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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 1949.



Audley :  
E. Light, Printer.



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FOR THE YEAR 1949.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Ministry of Health Circular No. 2/50 requires that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1949 should be prepared on the lines of those for 1948.

The present Report has been prepared accordingly, and I have in addition given some detailed attention to a few special subjects.

Progress continued to be made in connection with post-war housing. This subject is referred to on pages 16 and 17, where it may be seen that ninety-two Council houses were completed in 1949, making a total of two hundred and fourteen since the end of the War.

Apart from the commencement of work on the first section of the final part of the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme in Audley Parish, there is little change to record in connection with the extension of water-mains, sewerage, and sewage disposal.

The birth-rate continued to fall, and there was a small reduction in the death-rate. The infant mortality rate of twenty per thousand live births was the lowest ever recorded.

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, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. YOUNG,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

"THE GABLES,"

ALBERT ROAD,

TRENTHAM,

STOKE-ON-TRENT.

July, 1950.

# SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 40,015 acres.

Rateable Value: £55,329.

Sum represented by the penny rate : £225.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population: 16,780.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as at 31st December, 1949: 4,965.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by Parishes.

TABLE 1.

| <i>Parish</i> |    |      | <i>Parish</i> |    |     |
|---------------|----|------|---------------|----|-----|
| Ashley        | .. | 364  | Madeley       | .. | 830 |
| Audley        | .. | 2531 | Maer          | .. | 175 |
| Balterley     | .. | 64   | Mucclestone   | .. | 136 |
| Betley        | .. | 193  | Tyrley        | .. | 233 |
| Chorlton      | .. | 120  | Whitmore      | .. | 170 |
| Keele         | .. | 149  |               |    |     |

Of the total of 4,965 houses, 436 (88%) 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        | .. | Eight caravans.  |
| Audley        | .. | One railway coach.   |
| Betley        | .. | Two caravans.  |
| Chorlton      | .. | 62 caravans and semi-permanent dwellings and 10 permanent dwellings. |
| Mucclestone   | .. | One railway coach.   |
| Tyrley        | .. | One caravan.   |
| 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<br/>R.D.<br/>Rates per 1,000 of the<br/>est'd. resident Civilian<br/>Population</i> | <i>England and<br/>Wales.<br/>Rates per<br/>1,000 Total<br/>Population</i> |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|--|
| LIVE BIRTHS:                     |     |     |     |   |  |
|                                  | M   | F   |     |   |  |
| Total ..                         | 250 | 122 | 128 | 14.9  | 16.7   |
| Legitimate                       | 244 | 118 | 126 | 14.5  | — *  |
| Illegitimate                     | 6   | 4   | 2   | 0.4   | — *  |
| STILLBIRTHS:                     |     |     |     |   |  |
|                                  | M   | F   |     |   |  |
| Total ..                         | 10  | 2   | 8   | 0.60  | 0.39   |
| Legitimate                       | 10  | 2   | 8   | 0.60  | — *  |
| Illegitimate                     | —   | —   | —   | 0.00  | — *  |
| DEATHS:                          |     |     |     |   |  |
| Total ..                         | 189 | 98  | 91  | 11.26 (crude)<br>10.92 (corrected)  | 11.7   |
|                                  |     |     |     | <i>Rates per 1,000 Related Live Births<br/>Newcastle-u-Lyme<br/>R.D.</i>                                | <i>England<br/>and Wales</i>   |
| DEATHS UNDER ONE<br>YEAR OF AGE: |     |     |     |   |  |
|                                  | M   | F   |     |   |  |
| Total ..                         | 5   | 3   | 2   | 20  | 32   |
| Legitimate                       | 4   | 2   | 2   | 16  | — *  |
| Illegitimate                     | 1   | 1   | 0   | 4   | — *  |

\*Rates not available.

|  |    |    |     | <i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births<br/>Newcastle-u-Lyme<br/>R.D.</i> | <i>England<br/>and Wales</i> |
|--|----|----|-----|--|------------------------------|
| DEATHS FROM<br>Diarrhoea and Enteritis<br>under two years of age |    |    |     |  |                              |
|  | M  | F  |     |  |                              |
| Total ..   | .. | .. | 0 0 | 0.0  | 3.0                          |

Table 4 shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last seven 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<br/>R.D.</i> |    |    |    | <i>England and<br/>Wales</i> |
|----------|----------------------------------|----|----|----|------------------------------|
| 1943     | ..                               | .. | .. | 53 | 49                           |
| 1944     | ..                               | .. | .. | 43 | 46                           |
| 1945     | ..                               | .. | .. | 78 | 46                           |
| 1946     | ..                               | .. | .. | 50 | 43                           |
| 1947     | ..                               | .. | .. | 29 | 41                           |
| 1948     | ..                               | .. | .. | 36 | 34                           |
| 1949     | ..                               | .. | .. | 20 | 32                           |
| Averages | ..                               | .. | .. | 44 | 42                           |

## EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.

The Employment Exchange reported that there was no change during the year in the conditions outlined in my Report for 1948.

