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R.D.C.**

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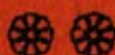
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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

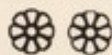
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(W. F. YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)
FOR THE YEAR 1948.



Audley :
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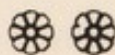


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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

FOR THE YEAR 1948

*The Chairman and Members of the
Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Ministry of Health Circular No. 3/49 requires that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1948 should be prepared on the lines of those for 1947.

The present Report has been prepared accordingly, and I have in addition given some detailed attention to such subjects as the National Health Service Act, post-war housing, and water supplies.

Marked progress continued to be made in connection with post-war housing. This subject is referred to on pages 20-21 where it may be seen that ninety Council houses were completed in 1948, making a total of one hundred and twenty-two since the end of the War. Schemes for further considerable numbers were submitted to the Ministry of Health during the year.

Little change took place with regard to the Council's schemes for the extension of water supplies and sewerage and sewage disposal.

The Birth-Rate showed a considerable fall, and there was some reduction in the general Death-Rate. The Infantile Mortality Rate showed a rise above the abnormally low figure recorded in 1947, but as compared with that for England and Wales it was satisfactory.

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

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

“THE GABLES,”

TRENTHAM,

STOKE-ON-TRENT.

July, 1949.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 40,015 acres.

Rateable Value: £54,588.

Sum represented by the penny rate: £226.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population: 16,650.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as at 31st December, 1948: 4,767.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by Parishes.

TABLE 1.

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	337	Madeley	..	802
Audley	..	2392	Maer	..	170
Balterley	..	64	Mucclestone	..	136
Betley	..	196	Tyrley	..	231
Chorlton	..	120	Whitmore	..	170
Keele	..	149			

Of the total of 4,767 houses, 344 (7%) were Council houses.

In addition there were a number of occupied caravans and other forms of dwellings as follows:—

TABLE 2.

<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	Three caravans.
Audley	..	One railway coach.
Betley	..	Three caravans.
Chorlton	..	56 caravans and semi-permanent dwellings and nine permanent dwellings.
Mucclestone	..	One railway coach.
Whitmore	..	One caravan.

The caravans and other dwellings in Chorlton Parish are concentrated in a licensed camping-ground.

TABLE 3.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D. Rates per 1,000 of the est'd. resident Civilian Population</i>	<i>England and Wales Rates per 1,000 Total Population</i>
LIVE BIRTHS:					
		M	F		
Total ..	275	134	141	16.5	17.9
Legitimate	253	123	130	15.2	— *
Illegitimate	22	11	11	1.3	— *
STILLBIRTHS:					
Total ..	6	3	3	0.36	0.42
Legitimate	4	2	2	0.24	— *
Illegitimate	2	1	1	0.12	— *
DEATHS:					
Total ..	189	88	101	11.35	10.8

				<i>Rates per 1,000 Related Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>Live Births England and Wales</i>
DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:					
		M	F		
Total ..	10	5	5	36	34
Legitimate	10	5	5	36	— *
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0.0	— *

* Rates not available.

				<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
DEATHS FROM:					
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age					
		M	F		
Total ..	..	0	0	0.0	3.3

Table 4 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last six years in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District and in England and Wales, and the average rates during this period.

TABLE 4.

YEAR	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>				<i>England and Wales</i>
1943	53	49
1944	43	46
1945	78	46
1946	50	43
1947	29	41
1948	36	34
Averages	48	43

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.

A moderate further improvement took place in the numbers of men and women employed during the year, and there was some improvement in the shortage of agricultural labour.

The Employment Exchange recorded very little un-employment among able-bodied men, and practically none among women desiring employment.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The commencement of the operation of the National Health Service Act of 1946 has made this year a memorable one in the public health and social history of the country. The importance of the event merits special consideration in an annual report, and I am accordingly giving below a copy of a report I presented to the Council in January, 1949.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

This Act came into operation on July 5th, 1948. The date marks the commencement of a new era in the history of Public Health, and it seems desirable that I should give the Council a general summary of the implications of the Act, together with some notes as to its bearing on Districts such as this.

