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R.D.C.**

Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. TOLLAND, L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., L.R.F.P.S.Glas., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor :

G. K. THORLEY, M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

B. LIGHTFOOT, M.R.San.I.,
Cert. Meat Inspector.

Clerk :

E. WILDON

Typist :

Miss J. BURGESS

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956

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

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1956 on similar lines to last year's Report.

There was a decrease of 16 in the number of births compared with 1955, and a decrease of 1 in the number of deaths. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels, including vascular lesions of the nervous system, were responsible for 57.4% of the deaths (112 out of the total of 194), with cancer causing 17.5% (34 cases).

The infantile mortality rate (13.87) was slightly increased compared with the previous year (12.87), but is well below the average for England and Wales (23.8). The figure of 23.8 is the lowest ever recorded in this country. Of the 3 infantile deaths, one only could be regarded as possibly amenable to modern preventive measures. There was no maternal death.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Measles notified, 175 compared with 72 in 1955. This increase is in conformity with the normal incidence of the disease. There was an epidemic during the middle of the year, mainly confined to Madeley Parish, 152 of the cases occurring in this parish. The number of cases of Whooping Cough increased from 2 in 1955 to 45 in 1956.

It is interesting to note that during the last 4½ months of the year, no new case of Tuberculosis was reported.

Progress continued to be made in connection with post-war housing. This subject is referred to later in the Report, where it may be seen that 10 Council Houses were erected during the year and a total of 564 completed since the end of the war.

Work on the new sewage disposal works at Madeley was completed, as also was the sewerage scheme in the Audley area. This virtually completes the whole of the scheme of sewerage for the parish of Audley.

No further progress had been made with regard to schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal at Betley and Loggerheads.

I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance given to me by Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the department ; and Mr. F. W. Ramm, Clerk of the Council, in the preparation of this report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

*Council Offices, Sidmouth Avenue,
The Brampton, Newcastle, Staffs.*

(Signed) J. TOLLAND,
Medical Officer of Health
15th July, 1957.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 40,121 acres.

Rateable Value (1/4/57) : £135,515.

Sum represented by the penny rate : (estimated for year 1957/58) £517.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population as at June 30th, 1956 : 17,630.

Number of inhabited houses in the area as at 31st December, 1956 : 5,540.

Table 1 shows the distribution of these houses by parishes :

TABLE 1

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	397	Madeley	..	1,076
Audley	..	2,675	Maer	..	185
Balterley	..	71	Mucklestone	..	138
Betley	..	216	Tyrley	..	242
Chorlton	..	129	Whitmore	..	181
Keele	..	230			

Of the total of 5,540 houses, 813 (14.7%) are Council Houses.

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

TABLE 2

<i>Parish</i>			<i>Parish</i>		
Ashley	..	10	Madeley	..	6
Audley	..	9	Maer	..	3
Balterley	..	2	Mucklestone	..	1
Betley	..	4	Tyrley	..	3
Chorlton	..	55*			

* Includes 16 occupied as permanent dwellings.

TABLE 3

Vital Statistics

				Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.	England and Wales	
				Rates per 1,000 estimated Population		
<i>Live Births :</i>			M	F		
Total	..	217	122	95	12.31	15.7
Legitimate	..	212	120	92	12.02	—*
Illegitimate	..	5	2	3	0.28	—*

*Rates per 1,000 Total Live
and Stillbirths*

<i>Stillbirths :</i>						
Total	..	9	6	3	39.82	23.0
Legitimate	..	9	6	3	39.82	—*
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—	—	—*

The birth rate crude and corrected is similar, namely 12.31.

*Rates per 1,000 estimated
Population*

<i>Deaths :</i>				M.	F.	
Total	..	194	83	111	11.00 (Crude)	11.7
					11.44 (Corrected)	

*Rates per 1,000 related
live Births*

<i>Deaths under One Year of Age :</i>				M.	F.	
Total	..	3	—	3	13.87	23.8
Legitimate	..	3	—	3	13.87	—*
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—	—	—*

*Deaths under Four
Weeks of Age :*

			M.	F.		
Total	..	1	—	1	4.61	16.9
Legitimate	..	1	—	1	4.61	—*
Illegitimate	..	—	—	—	—	—*

* Rates not available.

