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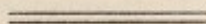
COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
for the Years ended 31st December, 1940 and 1941.




NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE :

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

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REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
THE YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940 AND 1941.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the annual report for the years 1940 and 1941 in combined form. This course has been adopted on account of the greatly increased work in the Department owing to war conditions and also because of the request of the Ministry of Health that annual reports, for the present, should be considerably abbreviated.

The combined report has been drawn up on the lines indicated by the Minister of Health in his Circulars Nos. 1961, 2067, 2314 and 2604.

Dr. W. F. J. Whitley retired from the position of County Medical Officer on 29th February, 1940. Dr. Whitley was appointed in September, 1920. During a period of nearly twenty years the work of the Health Department steadily increased under his guidance, and the scope of all the health services was very considerably expanded. Particular notice should be directed to the great advance made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, and to the manner in which Blind Welfare work was increased and brought up to its present standard. The opening of Wooley Sanatorium and the establishment of the County Dental Service were two of the many developments of the work of the Department during Dr. Whitley's tenure of office. He was succeeded by Dr. J. Walker.

Dr. A. Scott was appointed as Medical Superintendent of Wooley Sanatorium on 1st January, 1941, in succession to Dr. Cunningham, whose excellent work in that capacity had extended over thirteen years.

The Department suffered a great loss in 1940 by the death of Mr. C. Ward. Mr. Ward had been County Health Inspector since 1924 and his help and experience were greatly valued not only by his colleagues but by all with whom he came into contact.

*Vital and Mortality Statistics.*—The vital and mortality statistics of the various county districts have been calculated and are included in the report.



The variations in the principal county rates during recent years are indicated in the following table. The corresponding rates for England and Wales are given for comparison :—

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
<b>Live Birth rate (per 1,000 living)</b>										
Administrative county ... ..	15.94	15.42	15.48	15.53	15.26	15.16	15.00	14.80	15.00	15.07
England and Wales ... ..	15.3	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9	15.1	15.0	14.6	14.2
<b>General death rate (per 1,000 living)</b>										
Administrative county ... ..	11.33	11.93	11.78	11.62	12.02	12.67	11.76	11.84	12.44	12.84
England and Wales ... ..	12.0	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.1	12.4	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9
<b>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)</b>										
Administrative county ... ..	67	71	69	71	70	66	65	55	59	74
England and Wales ... ..	65	64	59	57	59	58	53	50	55	57
<b>Zymotic death rate (per 1,000 living)</b>										
Administrative county ... ..	0.25	0.31	0.43	0.32	0.30	0.26	0.31	0.20	0.17	0.25
England and Wales ... ..	0.33	0.29	0.34	0.24	0.30	0.23	0.23	0.10	0.15	0.22
<b>Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis (per 1,000 living)</b>										
Administrative county ... ..	0.68	0.65	0.60	0.53	0.55	0.54	0.40	0.52	0.55	0.51
England and Wales ... ..	0.69	0.69	0.63	0.60	0.58	0.58	0.53	0.53	0.58	0.60

The birth rate, having shewed a decline during each of the years from 1936 to 1939, increased slightly during 1940, and a further slight increase was recorded for the year 1941.

The tendency towards a decrease in the general death rate, shewn during the years 1938 and 1939, was not maintained; increases being recorded during each of the years 1940 and 1941.

The infant mortality rate shewed an increase in 1940 and also a further increase in 1941, the rate for the latter year being the highest recorded since 1931.

The death rate from zymotic diseases has shewn a gradual decline since 1938. The rate for 1940 was lower than that for 1939, and, although the rate for 1941 was the highest recorded during the last three years, it was, nevertheless, lower than that recorded in 1938. The absence of any marked increase in these infectious diseases following upon the evacuation of children into the county is worthy of note.

The death rate from respiratory tuberculosis showed an increase in 1939 compared with that for 1938 and a further increase in 1940; the rate, however, declined in 1941, being lower in that year than in either of the two preceding years.

#### *Administration.*

The official, technical and administrative staff consisted of :—

County Medical Officer	...	...	W. F. J. Whitley M.D., D.P.H., F.R.S.E. ( <i>Retired February</i> <i>29th, 1940</i> ).
			J. Walker, M.B., CH.B., B.Sc. (Public Health), D.H.P. ( <i>Ap-</i> <i>pointed March 1st, 1940</i> ).
Deputy County Medical Officer	...	...	John B. Tilley, M.D., B.H.Y., D.P.H.



County Bacteriologist ... ..	Andrew I. Messer, M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Maternity and Child Welfare Officer and Chief Supervisor of Midwives ...	Janet M. Jamieson, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
County Tuberculosis Officer (Clinical)	Francis L. Moore, M.B., CH.B.
The Medical Superintendent of the Council's Sanatorium at Wooley, and Tuberculosis Officer ... ..	Robert Cunningham, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. ( <i>Resigned December, 1940</i> ). ALEX. SCOTT, M.B., CH.B. ( <i>Commenced January, 1941</i> ).
Senior Assistant School Medical Officer ... ..	Wm. J. Pierce, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Resident Medical Officer, Dilston Hall Emergency Maternity Hospital ...	Donald S. Greig, M.D., M.R.C.O.G.
Assistant County Medical Officer and Infant Welfare Centre M.O. ...	O'Connell O'Sullivan, M.C., M.B., CH.B., B.A.O.
Do. do. ...	Mary W. Dewell, M.B., B.S.
Do. do. ...	Anna M. Reid, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Do. do. ...	Edna T. Everdell, M.B., B.S., B.H.Y., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officer ...	*John A. Smail, M.B., CH.B.
Do. ...	*Grahame Patton, L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H.
Assistant County Bacteriologist ...	Eleanor J. M. Anderson, PH.D.
Assistant Medical Superintendent of the Council's Sanatorium at Wooley... ..	J. P. Parkinson, M.B., B.S.
Thoracic Surgeon ... ..	*Geo. Alex. Mason, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
Orthopaedic Surgeon ... ..	*William Mackenzie, F.R.C.S.E.
Ophthalmic Surgeon ... ..	*Alexander Macrae, M.B., CH.B., D.O.M.S.
Do. ... ..	*Margaret Ranken, M.B., B.S.
Do. ... ..	*Arthur T. Paterson, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Senior Dental Officer ... ..	Arnold E. Robinson, L.D.S.
Dental Officer ... ..	Catherine M. Anderson, L.D.S.
Do. ... ..	Frederick J. Gilbertson, L.D.S.
Do. ... ..	Thomas A. Ireland, L.D.S.
Do. ... ..	Wm. J. Irvine, L.D.S.
Do. ... ..	†Ernest M. Pickering, L.D.S.
Do. ... ..	†Frank E. Street, L.D.S.

\*Part-time.

†On Active Service.

Dental Officer	...	...	...	Walter P. Neilson, L.D.S.
Do.	...	...	...	†John Stewart, L.D.S.
Do.	...	...	...	†N. Andrews Walker, L.D.S.
Do.	...	...	...	John L. Hayes, L.D.S.
Do.	...	...	...	James K. Christie, L.D.S.
Also seven female dental attendants.				
County Health Inspectors	...	...	...	Chas. Ward, C.R.S. Inst., Cert. M. & F., M.S.I.A. ( <i>Deceased</i> <i>December, 1940</i> ). James Atkinson, C.R.S. Inst., M.S.I.A.
Chief Clerk	...	...	...	E. T. I'Anson.
Acting County Analyst	...	...	...	*H. C. L. Bloxam, F.I.C. ( <i>Deceased</i> ).
Do.	...	...	...	*C. J. H. Stock ( <i>Appointed</i> <i>October, 1940</i> ).
Matron of the Council's Sanatorium at Wooley	...	...	...	Catherine Connor, S.R.N.
Superintendent Health Visitor	...	...	...	Hannah Weir, M.B.E., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., R.S.I., S.I., Cert. R.S.I., Maternity and Child Welfare Cert.

\* Part-time.

† On Active Service.

I am, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN B. TILLEY,

County Medical Officer.

December, 1943.

## THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

### AREA.

There was no change in the boundaries of the Administrative County during 1940 and 1941.

### POPULATION.

The population of the Administrative County according to the mid-year estimate of the Registrar General for the years 1940 and 1941 is shown in the following table.

The population at the 1931 census, as revised through the changes in boundary, was 404,608.

Year.	Boroughs and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Administrative County.
1940	306,900	104,500	411,400
1941	302,820	104,300	407,120



## RATEABLE VALUE.

The rateable value as at April 1st, 1940, was £2,251,660, and the produce of a 1d. rate for the year ended March 31st, 1941, £8,827.

The corresponding figures for 1941 were £2,284,522 and £8,868.

## BOROUGH, URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

The division of the County for sanitary administration during each of the years 1940 and 1941 was the same as obtained at the end of 1939.

## VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The following table shows the principal vital and mortality statistics of the Administrative County during 1940 and 1941, and for comparison, the available rates for England and Wales are given.

	1940.			1941.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 pop.	England and Wales.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 pop.	England and Wales.
Births (Live) ...	6,172	15.00	14.1	6,138	15.07	14.2
Do. (Still) ...	274	0.66	0.55	212	0.52	0.50
Deaths... ..	5,119	12.44	14.3	5,231	12.84	12.9
*Infant Deaths ...	371	59	55	464	74	57
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	5	0.012	—	3	0.007	—
Measles ...	7	0.017	0.02	5	0.012	0.03
Scarlet Fever... ..	3	0.007	—	5	0.012	—
Diphtheria ...	27	0.065	0.06	45	0.110	0.07
Whooping Cough ...	2	0.004	0.02	29	0.071	0.06
*Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	26	4.21	4.6	18	2.93	5.1
Respiratory Diseases ...	569	1.38	—	546	1.34	—
Influenza ...	67	0.16	0.32	59	0.14	0.19

\* Rate per 1,000 Births.

For the year 1939 the comparative figures were as follows :—

	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	England and Wales.
Births (Live) ... ..	6,066	14.80	14.9
Do. (Still) ... ..	265	0.64	0.59
Deaths ... ..	4,883	11.84	12.1
*Infant Deaths ... ..	335	55	50
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	0.007	—
Measles ... ..	1	0.002	0.01
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	0.012	0.01
Diphtheria ... ..	43	0.104	0.05
Whooping Cough ... ..	15	0.036	0.03
*Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years) ... ..	18	0.043	4.5
Respiratory Diseases ... ..	337	0.81	—
Influenza... ..	45	0.10	0.22

\* Rate per 1,000 Births.

The diseases causing the greatest mortality in the Administrative County during 1940 and 1941 were as follows :—

Disease.	1940.		1941.	
	No. of deaths.	Percentage of total deaths.	No. of deaths.	Percentage of total deaths.
Heart Disease ...	1,190	23.25	1,216	23.24
Cancer ...	648	12.66	656	12.54
Intracranial vascular lesion ...	564	11.02	508	9.71
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	133	2.60	186	3.55
Bronchitis ...	294	5.74	266	5.08
Tuberculosis ...	284	5.55	259	4.95
Pneumonia ...	185	3.61	218	4.16
Nephritis ...	206	4.02	171	3.26
	3,504	68.45	3,480	66.49

The above-named eight diseases were responsible for more than half the deaths in the Administrative County.

#### DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS AND AT 65 YEARS AND UPWARDS.

The rate per 1,000 population for each of the years 1940 and 1941 were as follows :—

	1940.		1941.	
	Under 5 years.	65 years and upwards.	Under 5 years.	65 years and upwards.
Administrative County	1.18	6.29	1.45	6.41
Urban Districts ...	1.29	6.11	1.63	6.15
Rural Districts ...	0.88	6.82	0.93	7.04

#### CANCER.

The following table indicates the proportion of deaths from Cancer to deaths from all causes during the five years 1937-1941 inclusive.