I should perhaps in the first place say that the subject of a comprehensive national health service took definite form in February, 1944, on the publication of a Government White Paper. In this it was stated that the proposals outlined therein formed an essential part of the wider subject of social insurance. The passing of three Acts, viz., National Health Service, National Insurance, and National Assistance marked a stage in an evolution of social services which is without parallel in the history of this or any other country.

In the introductory section of the White Paper it was stated that the Government wished to ensure that every man, woman and child should be able to rely on getting all the advice, treatment and care which they might need for personal health; that what they should get would be the best medical and other facilities available; that their getting these should not depend on whether they could pay for them, or on any other factor irrelevant to the real need—the real need being to bring the country's full resources to bear upon reducing ill-health and promoting good health in all its citizens. "While the health standards of the people have enormously improved, and while there are gratifying reductions in the ravages of preventable disease, the plain fact remains that there are many men women and children who could be and ought to be enjoying a sense of health and physical well-being which they do not in fact enjoy. There is much sub-normal health still, which need not be, with a corresponding cost in efficiency and personal happiness."

The Act correlates many services in the attempt to attain these ends. It harnesses all the resources of medical and scientific skill in a planned offensive against the great and costly volume of needless ill-health which has for so long been a drag upon the Nation's life and work.

It should be realized that such of the proposals made in the White Paper as have been embodied in the Act do not represent a final stage in the evolution of the country's health services: the position now reached forms part of a general evolution which has been going on for generations. The rate of improvement has shown more rapid acceleration recently, but it is thought that before further marked progress can come about considerable changes in connection with the form of local government, and with regard to county and district boundaries will have to be made.

Meantime, however, the stage is set and the curtain has gone up. The success of the production will depend largely on the initiative of the public, the doctors, and local authorities.

The following is a general summary of the first three of the six parts of the Act.

Part I deals with central administration. It places on the Minister of Health the duty of providing a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement in physical and mental health, and the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of illness. Provision is made for the constitution of a Central Health Services Council and for Standing Advisory Committees.

Part II refers to the provision by the Minister of hospital and specialist services, and for the constitution of regional hospital boards. Voluntary and Public Hospitals are transferred to the Minister.

Part III deals with the health services to be provided by the local health authority, in this area the County Council.

For the purposes of this part of the Act the County of Stafford is divided into nine areas. This District is associated with Newcastle Borough and Kidsgrove Urban district to form Area No. 2. For each Area a sub-committee, known as the Area Committee, has been appointed, and the number of representatives appointed by this District Council to the Area Committee is two.

Area Committees are authorised by the County Council to exercise on its behalf the direction, control, and day-to-day management of the following services:—

1. Health Service Premises, *e.g.*, Health Centres.
2. Maternity and Child Welfare Service.
3. Midwifery and Maternity Nursing Service.
4. Health Visiting Service.
5. Home Nursing Service.
6. Vaccination and Immunisation Service.
7. Domestic Help Service.
8. Service in respect of the prevention of illness, care of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or the after-care of such persons.
9. Ambulance Service.
10. Mental Health Service.

Area Committees are authorised to appoint staff, to make proposals to the County Council on the health services, and to bring to the attention of the County Council any matters which they consider relate to, or would promote the efficient working of the services.

It is as yet too early to attempt to foreshadow the form that some of these services will take. Health Centres and the provision of domestic helps are of course new undertakings, and with regard to the former it will no doubt be a considerable time before details of their design and use in different types of community can be settled. In this Area arrangements are already in force for the provision of domestic help, but so far no use of this service has been made in this District. Section 29 of the Act specifies that arrangements must be made for the provision of help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school-age.

The majority of the remaining services have been in operation for a considerable time. Extension of the scope of services 4, 8, 9 and 10 is provided for by the Act, and of these the ambulance service has been put into full-time operation in this District.