Summary of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age

<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
F.	9 months	Broncho-pneumonia and Congenital Cardiac Defect.
F.	1 day	Prematurity.
F.	1 month	Broncho-pneumonia and Amyotonia Congenita.

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

TABLE 4

<i>Year</i>	<i>Newcastle-u-Lyme R.D.</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
1949	.. 20	32
1950	.. 25	30
1951	.. 9	30
1952	.. 32	27
1953	.. 40	26
1954	.. 36	25
1955	.. 12	24
1956	.. 13	23
Averages	.. 23	27

Employment Conditions.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange, Newcastle, states:—
 “Employment during 1956, in the Newcastle Area has not been so good as in 1955. Apart from the August and Christmas holiday periods, however, when the number unemployed rose to about 4% of the estimated employed population, a fairly high level of employment was maintained. Indeed, in January, 1956, the number unemployed was down to 1.4%.

The increase in unemployment, most marked at holiday periods, was due to weakness in the Building, Pottery, Textile and Engineering industries. Unfortunately, the number of men and women wholly unemployed, including the hard core of disabled, less fit and older workers, increased during the year.”

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Examination of Samples.

Examination of samples of water etc., is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Public Analyst, Chemical Laboratory, Stafford.

2. Services provided by the Staffordshire County Council.

(a) The Ambulance Service, District Home Nursing and Midwifery Service, and Domestic Help Scheme are operated by the Staffordshire County Council.

The Ambulance Depot for the Area is situated at Newcastle Road, Knutton, Newcastle, Staffs., and the telephone number is Newcastle 69201.

Details of District Nurses etc., are as follows :—

<i>Name & Address</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Area Covered</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
Nurse M. Holleran, 8, Bevan Place, Madeley	District Nurse/ Midwife	Balterley, Betley, Keele, Madeley	Madeley 279
Nurse S. Jones, Furnace Lane, Madeley.	Ditto	Ditto	Madeley 217
Nurse J. I. Dobson, 8, Sandy Lane, Red Bull.	District Nurse, Health Visitor, School Nurse, Midwife.	Ashley (part), Mucklestone, Tyrley.	Hales 214
Nurse L. Braddick, Blackbrook	Ditto	Ashley (part), Chapel and Hill Chorlton, Maer.	Whitmore 214
Nurse M. Davies, Brookside, Whitmore.	Ditto	Whitmore (also part of Stone R.D.)	Whitmore 266
Nurse M. E. Graham, The Studio, Audley	District Nurse	Whole Audley Parish.	Audley 287
Nurse Adderley, 21, Vernon Ave., Audley.	Midwife	Ditto	Audley 597
Nurse A. Eardley, 6 Queen Street, Audley.	Relief Midwife	Ditto	
Miss P. Owen The Moss, Madeley.	Health Visitor, School Nurse.	Balterley, Betley, Keele, Madeley, Alsagers Bank, Halmerend, Scot Hay.	
Miss F. A. Bedson, "Lindi," Hall Street, Audley.	Ditto	Audley, Bignall End, Miles Green, Wood Lane, Apedale	

(b) In addition the County Council operates the under-mentioned Infant Welfare Centres :—

<i>Centres</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor in Attendance</i>
Central Methodist School, Halmerend	Wednesdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. J. Cash
Council Offices, Audley	Thursdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. E. M. Prendiville
Village Hall, Madeley	Tuesdays 2—5 p.m.	Dr. J. Cash

(c) The scheme for vaccination and immunisation of children against Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria is carried out by the County Council, and the following details give the number of children dealt with :—

(i) *Poliomyelitis*—during 1956.

Males	42
Females	46
Total	88

(ii) *Diphtheria*—course completed between 1952—1956.

Children under 1	20
„ 1—4	644
„ 5—9	973
„ 10—14	233
	<hr/>
	1,870

3. Hospitals.

There is one hospital in the District for treatment of Tuberculosis, at Loggerheads.

The District is also served by hospitals in Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent, administered by the Stoke-on-Trent Hospital Management Committee.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water.

