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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL


ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**THE COUNTY
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1967



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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**THE COUNTY
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1967

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1967

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. J. G. M. HEPPELL

Vice-Chairman :

Alderman A. BRIGGS, O.B.E.

Aldermen :

ALLAN, Mrs. M.	LANGMAN, Mrs. C.
BROTHERTON, J.	ORDE, Mrs. C. L.
DAWSON, D., O.B.E.	PHILLIPS, J., D.C.M.
FLEMING, Miss M. E. S.	RICHARDSON, Mrs. J.
GARROW, Sir NICHOLAS, O.B.E.	SHARP, Mrs. J.
GRAY, J.	

Councillors :

APPLEBY, W.	McFADYEN, J. A.
BOND, Mrs. S. G.	McNEIL, Mrs. M., M.B.E.
CARR, Mrs. C.	MOORE, J. S.
CHAPMAN, S.	PERCY, Mrs. A.
CHARTRES, R. A. H.	STEPHENSON, Mrs. E. M.
DIXON, N. J.	SUMMERS, Mrs. L. M.
EASTON, T.	SUTHERLAND, Lady MARGARET
GIBSON, G. W.	TATE, Mrs. J.
HOPPER, Mrs. E., C.B.E.	TOWERS, Mrs. A. E. M.
HORN, T.	WYLIE, Mrs. M. E.
JOHNSTON, A. R.	

Co-opted Members :

BIRKETT, J.	SLACK, W. RENTON B.
PAULIN, Mrs. J. S. C.	WAKE, Mrs. A., M.B.E.
SIMPSON-BRASS, Dr. A. McK.	

Ex-Officio Members :

Alderman The Right Hon. VISCOUNT RIDLEY, T.D., D.L. (Chairman of the Council).

Alderman G. R. WARDLE (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Councillor S. T. PICKUP (Chairman of the Finance Committee).

Standing Sub-Committees :

Finance and General Purposes

Midwifery, General Nursing and Child Care

Mental Health

Ambulance Services

Area Health Sub-Committees (8)

Management Sub-Committee of Old Persons Homes (5)

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer	J. B. Tilley, O.B.E., M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer ..	W. Minns, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer for Child Health and Medical Supervisor of Midwives	Doris Story, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Senior School Medical Officer	Sybil A. B. Ward, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., (Commenced 1/8/67)
Area Executive Medical Officers—	
North 1 and 2 Areas	J. McCormack, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 18/6/67) I. G. P. Fraser, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 1/7/67)
Central Area	Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
East Area	A. Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
South Area	H. C. T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
South East Area	A. W. Hay, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Wallsend Area	G. M. Cubie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
West Area	J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
County Welfare Officer	D. N. Holt
Administrative Assistant	E. W. Woodcock
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer	Lilian F. White, M.B., B.S. (Commenced 1/1/67)
Assistant County Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) ..	Margaret Jordon, M.B., B.S. Anna M. Reid, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Blanche Sykes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. *Frances A. Potter, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Assistant School Medical Officer	Marion Harrison, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
School Medical Officers	Anne Carruthers, M.B., B.S. *R. T. G. Craig, M.B., B.S. Mary J. Danskin, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. *Nest David, M.B., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G., B.Sc. (Commenced 13/2/67) F. W. Fordyce, M.B., B.S. Sheila Haigh, M.B., Ch.B. (Commenced 1/1/67) (Resigned 18/7/67) J. F. Mather, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H. Margaret H. McKeith, M.B., B.S. *Beatrice M. Noble, M.B., B.S. R. B. Smith, M.B., Ch.B.
Chest Physicians*	J. M. Gilmore, M.D., D.P.H. J. R. Lauckner, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S. A. R. Somner, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. C. Verity, M.D., D.P.H. F. L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Staff of the Health Department—continued.

Principal Dental Officer	A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
Deputy Principal Dental Officer	T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
Orthodontist	G. W. Pettigrew, L.D.S., D.D.O.
Dental Officers	I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.
	M. S. Baglee, B.D.S.
	P. R. A. Bennett, B.D.S.
	(Commenced 1/9/67)
	C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
	H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
	A. J. J. Cooper, B.D.S.
	(Commenced 15/5/67)
	(Resigned 30/11/67)
	Sheila M. Crute, B.D.S.
	Wilma S. Drury, L.D.S.
	R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
	R. M. Foulds, L.D.S.
	(Resigned 31/1/67)
	Margaret P. Furness, B.D.S.
	Helen C. Gent, B.D.S.
	P. S. Hagyard, B.D.S.
	(Resigned 31/12/67)
	T. D. Harrison, B.D.S.
	(Commenced 1/2/67)
	J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
	J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
	Margaret I. Lamb, L.D.S.
	G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
	T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
	Patricia Nicholson, L.D.S.
	(Commenced 1/2/67)
	C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
	W. Robson, L.D.S.
	S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
	E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
	Olive I. Wears, B.D.S.
	R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
	Shirley E. Williams, L.D.S.
Dental Auxiliary	Miss S. Weatherill
County Nursing Officer	Yvette Esme Buckoke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Nursing Admin. (Public Health) Cert.
Deputy County Nursing Officer (Midwifery and Nursing)	Mary Gilliland, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
	(Retired 13/2/67)
Area Nursing Officers	Noel Cowley, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Part I), H.V. Cert.
	(Commenced 1/1/67)
	Sheila N. Lockey, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Nursing Admin. Cert. (Edin. Univ.)
	(Commenced 1/7/67)
	Gladys Saint, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
	(Commenced 1/1/67)
Health Visitors	95
Midwives	21
District Nurse/Midwives	53
District Nurses	52
Total Community Nursing Staff	221

Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Social Worker .. .. .	..	..	..	Dorothy L. Dunn
County Health Inspector .. .. .	..	..	..	D. Lister, Cert. S.I.B., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.
Ambulance Officer .. .. .	..	..	..	H. Wade
Deputy Ambulance Officer .. .. .	..	..	..	G. S. Watt
Station Officers .. .. .	..	..	..	12
Ambulance Drivers .. .. .	..	..	..	128
Senior Mental Welfare Officer .. .. .	..	..	..	L. Armstrong
Mental Welfare Officers .. .. .	..	..	..	S. Atkinson (Resigned 19/11/67) W. C. Elliott G. T. Harrison J. E. Kendall T. Pattie W. R. Pringle J. J. D. Richardson R. Tebble C. I. Vass J. E. Walker
Welfare Assistant .. .. .	..	..	..	Maud Winters
Supervisors of Training Centres—				
Alnwick .. .. .	..	..	..	G. Cummings, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Ashington .. .. .	..	..	..	Nancy E. Anderson, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Bedlington .. .. .	..	..	..	Margaret Fisher, R.M.P.A.
Berwick .. .. .	..	..	..	Alfreda M. Small, Dip.N.A.M.H.
Hexham .. .. .	..	..	..	Margaret Usher, Cert. Teacher, M.H.
Prudhoe .. .. .	..	..	..	Margaret Tulip, R.M.P.A.
Wallsend .. .. .	..	..	..	G. Sanderson, Dip.N.A.M.H., R.M.P.A.
Industrial Units :				
Blyth (Manager) .. .. .	..	..	..	W. R. Barnes, Dip.N.A.M.H., S.E.N.
Willington Quay (Senior Instructor)				J. A. McDonald, Cert. Teacher, M.H.
Home Help Organisers .. .. .	..	..	..	Rose A. Atkinson Mary J. W. Beal Jean R. Mitchell (Resigned 31/5/67) Mary Murphy Marion Ritchie (Commenced 4/9/67)
Home Helps .. .. .	..	..	..	1,054
Chiropodists .. .. .	..	..	..	*Mavis Charlton (nee Jackson), M.Ch.S., (Resigned 30/9/67) *Laura T. Clarke, L.Ch. (Commenced 6/2/67) Robert J. Falkous, L.Ch. J. Flynn, L.Ch., H.Ch.D. *Mary M. C. Kerr, M.Ch.S. *Claudine D. Kyffin, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 17/11/67) Sheila Redfearn, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 31/7/67) *Barbara A. Vernon, M.Ch.S. Susan G. Watson, S.R.Ch. Beatrice M. Wharton, M.Ch.S. (Commenced 1/9/67) Heather Wolters (nee Gale), A.Ch.S.

Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Supervisor of Welfare of the				Eileen Metcalfe, H.T. Cert.
Handicapped . . . . .	..	..	..	Joan Duell, H.T. Cert.
Social Welfare Officers of the Blind . .	..	..	..	Jane T. Hogarth, H.T. Cert.
				Isobel M. Kay, H.T. Cert.
				Hilary G. Loten, H.T. Cert.
				*Mary Marshall, H.T. Cert.
				Margaret McGuire, H.T. Cert.
				Joyce H. I. Thompson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Visitor for Physically				
Handicapped . . . . .	..	..	..	M. Winifred Patterson, H.T. Cert.
Welfare Assistants . . . . .	..	..	..	Lillias Deagle
				Pauline Farries
				(Commenced 1/5/67)
				Joan C. Lamb
				Pamela A. Thew
				(Resigned 19/3/67)
Handicraft Instructors . . . . .	..	..	..	Gertrude M. Atchison
				(Commenced 19/6/67)
				Maureen M. F. Bainbridge
				*Margaret J. H. Cadzow, M.A.O.T.
				*Rachel Darling, M.A.O.T.
				Elizabeth Garbutt
				Evelyn M. Hall
				Sylvia A. Maw
				(Resigned 19/6/67)
Superintendents and/or Matrons of				
Welfare Homes—				
Essendene, Ashington . . . . .	..	..	..	Marguerite M. Barnfather
Bell View, Belford . . . . .	..	..	..	Annie Barrs
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth . . . . .	..	..	..	Phyllis M. Dickson
Cowpen House, Blyth . . . . .	..	..	..	Beatrice I. Colvin
Doxford Hall, Chathill . . . . .	..	..	..	Dorrien Shirran, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Greenholme, Haltwhistle . . . . .	..	..	..	R. M. Costelloe and Mary C. Costelloe
				(Retired 31/12/67)
Nicholas Garrow Home, Hepscott . .	..	..	..	Mary E. Mattison
Haining Croft, Hexham . . . . .	..	..	..	Marion J. Hay
Merley Croft, Morpeth . . . . .	..	..	..	Eleanor N. Thompson, S.E.N.
Northfield, Morpeth . . . . .	..	..	..	W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Springfield, Morpeth . . . . .	..	..	..	do. do.
Priorsdale, Newcastle . . . . .	..	..	..	Isabella J. McGarrigle, S.E.N.
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington				W. J. Minter and Mary Minter, S.R.N.
Tynedale, Wallsend . . . . .	..	..	..	Mary N. Roche, R.M.P.A.
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth	J. C. Cooke and Megan Cooke, S.E.N.
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay	Lucy Whiteman, S.E.N.

* Part-time

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman,

This report on the health and health services of the county contains among the statistics which are used to measure standards some highly significant figures. For the first time no death was recorded which was attributable to childbirth, the stillbirth rate was the lowest ever recorded and the infant mortality the second lowest ever. Comparison with the rates for England and Wales shewed the county record to be better than the national rates for stillbirths, perinatal mortality and infant mortality. Each of these features must be regarded as the satisfactory outcome of the high standard of care for expectant mothers and for babies which has been achieved.

A perhaps less satisfactory feature was the continued decline in the birth rate to the lowest level ever recorded. The significance of the low infant mortality rate is seen when it is realised that it is only a third of what it was when the previous lowest birth rate was recorded nearly 30 years ago.

The number of births was 121 less than the year before and nearly a thousand less than five years ago. No less than 90.5% of these babies were born in hospital. The effects of these changes are reflected in the services provided in the community and the report refers to the reduction in the number of midwives employed by my department. In contrast with this the work of the home nurses increased considerably and staff increases were necessary. The attachment of home nurses and health visitors to general practices to work closely with the family doctors has proved to be of great value and the report refers to the expansion of the scheme which occurred during the year ; this form of working now involves about half of the health visitors and a third of the home nurses. Investigations are being made at the present time into the further extension of these arrangements and I can foresee closer contacts between the community nursing service and the hospitals in the future. This development in the community services allows for better and fuller use of professional time and is of undoubted benefit to the people of the county.

Progress was maintained with the building programme and three new clinics were opened during the year. Although 93% of the babies born during the year attended the child health clinics, the clinic premises are by no means used solely for this purpose. A large number of family doctors see their ante-natal patients in these premises and see patients for cervical cytology in connection with the prevention of cancer. The part that the medical staff of the department play in this latter field has grown, but the overall use made by women of this service declined slightly during the

year and efforts are needed to bring the importance of this preventive measure strongly to the notice of the women of the county. The use of the premises for family planning clinics is now considerable and the establishment of four new clinics brought the total to fourteen. There has been a fourfold increase in the department's work in this field in five years. In addition to these services the premises are used for the dental service, for health education, for chiropody, speech therapy and for consultant clinics in orthopaedics, mental health and refractions. Furthermore some of the premises are used for remedial teaching by the school psychological service. The value of the provision of adequate premises to meet all of these needs cannot be doubted.

The decline in the infectious diseases tends to divert attention from the work which keeps these diseases at bay, yet a very large amount of work is carried out each year by the family doctors and the doctors of the department to ensure that the protection of the children of the county is maintained. In this field of preventive medicine not least important is protection against tuberculosis and during the year some 6,000 children were vaccinated with BCG, nearly all by the school doctors. No fewer than 71,000 children have been protected since the scheme started and this must have played a considerable part in the great improvement that has occurred in childhood tuberculosis in recent years.

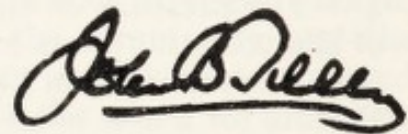
The pressure on the Welfare Homes continued and at the end of the year there was an appreciable waiting list for admission. No new accommodation came into use, but progress was made with the site for a new home : work on this home was commenced early in 1968. The District Councils prepared additional schemes for housing for old people with special welfare facilities, and these will play a very great part in improving the provisions for the elderly in the county when they come into operation for those that are operating at present have proved most successful.