With regard to diphtheria immunisation, responsibility for the inoculation of children of less than school-age was transferred from this Council to the County Council some time ago. The Act requires that the inoculation of children of school-age should be similarly transferred, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that the Council is in a position to hand over a service brought to a high pitch of perfection.

There is no change to record in the general provision of services unaffected by the National Health Service Acts, and there was no change in personnel.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Full particulars of these services have been given in recent Annual Reports, and details of progress by years have been noted.

WATER.

No extensions of mains were made during the year.

With regard to quantity, supplies from main sources were adequate. A few cases of shortage at premises supplied from sources other than mains came to notice.

With regard to quality, Table 5 gives particulars of the result of analyses, and it may be seen from this that practically all the unsatisfactory analyses were from sources other than public mains.

TABLE 5.
SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF ANALYSES OF WATER
SUPPLIES TAKEN IN THE AREA DURING 1948

				<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
				<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
PUBLIC MAINS:							
R.D.C. Supply,							
Audley	..	..	..	2	—	2	—
Mid. & S.E. Cheshire							
Water Board	..	..	..	5	—	5	—
Staffs. Potteries Water B'd.				2	—	2	—
Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D...				1	1	2	—
				10	1	11	—
PRIVATE MAINS:							
Hales Estate	..	..	..	—	1*	1	—
Whitmore Estate				2	2*	4	—
				2	3	5	—
OTHER PRIVATE SUPPLIES:							
Ashley	..	..	..	3	2	3	2
Audley	..	..	..	1	1	—	2
Betley	..	..	..	1	2	1	2
Chorlton	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
Madeley	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
Maer	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
Tyrley	..	..	..	3	3	6	—
Whitmore	..	..	..	—	10	10	—
				11	18	23	6
TOTAL NUMBERS OF ANALYSES:							
Public Mains	..	..	..	10	1	11	—
Private Mains	..	..	..	2	3	5	—
Other Private Supplies	..	..	..	11	18	23	6
				23	22	39	6

* Probably chance contaminations (sources satisfactory).

With regard to contaminated supplies, two formal notices were served during the year. In one of these cases, that of a polluted well, connection of the house to a main supply was made.

Printed notices giving particulars of the precautions to be taken were issued to the occupiers of premises having contaminated supplies.

Chloramination is undertaken at the Council's water-works at Audley. Of the two samples taken during the year, one was taken before chloramination, and the other after.

Considerable areas in the District are supplied by outside undertakings. The following information with regard to these supplies has kindly been submitted by their Officers.

MARKET DRAYTON WATER COMPANY.

The Secretary reported that eleven samples were submitted for analysis during the year. Of these samples, six were of treated (chloraminated) water, and three of water before treatment. All were described as satisfactory. Two untreated samples taken at the source were considered to be unsatisfactory, but after "further purification" a satisfactory sample of the untreated water was obtained, (included among the three satisfactory untreated samples above).

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES WATER BOARD.

"The water is derived from deep wells and boreholes sunk in the New Red Sandstone rock.

During 1948 bacteriological examinations made numbered one hundred and twelve, of which twenty-eight were of untreated, and eight-four were of chloraminated water.

None of these samples showed Faecal Coli reaction, while 100% of the untreated samples and 99% of the treated samples showed absence of *Clostridium Welchii*. All were certified by the Analyst as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

Eleven samples were submitted for chemical analysis and from the chemical aspect, these too were certified as pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public supply.

The water is described as of medium hardness; the saline and mineral constituents in solution are not excessive; and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is not plumbo-solvent and the organic quality is of the highest standard.

Softening of the water is not undertaken."