The regional radium centre in this area is at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, which is a voluntary institution; the County Council has made arrangements for the treatment there of in-patients and also defrays the cost of travelling of both in-patients and out-patients attending the centre.



PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS FROM CANCER TO THE TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN NORTHUMBERLAND DURING THE YEARS 1937-1941 INCLUSIVE.

AGE PERIODS.	MALES.					FEMALES.					TOTALS.				
	Year.					Year.					Year.				
	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1937	1939	1940	1941	
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	0.5	—	—	0.6	—	0.2	—	0.2	—	
1-5	...	...	...	2.8	—	—	—	—	2.0	1.4	—	—	2.5	0.7	
5-15	...	...	...	2.8	2.2	—	2.6	—	2.3	5.0	0.9	—	2.5	3.5	
15-45	...	...	...	7.4	7.2	10.0	8.7	10.6	7.9	7.5	6.6	8.5	7.6	7.4	
45-65	...	...	...	17.3	14.3	24.8	25.5	25.6	22.2	25.7	20.3	22.4	19.5	19.6	
65 and upwards	...	...	...	12.5	13.4	14.5	12.8	11.2	13.3	13.1	14.0	13.5	12.9	13.3	
ALL AGES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	11.2	12.4	12.9	11.8	11.2	14.7	14.0	13.5	13.5	13.9	12.9	13.2	12.6	12.5	



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of infectious diseases received during the years 1940 and 1941 under Section 17 (3) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Order, 1935, are shown below :—

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	1940.									1941.										
	Small-pox.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	TOTAL.	Small-pox.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	TOTAL.
<i>Boroughs.</i>																				
Berwick-on-Tweed	-	45	3	4	12	3	289	10	-	366	-	3	3	23	5	2	29	5	2	72
Blyth	-	-	28	5	44	15	735	69	9	905	-	-	25	299	323	9	94	40	6	796
Morpeth	-	-	5	5	1	12	193	10	-	226	-	4	2	16	3	5	5	8	1	44
Wallsend	-	-	45	32	61	13	445	74	5	675	-	2	46	365	46	9	303	131	4	906
<i>Urban Districts.</i>																				
Alnwick	-	-	6	1	2	1	39	1	-	50	-	5	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	14
Amble	-	-	-	-	1	-	162	2	1	166	-	-	4	17	17	2	18	-	1	59
Ashington	-	18	28	-	8	11	1016	13	3	1097	-	2	38	99	5	6	48	16	1	215
Bedlingtonshire	-	8	34	-	28	8	856	44	8	986	-	3	21	184	21	4	90	16	5	344
Gosforth	-	-	13	59	8	15	322	41	2	460	-	-	13	127	10	7	115	31	1	304
Hexham	-	-	11	-	10	4	212	10	-	247	-	-	20	39	82	1	46	14	1	203
Longbenton	-	1	18	28	39	6	378	15	3	488	-	-	28	60	77	6	87	23	1	282
Newbiggin-by-the Sea	-	66	13	1	3	1	339	43	3	469	-	2	10	60	7	5	79	46	-	209
Newburn	-	3	21	7	6	10	286	40	4	377	-	2	22	98	43	5	35	28	3	236
Prudhoe	-	-	2	-	7	-	57	1	-	67	-	-	7	78	28	3	64	3	-	183
Seaton Valley	-	2	48	26	77	9	665	9	4	840	-	2	27	123	70	6	100	10	4	342
Whitley and Monkseaton	-	-	15	77	38	11	148	35	1	325	-	-	22	72	37	11	247	32	2	423
<i>Rural Districts.</i>																				
Alnwick	-	-	4	1	1	-	81	1	1	89	-	3	4	29	2	1	23	13	1	76
Belford	-	-	10	1	2	1	98	11	3	126	-	-	3	28	2	-	110	12	1	156
Bellingham	-	-	16	5	4	-	38	3	-	66	-	-	2	10	4	-	9	7	-	32
Castle Ward	-	3	23	-	18	5	48	9	2	108	-	16	8	122	18	-	81	11	1	257
Glendale	-	-	12	3	3	1	144	10	-	173	-	-	2	131	3	1	33	7	-	177
Haltwhistle	-	-	4	1	-	3	3	3	-	14	-	-	-	2	-	2	6	6	-	16
Hexham	-	1	17	11	16	2	170	14	11	242	-	7	11	59	13	7	91	17	17	222
Morpeth	-	3	11	6	31	5	512	6	3	577	-	5	50	72	13	6	100	19	1	266
Norham and Islandshires	-	-	19	5	-	-	109	-	-	134	-	14	4	20	1	-	10	1	-	50
Rothbury	-	-	16	11	8	2	122	8	1	168	-	1	-	58	3	9	30	8	-	109
TOTALS	-	169	408	284	428	139	7467	482	64	9441	-	71	376	2192	837	107	1853	504	53	5993

The attack rates, per 1,000 population for each of the years under review were as follows :—

	1940.	1941.
Urban Districts	25.23	15.29
Rural Districts...	16.23	13.04
Administrative County	22.94	14.72

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic diseases which are generally notifiable are Small-pox, Scarletina, Diphtheria, Fevers (Typhus, Typhoid, Paratyphoid and Continued and Relapsing). The seven principal Zymotic diseases upon which



the Zymotic death rate is calculated, are the four just mentioned, and in addition, Whooping Cough, Measles and Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).

The number of deaths, and the death rates per 1,000 of the population, from the seven principal Zymotic diseases during each of the years 1940 and 1941, and, for purposes of comparison the year 1939, are given below :—

	1941.		1940.		1939.	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
Urban Districts...	93	0.30	62	0.20	73	0.23
Rural Districts ...	12	0.11	8	0.07	12	0.12
Administrative County...	105	0.25	70	0.17	85	0.20

The Zymotic diseases which caused the greatest mortality were :—

Diseases.	Number of Deaths.		
	1941.	1940.	1939.
Diphtheria ...	45	27	43
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years) ...	18	26	18
Whooping Cough ...	29	—	15
Measles ...	—	7	—

As Diarrhoea and Enteritis is not generally notifiable no information can be given as to the number of cases which occurred.

The following table shows the death rates per 1,000 living from each of the seven principal Zymotic diseases during the seven years ended December 31st, 1941 :—

Diseases.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Small-pox ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlatina ...	0.037	0.005	0.015	0.017	0.012	0.007	0.012
Diphtheria ...	0.108	0.093	0.051	0.103	0.104	0.065	1.110
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	Nil.	0.005	0.015	0.005	0.007	0.012	0.007
Measles ...	0.042	0.059	0.041	0.046	0.002	0.017	0.012
Whooping Cough	0.056	0.022	0.054	0.069	0.036	0.004	0.071
Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	0.081	0.118	0.083	0.071	0.043	0.063	0.044

*Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.*—116 Cases were reported during 1940 and 107 during 1941. Twenty-five deaths occurred in 1940 and 21 in 1941.

*Encephalitis Lethargica.*—Two cases were notified in 1940 and 1 in 1941.

*Polio-encephalitis.*—One case was reported in 1940, no case was reported in 1941.



*Poliomyelitis.*—Three notifications were received in 1940 and 5 in 1941.

The total number of deaths reported from the three last-mentioned was 9 in 1940 and 12 in 1941.

*Chicken-pox* was reported from 9 Sanitary districts in 1940 and from 8 in 1941.

*Dysentery.*—Thirty-three cases were reported in 1940 from 8 Sanitary districts, in 1941 7 districts reported a total of 67 cases.

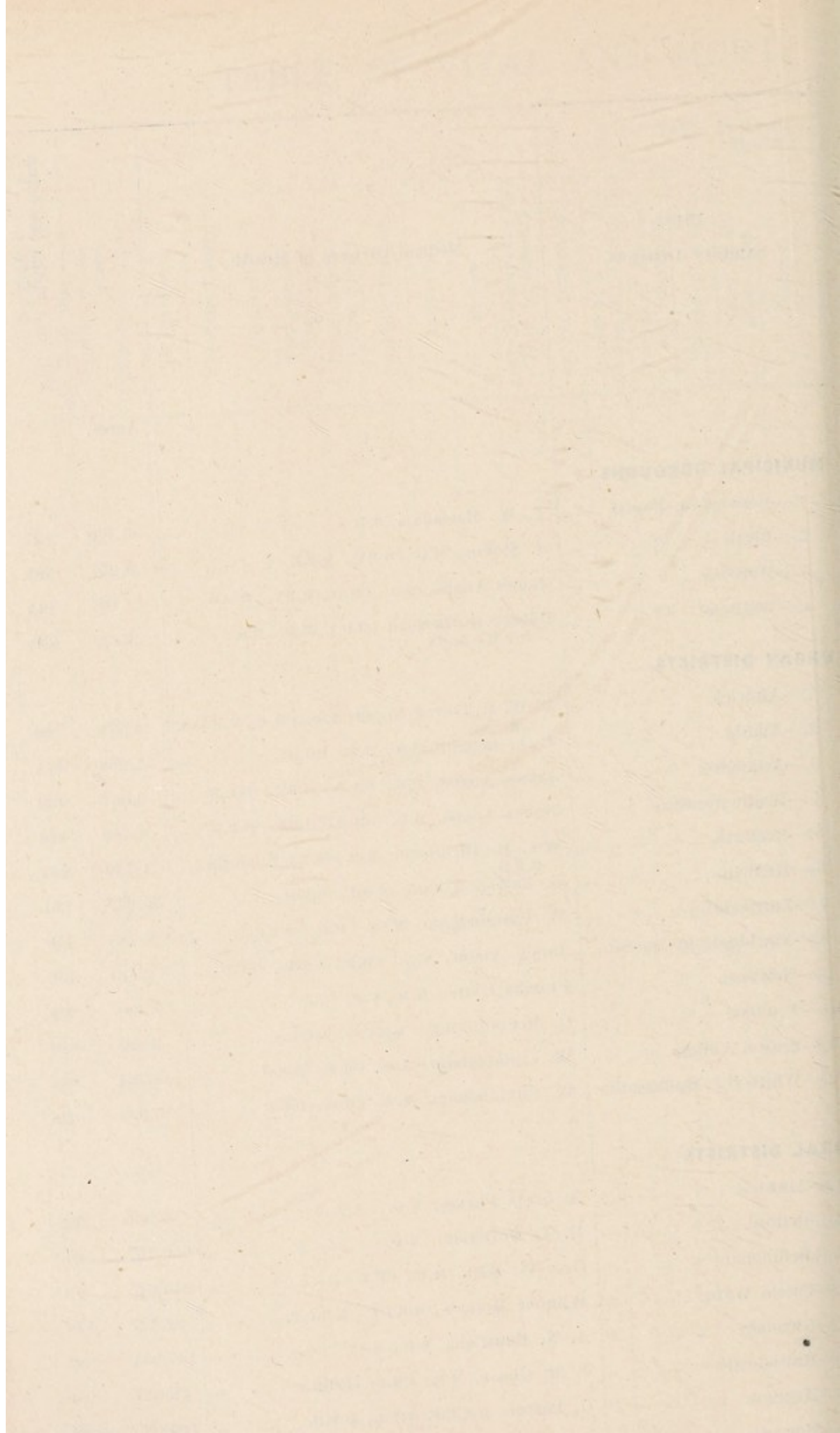
In the following table are shewn the number of deaths and death rates and the number of notifications and attack rates, per 1,000 of the population in relation to the principal Zymotic diseases and also to Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis), Influenza and Puerperal Sepsis, during the years 1940 and 1941 and also the year 1939 :—

