Section 11 (H.A. 1936) ..	Nil
Number of houses included in clearance areas under Section 25 (H.A. 1936)	Nil
Overcrowding abatement notices	Nil

RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN.

Number of houses where repairs were in hand	?
Number of houses where repairs had been completed ..	22
Number of houses reconditioned under Housing (Rural Workers') Acts	Nil
Number of houses demolished (Section 11 and Section 25)	3
Number of overcrowding cases abated	Nil

HOUSING SURVEY.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 710. Table 7 gives details of the numbers inspected under the categories suggested in the Third Report of the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee published in May, 1944.

TABLE 7

1.	Satisfactory in all respects	..	..	..	..	..	257
2.	Minor Defects	..	..	..	..	..	201
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	..					234
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act	..	..	..	..	..	—
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	..	..	..	..	..	18
Total							710

The County Joint Housing Advisory Committee issued a detailed statement of suggested standards of fitness in June, 1945, and this has formed the broad basis of the Survey in this Area.

The total numbers of houses inspected since the commencement of the present survey are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8.

1.	Satisfactory in all respects	..	..	..	..	..	582
2.	Minor Defects	..	..	..	..	..	253
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	..					520
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	..	..	..	..	..	2
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	..	..	..	..	..	131
							1488

It may be seen from the above tables that a considerable proportion of the houses inspected had been found to be either in need of repair or unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense. It should be explained in this connection that attention has been largely concentrated on groups of houses known to be defective, and the figures must therefore not be taken as representative of average conditions. There is little doubt that in addition to the Council's own houses a large proportion will be found to be satisfactory in all respects.

The majority of defective houses are in Audley and Madeley Parishes. Among them are sizeable groups of old properties in which dilapidation proceeded more or less rapidly during and since the War.

Mr. L. Scawn, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“Two statutory notices and twenty-three informal notices were served and repairs were completed in twenty-two cases. Three houses were demolished under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

“BUILDING LICENCES. Approximately 300 applications were received during the year for licences to carry out building repair work. Inspections were made in practically every case to ascertain whether the repairs were essential. 335 licences were issued.

“OVERCROWDING. Nine cases of overcrowding were recorded during the year, and no cases were abated. Abatement will be effected in some of these cases when the new Council houses are completed.”

TOWN PLANNING AND POST-WAR HOUSING.

My Report for 1945 included a detailed account of the position by Parishes as at the end of June, 1946. Since that date progress has continued to be made, and the statement below gives particulars of the position as at the end of December, 1946.

ASHLEY PARISH.—Details of the Council's plans for twenty-eight permanent houses and one pair of Swedish Timber houses in Ashley village had been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

AUDLEY PARISH.

AUDLEY VILLAGE.—Roads and sewerage had been completed, and of the fifty-eight houses planned forty were under construction, of which nine pairs had been roofed-in. The construction of these houses is being undertaken under the Ministry of Health's scheme for the employment of private builders. In addition twenty-six “Airey” houses are to be erected.

WOOD LANE.—A draft lay-out for 100 houses had been prepared.

ALSAGER'S BANK.—The selection of sites has had to be deferred pending further information with regard to the Council's scheme for the sewerage of the Parish.

HALMEREND.—Of six houses under construction four were practically completed. Plans for the total of 100 houses contemplated had been held up by difficulties in connection with the selection of sites.

BETLEY PARISH.—Plans cannot be made for a definite number of houses until further decisions have been arrived at regarding sewerage and sewage disposal for Betley Village. One pair of Swedish Timber houses had been ordered.

CHORLTON PARISH.—Tenders had been accepted for six houses near Chapel Chorlton Village, and it was expected that work would soon start.

KEELE PARISH.—A site and lay-out for twelve "Airey" houses had been approved by the Council.

MADELEY PARISH.—Final drawings for 208 houses, of which twenty-two were of the "Airey" type, at the Moss site in Madeley Village and for roads and sewers were in course of active preparation.

A site for twelve bungalows for aged people at Furnace Lane, Madeley, had been approved.

ONNELEY.—Two Swedish Timber houses had been ordered.

MAER PARISH.—Difficulty continued to be experienced in connection with a site for the twelve houses thought to be necessary.

MUCCLESTONE PARISH.—Two Swedish Timber houses were under construction at Knighton, and a site had been approved for six additional permanent houses.

TYRLEY PARISH.—Sites had been approved for six houses at the Brodder and for six at Almington.

WHITMORE PARISH.