MID AND SOUTH EAST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

The Engineer and Manager reported as follows :—

- “1. During the 12 months ending 31st December, 1948, the Board was operating in detail the Bearstone Pumping Station, during the last 9 months having taken over the supervision of the Nantwich Rural District Council supply on 1st April, 1948.
 2. During the 9 months 9 samples of water were taken at Bearstone Pumping Station for bacteriological analysis and all of these were completely free from B.Coli and were classified as “Good.”
The sample taken in December although free from B.Coli developed 4 colonies on yeastrel agar at 37°C. and was classified as “Fair.”
 3. Samples were taken at more frequent intervals in the Board's distribution system and were generally satisfactory.
 4. Work was restarted during the year on the extensions to the works at Bearstones with a view to bringing the new borehole into operation in the Summer of 1949.
 5. Chlorine is not applied to the water at the present time but plant for this purpose is being included in the new installation. There is however, no indication that chlorination is necessary as yet.”
- A chemical analysis of raw water taken at the pumping-station in March, 1948, proved to be satisfactory.

Of the 4,767 houses in the District 4,505 (94·5%) are supplied from piped mains. The following Table has been provided by the courtesy of the Council's Financial Officer, and shows the numbers of houses thus supplied by parishes.

TABLE 6.
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
PIPED WATER SUPPLIES IN RURAL DISTRICT

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total No. of houses in parish</i>	<i>No. of houses connected to main water supply</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>No. of houses not connected to main supply</i>	<i>Sources of Supply</i>
Audley ..	2392	2383		9	R.D.C. (own Pumping Station)
Balterley ..	64	63		1	R.D.C. (From Mid. & South East Cheshire Water Board in bulk)
Betley ..	196	188		8	R.D.C. (From Mid. & South East Cheshire Water Board in bulk)
Keele ..	149	138		11	Staffordshire Potteries Water Board (direct) & N.R.D.C.
Madeley ..	802	763		39	Staffordshire Potteries Water Board (direct) & N.R.D.C.
Chorlton ..	120	113		7	R.D.C. (From Staffordshire Potteries Water Board in bulk)
Maer & Maer .. (added)	170	155		15	R.D.C. (From Staffordshire Potteries Water Board in bulk)
Whitmore ..	170	131		39	Whitmore Estate (private supply)
Ashley ..	337	309		28	R.D.C. (From Mid. & South East Cheshire Water Board in bulk)
Mucclestone ..	136	106		30	R.D.C. (From Mid. & South East Cheshire Water Board in bulk)
Tyrley ..	231	156		75	R.D.C. (From Mid. & South East Cheshire Water Board in bulk. Market Drayton Water Company. Hales Estate (private supply)
	4767	4505	avg. 94.5 %	262*	

* All these properties have their own private supply—either by boreholes, wells, springs or pumps.

It may be seen from Table 6 that houses in Tyrley and Whitmore parishes have supplies from private mains. Only a few of the houses in Whitmore parish supplied through mains have *public* supplies, while rather over 100 houses in Tyrley parish receive supplies through *public* mains. I estimate therefore that of the 4,505 houses having main supplies, approximately 4,335 (96%) have supplies from *public* mains.

The approximate number of houses supplied from stand-pipes is as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>				
Ashley	..	..	..	6
Audley	..	..	..	4
Tyrley	..	..	..	8
				—
Total	..	..	..	18
				—

With regard to the Ministry of Health's requirement that the number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from public mains (a) direct to the houses, and (b) by means of stand-pipes should be given, it may be seen from the above that the proportions supplied from stand-pipes are negligible.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

AUDLEY SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

By the end of the year it had not been found possible to start work on the first section of the final part of the scheme.

The works were inspected by a Consultant Engineer in June and December, 1949. In his report dated 22nd December, the Engineer stated that analysis of a sample of the final effluent taken on December 14th showed that this was quite satisfactory. Apart from the need for a few minor repairs, the works were reported to be in good working order and satisfactorily maintained.

No further progress was found possible in connection with the Council's schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal at Ashley, Betley, Baldwin's Gate, Loggerheads, and Madeley.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council's scheme for scavenging in every Parish in the District came into operation during the year. Work proceeded smoothly, and the concentration of tipping has resulted in the abolition of numerous small and unsightly tips.

NIGHT-SOIL DISPOSAL.

Apart from the conversion of approximately twenty-four privies to water-carriage, there is no change to record.

Controlled tipping and covering is undertaken as far as possible at both house-refuse and night-soil tipping sites, but labour shortages remain a serious difficulty.