The greater part of the District is supplied by the Staffs. Potteries Water Board, and a considerable area is supplied by the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board from the pumping station at Bearstone. In addition, there are three other supplies, *viz* : estate mains supply at Whitmore and Hales, and the supply from the Market Drayton Water Company in Tyrley Parish.

TABLE 5

Summary of Results of Analyses of Water Samples taken in the Area in 1956.

				<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>	
				<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
1. <i>Public Mains :</i>							
(a)	Keele Parish	..	..	2	—	2	—
(b)	Madeley Parish	..	..	2	—	2	—
				—	—	—	—
				4	—	4	—
				—	—	—	—
2. <i>Other Public Supplies :</i>							
(a)	Keele Parish	..	..	—	1	1	—
(b)	Tyrley Parish	..	..	3	—	3	—
(c)	Whitmore Parish	..	..	2	—	2	—
				—	—	—	—
				5	1	6	—
				—	—	—	—
3. <i>Private Supplies :</i>							
(a)	Mucklestone Parish	..	..	1	—	1	—
(b)	Tyrley Parish	..	..	—	1	1	—
(c)	Whitmore Parish	..	..	1	1	2	—
				—	—	—	—
				2	2	4	—
				—	—	—	—
<i>Total Number of Analyses :</i>							
	Public Mains	..	..	4	—	4	—
	Other Public Supplies	..	..	5	1	6	—
	Private Supplies	..	..	2	2	4	—
				—	—	—	—
				11	3	14	—
				—	—	—	—

Of the unsatisfactory samples, that referred to in Sec. 3 (b) was taken from cottages which were afterwards converted into one house and improvements effected to the drainage system and water supply. That referred to in Section 3 (c) was taken from premises where the owner arranged for the storage cistern to be cleaned out and a new cover fixed.

Occupants of houses deriving their supply from the other unsatisfactory source were advised as to the precautions to be taken.

During the year, the Staffs. Potteries Water Board extended their main in Bowsey Wood Road, Madeley to a farm, and upon request, the owners of West Lodge, arranged for a piped water supply to be provided.

The Engineer and Manager, Staffs. Potteries Water Board has supplied the following information with regard to water supplies from the Board :—

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

During 1956 bacteriological examinations numbered 82, of which 57 were untreated, and 25 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.

Eight samples were chemically analysed, and from a chemical aspect these, too, were certified pure and wholesome. 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.

The consumption of water for domestic purposes, unmetered trade and waste in the whole of the Board's area of supply for the year 1956, averaged 28.41 gallons per head per day.”

Particulars by Parishes of the number of houses in the District supplied from piped mains were given in the Annual Report for 1948. The total percentage supplied in 1956 is estimated to be about 98.

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

<i>Parish</i>					
Ashley	..	..	..	..	8
Audley	..	..	..	..	3
Tyrley	..	..	..	..	8

19

With regard to the Ministry of Health's requirements that the number of dwelling-houses and population supplied from public mains (a) direct to 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 Scheme.

Work was completed on extensions to the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Audley, new sewers being laid to serve Alsagers Bank, Halmerend, Miles Green and Wood Lane, and some 400 conversions of privies having been carried out. There only remained for completion, some restoration in yards and gardens.

This virtually completes the whole of the scheme of sewerage for the Parish of Audley.

Madeley Scheme.

The work on the new sewage disposal plant at Madeley was completed, and the plant was operating satisfactorily.

Other Parishes.

No further progress was made during the year in connection with the proposed schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal at Betley and Loggerheads.

Nightsoil Disposal.

This service was continued quite satisfactorily throughout the year and apart from the scarcity of suitable disposal sites, no serious difficulties were encountered. The service carried out by direct labour was extended to the Parish of Madeley.

The cleansing of septic tanks on the Council's smaller housing estates was also undertaken.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council's scheme for scavenging in every Parish continued to work satisfactorily.

Rodent Control.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, under which responsibility was placed on Local Authorities, came into operation in April, 1950.

Disinfection was continued throughout the year by the Council's rodent operative at tip-sites, schools, canteens and other premises with highly satisfactory results.