**SECTION B.**  
**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH**  
**SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

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 the Council requested the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board to submit schemes for supplies of water

- (a) to four farms at Betley;
- (b) to two farms, three cottages, and six Council houses at Oakley Folly, in Tyrley Parish;
- (c) To eight cottages at Bowsey Wood, in Madeley Parish.

Copies of these schemes were received towards the end of the year, and in March, 1950 the Ministry of Health's formal approval in principle was received.

A scheme to improve the supply at Madeley was agreed to by the Council during the year. This entails the laying of a new main, and the construction of a reservoir in Keele Parish.

With regard to quantity, supplies from main sources continued to be adequate in spite of prolonged drought in the summer and early autumn. A few cases of shortage at premises supplied from sources other than mains came to notice.

Notices requiring the provision of a supply in respect of two premises were served, and these were complied with.

With regard to quality, Table 5 gives particulars of the results of analyses, and it may be seen from these that 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 IN 1949.

|  | <i>Bacteriological</i>    |                             | <i>Chemical</i>           |                             |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | <i>Satis-<br/>factory</i> | <i>Unsatis-<br/>factory</i> | <i>Satis-<br/>factory</i> | <i>Unsatis-<br/>factory</i> |
| PUBLIC MAINS:                          |                           |                             |                           |                             |
| R.D.C., Audley Water-<br>Works .. .. . | 3                         | —                           | 3                         | —                           |
| British Railways Supply                | 1                         | —                           | 1                         | —                           |
| Mid. & S.E. Cheshire<br>Water Board .. | 4                         | —                           | 4                         | —                           |
| Staffs. Potts. Water B'd.              | 2                         | —                           | 1                         | —                           |
|  | 10                        | —                           | 9                         | —                           |
| OTHER PUBLIC SUPPLIES:                 |                           |                             |                           |                             |
| Tyrley Parish .. ..                    | 1                         | 1                           | 2                         | —                           |
| Whitmore Parish ..                     | 1                         | 1                           | 2                         | —                           |
|  | 2                         | 2                           | 4                         | —                           |
| PRIVATE MAINS                          |                           |                             |                           |                             |
| Keele Parish .. ..                     | 1                         | —                           | 1                         | —                           |
| Tyrley Parish .. ..                    | —                         | 1                           | 1                         | —                           |
|  | 1                         | 1                           | 2                         | —                           |
| OTHER PRIVATE SUPPLIES:                |                           |                             |                           |                             |
| Ashley Parish .. ..                    | —                         | 2                           | —                         | 2                           |
| Maer „ .. ..                           | 1                         | —                           | 1                         | —                           |
| Mucclestone Parish ..                  | 1                         | —                           | —                         | 1                           |
| Tyrley „ .. ..                         | —                         | 1                           | 1                         | —                           |
| Whitmore „ .. ..                       | 2                         | —                           | 2                         | —                           |
|  | 4                         | 3                           | 4                         | 3                           |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF<br>ANALYSES:           |                           |                             |                           |                             |
| Public Mains .. ..                     | 10                        | —                           | 9                         | —                           |
| Other Public Supplies                  | 2                         | 2                           | 4                         | —                           |
| Private Mains .. ..                    | 1                         | 1                           | 2                         | —                           |
| Other Private Supplies                 | 4                         | 3                           | 4                         | 3                           |
|  | 17                        | 6                           | 19                        | 3                           |

Bacteriological analysis of a small private supply to about a dozen houses in Tyrley Parish showed contamination. The tenants were notified as to the precautions to be taken.

Chloramination was undertaken at the Council's Water-Works at Audley. Of the three samples analysed one was of the raw water.

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.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES WATER BOARD.

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

During 1949, bacteriological examinations made numbered one hundred and forty-nine, of which forty were of untreated, and one hundred and three of chloraminated water.

None of these samples showed Faecal Coli reactions or Clostridium Welchii reactions. All were certified as conforming to the highest standards of bacterial purity, indicating a water pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public and domestic supply.