Action with regard to fly-control is carried out at both kinds of tips by the spreading of a "tip-dressing" containing D.D.T. powder.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

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

“The repair and general improvement of housing conditions in the District were carried out to a greater extent during the year. This was chiefly due to the increase in the supply of building materials and to the easing of the position with regard to building licences.

“The disrepair of cottage property, however, remains a rather acute problem, due chiefly to the high cost of repair and to rents fixed at a 1939 level.”

Table 7 gives some particulars of action taken during the year and its results.

TABLE 7.

DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Number of informal notices served	113
Statutory notices served under Section 9 (H.A. 1936) ..	6
Statutory notices served under Section 11 (H.A. 1936)	—
Number of houses included in clearance areas under Section 25 (H.A. 1936)	—
Overcrowding abatement notices	—

RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN.

Number of houses where repairs were in hand	75
Number of houses where repairs had been completed ..	41
Number of houses reconditioned under Housing (Rural Workers') Acts	—
Number of houses demolished (Section 11 and Section 25)	6
Number of overcrowding cases abated	3

HOUSING SURVEY.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 1171. Table 8 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 8.

1. Satisfactory in all respects	252
2. Minor Defects	478
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement..	379
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	—
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	62
Total	1171

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 9.

TABLE 9.

1. Satisfactory in all respects	935
2. Minor Defects	901
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement..	951
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	2
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	194
Total	2983

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.

Particulars of the total number of houses in the District are given on page 5. The total number of working-class houses in the District is approximately 4,000.

OVERCROWDING.

In the course of the survey mentioned above twenty-eight cases of overcrowding came to notice during 1948. The total number of cases thus discovered since the commencement of the survey is thirty-six.

As changes do not always come to notice, no accurate figures can be given, but it is estimated that approximately fifty-three cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, the majority by the allocation of Council houses. The occupying of a house by two or more families was a comparatively frequent source of overcrowding, and a number of such cases were relieved by the removal of one of the families to a Council house.

It is estimated that a total number of eighty-five families were re-housed during 1948, and of these approximately 62% were either from houses overcrowded in the statutory or the "near-statutory" sense.

BUILDING LICENCES.

Approval was given in 330 cases. Inspection was made in practically all cases to ascertain whether repairs were essential.

TOWN PLANNING AND POST-WAR HOUSING.

By the end of the year 122 Council houses had been completed since the termination of the War.

Table 10 shows the numbers and types of houses completed and occupied in 1948.

TABLE 10.

<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	2 (Swedish)
Audley	..	36 (Traditional, 10; "Airey," 26)
Chorlton	..	6 (Traditional)
Madeley	..	38 (Traditional, including 8 bungalows for aged persons)
Mucclestone	..	6 (Swedish)
Whitmore	..	2 (Traditional)
Total	..	90

The following statement gives some particulars of further progress as at the end of the year.

ASHLEY PARISH.—Twenty-four houses of the “ Airey ” type were well advanced.

AUDLEY PARISH.

Wereton Scheme No. 2.—Of thirty-eight traditional-type houses planned, nine were in the early stages of construction, and twenty-four houses of “ Airey ” type were well advanced.

Wereton Scheme No. 3.—Tenders had been submitted to the Ministry of Health in respect of sixty-four traditional-type houses.

Wood Lane.—A scheme for twenty traditional-type houses had been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Halmerend.—No further progress had been made.

BETLEY PARISH.—It had been provisionally agreed that the Betley Hall site should be used.

CHORLTON PARISH.—The scheme had been completed.

KEELE PARISH.—A site had been agreed at Quarry Bank.

MADELEY PARISH.

Moss Site.—Twenty-two “ Airey-type ” houses had been practically completed.

Furnace Lane.—Four bungalows for aged persons were well advanced.

Baldwin's Gate.—A site was in process of being purchased. Development is being deferred until sewage-disposal can be arranged.

MAER PARISH.

Blackbrook.—Tenders had been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Aston.—A site for two cottages was to be purchased.