	1941.				1940.				1939.			
	Deaths.		Notifi- cations.		Deaths.		Notifi- cations.		Deaths.		Notifica- tions.	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	5	0.016	292	0.96	2	0.006	290	0.94	5	0.016	716	2.28
Rural Districts ...	—	—	84	0.80	1	0.009	118	1.12	—	—	200	2.03
Administrative County	5	0.012	376	0.92	3	0.007	408	0.99	5	0.012	916	2.22
<i>Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers (Enteric).</i>												
Urban Districts ...	1	0.003	25	0.08	5	0.016	143	0.46	2	0.006	18	0.05
Rural Districts ...	2	0.019	46	0.44	—	—	26	0.24	1	0.010	4	0.04
Administrative County	3	0.007	71	0.17	5	0.012	169	0.41	3	0.007	22	0.05
<i>Diphtheria.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	42	0.13	778	2.56	25	0.081	345	1.12	42	0.13	830	2.64
Rural Districts ...	3	0.02	59	0.56	2	0.019	83	0.79	1	0.01	117	1.18
Administrative County	45	0.11	837	2.05	27	0.065	428	1.04	43	0.10	947	2.29
<i>Measles.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	5	0.016	1360	4.49	5	0.016	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rural Districts ...	—	—	493	4.72	2	0.019	—	—	1	0.010	—	—
Administrative County	5	0.012	1853	4.55	7	0.017	—	—	1	0.002	—	—
<i>Whooping Cough.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	25	0.082	1661	5.48	2	0.006	—	—	8	0.025	—	—
Rural Districts ...	4	0.038	531	5.09	—	—	—	—	7	0.071	—	—
Administrative County	29	0.071	2192	5.38	2	0.004	—	—	15	0.034	—	—
<i>Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).</i>												
Urban Districts ...	15	*3.15	—	—	23	*4.73	—	—	16	*3.31	—	—
Rural Districts ...	3	*2.17	—	—	3	*2.27	—	—	2	*1.61	—	—
Administrative County	18	*2.93	—	—	26	*4.21	—	—	18	*2.96	—	—
<i>Respiratory Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).</i>												
Urban Districts ...	428	1.41	—	—	447	1.45	—	—	267	0.85	—	—
Rural Districts ...	118	1.13	—	—	122	1.16	—	—	70	0.71	—	—
Administrative County	546	1.34	—	—	569	1.38	—	—	337	0.81	—	—
<i>Influenza.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	46	0.15	—	—	51	0.16	—	—	30	0.09	—	—
Rural Districts ...	13	0.12	—	—	16	0.15	—	—	15	0.15	—	—
Administrative County	59	0.14	—	—	67	0.16	—	—	45	0.10	—	—
<i>Puerperal Pyrexia.</i>												
Urban Districts ...	8	*1.59	32	*6.38	8	*1.56	43	*8.43	*3	0.62	*45	9.31
Rural Districts ...	—	—	21	*14.44	—	—	21	*14.95	—	—	*15	11.88
Administrative County	8	*1.23	53	*8.19	8	*1.23	64	*9.84	*3	0.49	*60	9.85

\* Per 1,000 Births.

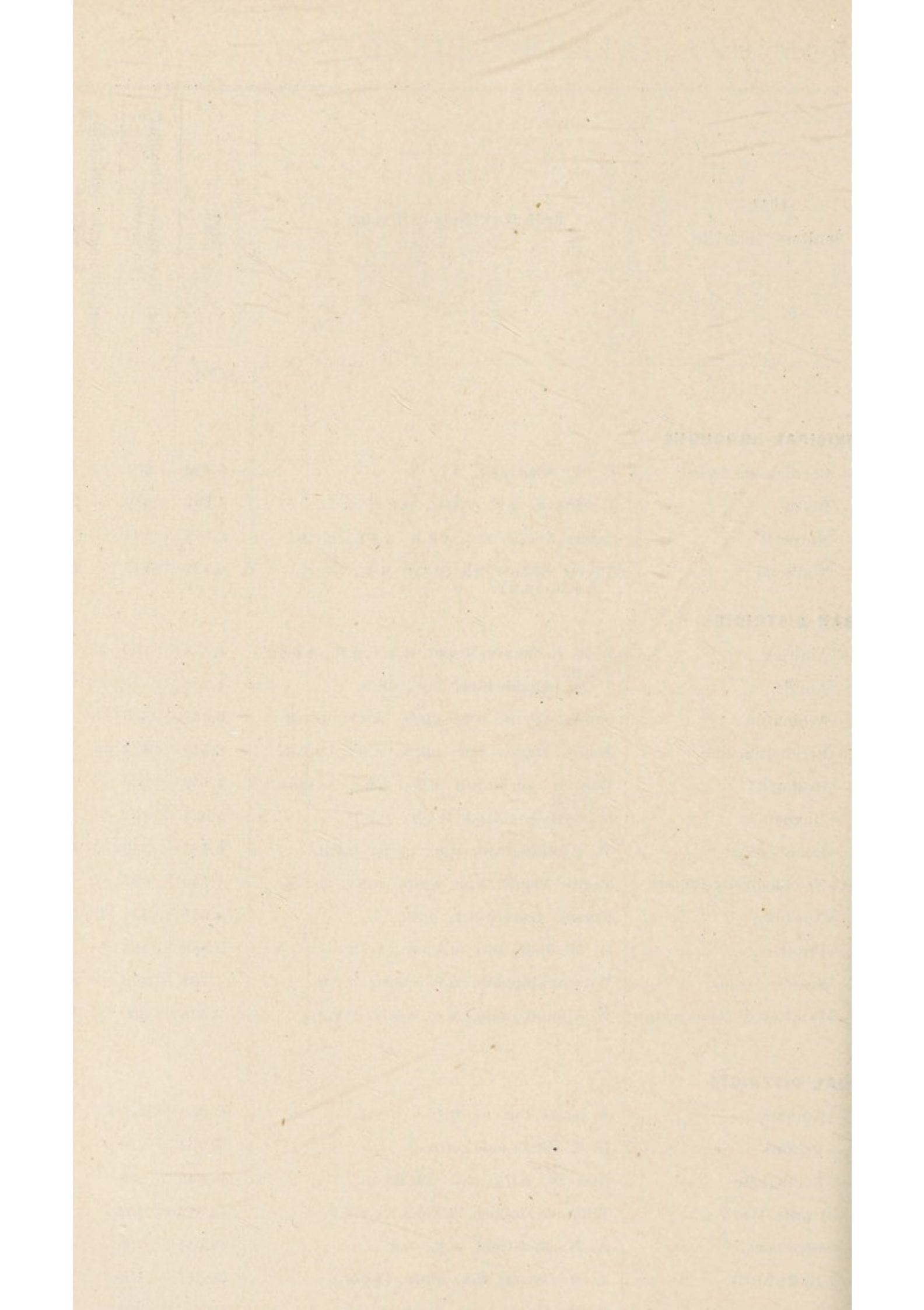


TABLE OF VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS, &amp;c., 1940











TUBERCULOSIS.  
TABLE 1.  
DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.

	1940.										1941.																			
	Respiratory Tuberculosis.					Other Tuberculous Diseases.					Tuberculosis (all forms).					Respiratory Tuberculosis.					Other Tuberculous Diseases.					Tuberculosis (all forms).				
	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1939.	Decrease in rates since 1939.	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1939.	Decrease in rates since 1939.	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1939.	Decrease in rates since 1939.	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1940.	Decrease in rates since 1940.	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1940.	Decrease in rates since 1940.	Deaths.	Death rates per 100,000 living.	Increase in rates since 1940.	Decrease in rates since 1940.						
Administrative County ...	226	55	3	—	58	14	—	—	284	69	3	—	208	51	—	4	51	12	—	2	259	63	—	6						
Urban Districts... ..	184	60	4	—	49	16	—	—	233	76	4	—	161	53	—	7	44	14	—	2	205	67	—	9						
Rural Districts ... ..	42	40	1	—	9	8	—	—	51	48	1	—	47	45	5	—	7	6	—	2	54	51	3	—						

It will be noted that the death rate in respect of the whole Administrative County from all forms of Tuberculosis in 1940 was 69 and in 1941 63 per 100,000 living persons. In 1900 the rate was 200. The percentage of deaths from Tuberculosis in 1900 was 11.4 against 5.5 in 1940 and 4.9 in 1941.

The total number of deaths from all causes in 1900 was 6,822, whilst in 1940 it was 5,119 and 5,231 in 1941.

## TUBERCULOSIS.—NOTIFICATIONS.

TABLE 2.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS DURING THE YEARS 1940 AND 1941.

AGE PERIODS.	YEAR 1940.										YEAR 1941.											
	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.					NEW CASES.					NEW CASES.						
	Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.			
	M.	F.	Totl.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totl.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totl.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Totl.	M.	F.	Totl.	
0—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	3	2	5	—	—	—	8	
1—	4	8	12	13	7	20	—	—	10	4	14	2	3	5	10	7	17	1	1	2	8	
5—	11	22	33	30	15	45	—	—	5	5	10	25	9	34	25	17	42	—	2	2	9	
15—	135	112	247	16	24	40	89	84	13	11	24	143	100	243	21	25	46	58	82	6	23	
45—	37	11	48	2	2	4	32	12	1	4	5	45	14	59	3	1	4	40	17	1	3	
65 and upwards	—	3	3	1	—	1	5	2	—	1	1	2	3	5	1	1	2	6	—	—	—	
	187	156	343	63	48	111	126	100	226	31	27	58	217	129	346	63	53	116	106	102	208	51

In 1940, 8 cases (4 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary) and in 1941, 3 cases (2 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary) were not notified prior to death. During the year 1939 there were 11 such cases.



TABLE 3.

TUBERCULOSIS MEAN MORTALITY RATES PER 100,000 LIVING.  
FOR THE TWO QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS 1931 TO 1935 AND 1936 TO 1940.

	Years.	Adminis- trative County.	Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	(1936/1940)	51	55	40
Other Tuberculous Diseases	(1931/1935)	64	69	53
	(1936/1940)	16	16	14
	(1931/1935)	22	22	18
Tuberculosis (all forms)	(1936/1940)	67	71	54
	(1931/1935)	86	91	71

The mean death rates from Respiratory Tuberculosis in the Administrative County during each of the quinquennial periods 1931/35 and 1936/40, are greater than those recorded from all the diseases arising from the seven principal Zymotic diseases which showed mean rates of 34 and 27 respectively per 100,000 living.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

For convenience, the following data is given categorically in order to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health :—

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.*—Following upon an application by the County Council, authority for enforcing these Regulations, within the area of the administrative county, was given to the County Council through the medium of the County of Buckingham (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Order, 1926. It was not found necessary to take any action under the Regulations during the year.

*Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.*—No action was found to be necessary during the year.





## RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARIES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY				TOTAL.				GRAND TOTAL.	
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts):														
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	100	75	2	10	8	6	13	8	108	81	15	18	222	
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	9	7	2	28	
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	104	60	62	420	
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :—														
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	3	4	4	9	—	—	2	1	3	4	6	10	23	
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	6	
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	35	32	42	128	
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as :—														
(a) Recovered ...	15	8	10	9	7	3	9	11	22	11	19	20	72	
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	220	144	95	104	563	
D.—NUMBER OF CASES on Dispensary Register on 31st December :—														
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	372	312	118	127	23	38	104	105	395	350	222	232	1,199	
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	4	3	21	

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on 1st January... 1,261
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years ... 48
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the tuberculosis scheme, and cases "lost sight of" ... 179
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes) ... 102
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)... 2,089
6. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register and included in A (a) and A (b) above... 3
7. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December ... 423



## RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARIES DURING THE YEAR 1941.

DIAGNOSIS.	PULMONARY.				NON-PULMONARY.				TOTAL.				GRAND TOTAL.
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts):													
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	107	67	4	7	5	9	9	7	112	76	13	14	215
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	11	11	10	58
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	222	128	69	79	498
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	2	7
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	5	9
(c) Non-tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	26	9	10	56
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as :—													
(a) Recovered ...	15	14	16	16	—	—	16	7	15	14	32	23	84
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	249	159	77	91	576
D.—NUMBER OF CASES on Dispensary Register on 31st December :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous ...	382	318	99	105	23	39	82	84	405	357	181	189	1,132
(b) Diagnosis not completed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	9	8	11	42

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on 1st January... 1,220
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years ... 73
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the tuberculosis scheme, and cases "lost sight of" ... 195
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes) ... 107
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts)... 2,308
6. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register and included in A (a) and A (b) above ... 3
7. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December ... 426

In connection with the Dispensaries, the following X-ray photographs were taken and artificial pneumothorax refills carried out during the years 1940 and 1941 :—

X-rays :—	1940.	1941.
Dr. W. H. Dickinson ...	684	595
Hexham War Memorial Hospital ...	119	162
Artificial Pneumothorax Refills :—		
Dr. W. H. Dickinson ...	912	961



RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT.  
WOOLEY SANATORIUM.