Nine samples were chemically analysed and from a chemical aspect these too were certified pure and wholesome and suitable for purposes of public and domestic supply. The water is of moderate hardness ; the saline and mineral constituents in solution are moderate ; it is of neutral reaction and free from metals. The water is not plumbo-solvent and the organic quality is of the highest standards.

Softening of the water is not undertaken."

#### MARKET DRAYTON WATER COMPANY.

The Secretary reported that two bacteriological analyses of chlorinated water were made during the year, and that the samples were stated to be "Class one, and highly satisfactory." No chemical analyses seem to have been made.

With regard to a further sample of raw water taken from Blore Springs, it was stated that "improvement in the quality is desirable." An analysis of unchlorinated water from this source made in February, 1950 showed that the sample was quite satisfactory.

#### MID AND SOUTH-EAST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

A chemical analysis of raw water from the Bearstone Pumping Station in December, 1949 stated that the water was of a high degree of organic purity, and that stability was as usual well maintained.

Particulars by Parishes of the numbers of houses in the District supplied from piped mains were given in my Annual Report for 1948, and the highly satisfactory average figure of 94·5% is unlikely to have undergone any significant change.

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

| <i>Parish</i> |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| Ashley        | .. | .. | .. | 6  |
| Audley        | .. | .. | .. | 4  |
| Tyrley        | .. | .. | .. | 8  |
| <hr/>         |    |    |    |    |
| Total         | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| <hr/>         |    |    |    |    |

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 proportion supplied from stand-pipes is negligible.

#### DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

##### AUDLEY SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Work was started on the first section of the final part of the scheme. This included the laying of sewers and extension of the works.

The works were inspected by a Consultant Engineer in May, 1949 and January, 1950.

In a report dated January 17th, 1950, the Engineer stated that, apart from some excess of solids in suspension in the effluent, the original section of the plant was working satisfactorily, and that the general maintenance was of a high standard.

It was not found possible to start work in connection with the Council's schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal at Ashley, Betley, Loggerheads, and Madeley. The Ministry of Health requested that work on the scheme for the Baldwin's Gate area should be postponed for twelve months.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council's scheme for scavenging in every Parish in the District introduced in 1948, continued to work satisfactorily.

Destruction of rats at tip-sites was undertaken under contract by the County Agricultural Consultative Committee.

#### NIGHT-SOIL DISPOSAL.

There is no change to report in the conditions outlined in my Annual Report for 1948.

Six conversions of privies to water-carriage were made during the year.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING

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

“ Increased progress continued to be made in connection with repairs and other improvements. This was largely due to the raising of the limit above which a licence was necessary to £100.

“ The disrepair of a proportion 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 6 gives some particulars of action taken during the year and its results.

TABLE 6

#### DETAILS OF ACTION TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of informal notices served .. .. .  | 45 |
| Statutory notices served under Section 9 (H.A. 1936)                                 | —  |
| Statutory notices served under Section 11 (H.A. 1936)                                | —  |
| Number of houses included in clearance areas under<br>Section 25 (H.A. 1936) .. .. . | —  |
| Overcrowding abatement notices .. .. .   | —  |

#### RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of houses where repairs were in hand ..                                | 30 |
| Number of houses where repairs had been completed ..                          | 16 |
| Number of houses reconditioned under Housing (Rural<br>Workers') Acts .. .. . | —  |
| Number of houses demolished (Section 11 and Section 25)                       | 12 |
| Number of overcrowding cases abated .. .. .                                   | 18 |

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#### HOUSING SURVEY.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 327. 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 .. .. .   | 93  |
| 2. Minor Defects .. .. .  | 110 |
| 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement                           | 107 |
| 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing<br>(Rural Workers') Act .. .. . | —   |
| 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable<br>expense .. .. .          | 12  |
| Total .. .. .   | 327 |

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 .. .. .   | 1033 |
| 2. Minor Defects .. .. .  | 1011 |
| 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement                           | 1058 |
| 4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing<br>(Rural Workers') Act .. .. . | 2    |
| 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable<br>expense .. .. .          | 206  |
| Total .. .. .   | 3310 |

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 4,100.

#### OVERCROWDING.

In the course of the survey mentioned above fifty-five cases of overcrowding came to notice during the year. The total number of cases thus discovered since the commencement of the survey is ninety-one.

As changes do not always come to notice, no accurate figures can be given. Twelve families living in conditions of statutory overcrowding were however re-housed in Council property in 1949. There remains a considerable proportion of houses occupied by two families and a few by three.

Shortage of suitable sleeping-accommodation is perhaps the difficulty most frequently met with in these cases, which do not necessarily constitute statutory overcrowding.

#### BUILDING LICENCES.

Approval was given in forty-six cases.