The new Industrial Unit in Blyth for subnormal adults was opened in May by Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health. This large unit for the employment and training of both men and women is built in an industrial estate and is the latest development in the steadily expanding mental health service. The transfer of the industrial unit in Wallsend to larger premises made possible a further increase in the numbers in training and the extension of a special care unit for severely handicapped subnormal children. The number of individuals attending training centres has increased by nearly 50% in five years. The amount of work in the community undertaken by the staff of the department was greater than ever before and it is worthy of note that the number of visits to the mentally ill has increased by 66% in five years. This increase must be expected to continue and the Council's plans allow for staff increases to meet the expansion of all forms of community care for mental health.

The pattern of previous years of continued expansion of many of the services for the community which are provided by the Council under the National Health Service Act was continued in 1967. The record numbers carried by the ambulances, the record number of patients treated by the chiropodists, and the record number of households assisted by the home helps all serve to indicate how the services expand to meet the needs of the population. These increases in the volume of the work are only met by the unremitting efforts of the staff in all sections, and the fact that the establishment of the department was maintained and that recruitment was generally satisfactory are I believe evidence of the success of those in administrative charge of the sections in the guidance and support they give to their staff.

The smooth working of the community services which touch at one point or another the lives of many thousands of individuals in the county in the course of the year depends on the care devoted to the work by all of the staff in the department and I am indebted to them all. I am most grateful to the members of the Health Committee for their interest and encouragement and I would express my special thanks to the Chairman of the Committee for her support throughout the year.

I am Sir, Your Obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. B. Rees', with a stylized flourish at the end.

County Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY HALL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE1 1SA,
Telephone : Newcastle 29181.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1967

VITAL STATISTICS

Population	504,200
Live Births—	
Number	7,440
Rate per 1,000 population	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	6.0
Still Births—	
Number	105
Rate per thousand total live and still births	13.9
Total live and still births	7,545
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	131
Infant mortality rates—	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	17.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	20.1
Neo natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	12.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	10.4
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	24.12
Maternal mortality (including abortion)—	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

Population

The population of the administrative county increased by 2,820 to 504,200. Natural increase accounted for 1,578 and the remainder represents inward migration. The increase in population has not been uniform throughout the county : in the last 5 years the population of Castle Ward Rural District has increased by 23% and that of Newburn by 10%, but in 3 boroughs and 8 county districts there has been a slight decrease.

Birth Rate

For the fifth successive year the birth rate was reduced and it fell to 14.76 per 1,000 population, which was the lowest figure ever recorded in the county. The birth rate for England and Wales declined but at 17.2 remained higher than that for the county. The number of babies born was 7,440, which was nearly 1,000 less than in 1963.

Infant Mortality Rate

The number of infants who died before they reached their first birthday was 131, which was 21 less than in the previous year. The infant mortality rate fell to 17.61 per 1,000 live births which was lower than any year except 1965 : the rate was lower than that for England and Wales for the third time in the last 5 years.

General Death Rate

The general death rate was reduced to 11.63 per 1,000 population which was the lowest recorded since 1959. The rate remained higher than that for England and Wales.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY

The total number of deaths from all causes was 5,862. The chief causes are shown in the following table :—

	Number of Deaths		
	1967	1966	1965
Heart Disease :—			
Coronary Disease, Angina ..	1403	1332	1370
Hypertension with Heart Disease	67	87	86
Other	641	669	665
	— 2111	— 2088	— 2121
Malignant Neoplasm :—			
Stomach	130	141	159
Lung, Bronchus	273	270	247
Breast	79	88	84
Uterus	41	38	41
Other	481	536	541
	— 1004	— 1073	— 1072
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	999	1023	1048
Bronchitis	292	316	338
Pneumonia	227	343	284
Motor Vehicle and other Accidents	229	256	237
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	238	252	256
	5,100	5,351	5,356

There were no major changes in the mortality figures. Although the number of deaths from coronary disease and angina pectoris was greater than the year before it was not a large increase and the figures generally continue the trend of mortality being attributable to the degenerative conditions associated with old age. The slight welcome decrease in the cancer death rate was not significant though it indicated that the rising trend of this rate is not a rapid one.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no case of diphtheria, poliomyelitis, smallpox or ophthalmia neonatorum notified during the year. The number of cases of measles notified was again high and as vaccination against measles is about to start it is expected that this will be the last large notification of measles in the county. There were 225 cases of dysentery in Ashington Urban District but this was a mild form of the disease and there was nothing significant to report. There was no epidemic of food poisoning during the year and 11 cases occurred sporadically in five districts.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. C. H. Cooksley, the Chief Constable, has kindly forwarded me his annual report and from it I have extracted the following facts about road accidents :—

For the second year running the number of accidents decreased as did the number of persons killed. There were 5,627 accidents and the details of the 74 persons killed are as follows :—

(a) Children under 15	Pedestrians	5	8
	Passengers in cars	2	
	Pedal cyclists	1	
(b) Adults 15 to 60 years	Drivers	13	43
	Passengers in vehicles	11	
	Pedestrians	11	
	Motor cycle riders	4	
	Pedal cyclists	3	
	Others	1	
(c) Adults over 60 years	Pedestrians	12	23
	Passengers in vehicles	9	
	Drivers	1	
	Pedal cyclists	1	

Some progress was made to improvements to the new Coast Road during the year but it was not completed and the accident figures show no improvement from the previous year. Similarly the A1 trunk road between the city boundary and Seaton Burn was responsible for over 260 accidents and four people were killed and until such time as the dual carriageway on the Coast Road and the approach roads from the Tyne Tunnel to the A1 at Seaton Burn are completed I see no chance of any lessening of the number of accidents on these two roads.

There was a change in the law in October following the passing of the Road Safety Act, 1967. Breathalyser and Blood Testing kits were issued to the police and were brought into use in October. In previous reports reference has been made to the number of accidents occurring after 10.00 p.m. and it may be significant that these decreased considerably in the last three months of the year, while during the Christmas holiday only 22 people were injured compared with 50 last year.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

Co-operation with hospital and family doctor services

The report refers in several sections to the co-operation between the Council's services and the hospital and general practitioner services, but it is perhaps useful to bring together all the facts upon which the references are based. The following list sets out the main areas of co-operation between the services :

127 family doctors see their ante-natal patients in the county clinics assisted by the department's midwives and health visitors ;

10 health visitors and 12 midwives attend ante-natal clinics in practitioners' premises ;

1 health visitor attends a child welfare session in practitioner's premises ; (In addition 3 health visitors attend in surgeries where a fee is paid by the County Council to the general practitioner for the use of his premises) ;

43 family doctors attend county clinics, 3 of which are held in general practice premises ;

80 family doctors carry out cervical smears in county clinics ;
46 health visitors and 45 district nurses are attached to general practices ;

5 consultant orthopaedic surgeons conduct clinics for children in 8 county premises ;

6 consultant ophthalmologists conduct eye sessions in 24 county clinics ;

2 consultant psychiatrists hold sessions for subnormals in county clinics ;

1 consultant psychiatrist holds outpatient sessions in a county clinic.

In addition hospitals have direct contact with district nurses, health visitors and midwives and the mental welfare officers have regular consultation and instruction sessions in the psychiatric hospitals.