	Year 1940.			Year 1941.		
	Civilian.	Non-Civilian.	Total.	Civilian.	Non-Civilian.	Total.
<i>Admissions</i> ... ..	247	67	314	211	8	219
<i>Discharges</i> ... ..	198	70	268	226	9	235
Quiescent... ..	50	12	62	41	2	43
Improved ... ..	53	48	101	108	5	113
No material improvement	42	6	48	45	1	46
Died ... ..	37	1	38	15	—	15
Doubtful ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Not yet diagnosed ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Non-Tuberculous ...	16	3	19	15	1	16

	Year 1940.			Year 1941.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Patients at beginning of year...	82	40	122	85	70	155
Patients at end of year ...	85	70	155	84	60	144

*Treatment.*

Treatment was continued during each of the years 1940 and 1941 on the usual lines of bed rest, graduated exercise and occupational therapy, supplemented in appropriate cases by collapse therapy.

	1940.	1941.
Artificial Pneumothorax Induced ... ..	41	38
"       "       Refills (In-patients) ... ..	1,157	1,337
"       "       "       (Out-patients) ... ..	130	115
(On discharge cases were handed over to Dr. Dickinson).		
X-rays—In-patients ... ..	632	669
Out-patients ... ..	8	—

*Thoracic Surgery.*

The following operations were performed on Sanatorium patients at the Hexham Hospital during each of the years 1940 and 1941 by Mr. George A. Mason, F.R.C.S.

	1940.	1941.
Thoracoscopy ... ..	19	7
Thoracoplasty (Supplementary) ... ..	1	1
(Supplementary) ... ..	3	—
(1st Stage) ... ..	4	6
(2nd Stage) ... ..	6	3
Thoracolysis... ..	2	—
Thoracotomy ... ..	1	—
"       with drainage ... ..	2	—
"       and closed drainage ... ..	1	—
Korrekto-plasty ... ..	1	—
Adhesion Division ... ..	5	9
Pneumolysis ... ..	1	—
Phrenic Crush ... ..	1	4
Phrenic Evulsion ... ..	2	2
Curetting of Tibia... ..	1	—
Bronchoscopy ... ..	—	1
Direct drainage of cavity by Monaldi's technique	—	1

	1940.	1941.
<i>Dental Services.</i>		
Number of Sessions ... ..	24	22
Number of attendances ... ..	438	415

*Preston Hospital.*

Patients receiving Institutional Treatment :—	1940.	1941.
At beginning of year ... ..	23	20
At end of year ... ..	20	17
Total Number of Patients who received treatment during the year ... ..	69	49
Total Number of Patient days ... ..	7,234	5,291

*Children's Sanatorium.*

Children receiving Institutional Treatment :—		
At beginning of year ... ..	94	85
At end of year ... ..	85	63
Total Number of Children who received Treatment during the year ... ..	175	149
Total Number of Patient days ... ..	34,994	28,806

## COUNTY LABORATORY.

Dr. A. I. Messer, County Bacteriologist, has submitted his reports upon the work carried out at the County Laboratory during each of the years under review. A summary of these reports is appended :—

	1940.	1941.
Total number of reports furnished on specimens submitted for examination ... ..	21,002	25,620

*Analysis.**Tuberculosis examinations.**Microscopical.*

Sputum ... ..	1,791	1,636
Others ... ..	51	76

*Biological.*

Sputum ... ..	14	13
Others ... ..	31	41

*Cultural.*

Sputum ... ..	385	—
Others ... ..	13	—

*Diphtheria, etc.*

Swabs from throat, nose, etc., for B. Diphtheria	5,377	10,802
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	1,219	1,316
Others ... ..	99	229

*Enteric Fevers, Dysentery, etc.*

Blood for agglutination ... ..	503	197
Faeces and urine ... ..	1,191	399
Others ... ..	43	28

*Meningitis.*

Cerebro-spinal fluid ... ..	37	40
Post nasal swabs ... ..	66	28

*Miscellaneous Specimens.*

Not otherwise classified ... ..	259	336
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The following table shews the number of certain pathological specimens received from the various administrative districts, etc., in the county:—

DISTRICT, ETC.	1940.					1941.				
	Sputa for B. Tuberculosis.	Swabs for B. Diphtheriae.	Blood for Agglutination.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.	Sputa for B. Tuberculosis.	Swabs for B. Diphtheriae.	Blood for Agglutination.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
<i>Boroughs.</i>										
Berwick	34	253	20	94	401	39	83	4	94	220
Blyth	178	367	15	144	704	214	2,014	12	202	2,442
Morpeth	49	54	2	63	168	36	57	9	41	143
Wallsend	225	113	3	31	372	264	129	2	74	469
<i>Urban Districts.</i>										
Alnwick	29	36	3	38	106	44	43	19	41	147
Amble	7	6	—	6	19	14	67	—	9	90
Ashington	112	383	137	994	1,626	101	490	43	494	1,128
Bedlington	129	377	42	350	898	146	147	11	46	350
Gosforth	71	76	2	33	182	80	79	1	18	178
Hexham	43	177	3	46	269	44	683	1	94	822
Longbenton	83	125	—	19	227	64	265	—	15	344
Newbiggin	51	35	202	127	415	52	35	3	31	121
Newburn	96	36	10	23	165	79	126	2	12	219
Prudhoe	9	79	4	13	105	3	729	—	23	755
Seaton Valley	71	102	—	32	205	66	148	3	32	249
Whitley and Monkseaton	156	296	2	52	506	130	282	1	85	498
<i>Rural Districts.</i>										
Alnwick	24	23	4	23	74	19	22	11	35	87
Belford	16	40	2	19	77	17	22	1	11	51
Bellingham	13	15	2	12	42	11	44	1	33	89
Castle Ward	23	429	3	314	769	26	229	2	191	448
Glendale	14	19	1	29	63	16	28	—	33	77
Haltwhistle	26	7	—	7	40	12	5	—	6	23
Hexham	43	390	15	98	546	44	200	22	66	332
Morpeth	34	302	5	125	466	39	154	16	204	433
Norham and Islandshires	7	7	7	19	40	5	9	27	49	90
Rothbury	22	49	1	30	102	15	24	1	17	57
Forest Hall Hospital	—	707	11	22	740	—	1,327	2	21	1,350
Lemington Hospital	—	488	1	19	508	1	1,173	—	33	1,207
Wallsend Hospital	—	361	—	52	413	2	1,116	—	11	1,129
Wooley Sanatorium	150	—	—	9	159	2	—	—	14	16
Emergency Hospitals	56	8	1	42	107	15	1,060	3	263	1,341
Others	20	17	5	124	166	16	4	—	4	24
Newcastle C.B.C.	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Dilston Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	177	185
TOTALS	1,791	5,377	503	3,012	10,683	1,636	10,802	197	2,479	15,114

						1940.	1941.
<i>Venereal Diseases.</i>							
Total specimens examined ... ..						7,330	7,988
Distributed as follows :—							
On behalf of Joint Committee's Clinic ...						3,051	3,959
For hospitals and other institutions ...						3,414	3,126
For private practitioners ... ..						865	903
<i>Analysis.</i>							
Syphilis ... ..						6,580	6,976
Gonorrhoea ... ..						750	1,012

A detailed distribution of the specimens is shown in the following table :—

	JOINT COMMITTEE'S CLINIC.		COUNTY.				CITY.			
	1940	1941	Hospitals and Institutions.		Private Practitioners.		Hospitals and Institutions.		Private Practitioners.	
			1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941	1940	1941
Micro Sp. pallida ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Micro Gonococci ...	—	—	4	9	42	73	4	—	57	44
Blood Wassermann ...	1,375	1,701	983	439	204	202	880	1,019	170	178
Blood M.K.R.II ...	1,089	1,452	515	346	189	188	785	913	146	160
C.S.F. Wassermann ...	38	53	39	27	3	4	121	214	—	—
Peritoneal Fluid W.R. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
C.S.F. Goldsol, etc. ...	38	53	1	7	1	3	2	15	—	—
Blood G.c.f.t. ...	511	700	13	26	25	20	66	110	28	30
TOTALS ...	3,051	3,959	1,556	854	464	491	1,858	2,272	401	412

						1940.	1941.
<i>Milk.—Examination of samples.</i>							
<i>For Cleanliness Test (Methylene Blue and B. coli.)</i> ... ..						1,662	1,197
Classified as follows :—							
Ordinary milks ... ..						641	650
Designated milks ... ..						1,017	546
Sterilized milks ... ..						4	1

Districts from which the above samples were received :—

County Health Department ... ..	1,022	484
Blyth ... ..	67	36
Morpeth Borough ... ..	—	36
Amble ... ..	6	2
Ashington ... ..	96	82
Bedlington ... ..	21	31
Gosforth ... ..	18	36
Longbenton ... ..	40	52
Newbiggin ... ..	3	11
Newburn ... ..	76	45
Prudhoe ... ..	14	—
Seaton Valley ... ..	94	47
Whitley and Monkseaton ... ..	116	186
Alnwick Rural ... ..	—	1
Bellingham ... ..	7	7
Castle Ward ... ..	—	87
Hexham Rural ... ..	12	2
Morpeth Rural ... ..	70	52



	1940.	1941.
<i>For B. Tuberculosis</i> ... ..	677	1,019

Districts from which the above samples were received :—

County Health Department	143	301
Blyth	11	30
Morpeth Borough	—	29
Wallsend	4	7
Amble	1	—
Ashington	47	71
Bedlington	8	29
Gosforth	—	8
Longbenton	23	38
Newbiggin	8	8
Newburn	35	27
Seaton Valley	26	13
Whitley and Monkseaton	86	177
Bellingham	5	—
Castle Ward	—	16
Hexham Rural	—	5
Morpeth Rural	49	48
Ministry of Agriculture	231	212

<i>Water.—Samples examined</i> ... ..	247	275
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Districts from which the above samples were received :—

County Health Department	16	2
Blyth	13	32
Morpeth Borough	26	12
Ashington	16	22
Bedlington	—	1
Gosforth	—	1
Hexham Urban	34	26
Longbenton	1	2
Newbiggin	7	4
Newburn	3	3
Prudhoe	2	34
Seaton Valley	1	4
Whitley and Monkseaton	—	4
Alnwick Rural	23	12
Belford	2	1
Bellingham	7	10
Castle Ward	23	24
Glendale	4	11
Hexham Rural	16	15
Morpeth Rural	45	46
Norham and Islandshires	5	2
Rothbury...	2	7
R.A.F.	1	—

<i>Sewage Effluent examinations</i> ... ..	7	—
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#### FOOD INSPECTION.

The examination of milk samples from dairy herds for the detection of Tuberculosis has been continued during the years 1940 and 1941.

The number of samples tested for the year 1940 was 446, and during 1941 the number tested was 791, making a total for the two years of 1,237.