#### PRIVATE BUILDING.

Eight houses were erected during the year, making a total of thirty-nine completed or nearing completion since the end of the War.

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#### TOWN PLANNING AND POST-WAR HOUSING.

By the end of the year 214 Council houses had been completed since the termination of the War.

Table 9 shows the numbers and types of houses completed and occupied in 1949.

TABLE 9.

| <i>Parish</i> |    |    |    |                               |
|---------------|----|----|----|-------------------------------|
| Ashley        | .. | .. | .. | 24 (Airey)                    |
| Audley        | .. | .. | .. | 42 (24 Airey, 18 Traditional) |
| Madeley       | .. | .. | .. | 26 (22 Airey, 4 Bungalows)    |
|               |    |    |    | —                             |
| Total         | .. | .. | .. | 92                            |
|               |    |    |    | —                             |

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

**ASHLEY PARISH.** A new site had been selected at Sovereign Lane.

#### AUDLEY PARISH.

*Wereton.* Thirty traditional-type houses were in various stages of construction, and roads and sewers had been completed for a further sixty-four.

*Wood Lane.* Work on a site for twenty traditional-type houses had been commenced.

*Alsager's Bank.* Proposals had been made in respect of a site. It is intended that this site shall also serve for the rehousing of displaced tenants at Halmerend.

**BETLEY PARISH.** Formal approval was awaited for a site for twelve traditional-type houses in Betley Hall grounds.

KEELE PARISH. Land was in process of being purchased at Quarry Bank for the sewage disposal plant necessary for the twelve existing Council houses, new Council houses planned, and adjoining properties.

MADELEY PARISH.

*Moss Site.* Eighteen traditional-type houses were in various stages of construction.

*Baldwin's Gate.* A site had been proposed for six traditional-type houses. A sewage-disposal scheme has been prepared for the village, and the building of new houses will be delayed pending further progress with this.

MAER PARISH.

*Aston.* A site for two traditional-type houses had been approved.

*Blackbrook.* The ten traditional-type houses planned were nearly completed.

TYRLEY PARISH. Sites for eight traditional-type houses at Almington, and for ten at Sandy Lane had been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

WHITMORE PARISH.

*Acton.* Proposals for a site had been deferred for the time being.

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In December a letter had been received from the Ministry of Health stating that an allocation of fifty houses had been made for 1950.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

#### “MEAT.

Meat for retail sale continued to be distributed from the abattoirs in Stoke City. No meat was condemned during the year.

#### FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Bacon .. .. .               | 18 lb. |
| Cheese .. .. .              | 13 lb. |
| Butter .. .. .              | 6 lb.  |
| Canned Fruit and Vegetables | 7 lb.  |

#### FOOD PREMISES GENERALLY.

The inspection of premises in the area was continued throughout the year, attention being mainly given to facilities for washing. In this respect the majority of the shops are adequately provided with a constant supply of both hot and cold water, fitted over white glazed sinks; the standard of cleanliness is good. There are some 160 food shops in the rural area and the majority of these have been inspected. Only in two instances was it found necessary to request occupiers to improve conditions by cleaning.

No formal notices were served during the year, but as the result of verbal requests, improvements were effected in seven cases, mainly in connection with the provision of washing facilities.

#### ICE-CREAM.

Nine applications for registration for the sale of ice-cream were received, and five of these were approved.

The total number registered at the end of the year was eighteen, mainly in connection with the sale of pre-packed ice-cream.

It was not found possible to take further samples, but it was apparent from the inspections that a high standard of cleanliness is being maintained. Special attention was given to the utensils used for serving in the cases where ice-cream was received in bulk.”

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

These regulations were made jointly by the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Minister of Food. Responsibility for production on the farm is undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and distribution is controlled by the Ministry of Food.

With regard to special designations, regulations as to pasteurised and sterilised milk were made by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Food. Regulations as to raw milk were made jointly by the three Ministers. All these regulations came into operation on October 1st, 1949.

The duties of a local authority now seem to be restricted to the registration of milk distributors and of dairy premises other than dairy farms, and to the control of the sale of milk infected, or suspected of being infected, with disease.

#### TUBERCLE BACILLI IN MILK.

Towards the end of the year the County Medical Officer of Health reported that tubercle bacilli had been found in samples of undesignated milk obtained from the premises of two producers in District.

Notices under paragraph 20, Part VII, of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, prohibiting the retail sale of unpasteurised milk from these premises were at once served, and arrangements made whereby the milk was pasteurised and a supply afforded for the retailers' customers.