These facts and figures give only a bare outline of the co-operation of the county services with the other branches of the National Health Service, and cannot show the high level of co-operation which has been achieved.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

(Dr. D. STORY)

Notification and Registration of Births

The live birth rate again showed a fall from 15.1 to 14.8 per thousand population and the total births registered fell from 7,561 to 7,440. The birth rate for England and Wales was 17.2 compared with an adjusted rate for the County of 14.8 per thousand population.

Notified births numbered 7,247 and 6,555 of these, 90.5% took place in hospital. This is an increase in hospital deliveries of 3.3% in the year.

Still Births

The still birth rate showed a considerable fall from 16.8 to 13.9 per thousand registered births. This was the lowest rate ever recorded in the county and was lower than the national rate of 14.8 per thousand. Of these 105 still births, 60 were premature.

Premature Births

The incidence of prematurity also fell from 472 to 439 births. This is 5.3% of total births. The number of neo-natal deaths in premature babies born in hospital was 47 out of a total of 350 such births. The following statistics are of interest :—

	1965	1966	1967
Premature births per cent of total births	6.1	6.1	5.8
Premature births per cent of total live births	5.2	5.4	5.1
Premature neo-natal deaths per cent of total neo-natal deaths	54.6	48.0	54.8
Premature still births per cent of total still births	61.6	52.0	57.1
Premature babies survived 4 weeks per cent of total live premature births	87.0	88.0	86.5

Neo-Natal Deaths

The mortality of babies in the first four weeks of life showed a marked fall from 13.49 to 12.5 per thousand live births. This was lower than in any year except 1965.

1963	..	..	14.38
1964	..	..	14.93
1965	..	..	12.07
1966	..	..	13.49
1967	..	..	12.5

It will be seen from the following table that of the 7,440 births, 93 babies died before reaching the age of one month, compared with 102 last year :—

Prematurity	30
Congenital Abnormalities	15
Cerebral Injury	12
Respiratory Distress Syndrome	15
Pneumonia	4
Pulmonary Haemorrhage	3
Meningitis	3
Intestinal Obstruction	2
Renal Failure	1
Vena Caval Thrombosis, Infarcted Kidney	1
Arthrogryposis Multiplex	1
Cystic Hygroma of Neck	1
Fibrocystic Disease of Pancreas	1
Colitis	1
Pulmonary Hypoplasia, Potters Syndrome	1
Respiratory Failure	1
Mediastinal Emphysema	1
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Infant Deaths

The infant mortality rate showed a marked decrease from 20.1 to 17.6, the number of babies dying in their first year being 131 compared with 152 in 1966. It is gratifying to note that this mortality rate is lower than the figure for England and Wales which is 18.3.

	Boroughs and Urban Districts			Rural Districts			Total		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Other infective and parasitic disease	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	3	3
Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Pneumonia	8	3	11	2	—	2	10	3	13
Bronchitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4
Congenital Malformations	12	8	20	4	2	6	16	10	26
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	44	20	64	8	6	14	52	26	78
All other accidents	2	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	3
TOTAL	72	33	105	15	11	26	87	44	131

Illegitimate Births

The total of 7,545 live and still births included 455 which were illegitimate and of these 7 were still born. Illegitimate births have increased to 6.0% of all births compared with 5.1% last year and 4.9% in 1965.

Perinatal Mortality

The perinatal mortality rate is the sum of the early neo-natal deaths plus still births per thousand total births.

There were 77 early neonatal deaths and 105 still births and the resultant perinatal mortality rate is 24.1 compared with 28.1 last year. This is the lowest figure recorded for the county.

The rates in Northumberland over the last five years, compared with the national rate were as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
1963	31.0	29.3
1964	28.5	28.2
1965	27.6	26.9
1966	28.1	26.3
1967	24.1	25.4

Care of Unmarried Mothers

The Newcastle Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare Work continued to arrange for expectant mothers in need of care to be admitted to the Diocesan Home at Elswick Lodge or to other suitable homes in the area, and during the year 60 such cases were dealt with.

VITAL STATISTICS.
Rates for Northumberland compared with England and Wales.

Year	Still Births		Neo Natal Mortality		Early Neo Natal Mortality		Perinatal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality	
	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.
1963	18.5	17.2	14.3	14.3	12.7	14.2	31.0	29.3	20.7	21.1	0.23	0.28
1964	15.9	16.3	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.1	28.5	28.2	20.1	19.9	0.12	0.25
1965	16.9	15.8	12.0	13.0	10.9	11.3	27.6	26.9	16.0	19.0	0.24	0.25
1966	16.8	15.4	13.5	12.9	11.5	11.1	28.1	26.3	20.1	19.0	0.13	0.26
1967	13.9	14.8	12.5	12.5	10.4	10.8	24.1	25.4	17.6	18.3	0.00	0.20

Child Health Clinics

The birth rate in the county continued to fall during 1967 but the numbers attending the clinics remained steady. Of 7,440 born during the year, 6,967 or 93% attended Child Health Clinics for examination. The number of sessions attended by the medical staff of the department were 1727, by general practitioners 1007, and 1793 by other doctors working in child health. Three child health clinics are held in practitioners' surgeries.

In the clinics, the emphasis is now on the developmental examination of children in order to detect any condition which might be a physical handicap to the child. The earlier diagnosis is made and treatment instituted, the better the outlook for the child. Every newborn infant has a phenistix test performed at 10 days and again at six weeks. Ortolani's test for dislocation of the hip is carried out on the first visit and the child is given a hearing test at 7 — 9 months.

Year.	No. of Clinics.	No. of half-day sessions held.	Total No. of children attending.	Total attendances.
1963	93	5,978	30,886	151,297
1964	94	6,120	31,910	161,024
1965	92	6,079	32,219	155,321
1966	89	6,037	31,752	145,168
1967	89	5,922	31,928	140,945

Year of Attendance	Number of children who attended:—		
	Born in years:—		
1966	1966	1965	1961/64
	6,899	7,913	16,940
1967	Born in Years:—		
	1967	1966	1962/65
	6,967	7,267	17,065

During the year new clinics were opened at Lemington, Seaton Sluice and West Wylam. These new premises each provided a centre for greatly improved services for the area. There are now 28 purpose built clinics in use, and 14 clinics in specially adapted premises.

OBSERVATION REGISTER

The register of children born at risk of handicapping conditions has continued throughout the year. It has become apparent that a large percentage of the babies who came within the scope of the original categories have developed normally and that it was necessary to be more selective of "at risk" factors.

After consultation with the maternity hospitals and the paediatricians concerned, the categories of children considered to be "at risk" has been narrowed with a view to giving more detailed examination to this reduced number of children.

During 1967 the names of 1,153 children were included, this being 15.5% of children born during the year. 126 of these children were found to have a defect.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

The scheme, which started in January, 1963, for the notification of congenital abnormalities observable at birth, continued during the year. The names of these children are included in the observation register.

The number of children notified and details of the malformations in children born in 1967 is shown below.