Tubercle bacilli were found to be present in 101 samples (8.16%) and as a result of investigations of the herds producing the infected milk 64 animals were destroyed after being proved to be effected. The infecting animal was thus discovered in 63.36% of the affected herds.

*Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.*

The number of licenses issued during the years 1940 and 1941 under the provisions of the above Order were as follows :—

			Year 1940.	Year 1941.
"Tuberculin Tested" (Certified)	...	...	18	19
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bulk) ...	...	...	9	13
"Accredited" ...	...	...	195	188

Of these 23 hold a certificate of attestation from the Minister of Agriculture.



The following table shews the results of routine milk sampling since its inception.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. (MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926. PART IV.)  
ROUTINE MILK SAMPLING—1927 (Oct.) to 1941 (Dec.).

Sanitary Districts.	Latest available Figures.		1927 to 1939 (inclusive).			1940-41		TOTAL.	
	No. of Cow-keepers.	No. of Cows kept.	No. of Samples.	No. found to contain Tub. Bac.	No. of Cows slaughtered	No. of Samples.	No. found to contain Tub. Bac.	No. of Samples.	No. found to contain Tub. Bac. slaughtered
<i>Municipal Boroughs.</i>									
1. Berwick-on-Tweed	26	130	71	2	2	3	9	74	2
2. Blyth	15	150	72	1	1	41	1	113	10
3. Morpeth	7	156	29	1	...	32	...	61	1
4. Wallsend	8	159	49	4	11	14	2	63	6
<i>Urban Districts.</i>									
5. Alnwick	14	75	56	2	1	13	2	69	4
6. Amble	7	80	64	1	2	10	...	74	1
7. Ashington	7	165	358	21	7	111	11	469	32
8. Bedlington	38	485	445	31	22	47	3	492	34
9. Gosforth	3	130	50	1	1	11	2	61	3
10. Hexham	26	450	98	2	2	8	...	106	2
11. Longbenton	19	435	359	28	10	69	5	428	33
12. Newbiggin-by-Sea	8	119	221	14	8	19	1	240	15
13. Newburn	11	230	573	37	25	72	7	646	44
14. Prudhoe	18	213	47	3	1	...	...	47	3
15. Seaton Valley	30	300	697	57	33	61	7	758	64
16. Whitely and Monkseaton	6	91	1,133	57	13	252	25	1,385	82
<i>Rural Districts.</i>									
17. Alnwick	100	1,100	363	10	10	41	3	404	13
18. Belford	28	260	98	1	2	10	1	108	2
19. Bellingham	35	160	64	1	1	7	1	71	1
20. Castle Ward	102	2,000	664	31	23	89	5	753	36
21. Glendale	25	200	127	2	...	9	...	136	2
22. Haltwhistle	216	1,512	80	2	...	5	...	85	2
23. Hexham	600	8,610	1,955	78	50	108	5	2,063	83
24. Morpeth	94	1,100	811	44	41	191	12	1,002	56
25. Northam and Islandshires	31	262	94	...	...	3	...	97	...
26. Rothbury	16	155	78	1	...	10	...	88	1
Total	1,550	18,727	8,656	432	267	1,237	101	9,893	533
	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	...	331



### ISOLATION HOSPITALS, INSTITUTION HOSPITALS AND VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

During 1938 the Factory Point Hospital belonging to the Blyth Corporation was closed down and cases from Blyth requiring treatment or isolation, sent to the Wallsend Isolation Hospital under the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board. Some cases, however, continued to be treated at the Blyth Port Health Authority's Hospital pending more accommodation being available at Wallsend.

In October, 1941, the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Morpeth Rural District is a constituent, was formed, and cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment, which had previously been removed to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Walkergate, or the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Ashington, were removed to one or other of the hospitals based by the Board at Ashington, Bedlington or Morpeth.

Apart from above the isolation hospital accommodation remained, generally, the same as during the year 1938, details of which are outlined in the annual report for that year.

The County Council in 1939 came to an arrangement with the Newcastle Corporation whereby patients belonging to the County are provided for at the Newcastle General Hospital or the Shotley Bridge Emergency Hospital. During the year 1940, 63 County patients (45 male and 18 female), received hospital treatment under the arrangement, and during the year 1941, 96 (68 male and 28 female).

The accommodation in the voluntary hospitals in the County remained approximately the same as was shown in the annual report for the year 1938.

### PUBLIC VACCINATION.

During the year ended 31st December, 1939, a total of 5,588 births were registered in the County, 1,464, or 26 per cent., being successfully vaccinated. Statutory declarations of conscientious objection were received in respect of 3,225 of these births, and 223 died unvaccinated; 331 were neither vaccinated nor otherwise accounted for.

The figures for the year ended 31st December, 1940, indicate that 5,902 births were registered, 1,608 or 27 per cent., being successfully vaccinated. Conscientious objection declarations were received in respect of 3,028, and 242 died unvaccinated; 425 were neither vaccinated nor otherwise accounted for.

It is the duty of Vaccination Officers to prosecute defaulting parents on the question of the vaccination of their children. The figures given above for children who were neither vaccinated nor otherwise accounted for show that there is a high percentage of such parents in the County of Northumberland, and the attention of the Council is drawn to the fact that in neither year were any legal proceedings taken against these parents.

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

During 1940 and 1941 no material alterations were made in the domiciliary medical services. Panel systems were in operation at Gosforth, Haydon, Blyth, Bedlington, Corbridge, Ponteland, and Whitley and Monkseaton.



# VENEREAL DISEASES REGULATIONS.

County patients are treated at the Clinic of the Joint Committee of the County Councils of Durham and Northumberland and the County Boroughs of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead. This Clinic is situated at the Newcastle General Hospital. Facilities are also available for the treatment of County patients at the Clinic at Preston Road Hospital, North Shields.

In the following tables particulars are given relating to treatment at each of the Clinics at Newcastle and North Shields during the years 1940 and 1941, and (for comparison) during 1939.

## *Joint Committee's Clinic, Newcastle.*

	1939.			1940.			1941.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.	Males.	Fe-males.	Total.
1. Under treatment or observation at beginning of year ...	328	242	570	287	233	520	263	271	534
2. Returned for treatment after having ceased to attend during any previous year ...	7	2	9	2	5	7	3	5	8
3. Dealt with for the first time ...	409	245	654	303	226	529	367	260	627
4. Number of cases dealt with for the first time known to have received treatment at other Centres ...	48	11	59	44	13	57	51	23	74
5. Discharged after completion of treatment ...	351	197	548	232	151	383	277	203	480
6. Ceased to attend before completion of treatment ...	62	24	86	13	21	34	23	15	38
7. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure ...	20	2	22	3	4	7	4	1	5
8. Transferred to other Centres, etc....	72	44	116	125	30	155	106	41	147
9. Under treatment or observation at end of year ...	274	299	573	263	271	534	274	299	573
10. Total number of attendances ...	14,027	7,168	21,195	8,529	6,471	15,000	9,397	6,084	15,481
11A. Total number of in-patients admitted for treatment during year...	17	42	59	15	15	30	13	48	61
11B. Aggregate number of in-patient days of treatment given ...	689	1,165	1,854	320	481	801	327	649	976
12. Number of cases of congenital syphilis (included in Item 3 above) ...	6	7	13	8	6	14	2	11	13

## *Preston Road Hospital, North Shields.*

Number of cases dealt with for the first time ...	24	24	37
Total number of attendances...	1,159	838	884

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND MIDWIVES

### MIDWIVES ACTS, 1902-1936.

The scheme formulated by the County Council in accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936, continued to function satisfactorily during the years 1940 and 1941.

In 1941, the scale of salaries paid to all grades of midwives was increased.



The following table gives information regarding the numbers of midwives employed :—

Year.	By C.N.A.	By Council.	Private Practice.	IN INSTITUTIONS.				
				Dilston Hall.	Corbridge.	Stagshaw.	Wallsend.	Halt-whistle.
1940	211	6	20	4	8	4	5	3
1941	200	6	10	11	8	4	5	3

No change was made in the arrangements concerning fees during these years.

#### *Inspection of Midwives.*

The total number of visits of inspection made by Inspectors of Midwives and Assistants was :—

1940	...	...	...	1,362
1941	...	...	...	1,297

#### *Cases attended by Midwives.*

The following table gives details of the numbers of cases attended by midwives :—

Year.	By C.N.A. Midwives.			By County Council Midwives.			In Institutions.			In Independent Practice.		
	Mid.	Mat.	Total.	Mid.	Mat.	Total.	Mid.	Mat.	Total.	Mid.	Mat.	Total.
1940	1,415	2,637	4,052	378	137	515	145	204	349	71	19	90
1941	1,467	2,424	3,891	385	136	521	243	463	706	18	3	21

#### *Notifications received from Midwives.*

The following table gives a summary of notifications received from midwives during the two years under review :—

	1940.	1941.
Notification of sending for medical aid ... ..	710	677
Still-births ... ..	57	47
Miscarriages and Abortions ... ..	22	20
Laying-out dead body ... ..	72	43
Artificial feeding ... ..	107	182
Liability to be a source of infection ... ..	193	143
Notification of death ... ..	31	21
Totals ... ..	1,192	1,133



*Medical Practitioners' Fees.*

The Medical Practitioners (Fees) Regulations, 1940, came into operation on June 1st, 1940. These Regulations revise the scale of fees payable to medical practitioners called in by midwives in emergencies.

In 1940, owing to the increased cost of living, the scale for the repayment of fees charged for the attendance of a doctor called in by means of a medical aid form, was also revised. The existing scale was retained, but the income in each case, after deducting rent and rates, was increased by 12½ per cent.

Details are given below of the total fees paid to doctors and the amounts recovered from the patients.

		Fees paid.			Amount recovered.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1940	...	609	10	6	133	10	10
1941	...	866	14	0	204	15	1

*Training of Midwives.*

The Council undertake responsibility for one-half of the expenditure incurred in training students whose course of training extends over one year, and two-thirds of the expenditure involved in training students whose course of training extends over two years provided that the number trained does not exceed twelve state registered nurses and twelve untrained students in any one year.

The number of midwives trained was as follows :—

1940	...	...	...	14
1941	...	...	...	16

PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFICATION OF PUERPERAL FEVER AND  
PUERPERAL PYREXIA) REGULATIONS, 1926-1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*

The following statement indicates the number of cases encountered in the Administrative County during the years 1940 and 1941 :—

Year.	Cases Delivered by Midwives as such.	Total Cases Notified.	Treatment at	
			Home.	Hospital.
1940	2,009	33	26	7
1941	2,343	32	15	17

*Provisions for Complicated Cases of Midwifery.*

During the years 1940 and 1941, the usual provision was made for assistance in, and for the treatment of, complicated cases of midwifery.

35 patients were referred to Obstetric Consultants in 1940 and 18 in 1941.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The following statement shows the Maternal Mortality rates classified under the headings of Puerperal Sepsis and other causes and, for the purpose of comparison, figures are also included below for the whole of England and Wales for the year.