Investigations were started by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and in February, 1950 it was reported that in one instance tests had been completed, and that the milk was certified to be non-tuberculous.

#### MODEL BYE-LAWS.

Under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, local authorities are empowered to make bye-laws for the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food. The function of confirming such bye-laws has been transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Food.

Model Bye-laws, Series I, were issued by the Ministry of Food in October, 1949, and in November I prepared a memorandum on the subject for the Council's Public Health Committee, suggesting that the model should be adopted. This course was agreed to by the Council in January, 1950.

The model bye-laws would forbid any person "knowingly suffering from or knowingly being a carrier of any disease to handle, wrap, or deliver any food so as to give rise to any risk of the spread of the disease." (Diseases are not specified). They would require "all such steps to be taken as may be reasonably necessary to protect the food from dust, mud, filth, dirty water, animals, rodents, flies, insects, and other sources of contamination, including contamination by other persons"; and this requirement would apply to street traders as well as to shops and restaurants. They would put a ban on the use of "any paper or other wrapping material or container which is not clean," and would thus outlaw the use of old newspapers. Shortage of wrapping materials however precludes the Ministry from recommending immediately the general wrapping of food for retail sale. (The wrapping of bread by machine became permissible again recently.) Employers would be obliged to display "clearly legible" notices requesting employees to wash their hands, but the Ministry adds that "a requirement that employees should wash their hands would be difficult to enforce, and it is felt that the observance of cleanly practices in this matter can best be achieved by education."

It should be realised that the bye-laws have reference only to the handling, wrapping, and delivery of food. The question of cleanliness etc. in the large-scale preparation of foods, *e.g.*, meat products, is dealt with under Section 13 the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The expression "sale and exposure for sale" (of food) is to be interpreted as including sale as a meal or part of a meal, and in this connection the subject of hygienic conditions in hotels, restaurants, canteens, etc., is of considerable importance.

There can be no doubt that the general adoption of such bye-laws constitutes a step forward, but it is clear that much depends on their satisfactory implementation.

Bacteriological research has proved beyond doubt that a large proportion of food-poisoning outbreaks have their origin in infection by organisms of human origin, and it has frequently been shown that plates, spoons, forks, etc., in use at catering establishments may be contaminated with potentially dangerous bacilli from nasal, intestinal, and other sources. In a number of outbreaks there has been convincing evidence that the organisms recovered from food and from utensils and from the sufferers were identical with those obtained from an unwitting carrier. There seems to be little doubt that in the great majority of food-poisoning outbreaks contamination occurs at the place of preparation for retail sale, and this of course includes places where meals are prepared and served.

This aspect of the matter seems to resolve itself into the question of the dissemination of knowledge among catering employees, and of the application of comparatively simple rules of personal and kitchen hygiene. The Ministry of Food's Circular issued with the model bye-laws rightly considers that the observance of cleanly practices in the handling of food can best be achieved by educational methods. It should perhaps be added that the education of the public in these matters is likely to be an important factor. Improvement will certainly be hastened when customers will no longer tolerate slovenly methods in the preparation, distribution, and serving of food.

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#### FOOD-POISONING.

An outbreak occurred in the Bignall End Area on August 31st and September 1st.

All the forty cases notified were adults, and all reported that they had eaten brawn prepared and retailed by a local butcher. The brawn had been made from calves' heads obtained from the City abattoir. Evidence that contamination occurred after the process of cooking was conclusive. Cases were strictly confined to houses where brawn had been consumed; persons who had eaten the brawn were the only ones to be affected; no further cases occurred after the brawn had been withdrawn from sale. From the amount of brawn sold it was estimated that the number of persons at risk was 100 to 150.

A considerable proportion of the cases were reported by local doctors to have suffered severely. Several were said to have collapsed, and of these two old people became seriously ill. Recovery in the majority seems to have been complete within 48 hours. There were no deaths.

Samples of brawn obtained from the butcher's shop and from two households were found to be heavily contaminated by the organism known as *staphylococcus aureus*, but bacteriological evidence as to how contamination might have occurred was inconclusive. The premises where the brawn was prepared and retailed were quite satisfactory.

All necessary steps with a view to the prevention as far as possible of a repetition of the incident were taken.