WHITMORE VILLAGE.—A site was in course of selection.

ACTON VILLAGE.—Tenders had been obtained for two permanent houses.

The subjects of the warming of houses and a constant supply of hot water were referred to in my Report for 1945.

In its Report of February, 1944, on the design of dwellings the Dudley Committee emphasised the need for further research on many aspects of domestic economy. With regard to heating it stated that there was an obvious need for more efficient methods of heating and the maintenance of a more even temperature within a dwelling. Stress was laid on the need for an appliance which would heat several rooms from one source, and also for more efficient labour-saving coal-burning grates and stoves to give more complete combustion of fuel and to reduce atmospheric pollution. The questions of better thermal insulation of houses and of improvements to reduce loss of heat in the design of windows were also referred to.

In January, 1947, the Heating and Ventilation (Reconstruction) Committee of the Building Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research published its Report. Two of the more important recommendations were that means should be provided for maintaining a measure of warmth throughout a dwelling even at night, and for giving an adequate supply of hot water. It seems that although the average consumption of coal per house in this country is considerably greater than in a number of other countries, our houses are not on an average warmer than some foreign ones, and that they are certainly very much less warm than those in America. This is put down primarily to the inefficiency of appliances in common use in this country. Such technical backwardness may have been due in part to the abundance of cheap coal in the past, with the result that there has been little incentive to the study of its economical use. The Report continues that in view of the national importance of the right use of coal it is not sufficient to leave the whole choice of methods of heating to haphazard development, and that planned policy, national in scope, is desirable.

From the points of view of both health and general well-being it is most unfortunate that this basic subject of warmth in the home (by night as well as by day) has trailed so far behind other results of scientific achievement. The majority of houses have for example wireless receivers, many have electric light, (and it should be added that an increasing number have electric radiators), while a few have refrigerators. With regard to heating and the provision of hot water however there remain numbers of houses where conditions show little improvement on those of Elizabethan times.

Progress generally in connection with housing matters during the inter-war period has nevertheless been very satisfactory, and there can be no doubt that conditions in the District compare favourably with those in most areas of similar character. Since the first clearance area was declared in 1932 approximately two hundred council houses have been built, and the Council's post-war housing programme provides convincing evidence of the determination that future housing conditions shall afford a rural standard of life at least not lower than that in the towns.

The subject of further progress in connection with housing is dealt with at length in the Dudley Committee's Report, where it is stated that there is strong evidence for the need of improvement in the following directions:—

- (a) Better heating arrangements.
- (b) Constant hot water.
- (c) Better cooking facilities.
- (d) Better kitchen fittings.
- (e) Better arrangements for washing and drying clothes.
- (f) More efficient plumbing and sanitary fittings.
- (g) More room for storage.
- (h) More connections for light and power.
- (i) Better day lighting.

The list is formidable, and the cost of most of the items is likely to be prohibitive at least for a time. Nevertheless it gives a clear indication of the lines on which improvement is most desirable, and as an ultimate target it has great value. It is of interest to note that pride of place is given to better heating arrangements and the supply of constant hot water. It is of importance that, apart from their influence on health and comfort generally, the bearing of these two factors at the extremes of life and during periods of sickness should not be overlooked.

In my Report for 1945 I referred to the paradox that the piecemeal improvisations of war-time had resulted in marked improvement in the average states of health and nutrition of newborn babies

and young children, and mentioned further that the subject of the improvement of nutrition generally was only one part of wide fields of research. The publication of the fuel research Report marks a further step in our progress. Since its appearance the question of the application of its findings with regard to the more economical use of fuel has taken on an ever-increasing significance, and it now seems quite possible that a further paradox may emerge; namely, that the present fuel crisis may tend to bring about the adoption of measures which may well result in marked improvement in the standards of health, comfort, and amenity in the home.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Mr. L. Scawn, Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—

“No slaughtering was carried out in the District during the year apart from a few animals killed under licence. The meat for sale in the area is distributed from the Stoke-on-Trent abattoirs. Routine inspection of butchers' shops has been made and they were found to be generally satisfactory and well maintained.

“During the year 143 inspections have been made of food premises, including general grocers and bakeries. Notices were served in three cases to provide suitable washing facilities and sanitary accommodation, and these notices were complied with.

“Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

37 lb. Meat.
21 lb. Meat (tinned).
18 lb. Butter and Margarine.
174 oz. Tinned Milk.”

ICE CREAM.