TYRLEY PARISH.—Negotiations were in train for the purchase of sites at Sandy Lane and Almington Village.

WHITMORE PARISH.—The question of a site was under discussion with the County Planning Officer.

PRIVATE BUILDING.

Ten houses had been completed or were nearing completion at the end of the year.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

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

“ Meat for retail sale in the District continued to be distributed from the abattoirs in Stoke City. On account of early signs of decomposition parts of two carcasses of beef were condemned.

“ A considerable number of pigs were slaughtered for home consumption under licence from the local Food Office. Among these a few cases of localised tuberculous infection of glands were discovered. The great majority of pigs inspected were however in excellent condition, and it seems fair to assume that this may be partly due to the fact that they were reared in isolation, and were thus less likely to be exposed to infection.”

FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY.

“ Frequent routine inspections were made during the year, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that it was not found necessary to serve any formal notices. A number of minor defects were discovered, and the majority of these were remedied after advice had been given.

“ Special attention continued to be given to the subject of premises used in connection with the preparation and sale of sausages, potted meat, etc. At the end of the year twenty-two such premises were registered. Alterations were recommended and made in three cases.”

ICE-CREAM.

The number of premises registered at the end of the year for storage and sale was thirteen, and of these six received ice-cream in bulk, and seven in the pre-packed form. In four cases of application for registration the premises were considered to be unsuitable, and as a result of advice the applications were withdrawn.

Two samples of “ boiled mix ” and two samples of “ complete cold mix ” ice-cream were submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford. None of these samples were reported to be of the first grade, but investigation of the premises showed that the standards of cleanliness at all these premises were very high. Advice was tendered as to storage etc., and emphasis was laid on the correct technique in serving ice-cream received in bulk.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

Pineapple Juice	..	..	..	28	tins
Bacon	..	..	..	26½	lb.
Tomatoes	..	..	..	6	tins
Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	24	oz.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Seventy-four routine inspections were made at farms and dairies. The great majority of premises were found to be satisfactory, and no notices were served during the year.

As a result of inspection and advice improvements were brought about at forty-one shippens, dairies, etc. New main water supplies were installed in five cases. Plans for new shippens and dairies were approved in six cases.

Several cases of milk that failed to satisfy the methylene-blue test were referred to the Department by the County Medical Officer of Health. Advice was given to the tenants of the premises concerned. Continued failure to satisfy the test in one case resulted in the withdrawal of the "accredited" licence by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

A sharp outbreak occurred in a small school in the District in October.

Mid-day meals were supplied from a Civic Restaurant in a neighbouring town, and it appeared that children attending two or three schools in the town, who had had meals from the same source, were similarly affected.

Twenty-four children (practically all of those attending the school), were affected. In the majority of the cases severe vomiting and diarrhoea occurred after an interval of ten to twelve hours, although onset was delayed for twenty-four hours in a few cases. Recovery was complete in all cases after about two days.

It appeared to be likely that the cause was meat-pie. Investigation was undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford, but no specific organism was isolated.

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 average numbers during this period.

TABLE 11.
(Civilians only).

		1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	<i>Average Numbers for five Years</i>
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	20	10	17	34	7	17.6
Diphtheria	.. ..	3	—	2	2	1	1.6
Whooping Cough	.. ..	19	73	55	48	96	58.2
Measles	.. ..	144	126	20	377	152	163.8
Ac. Poliomyelitis	.. ..	1	—	—	—	—	0.2
Ac. Polioencephalitis	.. ..	—	—	—	1	—	0.2
Typhoid Fever	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia*	.. ..	13	9	7	10	1	8.0
Dysentery	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	.. ..	—	—	1	—	—	0.2
Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	.. ..	14	10	9	1	2	7.2
Smallpox	.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	.. ..	5	2	—	—	1	1.6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	1	0.6

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

TABLE 12.

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

(Civilians only).