## SECTION F.

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

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

TABLE 10.  
(Civilians only.)

| (Civilians only.)                 |     |      |      |      |      |       | <i>Average<br/>Numbers<br/>for five<br/>Years</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|---|
|                                   |     | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949  |   |
| Scarlet Fever .. ..               | 10  | 17   | 34   | 7    | 6    | 14.8  |   |
| Diphtheria .. ..                  | —   | 2    | 2    | 1    | —    | 1.0   |   |
| Whoopingcough .. ..               | 73  | 55   | 48   | 96   | 36   | 61.6  |   |
| Measles .. ..                     | 126 | 20   | 377  | 152  | 32   | 141.4 |   |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis .. ..           | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Ac. Polioencephalitis .. ..       | —   | —    | 1    | —    | —    | 0.2   |   |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..               | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..          | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Acute Pneumonia* .. ..            | 9   | 7    | 10   | 1    | 1    | 5.6   |   |
| Dysentery .. ..                   | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..        | —   | 1    | —    | —    | —    | 0.2   |   |
| Ac. Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Erysipelas .. ..                  | 10  | 9    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 4.6   |   |
| Smallpox .. ..                    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     |   |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..           | 2   | —    | —    | 1    | —    | 0.6   |   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..       | 1   | —    | —    | 1    | —    | 0.4   |   |
| Food-Poisoning .. ..              | —   | —    | —    | 25   | 40   | 13.0  |   |
| Tuberculosis .. ..                |     |      |      |      |      |       |   |
| Pulmonary .. ..                   | 12  | 10   | 10   | 11   | 18   | 12.2  |   |
| Non-Pulmonary .. ..               | 5   | 5    | 4    | 1    | 5    | 4.0   |   |

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

TABLE 11.

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                  | .. | .. | —                    | —        | 2                     | —        | —              | —        | —                 | —        |
| 1                  | .. | .. | —                    | —        | 6                     | 6        | 7              | 1        | —                 | —        |
| 3                  | .. | .. | 1                    | 2        | 4                     | 5        | 1              | 5        | —                 | —        |
| 5                  | .. | .. | —                    | 1        | 4                     | 7        | 6              | 11       | —                 | —        |
| 10                 | .. | .. | 1                    | —        | 1                     | 1        | —              | —        | —                 | —        |
| 15                 | .. | .. | 1                    | —        | —                     | —        | —              | —        | —                 | —        |
| 25 and over        | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                     | —        | —              | —        | —                 | —        |
| Age unknown        | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                     | —        | 1              | —        | —                 | —        |
| Totals             |    |    | 3                    | 3        | 17                    | 19       | 15             | 17       | —                 | —        |

| <i>Age Periods</i> |    |    |    | <i>Acute Pneum'a</i> |          | <i>Erysipelas</i> |          | <i>Food-Poisoning*</i> |          |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
|                    |    |    |    | <i>M</i>             | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i>          | <i>F</i> | <i>M</i>               | <i>F</i> |
| 0                  | .. | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                 | —        | —                      | —        |
| 5                  | .. | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                 | —        | —                      | —        |
| 15                 | .. | .. | .. | —                    | 1        | —                 | —        | —                      | —        |
| 45                 | .. | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                 | 1        | —                      | —        |
| 65 and over        | .. | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                 | —        | —                      | —        |
| Age unknown        | .. | .. | .. | —                    | —        | —                 | —        | 22                     | 18       |
| Totals             |    |    |    | —                    | 1        | —                 | 1        | 22                     | 18       |

\* Ages not available.

TABLE 12.

COMPARISON OF THE RATES OF INCIDENCE IN THE DISTRICT OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1949 WITH THOSE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

|                               | <i>England<br/>and Wales</i>                 | <i>Newcastle-u-Lyme<br/>Rural District</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| NOTIFICATIONS:                | <i>(Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)</i> |  |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..           | 0.01   | 0.00                                       |
| Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..      | 0.01   | 0.00                                       |
| Cerebrospinal Fever .. ..     | 0.02   | 0.00                                       |
| Scarlet Fever .. ..           | 1.63   | 0.36                                       |
| Whoopingcough .. ..           | 2.39   | 2.15                                       |
| Diphtheria .. ..              | 0.04   | 0.00                                       |
| Erysipelas .. ..              | 0.19   | 0.06                                       |
| Smallpox .. ..                | —  | —  |
| Measles .. ..                 | 8.95   | 1.91                                       |
| Pneumonia .. ..               | 0.80   | 0.06                                       |
| Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia*  | 6.31   | 0.00                                       |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..     | 0.13   | 0.00                                       |
| Acute Polioencephalitis .. .. | 0.01   | 0.00                                       |
| Food-Poisoning .. ..          | 0.14   | 2.38                                       |

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

TABLE 13.