In October, 1946, the Ministry of Health published Regulations dealing with “the better protection of the public health against the risk of infection from the consumption of ice-cream.” The Circular accompanying the Regulations referred to the appropriate sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which deal among other things with the suitability of premises where food is prepared, sold, etc., and with their registration by Local Authorities. Mention was also made of Section 37 of the Act, which is designed to control the incidence of milk-borne disease due to the consumption of ice-cream, and requires that upon the occurrence of such disease among persons on the premises on which ice-cream is manufactured, stored, or sold, manufacturers or dealers must forthwith give notice to the local Medical Officer of Health. Arrangements were made whereby manufacturers and/or dealers were informed of this provision by leaflets, which contained also a definition of milk-borne disease.

The number of premises on which ice-cream was being manufactured as at the end of the year was four.

Ministry of Health Regulations dealing with the question of the heat-treatment of ice-cream came into force on May 1st, 1947. A review of the subject of registration was made during the month, when it was found that ice-cream was being manufactured on four premises, "complete cold mix" was dealt with on two, and wrapped ice-cream was sold at two. Verbal notice as to improvements at premises were given in a few cases.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—

"During the year 108 farms were inspected, and in the majority of cases conditions were found to be quite satisfactory. The fairly good standard of cleanliness and repair was maintained. Improvements were carried out at a number of premises by the erection of new buildings and the installation of main water supplies, for which work 48 building licences were issued.

"There are approximately 360 farms in the District, the majority of which have "Accredited Licences." Samples of milk are taken from these farms regularly by the County Council Inspectors, and only about one per cent have proved to be unsatisfactory. Inspections were carried out in each case and improvements were effected."

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the numbers of cases notified during the last five years together with the annual average numbers during this period.

TABLE 9.
(Civilians only.)

				1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	Average Numbers for 5 Years
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	29	13	20	10	17	17.4
Diphtheria	..	..	..	12	7	3	—	2	4.8
Whoopingcough	..	..	..	69	159	19	73	55	75.0
Measles	..	..	..	152	192	144	126	20	126.8
Ac. Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	0.4
Ac. Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	0.2
Acute Pneumonia*	..	..	..	3	18	13	9	7	10.0
Dysentery	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever	..	..	..	2	2	—	—	1	1.0
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	4	8	14	10	9	11.0
Smallpox	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	2	1	5	2	—	2.0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	5	2	1	1	—	1.8

* Notifiable cases only, viz., primary or influenzal.

TABLE 10.

Analysis by Age-Groups and Sex of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

(Civilians only).

Age Periods			Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Diphtheria	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	—	—	4	2	—	1	—	—
1	..	..	1	—	10	12	1	1	—	—
3	..	..	1	1	5	11	2	3	—	—
5	..	..	3	3	5	5	4	—	1	—
10	..	..	3	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
15	..	..	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
25 and over	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Age unknown			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..		11	6	24	31	10	10	1	1

Age Periods			Acute Pneumonia		Erysipelas		Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	—
15	..	..	2	—	1	1	—	—
45	..	..	1	2	6	1	—	—
65 and over	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown			—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..		4	3	7	2	1	—

TABLE 11.

COMPARISON OF THE RATES OF INCIDENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1946 WITH THOSE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

				England and Wales (Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)	Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Typhoid Fever	..	..		0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..		0.02	0.00
Cerebrospinal Fever	..	..		0.05	0.06
Scarlet Fever	..	..		1.38	1.05
Whoopingcough	..	..		2.28	3.39
Diphtheria	..	..		0.28	0.12
Erysipelas	..	..		0.22	0.55
Smallpox	..	..		0.00	0.00
Measles	..	..		3.92	1.23
Pneumonia	..	..		0.89	0.43
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia*				8.50	0.00

* Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still).

TABLE 12.

COMPARISON OF DEATH-RATES FROM CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1946.

				England and Wales (Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)	Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District
DEATHS.					
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers				0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	..	..		0.00	0.00
Whoopingcough	..	..		0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	..	..		0.01	0.00
Influenza	..	..		0.15	0.12
Smallpox	..	..		0.00	0.00
Measles	..	..		0.00	0.00

The following notes give some particulars of the incidence etc., of infectious disease.

(a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

The distribution by Parishes of the seventeen cases that occurred was as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>
Audley ..	7
Keele ..	1
Madeley ..	6
Tyrley ..	2
Whitmore ..	1

Of the six cases in Madeley Parish there seems to have been some connection among three. The remaining cases appear to have been sporadic.

All cases seem to have been of mild type, and there were no deaths.

WHOOPINGCOUGH.