<i>Age Periods</i>					<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>		<i>Diphtheria</i>	
					<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
0	..	..	..	..	—	—	1	3	1	3	—	—
1	..	..	..	..	—	—	10	11	10	16	—	—
3	..	..	..	..	—	1	14	19	17	17	—	—
5	..	..	..	..	2	—	13	19	34	29	—	—
10	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	4	7	8	—	—
15	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—
25 and over	..	..	..	..	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
Age unknown	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals					4	3	40	56	75	77	—	1

<i>Age Periods</i>				<i>Acute Pneum'ia</i>		<i>Erysipelas</i>	
				<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
0	..	..	..	1	—	—	—
5	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
45	..	..	..	—	—	—	1
65 and over	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	..	..	..	—	—	1	—
Totals ..				1	—	1	1

TABLE 13.

COMPARISON OF THE RATES OF INCIDENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1948 WITH THOSE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District</i>
NOTIFICATIONS:	(Rates per 1,000	Civilian Population)
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fevers	0.01	0.00
Cerebrospinal Fever	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.73	0.42
Whooping Cough	3.42	5.77
Diphtheria	0.08	0.06
Erysipelas	0.21	0.12
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	9.34	9.13
Pneumonia	0.73	0.06
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia*	6.89	3.56
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.00
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00

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

TABLE 14.

COMPARISON OF DEATH-RATES FROM CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1948.

	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme Rural District</i>
DEATHS:	(Rates per 1,000	Civilian Population)
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.66
Influenza	0.03	0.00
Small-pox	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio- encephalitis	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.30
Enteritis and Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	3.3*	0.00*

* Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

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

(a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was the smallest for many years. Except in one case, a child of nine years, the disease seems to have continued to be of mild type.

One case, that of boy temporarily in the District, was removed to hospital. With regard to the treatment of cases at home, there is no evidence that this practice resulted in the infection of other persons.

DIPHTHERIA.

The single case notified, one of moderate severity in a woman of 36 years, was treated at home. The three children in the house had been immunised, but they were treated with preventive serum as well, and none were infected.

WHOOPING COUGH.

It may be seen from Table 11 that there was a considerable increase in the number of cases notified. It seems unlikely that all the cases that occurred were notified, while on the other hand, it is by no means certain that all the cases notified turned out to be whooping cough. It must therefore be realised that in the case of this disease notification may not provide an accurate incidence-figure.

There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

The number of cases notified fell to about half that for 1947. As in the case of whooping cough notification may not be an accurate guide to incidence.

There were no deaths.

PNEUMONIA.

One case only was notified. This negligible incidence may be due in part to the comparative freedom of the District from influenza during the year.

There were five deaths.

POLIO-MYELITIS, Etc.

The District was fortunate in having no cases.

(b) NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Accurate records of this type of infectious disease are, of course, not available. Information provided by the Head Teachers of schools nevertheless gives indication 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.

INFLUENZA.

Singularly few cases seem to have occurred. In England and Wales incidence seems to have been unusually light. There were no deaths.

MUMPS.

Large numbers of cases were reported by the Head Teachers of schools.

CHICKENPOX.

This disease was rather prevalent during the first half of the year, particularly in the Madeley area. A young man developed the disease in a form so severe as to resemble moderate smallpox.

SCABIES.

One or two mild cases came to notice at school-clinics.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

The subject of the transfer of responsibility from this Council to the County Council under Part III of the National Health Service Act is referred to on page 10.

Estimates of percentages of children immunised are not at present available to me.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 15.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	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
15	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
25	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
35	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
55	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	—	7*	1	4	—	6	1

* Includes two unnotified fatal cases..

TABLE 16.
INCIDENCE AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS DURING THE LAST
TEN YEARS.

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory
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
1947	10	4	8	1
1948	11	1	10	1
Totals ..	112	49	57	9
Averages ..	11.2	4.9	5.7	0.9

TABLE 17.