Year	No. of children notified with defects
1964	108
1965	125
1966	74
1967	87

Type of Malformation	No.
Central Nervous System	37
Eye, Ear	2
Alimentary System	30
Heart and great vessels	2
Respiratory system	3
Uro-genital system	5
Limbs	27
Other skeletal	5
Other systems	6
Other malformations	4
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The investigation into leukaemia and childhood cancers directed by Dr. A. Stewart of the Department of Social Medicine at Oxford, was continued. Details of the illnesses of children who have died from such causes are obtained and compared with normal children chosen at random. The survey has now been operating for ten years.

CONSULTANT CLINICS

Ophthalmic and orthopaedic sessions for school children are held in clinic premises and pre-school children who are referred from child health clinics attend these by arrangement.

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
<i>Ophthalmic—</i>					
No. of pre-school children examined	1,493	1,338	1,250	1,325	1,387
No. of spectacles prescribed	252	231	229	236	247
<i>Orthopaedic—</i>					
No. of new cases who attended	908	856	788	949	856
No. of old cases who attended	1,110	988	1,031	1,107	1,519

Speech therapy is also included in the consultant facilities available and this is arranged with the school health service. During the year 60 pre-school children were treated compared with 115 in 1966.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods are on sale at 91 distribution points and, in addition, a postal service is operated from the food store in Gosforth for outlying districts.

The uptake of National Dried Milk and vitamin preparations continues to decline with the exception of orange juice which increases in popularity. Many mothers now prefer to use commercial brands of food for their children, and the consumption of National Dried Milk is very much less than it was.

Year	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamin A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
	Tins	Bottles	Packets	Bottles
1963	102,136	11,467	11,209	121,802
1964	85,922	10,554	10,645	128,632
1965	78,828	9,466	9,297	139,341
1966	60,943	9,441	8,861	155,087
1967	54,572	8,360	7,199	159,041

Ante-Natal Clinics

The ante-natal clinics throughout the county are carried out by 127 general practitioners who see patients in local authority clinics where they work in co-operation with the midwife and health visitor. Ten health visitors and 12 midwives attend ante-natal clinics in practitioners' premises. The fall in the number of expectant mothers who attended reflects the fall in the birth rate.

Year	No. of Expectant Mothers Attending	Total No. of Attendances
1963	7,260	35,226
1964	7,423	37,883
1965	7,265	36,973
1966	6,831	35,321
1967	6,628	33,231

The following numbers of post-natal examinations were also carried out.

Year	Number of Mothers Attending
1963	2,705
1964	2,777
1965	2,804
1966	3,112
1967	2,839

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers were held in 26 clinics. These classes have been run by physiotherapists where possible or by midwives and health visitors. 1,298 mothers attended 1,157 sessions. They made 8,298 attendances as shown in the table on page 88.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINICS

The work of these clinics continued to increase during the year, showing that there is a need for this type of service. An increased number of sessions was held in existing clinics and new clinics were opened in Bedlington Station, Chapel House, Fordley and Morpeth. The growth of this service is shown by comparing the present figures with those of five years ago when there were only 79 half day sessions and 621 attendances.

CLINIC	No. of Attendances			No. of Half-Day Sessions		
	YEARS					
	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967
Acklington	—	18	44	—	9	12
Alnwick	132	130	131	29	25	25
*Bedlington Station	—	—	67	—	—	14
*Chapel House ..	—	—	126	—	—	24
*Fordley	—	—	141	—	—	25
Gosforth	—	92	137	—	22	24
Hexham	568	520	409	50	52	50
Longbenton ..	—	82	132	—	22	23
Monkseaton ..	417	286	451	39	40	48
*Morpeth	—	—	5	—	—	3
Rothbury	—	1	41	—	4	26
Shiremoor	—	41	247	—	11	41
Wallsend	26	218	321	11	45	46
Widdrington ..	—	14	37	—	9	11
TOTALS	1,143	1,402	2,289	129	239	372

*Bedlington Station commenced 23rd May, 1967

*Chapel House commenced 4th January, 1967.

*Fordley commenced 5th January, 1967.

*Morpeth commenced 13th November, 1967.

In addition, the Family Planning Association held sessions in local authority clinics in Tweedmouth, Blyth and Ashington. The Council has made grants to the Association.

CERVICAL SMEARS

During the year the provision of facilities for cervical smears for the early detection of carcinoma of the cervix was further extended.

General practitioners continued to use local authority's clinics for taking smears and they carried out the following numbers, with the help of local authority staff.

CLINIC	No. of Smears Taken	Date Commenced
Allendale	3	January, 1967
Alnwick	142	March, 1966
Amble	44	October, 1964
Ashington	263	September, 1965
Guide Post	200	April, 1964
Bedlington Station	230	April, 1964
Bedlington	154	April, 1964
Blyth	218	December, 1964
Brunton Park	2	March, 1967
Chapel House	24	August, 1966
Fordley	23	June, 1966
Forest Hall	24	June, 1967
Gosforth	192	May, 1965
Haltwhistle	110	March, 1967
Hexham	61	March, 1966
Longbenton	473	February, 1965
Monkseaton	236	May, 1965
Morpeth	382	January, 1965
Newbiggin-by-the- Sea	395	December, 1966
Ouston	28	August, 1965
Ponteland	199	January, 1966
Prudhoe	136	June, 1965
Seghill	32	July, 1966
South Broomhill	18	August, 1964
Throckley	15	November, 1964
Tweedmouth	129	January, 1966
Wallsend	268	November, 1964
Westerhope	46	January, 1966
West Wylam	7	December, 1967
Willington Quay	136	November, 1964
Woodlands Park	116	April, 1964
Wooler	88	July, 1965
Total	4,394	

Where the services in the area were not sufficient to meet the demand smears were taken by medical officers in the women's advisory clinics. The following number of smears was carried out at these clinics :—

Clinic	No. of Smears taken
Acklington	35
Alnwick	89
*Bedlington Station	61
*Chapel House	238
*Fordley	249
Gosforth	211
Hexham	262
Longbenton	157
Monkseaton	751
*Morpeth	3
Rothbury	66
Shiremoor	415
Wallsend	477
Widdrington	56
Total	3,070

*Bedlington Station commenced to operate from May, 1967.

*Chapel House commenced to operate from January 1967.

*Fordley commenced to operate from January, 1967.

*Morpeth commenced to operate from November, 1967.

The following results were obtained from the cervical smears taken in County Council clinics :—

<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>	<i>Grade V</i>
21.2%	77.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.2%

Grade III smears are repeated to ascertain more accurately the type of cells found. Patients showing Grade IV and Grade V smears are referred to hospital for further investigation and treatment.

The number of women attending to have smears taken was less than in the previous year, and further efforts are needed to increase the use of this service.

DENTAL SERVICE

(Mr. A. E. ROBINSON, F.D.S., R.C.S.)

During 1967 the examination of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age was carried out, as usual, by the School Dental Officers.