It may be seen from Table 9 that the number of cases notified in 1946 was less than the average for the five-year period. There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

In comparison with previous years there was a considerable decrease in the number of cases notified. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

Incidence is referred to on page 32. There were no deaths.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The origin of the single case that occurred could not be traced. Recovery took place.

PNEUMONIA.

One case (un-notified) was fatal.

MALARIA.

A man who had contracted the disease while abroad had an acute recurrence while at home. He was admitted to an Emergency Medical Services Hospital.

With regard to the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases and the death-rates therefrom, it may be seen from Tables 11 and 12 that in the main the figures for the District compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

(b) NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Accurate records of this type of infectious disease are of course not available. Information supplied by the Head Teachers of primary schools nevertheless give indications as to the locality of certain infections during periods when schools are open. The co-operation of Head Teachers continued to be of great value in connection with precautions against the spread of infectious disease in schools.

CHICKENPOX.

Small numbers of sporadic cases occurred throughout the year, and considerable numbers were reported from Raven's Lane Junior School and from Audley Infants' School in November and December.

INFLUENZA.

Large numbers of cases were reported in January and February, and the following schools were closed on this account for periods up to one week: Madeley Heath C., Hales C., Madeley Endowed, Mucclestone C., Keele C.E., Betley C.E., Chapel Chorlton C.E., Leycett C., and Onneley C.E.

It was not found possible to form an estimate of the severity of the type of disease, but the cases investigated seem to have been moderate.

At the end of January leaflets giving particulars of the precautions to be taken and of the care of cases treated at home were forwarded to all Head teachers of the Primary Schools in the District, with a request that these should be distributed to the houses by means of the children.

SCABIES.

A few mild cases came to notice. Little use was made of the Treatment Centre at Raven's Lane during the year. It is probable that the virtual eradication of the disease in the District was due to a great extent to the facilities afforded at the Centre. From the date of its opening in July, 1942, until the end of 1945, 581 attendances for treatment were made.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

Satisfactory progress continued to be made during the year with the immunisation campaign, and protective inoculation was offered for approximately all un-immunised children from the ages of ten months to fourteen years.

Table 13 gives some particulars with regard to immunisation in the years 1942-46.

TABLE 13.

A) NUMBERS OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED COURSES OF IMMUNISATION IN THE YEARS 1942-46.

				One to Five years of age	Five to Fourteen years of age	Total
1942	..	..	..	275	257	532
1943	..	..	..	379	399	778
1944	..	..	..	239	150	389
1945	..	..	..	274	29	303
1946	..	..	..	197	23	220
				1364	858	2222

(B) ESTIMATED PERCENTAGES OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED COURSES OF IMMUNISATION BY THE ENDS OF THE YEARS 1942-46.

				One to Five years of age	Five to Fourteen years of age
1942	..	..	..	70%	59%
1943	..	..	..	90%	80%
1944	..	..	..	84%	90%
1945	..	..	..	81%	93%
1946	..	..	..	77%	92%

The estimated percentage of children of 1-14 years of age immunised as at the end of 1946 was 86.

During the year 247 children of school-age were given "re-inforcement" injections.

Percentages of school-children immunised are based on the numbers on roll in the twenty public elementary schools in the District. These numbers by no means represent the total number of children of school-age; they are, however, the most reliable basis on which an estimate of immunisation percentages can be made.

Percentages of children of ages 1-4 years are based on the numbers of children on health visitors' and district nurses' registers. There is reason to believe that in this group (as well as in the school-age group) the numbers under-estimate the total. They remain, however, the most suitable that are available for the purpose.

Among children of less than fifteen years of age one case only of diphtheria was notified during the year. This patient was an un-immunised boy of nine years of age at a private residential school in the District.

It is of interest to note that since immunisation percentages became effective four cases only of diphtheria among children have been notified, three in 1943, and one, the un-immunised boy referred to in the preceding paragraph, in 1946. Of the first three two were said to have been immunised three years previously in another District, and the other had not. Although the series of cases is too small to have statistical value it seems possible nevertheless that there may be some correlation between the fall in the incidence of the disease and the commencement of immunisation on a comparatively large scale.

The Ministry of Health arranged for the transfer of responsibility for the immunisation of children of the 0-5 group to Welfare Authorities (in this Area the County Council) as from January 1st, 1946. This method seems to have worked smoothly in the District, and although there had, by the end of the year, been a fall of 4% in the estimated percentage of children in the group immunised as at the end of the year as compared with 1945, it is to be hoped that this loss will at least be made good in 1947.