Year.	Puerperal Sepsis.		Other Puerperal Causes.		Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Total Births (live and still).
	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.			
1932	22	3.22	24	3.51	46	6.73	6,838
1933	20	3.04	22	3.34	42	6.38	6,578
1934	15	2.25	21	3.16	36	5.42	6,642
1935	9	1.36	14	2.11	23	3.47	6,612
1936	10	1.54	16	2.47	26	4.01	6,477
1937	6	0.93	20	3.11	26	4.04	6,430
1938	4	0.63	14	2.20	18	2.83	6,350
1939	3	0.47	17	2.68	20	3.15	6,356
1940	8	1.23	20	3.08	28	4.31	6,502
1941	8	1.24	16	2.47	24	3.71	6,469

## England and Wales :—

	1940.	1941.
Post Abortive Infection ... ..	0.25	0.35
Abortion without mention of septic condition	0.18	0.19
Infection during childbirth and the puerperium	0.54	0.48
Other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ... ..	1.64	1.75
	<u>2.61</u>	<u>2.77</u>

## PUBLIC HEALTH (OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM) REGULATIONS, 1926-1937.

The following statement indicates the number of cases notified during each of the years 1940 and 1941 and the results of treatment :—

Year.	No. of Births attended by Midwives as such.	Total cases Notified.	Total admitted to Hospital.	Nursed at Home.	Total Recovered.
1940	2,009	17	13	4	17
1941	2,343	17	15	2	17

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

*Notification of Births.*

In the following table details are given of births notified and registered during the years 1940 and 1941 :—

Year.	Notified Births.			Registered Births.			Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births).		
	Live.	Still.	Total.	Live.	Still.	Total.	Live.	Still.	Total.
1940	2,760	81	2,841	3,313	152	3,465	140	6	146
1941	3,421	80	3,501	3,364	116	3,480	196	11	207



### INFANT MORTALITY.

During the years 1940 and 1941, the deaths under one year registered in the Administrative County numbered 194 and 228 respectively. This represents a percentage of 6.5 (1940) and 7.4 (1941) of the total number of deaths at all ages during these years.

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 registered births was as follows :—

Year.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1940	58	55
1941	67	59

### *Illegitimate Children.*

Of the 140 live illegitimate children born in 1940, 8 died before they reached the age of one year. In 1941, 196 live illegitimate children were born and 14 died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an illegitimate infant mortality rate of 57 in 1940 and 71 in 1941.

### *Health Visiting Service.*

In 1941, the scale of salaries paid to Health Visitors was reconsidered; the revised commencing salary being £220 per annum, rising by annual increments of £15 to a maximum of £250 per annum.

During this period, the staff establishment was increased by one. Miss D. G. Long was promoted to be Assistant Superintendent of Health Visitors and a new appointment was made to fill the vacancy thus created.

It was also decided to increase the number of Health Visitors trained by the Council from four to six annually.

The following is a summary of the number of visits made by the staff for Maternity and Child Welfare: other work is recorded elsewhere under the appropriate headings :—

Year.	Live Births registered in Administrative County.	First Visits to Infants.	Re-visits to Infants under the age of 1 year.	Visits to Children, age 1—5 yrs.	Ante-Natal Visits.	
					First Visits.	Re-Visits.
1940	3,313	2,429	17,390	38,138	503	643
1941	3,364	3,261	18,739	40,611	744	625

### *Ante-natal Care of Mothers.*

Arrangements for the ante-natal and post-natal care of mothers at special ante-natal clinics and, in remote areas, under the Rural Ante-natal Scheme, continued to function satisfactorily.



The following details are available :—

Year.	Ante-natal Cases.		Post-natal Cases.		Rural Ante-Natal Scheme.
	Total No. of Expectant Mothers who attended the Centres.	Total attendances of Expectant Mothers.	Total No. of Mothers who attended the Centres.	Total attendances of Mothers at all Clinics.	No. of Consultations.
1940	907	2,595	334	387	14
1941	1,347	4,329	218	262	4

#### *Service of Home Helps.*

The scheme for the provision of home helps continued to operate successfully. Sixteen mothers were assisted in this way in 1940 and thirty mothers in 1941.

#### *Child Welfare Centres.*

During the years 1940 and 1941, two new centres were opened in the County and medical attendance was provided at one existing milk sales centre. In addition, three new ante-natal clinics were opened.

The premises in many cases are unsuitable but, during this period, new premises were provided at two large centres, in one case by the erection of a new building and in the other by the adaptation of the existing building.

The table appended gives details of attendances, consultations, etc. :—

Year.	No. of half-day sessions held at Centres.	Total No. of attendances of Mothers.	Total No. of attendances of Babies.	Attendances by Doctors.	No. of Consultations with Doctors.
1940	2,276	61,448	60,822	917	16,368
1941	2,564	69,099	63,602	1,157	17,709

#### *Supply of Milk to Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under the age of five years.*

During 1940 the distribution of milk to expectant and nursing mothers was taken over by the Government and the National Milk Scheme was brought into operation. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee decided to supply special brands of milk on the recommendations of medical officers in attendance at the centres.

For this purpose, the National Scale for the provision of milk free or at a reduced price, was adopted.

#### *Distribution of Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices.*

The Government Scheme for the distribution of cod liver oil and fruit juices to expectant mothers and pre-school children was put into operation in 1941. The distribution is carried out at the Child Welfare Centres and additional supply points have also been arranged in areas where the centre is not readily accessible.



*Dental Treatment.*

The following table gives details of the work done during the years 1940 and 1941 :—

	Attendances.	Extractions.	Scalings.	Fillings.	Other Operations.	Repairs and adjustments.	Impressions.	Try-ins.	Bites.	Local anaesthetics.	General anaesthetics.	Dentures fitted.
Mothers 1940	2,160	3,414	43	76	376	34	535	277	215	2,986	12	345
1941	3,163	4,473	81	130	730	51	829	449	352	3,807	14	493
Children 1940	200	490	1	16	45	—	—	2	—	189	49	—
1941	189	439	1	13	60	—	1	1	—	124	43	—

Amounts collected in fees : 1940 ... .. £136 11 11  
 1941 ... .. £264 19 9

*Prevention of Deafness.*

Under this scheme 85 children received treatment during the year 1940 and 64 children during 1941.

*Distribution of Supplementary Clothing Coupons.*

In 1941, arrangements were made for the distribution of supplementary clothing coupons to expectant mothers to be carried out at the Ante-natal and Child Welfare Centres.

*Diphtheria Immunisation of Pre-school Children.*

Arrangements for the immunisation of pre-school children against Diphtheria were extended during the years 1940 and 1941.

Pre-school children immunised at Child Welfare Centres during this period numbered :—

1940 ... .. 1,594  
 1941 ... .. 4,063

*Detection, Prevention and Treatment of Crippling in Infants.*

The scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of orthopaedic defects at Clinics or, if necessary, at the home of the patient, continued to function satisfactorily. Details of such treatment are given below :—

Year.	Hospital Treatment.	
	Number of patients treated.	Number of new cases admitted to hospital.
1940	6	5
1941	13	10



*Treatment at Clinics.*

	Number of Cases attending.			
	Old.		New.	
	1940	1941	1940	1941
Alnwick ... ..	14	21	12	11
Ashington ... ..	7	14	12	9
Bedlington and Cramlington ...	5	4	7	2
Gosforth ... ..	26	35	9	10
Hexham and Prudhoe ... ..	2	6	4	3
Morpeth and Rothbury ... ..	5	8	6	2

*Convalescent Treatment of Mothers.*

Twenty-one mothers availed themselves of this service during this period, 2 in 1940 and 19 in 1941. They were sent to the Convalescent Home, Cottage Hospital, Rothbury.

*Babies' Hospital, Blagdon, Seaton Burn.*

During the year 1940 the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee agreed to increase the grant paid to The Babies' Hospital, Blagdon, to £500 per annum.

The hospital admits babies suffering from congenital defects, infantile ailments and tuberculosis. During the year 1940 56 children were treated and 30 children during 1941.

*Public Health Act.—Child Life Protection.*

At the end of the year 1941 there were 20 women registered as foster-mothers, each having one child in her care. Health Visitors made 95 visits of inspection during 1940 and 79 during 1941.

*Maternity Hospitals.**Haltwhistle and District War Memorial Hospital New Maternity Wing.*

The new maternity block at the Haltwhistle and District War Memorial Hospital was opened. The block has accommodation for six patients and staff.

*Willington Quay Maternity Hospital.*

This Hospital continued to function at Stagshaw House, Corbridge, where the normal services were maintained.

*DILSTON HALL EMERGENCY MATERNITY HOME.*

During the year 1941, the work of the hospital was more than doubled. The first case was admitted on 13th October, 1939, and from then until the end of 1940, there was a total of 357 deliveries. The numbers of in-patients rose from 23 on 1st January, 1941, to 63 on 25th May, 1941, when it became necessary to restrict bookings. In the second half of the year, the daily number was gradually stabilised at an average of 40.1 patients.



A notable feature throughout has been the high primi-pravid rate, which was 48 per cent. during 1940 and 56.3 per cent. in 1941. These figures are, of course, responsible for a high rate of abnormalities, toxæmias and operative assisted labours.

#### *Ante-natal Care.*

The majority of the patients were referred from Ante-natal Clinics, but they were encouraged to attend at the hospital for at least one visit about the 36th week. In some cases patients have been admitted purely as "emergencies" for urgent toxic or obstetric reasons.

#### *Obstetric Work.*

##### *Analysis of deliveries.*

	1940.	1941.
Total number ... ..	357	880
Single foetus ... ..	350	865
Twin deliveries ... ..	7	15
Total babies born ... ..	364	895
Still-births ... ..	18—5%	15—1.7%
Neo-natal deaths ... ..	6—1.6%	23—2.5%
Babies discharged alive and well ...	340	857

#### *Maternal Deaths.*

Two maternal deaths occurred in each of the years covered by this report. In 1940 one was a case of fulminating eclampsia which had been admitted as an emergency having had no ante-natal care, the second being due to acute yellow atrophy in a case of uterine inertia. In patients admitted during 1941—one death was due to acute yellow atrophy in a patient shewing cervical dystocia syndrome, who was delivered by Caesarean section, while the second death occurred during chloroform anaesthesia.

#### *Puerperal Morbidity.*

The Puerperal Pyrexia case rate was lower in 1941 than in 1940, as shewn in the following table :—

Year.	Total Admissions.	Cases of notifiable P.P.	Result.
1940	357	9=2.2%	All recovered.
1941	880	13=1.5%	4 transferred. All recovered.

#### *Operative Deliveries.*

A comparison of the operative deliveries in the two years is shewn in the following tables :—

##### *Forceps Extraction.*

Year.	Total Deliveries.	Forceps Extraction.	Result.		
			Still-birth.	Neo-natal deaths.	Babies discharged well.
1940	357	26	2	0	24
1941	880	59	0	3	56

*Caesarean Section.*

Year.	Total Deliveries.	Caesarean Section.	Result.		
			Still-birth.	Neo-natal deaths.	Mothers and Babies Discharged well.
1940	357	9	0	1	Babies 8 Mothers 9
1941	880	26	1	0	Babies 26 (One case of twins). Mothers 25

There was one maternal death in 1941 following Caesarean section.

*Placental Dystocia and Post-Partum Haemorrhage.*

In 1940, three cases required treatment for placental dystocia, and in 1941 there were only two such cases.

*Anaesthetics.*

A panel of the local general medical practitioners has been formed, who may be called upon to administer general anaesthetics. This arrangement has been very successful and their collaboration and co-operation has been extremely valuable.

Year.	Number of inductions of General Anaesthesia.	Local Anaesthesia.	Spinal Anaesthesia.
1940	74	40	1
1941	132	27	1

*Medical Condition Complicating Pregnancy.*

In 1940, 31 cases exhibiting medical conditions concurrent with pregnancy were admitted, and in 1942, 47 cases.

All left hospital in reasonable health and all had live babies.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Pemphigus.*

In 1940 six cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred and in 1941 there were ten cases. All were staphylococcal in origin and yielded readily to treatment. No cases of gonococcal ophthalmia occurred. Prophylaxis by 10 per cent. Argylol is practised.

, There were no cases of pemphigus.

*Blood Transfusion.*

In 1940 four patients and in 1941 six patients were given blood transfusion. Blood donors were supplied by the Tyneside Blood Transfusion Service.



## ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

During the years 1940 and 1941 provision continued to be made for the treatment of orthopaedic defects in patients of all ages. Details of the arrangements are outlined in the Annual Report for the year 1939.