Those patients who required treatment were given appointments to attend at the undermentioned clinics :—

1.	Alnwick	Miss S. M. Crute, B.D.S.
2.	Amble	Mr. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
3.	Ashington	Mr. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
4.	Bedlington	Mr. T. D. Harrison, B.D.S.
5.	Blyth	Mr. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
6.	Cowpen	Mr. H. J. Coombes, L.D.S.
7.	Cramlington	Mr. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
8.	Dudley	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.
9.	Forest Hall	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
10.	Glendale	Mr. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
11.	Gosforth	Miss M. I. Lamb, L.D.S.
12.	Guide Post	Mr. A. J. J. Cooper, B.D.S.
13.	Haltwhistle	Mr. P. S. Hagyard, B.D.S.
14.	Hexham	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
15.	Howdon	Miss O. I. Wears, B.D.S.
16.	Longbenton	Mrs. P. Nicholson, L.D.S.
17.	Low Willington	Miss O. I. Wears, B.D.S.
18.	Morpeth	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
19.	Newbiggin	Mr. C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
20.	Newburn	Mrs. M. P. Furness, B.D.S.
21.	North Tyne	Mr. T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
22.	Ponteland	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
23.	Prudhoe	Mrs. S. E. Williams, L.D.S.
24.	Rothbury	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
25.	Seaton Delaval	Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
26.	Shiremoor	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
27.	Throckley	Mr. J. D. Lamb, B.D.S.
28.	Tweedmouth	Mr. M. S. Baglee, B.D.S.
29.	Wallsend	Mr. J. F. Horseman, L.D.S.
30.	Whitley Bay	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
31.	Woodlands Park	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.

The inspection and treatment pattern was much the same as in recent years, as is shown in the following tables :—

DENTAL TREATMENT

Expectant and Nursing Mothers

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Number treated ..	950	1257	854	923	836	807	830	577
Extractions ..	3499	3644	2780	1943	1565	1440	1271	792
Fillings ..	1730	1558	1690	1962	2132	1553	1367	1263
Dentures ..	1001	906	717	666	568	461	399	311
General								
Anaesthetics	320	306	247	149	145	119	98	80

DENTAL TREATMENT
Pre-School Children

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Number treated . .	1288	1636	1677	1739	2208	1936	2187	1893
Extractions . .	1886	2267	2408	2545	2378	2069	2127	2202
Fillings . .	836	878	942	1144	1410	1372	2010	2293
General Anaesthetics	579	708	709	726	697	628	637	678

There was an increase in the number of pre-school children examined during the year, 3,417 compared with 3,253 in 1966, and of these children examined 42% required no dental treatment compared with 26% in the previous year. The overall picture of dental treatments provided for pre-school children showed an increase compared with 1966.

An increasing number of children have been attending the clinics for dental examination as part of the birthday examination at two years. The introduction of very young children to the dentist, when little or no dental treatment is necessary, is of great value in producing a friendly relationship in the dental surgery for future visits.

As in the last few years the number of expectant and nursing mothers attending for treatment continued to drop as will be seen from the tables. This unfortunate decline seems to be inevitable under the present structure of the National Health Service.

COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE

In 1967 a change was made in the administrative structure of the community nursing service by the appointment of area nursing officers in the place of deputies and assistants. The change was made to improve the administration of the service, and to help the co-ordination and integration of services which has occurred since the initiation of family doctor attachment schemes. In addition this new administrative framework has made possible the clear definition of areas of responsibility and authority for the nursing officers. Three such appointments were made, each of the nursing officers being responsible for approximately 90 members of staff. Miss G. Saint and Miss N. Cowley took up their appointments at the beginning of the year and Miss S. Lockey in July on completion of the Nursing Administration Course at the Nursing Studies Unit, University of Edinburgh.

Miss M. Gilliland, Deputy County Nursing Officer, retired in February. Three health visitors retired and three resigned for domestic reasons. Six members of the district nursing and midwifery staff retired and four resigned for domestic reasons. The recruitment of field staff was successful. Ten full time and three part time health visitors were appointed including five newly qualified under the Council's Grant Aided Scheme. Eight full-time and nine part-time appointments were made for the district nursing and midwifery service. Due to the continuing decline in home confinements none of the midwives who left was replaced by full-time staff and district nurse midwives were replaced by district nurses. On the other hand, the growth in district nursing necessitated the appointment of additional staff to this service.

During the year a recruitment panel for the north east consisting of Medical Officers of Health, Nursing Officers and Health Visitor Tutors was set up to study problems of recruitment for health visiting. It is of interest to note that there has been a marked increase in the number of enquiries received concerning training.

Of the 15 applicants for sponsorship, five were selected to attend the course at the Municipal College of Commerce, Newcastle upon Tyne. One prospective student was seconded to take a three months obstetric course prior to commencing health visitor training.

ATTACHMENT SCHEMES WITH GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICES

During the year arrangements were made for the full or partial attachment of a further 14 health visitors and 15 district nurses to general medical practices and at the end of the year 46 health visitors and 45 district nurses were participating in such schemes. The arrangements have proved to be most acceptable to the family doctors and the system is popular with the health visitors and district nurses concerned. It has widened the scope of their work

and allows them to achieve a higher standard of nursing and medico-social care for the community. Our experience over the past four years fully justifies our aim to extend this system of attachment even more widely.

The following statistics relating to the work of district nurses and health visitors indicate the growth which has taken place in these services since the initiation of attachment schemes.

DISTRICT NURSING

	<i>New cases</i>	<i>Total visits</i>	<i>Advisory visits</i>	<i>Surgery sessions attended</i>	<i>Patients treated</i>	<i>Total treatments given</i>
1964	10,201	265,526	10,685	—	—	—
1965	10,782	272,389	10,680	—	—	—
1966	11,164	282,587	11,944	1,842	3,902	12,561
1967	11,990	294,246	13,422	3,434	10,350	20,154

HEALTH VISITING

STATISTICS RELATING TO HEALTH VISITORS' WORK

Details of Cases Visited :—

	1964	1965	1966	1967
1. First visits only during the year to :—				
(a) 0 — 1 year	8494	8297	7732	7545
(b) 1 — 2 years	9548	9589	9298	7377
(c) 2 — 5 years	22964	22519	21560	23741
TOTAL	<u>41006</u>	<u>40405</u>	<u>38590</u>	<u>38663</u>
2. (a) Persons aged 65 or over ..	5568	6207	7052	6927
(b) No. in 2 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	485	1011	1908	2698
3. (a) Mentally disordered persons.	366	394	501	561
(b) No. in 3 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital ..	63	115	173	297
4. (a) Persons discharged from hospital (other than mental hospitals)	348	388	419	619
(b) No. included in 4 (a) visited at request of G.P. or hospital	115	177	199	279
5. Tuberculosis households ..	1438	1077	868	503
6. Households visited on account of other infectious diseases	88	236	98	163

The following analysis gives an indication of the increase in other cases referred to the health visitor by family doctors. The list is by no means comprehensive and as the figures given relate to first visits only, they give no indication of the total volume of work being undertaken for practice patients.

	1966	1967
Care of children 0-5 years feeding, management and behaviour problems.	110	331
Hospital follow-up	106	213
Handicapped and chronic sick adults ..	101	192
Families with problems : overburdened mothers, illness of mother, inadequate parentcraft	87	133
Unmarried mothers	64	116
Problems in family relationships ..	38	151
Special child care, i.e. prospective adopting parents	26	46
Bereavements	17	61
Families in difficulties, i.e. financial management	—	145
Stress Problems	—	148

LIAISON WITH HOSPITALS

Over the years various procedures have been initiated to improve liaison with hospitals, and significant developments have taken place as the result of efforts made by individual district nurses, health visitors and midwives. Usually the staff make direct personal contact with nursing, medical and medico-social staff in hospitals whenever the need arises.