COMPARISON OF DEATH-RATES FROM CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1949.

|   | <i>England<br/>and Wales</i>                 | <i>Newcastle-u-Lyme<br/>Rural District</i> |
|---|--|--|
| DEATHS:   | <i>(Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population)</i> |  |
| Typhoid & Paratyphoid .. ..                           | 0.00   | 0.00                                       |
| Whooping Cough .. ..                                  | 0.01   | 0.00                                       |
| Diphtheria .. ..                                      | 0.00   | 0.00                                       |
| Tuberculosis .. ..                                    | 0.45   | 0.30                                       |
| Influenza .. ..                                       | 0.15   | 0.00                                       |
| Small-pox .. ..                                       | —  | —  |
| Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-<br>encephalitis .. ..    | 0.01   | 0.00                                       |
| Pneumonia .. ..                                       | 0.51   | 0.48                                       |
| Enteritis and Diarrhoea,<br>under 2 years of age * .. | 3.00   | 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 (6) was the smallest for many years. The disease continued to be generally of mild type. It was thought desirable that three of the cases should be treated in an infectious disease hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

It is very gratifying to be able to record that no cases were notified and that there were no deaths. Immunisation has been taken out of my control, and no comprehensive figures are available to me.

WHOOPINGCOUGH.

It may be seen from Table 10 that the numbers of cases notified fell to a little more than half the average number during the last five years. The cases were scattered throughout the District.

MEASLES.

There was a marked decline in the number of cases notified.

(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 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.

INFLUENZA.

Sixty-seven cases were reported by the Head-Teachers of schools. The Chapel Chorlton area seems to have been severely affected in February. No cases of influenzal pneumonia were notified.

CHICKENPOX.

129 cases were reported by Head-Teachers. Alsager's Bank and Maer seem to have been the chief centres of infection.

SCABIES.

Four cases came to knowledge.

# TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE 14.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

| Age<br>Periods | NEW CASES        |                          |                  |                          | DEATHS           |                          |                  |                          |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                | Males            |                          | Females          |                          | Males            |                          | Females          |                          |
|                | Respir-<br>atory | Non-<br>Respir-<br>atory | Respir-<br>atory | Non-<br>Respir-<br>atory | Respir-<br>atory | Non-<br>Respir-<br>atory | Respir-<br>atory | Non-<br>Respir-<br>atory |
| 0 .. ..        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 1 .. ..        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 5 .. ..        | 3                | 1                        | 2                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 15 .. ..       | 1                | —                        | 3                | 1                        | —                | —                        | 2                | —                        |
| 25 .. ..       | 2                | —                        | 1                | 1                        | 2                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 35 .. ..       | 2                | —                        | 2*               | —                        | —                | —                        | 1†               | —                        |
| 45 .. ..       | 2                | 1                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 55 .. ..       | —                | —                        | —                | 1                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| 65 and upwards | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        | —                | —                        |
| Totals ..      | 10               | 2                        | 8*               | 3                        | 2                | 0                        | 3                | 0                        |

\* Includes one unnotified fatal case.

† Died unnotified.

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

| Year        | NEW CASES   |                     | DEATHS      |                     |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|
|             | Respiratory | Non-<br>Respiratory | Respiratory | Non-<br>Respiratory |
| 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                   |
| 1949 .. ..  | 18          | 5                   | 5           | —                   |
| Totals ..   | 115         | 51                  | 55          | 9                   |
| Averages .. | 11.5        | 5.1                 | 5.5         | 0.9                 |

TABLE 16.

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

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Incidence Rate of<br/>Pulmonary Cases<br/>(Number of New Cases<br/>per 1,000 Population)</i> | <i>Death Rate of<br/>Pulmonary Cases<br/>(Deaths per 1,000<br/>Population)</i> |
|-------------|---|--|
| 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   |
| 1949 ..     | 1.07  | 0.30   |
| Averages .. | 0.69  | 0.33   |

It may be seen from Table 16 that there was a marked rise in the incidence-rate of notified pulmonary cases, while on the other hand, the death-rate declined.

The subjects of shortage of sanatorium and hospital accommodation and of unsuitable housing conditions have been referred to in my previous Annual Reports, and it is 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 they were brought to the attention of the appropriate housing-allocation Committees. It is gratifying to be able to note that in one of these cases it was found possible to remove two young children from a house where where there was an ambulant open case.

Special attention continued also to be given to the important subject of unsuspected cases. The collaboration of the Local Tuberculosis Officer and of the Tuberculosis-Visitors was again of great value.

The vital question of preventive work was discussed in a Bulletin of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in June, 1950, and in this the view was expressed that under present arrangements this work had deteriorated. It was also considered that although patients had benefited by the new arrangements for hospital treatment, the delay in securing admission of cases to institutions continued to cause serious disquiet.