## BLIND PERSONS ACT COMMITTEE.

*Administration.*

There were 513 blind persons on the Register on January 1st, 1940, as compared with 510 the preceding January. During the year 53 persons were registered, 40 deaths occurred, 5 were de-certified, while 11 left the County. On December 31st there were 510 names on the Register, a decrease of 3 during the year.

In 1941, 63 names were added to the Register, 46 blind persons died, 5 were de-certified, while 10 removed from the County. On December 31st, there were 512 registered blind persons, an increase of 2 during the year.

There was no change with arrangements for examination. During 1940, 104 patients were examined, 49 being certified to be blind and 55 not blind. Of those certified to be blind the names of 47 were added to the Register, 2 having been registered prior to examination. One of those certified to be not blind had hitherto been registered as blind; his name was accordingly removed from the Register.

In 1941, 85 patients were examined, 56 being certified to be blind and 29 not blind. The names of 55 were added to the Register, one person having been registered prior to examination.

*Domiciliary Assistance.*

To meet the higher cost of living, the special bonus, adopted in November, 1939, was increased from 8 to 12½ per cent. on the scale allowance in February, 1940, and by a further 3½ per cent. (making a total of 16 per cent.) in July, 1940.

In November, 1940, the Regulations were amended, the basic rate for single applicants over 21 years of age being increased to 25/- plus 16 per cent. cost of living bonus, and for a married couple (one being blind) to 35/- plus 16 per cent. Blind persons between the ages of 18 and 21 years continued to have their incomes made up to 18/- plus 16 per cent.

During 1941, the Regulations were revised, the total income of the applicant, the husband or wife of the applicant, and any member of the household dependent upon him only being taken into account in assessing the amount of financial assistance to be granted, and a scale of contributions towards the expenses of the household from non-dependent members of the family being drawn up; hitherto the total income of all members of the household, other than lodgers, had been taken into consideration. The revised Regulations came into operation on January 1st, 1942.

In December, 1940, 245 blind persons were in receipt of domiciliary assistance, as compared with 219 in January; the total sum distributed during the year amounted to £7,588 13s. 6d. In December, 1941, 266 blind persons were in receipt of assistance, the sum distributed during the year being £10,852 1s. 8d.



*Home Visitors.*

There was no alteration in the arrangements for the supervision of registered blind persons by the Home Visitors. During 1940 and 1941, the following visits were paid :—

	1940.	1941.
For welfare purposes ... ..	6,485	6,600
To supervise home workers ... ..	355	344
To give lessons ... ..	240	244
To investigate new cases ... ..	104	103
<i>Re</i> Prevention of Blindness ... ..	380	412
<i>Re</i> Provision of Spectacles ... ..	507	279
To convey patients to Eye Hospital, etc. ...	70	24
<i>Re</i> collection and distribution of wireless sets	109	77
	<hr/> 8,250 <hr/>	<hr/> 8,083 <hr/>

*Prevention of Blindness.*

The Council's Scheme for the prevention of blindness continued to function satisfactorily.

During 1940, eleven patients were admitted to the Newcastle Eye Hospital or the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, for treatment under the scheme. Nine patients were no longer blind as the result of such treatment and two still remained blind (although in one case the field of vision was considerably increased). Thirteen patients received operative treatment under the scheme in 1941 as a result of which twelve patients were no longer blind. One patient died after his discharge from hospital but before his treatment was completed.

The Council pays a fee of 2/6d. to medical practitioners for the official notification of persons threatened with blindness. No such notification were received, however, during either 1940 or 1941.

*Provision of Spectacles for Adults.*

The scheme inaugurated for the provision of optical treatment for patients in necessitous circumstances, who are not entitled to benefit under the National Health Insurance Acts, and are unable to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board, is becoming more widely known, and many persons took advantage of it during 1940 and 1941.

The two Ophthalmic Surgeons who had attended the Adult Clinics were called up for military service in 1940, but arrangements were made for the Ophthalmic Surgeon attending the School Clinics to devote part of her time to the refraction of adults. Arrangements were also made for patients to attend the Newcastle upon Tyne Eye Hospital for refraction, a fee of 2/- being paid by the Council for each attendance.

The Council's agreement with the Northumberland and North Durham Local Association of Ophthalmic Opticians to supply spectacles in nickel frames at special rates continued to operate. Necessitous patients were supplied with spectacles free of charge by the Council.



During 1940, 140 patients attended 26 Adult or School Clinics, and spectacles were prescribed for 122. In addition, spectacles were prescribed for 23 patients who attended the Eye Hospital for refraction and 6 who attended the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

During 1941, 42 patients attended 19 Adult or School Clinics, spectacles being prescribed in 40 cases. Spectacles were also prescribed for 51 patients who attended the Eye Hospital, and 4 who attended the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

#### *Medical and Dental Treatment.*

In May, 1940, the Council approved a scheme for the provision of medical treatment for indigent blind persons and their sighted dependants, under which patients not eligible for treatment under the National Health Insurance Acts were allowed a free choice of medical practitioners, the Council being responsible for payment on the basis of 5/- per quarter for a short term case, and 20/- per annum for chronic cases requiring more than six months' continuous treatment; medicines were supplied at the rate of ninepence per bottle, separate accounts being submitted for special drugs, preparations and dressings. Mileage was also allowed in the case of patients living more than two miles from the doctor's surgery. This scheme has proved immensely popular and full advantage is taken of it.

During 1940, twelve blind persons attended the Council's Dental Clinics and Dental Vans for treatment under the County Dental Scheme. Nine blind persons received treatment under the scheme in 1941.

#### *Home and Casual Workers.*

As the war has progressed, materials for handicrafts have become increasingly difficult to obtain and pastime occupations have had to be curtailed or discontinued. This, however, has not affected the incomes of blind people, as the majority of these workers were already in receipt of financial assistance at a fixed weekly rate.

Two Approved Home Workers were employed during 1940 and 1941—a piano-tuner who received, in addition to his earnings, a subsidy of 10/- per week, and a machine-knitter paid on a piece-work basis, who received a subsidy equal to her earnings. In addition, one Approved Home Worker continued his employment as a Braille Copyist for the National Library for the Blind at Manchester.

#### *Sales of Goods.*

Two exhibitions and sales of work—at Gosforth and Morpeth respectively—were organised during 1940 from goods already in stock. A third sale was held at Gosforth in 1941, but further activities of this nature have had to be suspended until after the war.

#### *Workshops for the Adult Blind.*

In January, 1940, 19 men and 6 women from the County area were employed in the Workshops in Newcastle. One woman left in 1940 and 3 in 1941, while one man and one woman were admitted during that year.

#### *Education.*

Two men and three women were undergoing a course of training at the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle upon Tyne, in January, 1940, and three men and one woman were admitted during the year;



one of these men, however, was withdrawn at the end of his probationary period of three months owing to ineptitude; a few months later he was admitted to the N.I.B. Home for the Blind at Scarborough. One man was discharged from the school in 1940 on the completion of his training, and one man and one woman completed their training in 1941, leaving two men and three women in the school at the end of the year. Two men continued their studies at the Royal Normal College, London, and one man (who had been a pupil at the Worcester College for the Blind) was admitted to the N.I.B. Massage School, London, early in 1940, and completed his course in December, 1941.

Five blind children and four partially sighted children received elementary education at the Royal School for the Blind (evacuated to Witherslack), the Wallsend Education Committee being responsible for one blind child. One child left the school during 1941, leaving four blind children and four partially sighted children in attendance in December, 1941.

#### *Wireless for the Blind.*

Forty-seven certificates enabling blind persons to obtain free wireless licences were issued during 1940, while 41 similar certificates were issued during 1941.

The Department continues to distribute wireless sets on behalf of the British "Wireless for the Blind" Fund, and during 1940 and 1941, 29 and 17 sets respectively were allocated.

#### *Home for the Blind.*

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of six blind persons who are accommodated permanently in Homes for the Blind at Glasgow, Halifax, Harrogate, Leatherhead, Liverpool and Scarborough.

#### *Social Welfare.*

The six Voluntary Societies established at Ashington, Bedlington, Blyth, Seaton Valley, Morpeth and Wallsend, continued to cater for the social life of blind persons in those areas as far as war-time conditions permitted, but owing to black-out and transport difficulties, activities were much restricted.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Thompson, of Hartford Hall, Bedlington, earned the sincere gratitude of blind persons resident in the surrounding districts. For many years they entertained the blind annually, and in spite of the war their generous practice continued. During each summer of 1940 and 1941 they gave a garden party to about 200 blind persons and guides in the grounds of their home.

A proportion of the collections made in the area by the National Institute for the Blind is allocated to the Northumberland County Blind Persons Trust Fund for social welfare purposes in the County. From this Fund a grant to each voluntary society is made, the amounts being in accordance with the number of blind persons resident in the respective districts. The Council makes a grant to the Trust Fund to bring the total receipts up to an amount which is equivalent to £1 per blind person on the Register at the end of the financial year. The amounts received from the National Institute for the Blind during 1940 and 1941 were £404 1s. 10d. and £489 2s. 6d. respectively.



*Library for the Blind.*

Books were supplied by the National Library for the Blind at Manchester. In 1940, 52 readers borrowed 1,278 volumes, while in 1941, 52 readers borrowed 1,583 volumes.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

1940 AND 1941.

## CASUALTY SERVICES.

During the two years 1940 and 1941 the County Casualty Services were called into action on several occasions following enemy action. Incidents occurred in various parts of the County. The First Aid Posts, First Aid Parties and Ambulance Services all functioned very commendably. Co-operation between the services was good as were also arrangements for transporting casualties to hospital.

It is regretted that two volunteers lost their lives and a number of others received injuries, due to enemy action, while on duty rendering assistance in a neighbouring County Borough.

## FIRST AID POSTS.

Following upon inspections of Aid Posts by Officers of the Ministry of Health, alterations and improvements were agreed upon, with the object of providing better protection and also of improving the working arrangements at a number of posts. These were duly carried out.

*Blyth.*—As a result of these inspections, the Ministry of Health recommended the transference of the Fixed Aid Post at Wellington House to other premises. The new St. Wilfrid's School at Blyth was finally chosen in order that the Post might be combined with a new Special Cleansing Centre. The necessary adaptations and alterations were put in hand and were nearing completion by the end of 1941.

*Bedlington U.D.*—The Ministry of Health also recommended the replacement of the fixed First Aid Post at the Welfare Centre, Guide Post, by a Mobile Aid Post. This arrangement was completed in February, 1941. The number of Mobile Aid Posts in the County was thus increased to eight.

The following tables shew the position of the First Aid Post Services in the County for the years ending December, 1940, and December, 1941 :—

*First Aid Post Services.*

	1940.	1941.
Fixed First Aid Posts ... ..	38	37
Mobile First Aid Posts...	7	8
Separate Gas Cleansing Centres ... ..	—	1
Mobile Gas Cleansing Units ... ..	—	6

*Personnel available for duty with above Services.*

	1940.			1941.		
	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Whole-time paid ...	84	198	282	92	207	299
Part-time unpaid ...	295	1,159	1,454	217	1,372	1,589
	<u>379</u>	<u>1,357</u>	<u>1,736</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,888</u>



### GAS CLEANSING FACILITIES.

During the Ministry Inspection of First Aid Posts, particular attention was paid to the cleansing facilities provided at the Posts, and on the 30th December, 1940, the Ministry of Health issued Circular 2241, which laid down a standard of provision for dealing with gas contaminated casualties and a plan illustrating a model cleansing unit. The main provisions were to ensure the sealing off of the undressing and dressing rooms from the cleansing room to prevent the spread of gas vapour. Adaptations and improvements of existing facilities were undertaken and carried out to conform as far as possible to this standard.