Ward sisters and medico-social workers are supplied with names, addresses and telephone numbers of district nurses, midwives and health visitors. Whilst details of patients requiring follow-up visits on discharge from hospital may be referred through the department, it is more usual for hospital staff to make direct contact with the field worker concerned. The attachment of health visitors and district nurses to family doctor practices is undoubtedly further improving this contact.

In one area, health visitors who are working in family doctor attachment schemes have been invited by the consultant paediatrician to attend parent counselling sessions in respect of children registered with the practice. In three areas, hospital midwives attend and participate in the activities of the local authority ante-natal clinic.

Excellent relationships have been established with the medical and nursing staff of one mental hospital and health visitors and district nurses are encouraged to visit in order to see patients from their areas and to have discussions with the hospital staff. In two areas district nurses have attended the out-patient department of

the local general hospital in order to receive instruction on specific treatments so that these could subsequently be carried out in the home.

Liaison between the staff of maternity hospitals and district midwives is excellent. In one County area, the consultant obstetrician makes direct contact with district midwives in the surrounding rural area concerning the follow-up of ante-natal patients requiring special supervision.

Routine procedures with regard to the discharge and after-care of premature babies have been laid down thus ensuring that babies are sent home at an appropriate time bearing in mind the home and family circumstances.

IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND POST CERTIFICATE COURSES

During the year 13 midwives and 10 health visitors attended residential refresher courses. Two members of the district nursing staff attended a course for ward sisters and district nurses on 'Co-operation between Hospital and Local Authority Personnel' which was organised by Cumberland County Council. The content of this course proved so worthwhile and stimulating that arrangements were made for the two district nurses concerned to give reports at area meetings throughout the County.

The usual programme of staff conferences was arranged and on one occasion a joint conference for district nurses, health visitors and midwives was held in order to discuss the development of the Community Health Team. A number of conferences were devoted to mental health subjects. The programme of in-service education included the following—

1. A course of lecture/demonstrations on rehabilitation and remedial exercises given by a chartered physiotherapist for district nurses working in attachment schemes where the family doctors concerned had expressed a willingness for the staff to undertake this type of work with practice patients.
2. A series of lecture/discussions on 'Sociology' given by Mr. D. Lindsay, lecturer at the Rutherford College of Technology. The course was designed specifically for fieldwork instructors who have previously had no opportunity of studying this subject.
3. Groups of health visitors and health visitor assistants attended training sessions conducted by Mr. R. G. Chaytor, Otologist at the Audiology Unit, Fleming Memorial Hospital on screening methods in the detection of deafness.
4. Sixteen health visitors attended a study day which was arranged for them at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. The programme included the presentation of case studies by health visitors followed by discussion with a consultant psychiatrist and also formal lectures. This study day was greatly appreciated by those who

attended and plans are now being made for a continuing programme of mental health education for health visitors and district nurses. 5. A further group of health visitors attended a course on 'The Principles and Practice of Teaching' at the Northumberland Technical College, Ashington.

Other aspects of in-service planning and education included attendance at study days at St. Nicholas Hospital, Gosforth ; St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington ; and St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. A number of district midwives and district nurse-midwives undertook practical training in the teaching of contraceptive techniques with the Family Planning Association and several district nurses working in family doctor attachment schemes attended Ward 34, Newcastle General Hospital in order to obtain instruction and practice in the taking of intra-venous blood specimens.

We are greatly indebted to all who have contributed to these programmes of education and training and for the hospitality received from the hospitals concerned.

The public health nursing library has been completely re-organised and is now based at the Longbenton Clinic and organised by the centre clerk. A considerable number of additional books have been purchased and it is gratifying to know that far greater use is being made of this library by all sections of the staff and students than was previously the case.

An innovation during the year was the production of a staff news letter which is circulated at approximately three monthly intervals. The news letter is designed to keep staff informed of staff changes ; of developments taking place in the area relating to the community nursing and allied services and of new legislation and other matters of interest.

STUDENT EDUCATION AND VISITORS TO THE COUNTY

The number of students for whom programmes and visits of observation are arranged increases annually and the work involved in arranging programmes and the heavy burden placed on the field staff concerned is now considerable. Student nurses and medical students from the teaching hospitals have come to the county for visits of observation.

The following list of visitors during 1967, gives some indication of the volume of work being undertaken.

Student nurses	239
Student teachers — for formal teaching or discussion sessions	160
Pre-nursing students, Northumberland Technical College, Ashington	24
Medical Students	10
Students undertaking 2 year course in Social Work ..	13
Other social work students	16

Doctors	6
Police Cadets	4
World Health Organisation Fellow (Public Health Nurse)	1
Others	15

HEALTH EDUCATION

New Mothers' Clubs were formed in Lemington and Seghill bringing the total number in the county to 42. In addition to ante-natal education, which is a feature of the work in most of the county clinics, a large number of lectures and talks, covering a wide range of health education topics, was given to various groups and clubs. In some schools, 82 parentcraft courses were conducted by health visitors — a total of 1,354 pupils attended, 501 took the examination and 499 obtained certificates. 124 lectures on other health subjects were given to school children by the health visitors and in one area, where senior pupils were following a B.B.C. series on "drugs", the health visitor attended and led group discussions at the end of each programme.

HEALTH VISITING

The continuing decline in the birth rate is now reflected in health visitors' case loads of pre-school children. At the same time the work is taking on a new dimension to encompass a wide range of medico-social problems in all age groups of the population. Health visitors working with family doctors where emphasis is placed on social and preventive medicine may well be overloaded even though their case loads of pre-school children is 300 or less.

A new family record card has been devised to take the place of individual pre-school record cards and a pilot scheme is now being undertaken in four selected areas to ascertain its value. With the increasing involvement of health visitors in total family care, such a record would seem more appropriate and it is anticipated that the record will be retained by those working in family doctor attachment schemes. It is hoped that this record will reduce clerical work and ensure that essential information concerning the family as a whole is recorded.

Three new play groups, at Lemington, Cowpen and Bedlington, were started on the initiative of health visitors, one of them designed to meet the needs of handicapped children in the area. Routine supervision of 47 daily minders in various parts of the county is undertaken by members of the health visiting staff.

In the School Health Service approximately 1,200 children were referred to the health visitor for follow-up work in connection with health or behaviour problems. The majority of these were referred by teaching staff, school medical officers, or other doctors, and others by the Children's Department, hospitals, probation

officers and the police. The health visitor assistants have continued to give invaluable assistance in connection with medical examinations and routine hygiene surveys. The appointment of part-time screening technicians has helped with the volume of work involved in routine vision testing.

Health visitor assistants also helped at ante-natal and child health sessions and a number have now been trained in screening methods in the detection of deafness.

MIDWIFERY

The decline in home confinements was further accelerated following the opening of the new maternity unit at Ashington and additional beds at the Newcastle General Hospital. In addition there has been a decline in total births in the County and a higher proportion of mothers and babies are discharged from hospital at or before 48 hours. County midwives are now participating in a follow-up survey of early discharge cases.

The following statistics give an indication of the trend with regard to domiciliary midwifery.