In the case of private properties and schools, the cost of the work was reclaimed from the owners.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the rodent operative was employed full-time instead of three and half days as previously, for the purpose of routine inspection of farms, 56 farm premises having been inspected in addition to the treatments details of which given below :—

<i>Number of Treatments Carried Out</i>				
<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Public Houses</i>	<i>Schools and School Canteens</i>	<i>Tip Sites</i>
6	2	1	8	106
<i>Council Stores Audley</i>	<i>Council Offices Newcastle</i>	<i>Sewage Disposal Works</i>	<i>Sewers, Audley</i>	<i>Sewers, Madeley</i>
6	1	24	2	1

Section D

HOUSING

TABLE 6

HOUSING ACT, 1936

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS
PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953

**Action taken during year ending 31st December,
1956**

Demolition and Closing Orders :

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action under the Housing Act, 1936	5
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owner	—
Parts of buildings closed	—
Closing Orders made under Housing Act, 1949	—
Closing Orders made under Local Government Act, 1953	5

Repairs :

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit by informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	72
---	----

Number of houses where defects were remedied after service of formal notices under Public Health Acts

(a) by owners	—
(b) by local authorities	—

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices under the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) by owners	1
(b) by local authorities	—

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	—
--	---

Unfit Houses in Temporary use.

Houses licensed for temporary occupation under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	—
--	---

Purchase of Houses by Agreement.

Houses purchased in Clearance Areas (other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders)	—
---	---

HOUSING ACT, 1936

Part IV. Overcrowding

The number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year by rehousing in Council Houses, was 9.

Note—

Accurate figures of statutory or "near-statutory" cases of overcrowding are not available, and, since changes do not always come to notice, no reliable assessment can be made. The figure of nine cases given above as abated is likely to be an underestimate.

HOUSING SURVEY

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 155. 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	..	..	..	..	48
2.	Minor Defects	..	..	..	..	24
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement					73
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	..	..	..	..	—
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost					10
						<hr/> 155

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	..	..	..	..	1237
2.	Minor Defects	..	..	..	..	1119
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement					1391
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers') Act	..	..	..	..	2
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost					260
						<hr/> 4009

Particulars of the total number of houses in the District are given in Section "A".

SLUM CLEARANCE

HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—PARTS II AND III
THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 : SECTION 1
The Madeley Heath Clearance Area.

The Council's first post-war clearance area was confirmed on 27th November, 1956.

Representations of the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself to the Council on 5th December, 1955, resulted in the passing by the Council of a resolution that 50 houses and 1 shop in Long Row, 1 lock-up shop at the corner of Long Row and Wharf Street, 8 houses in Short Row and 3 houses in Main Road, Madeley Heath, be declared a Clearance area. Six of the houses were already vacant, being subject to Closing Orders, and 136 persons occupied the remainder.

On 27th February, 1956, the Council approved a layout for the development of land owned by them at Madeley Moss and this development was approved by the Minister on 24th May, 1956, the site being one mile away from the Clearance Area.

On 26th March, 1956, the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order, the Order being entitled The Madeley Heath, Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District (Area No. 33) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956, in respect of the property referred to above.

A Public Local Inquiry was held at the Council Offices on 12th September, 1956, and the Minister confirmed the Order without modification on 27th November, 1956.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

HOUSING ACT, 1949
HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Details of improvement grant applications for the year are given below :—

<i>No. of Appns. dealt with</i>	<i>No. of Houses involved</i>	<i>No. of appns. refused</i>	<i>No. of appns. withdrawn</i>	<i>Number granted</i>	
				<i>Owner/ Occupiers</i>	<i>Others</i>
27	29	2	1	20	4
<i>Total Value of work involved</i>			<i>Total Value of Grants</i>		
£14,505 1s. 9d.			£5,079 14s. 11d.		

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES

Private Building.

Thirty-eight houses were completed during the year, making a total of 212 since the end of the war, and 17 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Council Building.

By the courtesy of the Clerk of the Council, I am enabled to present the following statements (Tables 9 and 10).

From Table 9 it may be seen that 10 houses were erected during the year, and a total of 564 had been erected since the end of the War.