In February, 1941, the Ministry of Health recommended the provision of cleansing facilities on a more elaborate scale in certain "Special Localities," i.e., areas where considerable numbers of the public are likely to be out of doors, e.g., shopping, market and business centres and the neighbourhood of rail and road transport termini. These special centres are designed to permit the cleansing of at least 150 uninjured gas contaminated persons in half-an-hour. One such centre was authorised for each of the following "Special Localities": Ashington, Whitley and Monkseaton, Morpeth, Berwick-on-Tweed, Gosforth, Blyth and Wallsend. It was decided to establish a separate special cleansing centre at Wallsend in the Public Baths. In the remaining areas alterations to existing centres at First Aid Posts, to meet the required standard, were approved and carried out.

### MOBILE GAS CLEANSING UNITS.

In June, 1941, the Council accepted responsibility for six Mobile Gas Cleansing Units. These units are intended to supplement public cleansing centres in areas which are particularly vulnerable. The unit consists of a water tank, boiler, six showers, and surrounding screens. It is carried on a lorry and is capable of being set up at short notice. Each unit requires a staff of eight, including the driver. The units were allocated to Berwick, Blyth, Gosforth, Newburn, Wallsend and Whitley Bay and were received on September 15th, 1941.

A proposal to allocate a further nine Mobile Gas Cleansing Units to the County was received from the Senior Regional Officer, Ministry of Health, on December 9th, 1941, and it was agreed to accept responsibility for these.

### FIRST AID POINTS.

Ministry of Health authority was given in a letter dated 18th November, 1940, for the existing establishment of 41 First Aid Points for the County to be increased by three additional Points to be established at Gilsland, Radcliffe and Shilbottle.

As requested by the Ministry of Health Regional Office Circular 106, of June 14th, 1941, a review of First Aid Points was carried out with a view to upgrading Points situated in the more vulnerable rural and semi-rural areas.

On August 30th, 1941, authority was given for the establishment of an official First Aid Point in each of the villages of Embleton, Togston, Stannington and Stamfordham.

On November 14th, 1941, the Ministry approved the upgrading of ten existing First Aid Points, the establishment and upgrading of a Point at Eglington and the transfer and upgrading of an existing Point from Ford to Milfield.



At the request of the Military Authorities a First Aid Point was established at Low Brunton, Wall.

First Aid Points throughout the County now numbered :—

12 Upgraded First Aid Points.  
38 Ordinary First Aid Points.

The limiting upgrading which was permitted allowed for the installation of water and some simple means of heating, the provision of black-out and an additional supply of equipment.

Doctors were appointed to each upgraded First Aid Point, fees to be paid for attendance on a sessional basis.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

<i>Vehicles.</i>	1940.	1941.
Ambulances—Whole-time...	89	95
Part-time ...	75	72

#### *Cars for Sitting Cases.*

Whole-time...	16	21
Part-time ...	325	253

	1940.			1941.		
<i>Personnel.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Whole-time paid ...	58	49	107	58	55	113
Part-time unpaid ...	296	302	598	309	288	597
	<u>354</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>705</u>	<u>367</u>	<u>343</u>	<u>710</u>

The number of County-owned Ambulances was 67 and this was supplemented by loans and gifts bringing the total numbers up to 89 and 95 respectively. Similarly in the case of Sitting Case Cars, the number owned by the County was 6, being supplemented by loans and gifts up to 16 and 21.

#### *Repair Depots.*

Central Depots for the repair and maintenance of casualty vehicles were established at Blyth, Ashington and Newburn.

#### *Detached Ambulances in Rural Areas.*

The question of the movement of detached Ambulances to deal with cases of extreme urgency in rural areas was considered, and it was recommended that in cases where the life of a patient was in danger, the person in charge of a detached Ambulance which had been called to the scene, should proceed immediately on his own initiative to the scene of the incident, provided that neither an air raid warning nor an actual air raid was in progress at the time. The Local Controller was to be informed as soon as possible after the patient had been dealt with. During an alert or an actual air raid vehicles must not be moved without the permission of the Local Controller.

#### *Detraining of Convoys.*

Convoys of wounded were detrained on two occasions in the County area in 1940. These occasions were the first in which the Casualty Services had had experience of dealing with large numbers of actual casualties, and the personnel and vehicles involved in the work all functioned admirably.



### TRAINING OF RESCUE PARTIES IN FIRST AID.

In accordance with the Ministry of Home Security Circular No. 49/1941, which advised the training of Rescue Parties in First Aid, classes were arranged throughout the County by the District Medical Officers, and the training was duly carried out.

In June, 1941, a series of special weekly courses was arranged by the Regional Training Officer of the Ministry of Home Security for the training of Rescue and First Aid Party Leaders and Deputy Leaders in Rescue and First Aid. Courses were held at Newington Road Depot, Newcastle, and were well attended.

### EMERGENCY HOSPITALS.

The Ministry of Health Regional Hospital Officer was responsible for the organisation of the Emergency Hospital Scheme. Group Officers acted as agents for the Hospital Officer.

Late in 1941 the County Medical Officer was appointed Group Officer for the following group of hospitals :—

<i>Hospitals.</i>	<i>Grade.</i>
Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital ... ..	1A
Preston Emergency Hospital ... ..	1A
Victoria Jubilee Infirmary ... ..	1A
Alnwick Infirmary... ..	1B
Ashington Hospital ... ..	1B
Berwick Infirmary... ..	1B
Berwick P.A.I. ... ..	2
Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Blyth ... ..	1B
Hexham Emergency Hospital ... ..	1A
Ponteland Emergency Hospital ... ..	2
Northumberland Mental Hospital, Morpeth ... ..	2
Wooley Sanatorium ... ..	—

#### *Suspended Hospitals.*

Straker Cottage Hospital... ..	1B
Morpeth Cottage Hospital ... ..	1B
Wallsend Infirmary ... ..	1B
Coquetdale Cottage Hospital ... ..	2
Alnwick P.A.I. ... ..	2
Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital ... ..	2
Hexham War Memorial Hospital ... ..	1B
Rothbury P.A.I., Silverton House ... ..	2

In addition, Auxiliary Hospitals for the reception of sick and convalescent service cases were established at :—

Ford Castle, Callaly Castle, Howick Hall and Pallinsburn.

### EVACUATION OF HOSPITALS.

A scheme for the evacuation of hospitals, in the event of emergency, was prepared by the Ministry of Health. Medical Officers were appointed to act as Entraining Officers, as and when required, for the entraining or detraining of casualties at specified points in the County.



## MOBILE SURGICAL TEAMS.

A comprehensive scheme was prepared for the provision of Mobile Surgical Teams who would be able to proceed, in cases of emergency, to heavily blitzed areas requiring their services. Teams were to be drawn from various hospitals in the County and special teams were prepared to operate for thoracic, general and orthopaedic, ophthalmic and throat, nose and ear work.

## HEXHAM AND PONTELAND EMERGENCY HOSPITALS.

In connection with the Emergency Hospital Scheme at the commencement of hostilities, cases in the Hexham and Ponteland P.A. Institutions, who could not be sent home, were transferred to other institutions, and a number of patients were transferred from Newcastle General Hospital and Elswick Grange, Newcastle, to Hexham and Ponteland.

The accommodation was earmarked primarily for the reception and treatment both of casualties and of civilian sick, but arrangements were made for the admission of Public Assistance cases up to a maximum of 42 cases at Hexham, while Ponteland could receive up to 30 cases.

Certain works of adaptation were carried out at Ponteland and hutments were erected at Hexham. Fourteen hutments were erected early in 1940. Accommodation at the end of 1941 was: Hexham 440 beds, Ponteland 97 beds.

The first convoy of overseas casualties, consisting of 269 cases, 100 of whom were stretcher cases, was received at Hexham on 1st July, 1940. On the 18th November, 1940, a convoy of 114 sick children was transferred to Hexham from various hospitals in the Tyneside area.

In June, 1941, the hospital became a Regional Orthopaedic Centre, following upon the transference of patients and staff from Stannington Emergency Hospital.

Ponteland Hospital dealt with a number of convalescent Service patients transferred from Shotley Bridge and other centres. This hospital accommodates sick and convalescent cases from hospitals better equipped for dealing with surgical and more urgent cases.

*Personnel.*

The Medical Staff at Hexham consisted originally of four House Officers, two of whom were loaned from the Newcastle General Hospital, and who were later recalled to their own hospital.

Miss N. C. Chinnery Brown was appointed Matron. The nursing staff was increased as the necessity arose. In view of the development of this hospital it was later decided to appoint a Medical Superintendent to take over the administration. Dr. H. W. Bruce was appointed to this position on 16th July, 1941, with the approval of the Regional Hospital Officer.

At Ponteland Emergency Hospital, Miss C. I. Cargill was appointed Matron. The medical supervision of the patients remained in the hands of Dr. J. H. Nicholson, who was able to call upon visiting consultants as required.



## CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

The Civil Nursing Reserve continues to be administered by the County Medical Officer as the Executive Officer for the Northumberland Local Emergency Organisation, and the expenditure incurred in connection with the administration is subject to reimbursement in full by the Ministry of Health.

The executive work of the Central Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession, which Committee was responsible for the formation of the Civil Nursing Reserve in 1939, was transferred to the Ministry of Health in January, 1940. At that time, the Minister of Health appointed a Regional Nursing Officer in each of the Civil Defence Regions. The Officer for this Region is Miss B. G. Allardes, who is attached to the Ministry's Regional Staff. Previous to the appointment of the Regional Nursing Officer, the posting of mobile and immobile members had been the responsibility of the Local Emergency Organisation. From May, 1940, the posting of mobile members was taken over by Miss Allardes, but immobile members continue to be posted by the Local Emergency Organisation.

In April, 1941, on account of the call-up of women by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the Ministry of Health announced that, in general, only applications for enrolment from trained and assistant nurses who were prepared to offer mobile service in hospitals would be considered and that applicants for training as nursing auxiliaries must be prepared to serve in any hospital in England or Wales. Trained nurses, who were obliged to limit their service to certain districts on account of home ties, could still be enrolled, provided early use could be made of their services. Existing members of the Civil Nursing Reserve continue to give service at First Aid Posts.

From April, 1941, women registering for National Service who chose nursing as their war work were referred to the Local Emergency Organisation, who are required to notify the Ministry of Labour and National Service of the acceptance or rejection of those referred, and, in the case of those accepted and enrolled, to notify the Ministry of Labour and National Service if at any time these members resign from the Civil Nursing Reserve. All those applicants referred by the Ministry of Labour and National Service are interviewed by a member of the County Medical Officer's staff, as are all other applicants for training and enrolment.

At this time, the Ministry of Health decided that all nursing auxiliaries, with certain exceptions, should receive a fortnight's intensive course in hospital instead of the course, consisting of lectures in first aid and home nursing and 50 hours' practical experience in hospital, given hitherto. The latter course is still open to nursing auxiliaries recruited by the British Red Cross Society or St. John Ambulance Brigade who are above or below the ages at which women are registering for National Service and who prefer to take this course. Arrangements were made with the Newcastle Local Emergency Organisation for Northumberland candidates to undertake this training at the Newcastle General Hospital and the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

At the end of 1940 and 1941 the registered members of the Civil Nursing Reserve numbered 933 and 1,195 respectively, made up as follows:—

1940.		1941.	
Trained Nurses ...	136	Trained Nurses...	126
Assistant Nurses ...	109	Assistant Nurses ...	111
Nursing Auxiliaries ...	688	Nursing Auxiliaries ...	958



## MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CASES.

The Health Visitors have continued to visit mentally defective persons under guardianship during the years 1940 and 1941.

The following table indicates the work done during these years :—

	1940.	1941.
Number of Cases at 1st January ... ..	105	115
Number of New Cases during the year ...	17	10
Number of Cases removed from Guardianship, admitted to Institutions or died during the year ... ..	7	8
Number of Cases at 31st December...	115	117
Number of Visits made by Health Visitors during the year ... ..	389	425

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