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Incidence Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Number of New Cases per 1,000 Population)</i>	<i>Death Rate of Pulmonary Cases (Deaths per 1,000 Population)</i>
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
1947 ..	0.60	0.48
1948 ..	0.66	0.60
Averages ..	0.68	0.35

It may be seen from Table 17 that there were increases in both the incidence-rate and the death-rate of pulmonary cases during the year, and that while the incidence-rate in 1948 was slightly below the average during the last ten years, the corresponding death-rate was nearly double the average rate.

The subjects of shortage of sanatorium accommodation and unsuitable housing conditions have been referred to in my previous Annual Reports, and it is much to be regretted that there is little change to record.

Increased effort was made during the year with regard to the ascertainment of the housing conditions of cases of tuberculosis, and where these were found to be unsatisfactory Parish Councils were approached with a view to the allocation of Council houses.

Special attention continued to be given to the important subject of unsuspected cases. On the occurrence of a new case of tuberculosis inquiry is made in the home, and where it appears to be necessary examination of all home-contacts at the Dispensary is offered. Inquiry is also made by Tuberculosis Visitors during their routine visits to established cases with a view to the examination of contacts where this seems to be desirable. The collaboration

of the local Tuberculosis Officer and of the Tuberculosis Visitors in this connection has been of great value.

The general position with regard to isolation and treatment is unlikely to improve until more sanatorium accommodation becomes available. With regard to admission to sanatorium it has been well said that instead of waiting patients there should be waiting beds.

TABLE 18.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT IN 1948.

	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>
All Causes	88	101	11.35
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. Whooping Cough	0	0	0.00
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0.00
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	4	0.48
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1	0.06
8. Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0.00
9. Influenza	0	0	0.00
10. Measles	0	0	0.00
11. Acute poliomyelitis & polio- encephalitis	0	0	0.00
12. Acute infectious encephalitis	0	0	0.00
13. Cancer of mouth & oesoph- agus (M) & uterus (F) ..	1	0	0.06
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duo- denum	3	2	0.30
15. Cancer of Breast	0	3	0.18
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	11	14	1.50
17. Diabetes	0	1	0.06
18. Intercranial vascular lesions	8	19	1.62

TABLE 18 (continued).

			<i>Death Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>	
		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	
19.	Heart Disease	35	22	3.42
20.	Other diseases of the circula- tory system	2	3	0.30
21.	Bronchitis	2	1	0.18
22.	Pneumonia	3	2	0.30
23.	Other respiratory diseases..	2	1	0.18
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duo- denum	1	0	0.06
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	0	0	0.00
26.	Appendicitis	0	0	0.00
27.	Other digestive diseases ..	1	1	0.12
28.	Nephritis	2	7	0.54
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	0	0.00*
30.	Other maternal causes ..	—	0	0.00*
31.	Premature Birth	0	0	0.00
32.	Congenital malnutrition, birth injuries, infantile diseases	2	3	0.30
33.	Suicide	0	1	0.06
34.	Road traffic accidents ..	1	0	0.06
35.	Other violent causes ..	3	3	0.36
36.	All other causes	7	13	1.20

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

The figures given in Table 18 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 18 and those in the body of the Report must be borne in mind with regard to the causes of death.

TABLE 19.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT
OF THE YEAR 1948 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-
LYME IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Prescribed Particulars on the administration of the Factories Acts,
1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including
inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	14	10	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	23	17	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	5	—	3	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>SECTION 110</i>			<i>SECTION 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list req'd by Sect. 110 (1)(c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions of failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel Making, etc...	3	—	—	—	—	—

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—

“ The few factories in the District generally are in fairly good condition. These are mainly brick and tile factories, of which there are five; four gravel workings; and one colliery which is provided with modern pit-head baths and canteen facilities.

“ Defects found as a result of routine inspection during the year were mostly of a minor nature. In one case only the facilities for employees were found to be totally inadequate, including the want of a proper water supply, suitable lavatory accommodation and washing facilities. This was mainly due to the closing down of the factory for a number of years. Arrangements have been made to rectify the matter.

“ A number of smaller factories of recent origin are now in operation in the District, including a bleach works, a timber mill, and a knit-wear factory.”