TABLE 9—STATEMENT
Of the total number of POST-WAR HOUSES erected as at 31st December, 1956

Parish and Site	No. of houses completed		Types					No. of Bedrooms			Parish Totals
	1/4/46 to 31/12/55	1/1/56 to 31/12/56	Total Airey	Alu- minimum		Swedish Traditional	1	2	3		
AUDLEY :											
Halmerend	10	—	—	—	10	—	2	8	—	
Wereton	198	10	50	—	158	4	32	169	3	
Wood Lane	56	—	—	—	56	—	14	42	—	
Alsagers Bank	18	—	—	—	18	—	10	8	—	
Bignall End	12	—	—	—	12	—	4	8	—	AUDLEY 304
ASHLEY :											
Charnes Road	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	
Sovereign Lane	40	—	24	—	16	—	8	32	—	ASHLEY 42
BETLEY :											
Church Lane	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	
East Lawns	14	—	—	—	14	—	8	6	—	BETLEY 16
CHORLTON :											
Chapel Chorlton	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	4	2	CHORLTON 6
KEELE :											
Quarry Bank	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	KEELE 8
MADELEY :											
Onneley	4	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	—	
Furnace Lane	12	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	
Bevan Place	26	—	26	—	—	—	26	—	—	
The Moss	116	—	22	—	94	—	50	62	4	MADELEY 158
MAER :											
Aston	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	
Blackbrook	10	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	—	MAER 12
MUCKLESTONE :											
Knighton	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	8	—	MUCKLESTONE 8
TYRLEY :											
Almington	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	TYRLEY 8
WHITMORE :											
Acton	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	WHITMORE 2
TOTALS :—	..	554	10	564	96	430	16	154	385	9	TOTAL 564

38 houses were in course of construction as at 31st December, 1956, at Wereton.

Table 10 shows the total number of houses built or acquired by the Council under all the Housing Acts :—

TABLE 10

Pre-War ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	210
War-time	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Post-War	..	..	..	..	..	..	564
							<hr/> 780
Houses acquired at Halmerend in 1950	..	..					33
							<hr/> 813

Envisaged — 54 houses at Wereton

110 „ „ Madeley Moss

There were 442 applicants on the housing list at 31st December, 1956.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“ Meat.

There are eleven private slaughterhouses in the district, four only of which are licensed.

Slaughtering was carried out regularly at these premises each week : the number of cattle, sheep and pigs killed up to the end of the year and details of condemned carcasses and offal are shown in Table 11.

TABLE II
Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	180	8	13	539	216	—
Number inspected	180	8	13	539	216	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	1	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	50	1	—	22	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27.7	12.5	7.7	4.1	2.8	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.7	—	—	—	0.5	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Other Foodstuffs Condemned.

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.—Salmon (tinned)

The normal method of disposal of condemned food is by burial on refuse tips.

Food Premises Generally.

Details of the number of food premises in the area, by type of business are given below :—

Bakeries	..	..	..	..	5
Butchers	..	..	..	..	16
Fish and Chips	..	..	..	..	5
Fish and Fruit	..	..	..	..	1
General Grocers	..	..	..	..	15
Mixed	..	..	..	..	83
Cafes	..	..	..	..	6
Total	..	..	..	..	<hr/>131 <hr/>

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

- (a) Storage and sale of ice-cream—67 (3 of whom manufacture and the remainder sell pre-packed ice-cream.)
- (b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale—21

and there are two dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949—54, one at Hill Chorlton and one at Madeley.

Routine inspections of food premises were continued throughout the year, special attention being paid to the maintenance of hygienic conditions in connection with the storage and preparation of foods. The total number of inspections of registered food premises was 98.

Posters and leaflets in connection with food hygiene were distributed to food shops during the year.

During the majority of the inspections referred to above, the notice of shopkeepers and cafe proprietors was drawn to defects under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56 and action requested, where necessary. In no instance as yet has the Council considered taking formal action.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956.

On 10th April, 1956, the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1956, came into operation, this district being included in Area 11. The effect of the Order is that all milk sold by retail must conform to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53, or the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.