With regard to children of school-age, the comment in my Report for 1945 to the effect that saturation point in respect of both primary immunisation and re-inforcement inoculations had been reached still holds good.

The refusal and evasion percentage in the school-age group was 5.0% as at the end of the year, and that for the 0-5 group 2.2%.

Publicity in connection with immunisation is referred to in Section B, page 9.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 14.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Males		Females		Males		Females	
Age Periods			Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory	Respir- atory	Non- Respir- atory
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	1	1	1	2	—	1	—	—
15	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
35	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
45	..	..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	..	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	7	1	3	4	3	1	1	—

TABLE 15.
INCIDENCE AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS DURING THE LAST
TEN YEARS.

		New Cases		Deaths	
		Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory
Year					
1937	..	10	5	6	2
1938	..	15	7	8	4
1939	..	15	3	7	—
1940	..	18	7	6	1
1941	..	9	6	5	—
1942	..	4	6	3	2
1943	..	13	8	6	2
1944	..	10	4	3	—
1945	..	12	5	5	1
1946	..	10	5	4	1
Totals	..	116	56	53	13
Averages	..	11.7	5.6	5.3	1.3

TABLE 16.

INCIDENCE-RATES AND DEATH-RATES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
IN THE DISTRICT DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year	Incidence-Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Numbers of New Cases per 1,000 Population)	Death-Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Deaths per 1,000 Population)
1937	0.62	0.37
1938	0.93	0.50
1939	0.92	0.42
1940	1.07	0.36
1941	0.51	0.30
1942	0.24	0.18
1943	0.80	0.37
1944	0.62	0.19
1945	0.75	0.31
1946	0.62	0.25
Averages ..	0.71	0.31

It may be seen from the above Table that the average incidence-rate during the period 1942-46 was 0.20 lower than in the period 1937-41, and that the death-rate during the period 1942-46 was 0.13 lower than in the period 1937-41.

The numbers concerned are of course too small, and the periods too short, to have real correlation value. It is however gratifying to observe that in spite of the adverse circumstances that have been in operation during the second period of five-years, there has been an improvement in both the incidence-rates and the death-rates. This subject was referred to in some detail in my Report for 1945, and since then there has unfortunately been little improvement in connection with a number of adverse factors. It is still therefore desirable that the continued improvement in incidence-rates and death-rates should not be regarded with too much complacency.

TABLE 17.

CAUSES OF DEATH

IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT IN 1946.

					Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population		
					M	F	
	All Causes	..	..	..	97	86	11.3
1.	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
4.	Whoopingcough	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	3	1	0.25
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1	0	0.06
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
9.	Influenza	..	..	..	1	1	0.12
10.	Measles	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
12.	Acute infectious encephalitis	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
13.	Cancer of mouth and oesoph- agus (M) and uterus (F)	..	..	..	2	1	0.18
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duo- denum	..	..	..	2	4	0.37
15.	Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	—	3	0.18
16.	Cancer of all other sites	..	..	..	7	9	0.98
17.	Diabetes	..	..	..	0	1	0.06
18.	Intercranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	12	7	1.17
19.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	27	27	3.33
20.	Other diseases of the circu- latory system	..	..	..	2	2	0.25
21.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	3	4	0.43
22.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	3	1	0.25

				Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population		
				M	F	
23.	Other respiratory diseases	..	2	0	0.12	
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duo- denum	.. .. .	0	0	0.00
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	..	1	1	0.12	
26.	Appendicitis	.. .. .	0	0	0.00
27.	Other digestive diseases	..	3	2	0.30	
28.	Nephritis	.. .. .	3	4	0.43
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	.. .. .	—	0	0.00*
30.	Other maternal causes	.. ..	—	1	3.26*
31.	Premature Birth	.. ..	2	2	0.25
32.	Congenital malnutrition, birth injuries, infantile diseases	..	6	2	0.49	
33.	Suicide	.. .. .	1	0	0.06
34.	Road traffic accidents	.. ..	0	1	0.06
35.	Other violent causes	.. ..	2	0	0.12
36.	All other causes	.. .. .	14	12	1.60

* Per 1,000 total births (live and still).

The figures given in Table 17 are those supplied by the Registrar-General, who states that the classification of some deaths is modified in the light of fuller information obtained from the certifying practitioner in response to special inquiries.

This possible source of discrepancy between the figures given in Table 17 and those in the body of the Report must be borne in mind with regard to the causes of death.