It has been stated on good authority that tuberculosis, the last great epidemic disease in this country, could be brought under control in a short period if all resources were brought to bear. Perhaps it is not too much to hope that it will not be long before proposals for rapid and effective action are made known.

TABLE 17.  
CAUSES OF DEATH.  
IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT IN 1949.

|  | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> | <i>Death Rates Per<br/>1,000 Civilian<br/>Population</i> |
|--|----------|----------|--|
| All Causes .. .. .   | 98       | 91       | 11.13  |
| 1. Typhoid and Para-Typhoid<br>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<br>System .. .. .               | 2        | 4        | 0.36   |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .                         | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 8. Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .                                 | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 9. Influenza .. .. .   | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 10. Measles .. .. .  | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 11. Acute poliomyelitis & polio-<br>encephalitis .. .. .       | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 12. Acute infectious encephalitis .. .. .                      | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |
| 13. Cancer of mouth & oesoph-<br>agus (M) & uterus (F) .. .. . | 1        | 0        | 0.06   |
| 14. Cancer of Stomach & Duo-<br>denum .. .. .                  | 1        | 3        | 0.24   |
| 15. Cancer of Breast .. .. .                                   | 0        | 3        | 0.18   |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites .. .. .                          | 12       | 5        | 1.01   |
| 17. Diabetes .. .. .   | 0        | 1        | 0.06   |
| 18. Intracranial vascular lesions .. .. .                      | 10       | 17       | 1.61   |

TABLE 17 (continued)

|   |          |          | <i>Death Rates per<br/>1,000 Civilian<br/>Population</i> |  |
|---|----------|----------|--|--|
|   | <i>M</i> | <i>F</i> |  |  |
| 19. Heart Disease .. .. .   | 28       | 24       | 3.10   |  |
| 20. Other diseases of the circula-<br>tory system .. .. .             | 4        | 1        | 0.30   |  |
| 21. Bronchitis .. .. .  | 6        | 3        | 0.54   |  |
| 22. Pneumonia .. .. .   | 1        | 7        | 0.48   |  |
| 23. Other respiratory diseases ..                                     | 3        | 1        | 0.24   |  |
| 24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duo-<br>denum .. .. .                        | 0        | 2        | 0.12   |  |
| 25. Diarrhoea under two years ..                                      | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |  |
| 26. Appendicitis .. .. .  | 0        | 0        | 0.00   |  |
| 27. Other digestive diseases ..                                       | 2        | 2        | 0.24   |  |
| 28. Nephritis .. .. .   | 6        | 7        | 0.78   |  |
| 29. Puerperal and post-abortive<br>sepsis .. .. .                     | —        | 0        | 0.00*  |  |
| 30. Other maternal causes ..  | —        | 0        | 0.00*  |  |
| 31. Premature Birth .. .. .   | 1        | 1        | 0.12   |  |
| 32. Congenital malnutrition, birth<br>injuries, infantile diseases .. | 2        | 1        | 0.18   |  |
| 33. Suicide .. .. .   | 1        | 0        | 0.06   |  |
| 34. Road traffic accidents ..   | 1        | 0        | 0.06   |  |
| 35. Other violent causes .. ..  | 5        | 1        | 0.36   |  |
| 36. All other causes .. .. .  | 12       | 8        | 1.19   |  |

\* 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.

TABLE 18.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF  
THE YEAR 1949 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 1 OF THE ACT.

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

| <i>Premises</i>   | <i>Number<br/>on<br/>Register</i> | <i>Number of</i>   |                            |                                 |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|   |                                   | <i>Inspections</i> | <i>Written<br/>notices</i> | <i>Occupiers<br/>prosecuted</i> |
| (i) Factories in which Sections<br>1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en-<br>forced by Local Authorities                        | 10                                | 6                  | Nil                        | Nil                             |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i)<br>in which Sect. 7 is enforced<br>by the Local Authority ..                         | 14                                | 11                 | Nil                        | Nil                             |
| (iii) Other Premises in which<br>Section 7 is enforced by the<br>Local Authority (exclud-<br>ing out-workers' premises) | —                                 | —                  | —                          | —                               |
| Total .. ..   | 24                                | 17                 | —                          | —                               |

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

| Particulars  | No. of Cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
|  | Found                                    | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..  | —  | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| 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        | —                 | 1                 | —   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective  | —  | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes   | —  | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) .. | 1  | 1        | —                 | 1                 | —   |
| Total .. ..  | 2  | 2        | —                 | 2                 | —   |

## PART 8 OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

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

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

“Except for the establishment of a new small tile-slabbing factory there is no change to record in the conditions reported for 1948.”