Large areas of England and Wales had already been specified and as a result of this Order, 81 per cent of the population of England and Wales are residing in areas where only "specially designated" milk may be retailed.

Tubercle Bacilli in Milk.

Prior to the date of the above-mentioned Order, the County Medical Officer of Health reported that tubercle bacilli had been found in two samples of milk obtained from premises of producers in the District. Notices under paragraph 20, Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, prohibiting the retail sale of untreated milk from these premises were at once served, and arrangements were made whereby the milk was heat-treated and a supply afforded for the retailer's customers. Letters were also sent to producers regarding the danger to their own families, or employees', in the consumption of milk that had not been heat-treated.

Investigations were carried out in each case by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and after the periods necessary for the performance of tests, the milk from these premises was certified to be non-tuberculous, and the retail sale of non-heat-treated milk again permitted.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

TABLE 12
(Civilians Only)

*Average
Numbers
for five
years*

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	
Scarlet Fever	23	3	3	9	10	9.6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	72	120	48	2	45	57.4
Measles	243	36	345	72	175	174.2
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	10	—	2	3	—	3.0
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	1	—	0.2
*Acute Pneumonia ..	4	9	8	—	1	4.4
Dysentery	1	1	13	—	20	7.0
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	1	1	—	1.0
Erysipelas	4	3	4	—	2	2.6
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	2	1	—	—	0.8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food-Poisoning	2	1	4	1	5	2.6
Tuberculosis :						
Pulmonary	11	7	10	7	7	8.4
Non-Pulmonary ..	2	2	4	4	1	2.6

* Notifiable cases only, viz., primary or influenzal

TABLE 13

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

(Civilians Only)

Age Periods	Dysentery		Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2
1—2	—	—	1	—	2	1	16	13
3—4	—	2	1	2	5	9	22	29
5—9	3	2	3	3	11	15	43	42
10—14	2	4	—	—	—	—	3	1
15—24	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
25 and over ..	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	10	5	5	20	25	87	88

Age Periods				Pneumonia		Food Poisoning		Erysipelas	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	..	..	..	—	—	—	I	—	—
5—14	..	..	..	—	—	I	—	—	—
15—44	..	..	..	I	—	I	2	—	—
45—64	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	I
65 and over	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	I	—
Age unknown	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..				I	—	2	3	I	I

TABLE 14
Rates of Incidence in the District of Certain Infectious Diseases during 1956

Notifications :—							Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Paratyphoid Fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.56
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.55
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.11
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.93
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.06
*Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Non-paralytic	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.28

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

The following notes give some particulars of the incidences etc., of infectious diseases :—

(a) **Notifiable Infectious Disease.**

Diphtheria.

There was no case notified.

The practice of immunisation has resulted practically in the eradication of the disease, and it may well be characterised as one of the great triumphs of preventive medicine. It is, however, essential that both immunisation in infancy and re-immunisation when commencing school should be carried out in at least 80% of child population, if we are to remain free from this scourge.

Dysentery.

There were twenty cases notified, two cases being members of the same family in Betley in July, seven cases in one family living at Halmerend in May and June, and the remaining eleven cases occurring in the Butterson area in May and June.

Following notification of a case of suspected Sonnei Dysentery by a general practitioner attending a pupil of Butterson School, it appeared that, on investigation, other cases had occurred. The school was visited and it was found that over a period of a few weeks there had been 19 children absent for varying periods with a history of diarrhoea and that both teachers had also suffered from this condition.

Bacteriological investigation of all pupils and staff was carried out, and it was during this investigation that a further ten cases were found.

The School Medical Officer of Health was contacted and suggestions were made with regard to improvements to the sanitary and washing accommodation, and the provision of water supply to the school.

Food Poisoning.

Five cases of Food Poisoning were notified, 2 in the same family in Audley. The other 3 cases were of one family at Sidway, who formed part of an outbreak in Newcastle and the Potteries, involving a number of people who had eaten Pork Pies brought from a shop in the Potteries.

Measles.

175 cases were notified, an increase of 103 compared with 1955. There was no death.

Scarlet Fever.

Ten cases were notified, five occurring in April in Betley Parish. The disease continued to be of mild type

Whooping Cough.

There were 45 cases notified during the year, an increase of 43 compared with 1955. There was no death.

The Staffordshire County Council approved a scheme for immunisation against Whooping Cough in 1953, and a suitable Vaccine is now available at that Council's Welfare Clinics in the district.

(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 the periods when schools are open. The co-operation of Head-Teachers continued to be of great value.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE 15
New Cases and Mortality during 1956

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
Under 5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44 ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64 ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ..	7	1	—	—	1	—	1	—

TABLE 16
Incidence and Numbers of Deaths during the last Ten Years

Year	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory
1947 ..	10	4	8	1
1948 ..	11	1	10	1
1949 ..	18	5	5	—
1950 ..	9	3	5	1
1951 ..	6	5	3	—
1952 ..	11	2	1	—
1953 ..	7	2	3	—
1954 ..	10	5	4	2
1955 ..	7	4	5	—
1956 ..	7	1	2	—
Totals ..	96	32	46	5
Averages	9.6	3.2	4.6	0.5

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>
1947 ..	0.60	0.48
1948 ..	0.66	0.60
1949 ..	1.07	0.30
1950 ..	0.53	0.30
1951 ..	0.64	0.17
1952 ..	0.76	0.06
1953 ..	0.52	0.17
1954 ..	0.56	0.23
1955 ..	0.39	0.28
1956 ..	0.39	0.12
Averages	0.61	0.27

It may be seen from Table 17 that as compared with 1955, the incidence rate of pulmonary cases remains at the same figure, but the death rate shows a decrease.

With modern methods of treatment, Tuberculosis is less of a medical problem, but remains a grave social problem, with particular regard to the questions of suitable housing of active and infective cases.

TABLE 18

CAUSES OF DEATH

in Newcastle-under-Lyme Rural District in 1956

					<i>Crude Death Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
	All Causes	..	..	..	83	111	11.00
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	2	1	0.17
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
3.	Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	0	0	0.00
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	0	0	0.00

				<i>Crude Death Rates per 1,000 Population</i>	
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
8.	Measles	0	0	0.00	
9.	Other infective and parasytic diseases	0	0	0.00	
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	5	6	0.62	
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	0	0.06	
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	0	3	0.17	
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1	0.06	
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	12	1.02	
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	0	0	0.00	
16.	Diabetes	1	0	0.06	
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	24	1.87	
18.	Coronary disease, angina ..	18	16	1.90	
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	1	5	0.34	
20.	Other heart disease	15	18	1.87	
21.	Other circulatory disease ..	3	3	0.34	
22.	Influenza	1	1	0.11	
23.	Pneumonia	0	3	0.17	
24.	Bronchitis	4	3	0.41	
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	3	0	0.17	
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	0.06	
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	1	0.06	
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	2	1	0.17	
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	1	—	0.06	
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	0	0.00	
31.	Congenital malformations ..	0	1	0.06	
32.	Other defined and undefined diseases	3	11	0.79	
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ..	2	0	0.11	
34.	All other accidents	4	4	0.47	
35.	Suicide	1	0	0.06	
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0.00	

The figures 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 19 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 1956 for the Rural District of Newcastle-under-Lyme
in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act,
1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

	<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspect- ions</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	5	Nil	Nil
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	17	14	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
	Total	26	19	Nil	Nil

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.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list requ'd by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failing to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
Wearing Apparel making etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—

Mr. G. K. Thorley, Chief Public Health Inspector, reports as follows :—

“ The factories in the District generally are in fairly good condition. These are mainly brick and tile factories, of which there are five, two only of which are in operation ; six gravel workings ; one colliery which is provided with modern pit head baths and canteen facilities ; and a milk-treatment factory.

A number of smaller factories are in operation including a timber mill, small pottery factory, a nylon hose factory, and a cheese factory.

Defects found as a result of routine inspection were mostly of a minor nature.

Improvements and additions were carried out at the milk factory, including the installation of modern equipment and new sanitary accommodation.

Extensive alterations were also carried out to one of the brick and tile factories, which included the provision of modern canteen facilities and improved washing and sanitary accommodation.”