	<i>Total live and stillbirths</i>	<i>Home Confinements</i>	<i>Number discharged on or before 48 hours</i>
1964	8,441	1,469	—
1965	8,177	1,144	1,073
1966	7,690	929	828
1967	7,545	707	997

In addition to work involved with hospital discharges the midwives have continued to assist with ante-natal work in clinics and family doctors surgeries. Many take part in programmes of ante-natal education and relaxation classes and increasingly in work carried out at Women's Advisory and cervical cytology sessions.

In one area a scheme was planned for midwives to accompany their own patients to hospital to undertake the delivery and the subsequent care of mother and baby but this could not be implemented before the end of the year.

DISTRICT NURSING

Six nurses completed the District Nurse Training Course in Newcastle upon Tyne and all were successful in gaining the National Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health. This training has now been undertaken by 32 members of the district nursing staff.

The closer liaison with family doctors ensured that the nurse has undertaken duties appropriate to her training and experience. The marked increase in the volume of work following 'attachment' is an indication that some of the nursing needs of the community were not previously fully met. This has necessitated the employment of additional staff and in two areas State Enrolled Nurses

have been appointed to work with a group of State Registered Nurses. Undoubtedly there is great scope for the State Enrolled Nurse in the community nursing service and it is anticipated that more of this grade of staff will be appointed in the future. The assistance given by the bath attendants in the more densely populated areas of the County has been greatly appreciated.

The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation Day and Night Nursing Service for cancer patients continued to function and provided night nursing for 39 patients. In addition, many other patients received assistance through the Area Welfare Grants scheme of the Foundation.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948

Under this Act the County Council registers all day nurseries and daily minders where more than two children from more than one family are cared for. In the case of nurseries, the premises are registered and are visited regularly by a medical officer to ensure that the required standards are maintained. Daily minders care for smaller numbers of children, usually not exceeding eight, in their own homes. They are visited regularly by a health visitor to ensure that conditions are satisfactory.

There has been a steady increase in recent years in the numbers registered, as the following figures show.

	<i>Day Nurseries</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Daily Minders</i>	<i>Children</i>
1963	4	77	28	335
1964	8	197	30	343
1965	9	209	40	438
1966	18	368	44	376
1967	22	429	47	362

Play groups are held in 22 clinics under the supervision of the health visitors, assisted by voluntary workers. These have been successful and there is a growing demand for the provision of nursery and play group accommodation for the pre-school child. To help this demand arrangements were made to employ a nursery nurse, on a part-time basis, to hold play groups in the department's clinics ; the appointment commenced in January, 1968.

NURSING HOMES

One of the homes in the Gosforth area closed during the year. There remain two registered nursing homes, in Hexham and in Gosforth. Nursing care has been maintained at a high standard and the staffing position is adequate.

The Cheshire Foundation have been seeking a home in the County for physically handicapped persons for some years and early in the year adapted Matfen Hall for this purpose. The home is registered as a nursing home for 25 patients and help was given, in the early stages, in planning and with staffing problems.

Visits have been paid to all homes during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

SMALLPOX

The county was free of smallpox for the 35th consecutive year.

The Ministry of Health advice that vaccination should take place during the child's second year is now beginning to show by the increased number of children vaccinated. The increase in the last 5 years has been considerable.

The total number vaccinated, in each area, together with figures for 1966 is shown in the following table :—

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA	Age at date of Vaccination															
	Number Vaccinated during 1967								Number Re-Vaccinated during 1967							
	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL	0- 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 15 years	TOTAL
North No. 1	24	12	8	17	167	63	5	296	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	13
North No. 2	20	11	7	10	172	83	15	318	—	—	—	—	2	10	26	38
Central ...	3	2	3	6	87	49	88	168	—	—	—	—	—	4	23	27
East... ..	—	4	2	1	74	126	44	251	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	10
South ...	30	49	20	13	455	183	31	781	—	—	—	—	1	20	50	71
South East...	4	16	18	14	387	181	64	684	—	—	—	—	1	18	65	84
West ...	9	13	4	11	149	62	26	274	—	—	—	—	—	5	44	49
Wallsend ...	—	1	1	33	292	57	15	399	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Totals	90	108	63	105	1783	804	218	3171	—	—	—	—	4	61	237	302
1966 Totals ...	48	167	63	128	1435	797	269	2907	—	—	—	—	3	43	445	491

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

The figures in table 18 show a steady improvement in the protection rate against these three diseases both in the number of completed courses and in reinforcing doses given. The figures for 1966 are given for comparison and in all cases there is a rise during the present year.

POLIOMYELITIS

All babies are offered protection with oral vaccine at three months of age and the table on page 92 shows that 7,347 children under school age completed a primary course and 11,691 received a reinforcing dose of vaccine. These figures are regarded as satisfactory.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The work of the service continued to expand during the year and the tables on page 93 show an increase of 8,055 patients carried since last year. There were similar small increases in the number of journeys and the total mileage, which is now almost $1\frac{3}{4}$ million in a year.

	1965	1966	1967
Journeys ..	54,695	54,527	55,320
Patients ..	210,886	218,599	226,654
Mileage... ..	1,623,151	1,648,417	1,729,913
Miles per patient ratio .	7.7	7.5	7.6

Some of this increase has been due to reduced rail services and to the unsuitability of diesel trains for stretcher cases.

The increase in the amount of work has resulted in ambulances having to be replaced more frequently and five small vehicles and one large Bedford ambulance were purchased. The American type cot stretcher fittings purchased last year have proved successful and have been repeated this year.

The ambulance workshops have continued a very satisfactory service and in spite of wage increases and additional material costs, the cost per mile has been reduced. This is considered to be due to the high standard of workmanship in the workshops.

In-service staff training was continued and drivers attended lectures for the Institute of Ambulance Officers examination. Two such courses of lectures were organised for neighbouring authorities and the examination results were satisfactory. One member of the staff attended an experimental training course organised, at the request of the Ministry of Health, by the West Riding County Council.

Two ambulance teams from Whitley Bay and Berwick took part in the regional ambulance competitions. In the national final, held in Birmingham, the Berwick team were placed fourth.

In the National Safe Driving Competition, the following 108 driving awards, out of a total of 126 staff entered, were gained by personnel :—

20 year Brooch	1
Special bar to 15 year Brooch	3
15 year Brooch	1
Oak leaf Bar	18
Ten year Medal	3
Bar to Five year Medal	29
Five year Medal	4
Diplomas	49

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

There were further substantial falls in the number of notifications of tuberculosis. 105 cases of the pulmonary disease compared with the highest figure of 608 in 1945 and 16 cases of the non pulmonary form compared with 137, the highest figure ever in 1948.

Deaths from all forms of tuberculosis numbered 14 compared with 15 last year and a high total of 259 in 1941.

Chest Clinic Services

The Regional Hospital Board, through its Chest Physicians, provides this service at special clinics throughout the county. Much of their work was concentrated on the investigation of contacts and the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccinating of child contacts. Vaccination of school children is carried out by the school medical officers. Figures for this work are shown in the following table :—

The number of persons vaccinated through the Authority's approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act during the year ended 31st December, 1967, was :

A. CONTACT SCHEME (CIRCULAR 19/64)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	574
(ii)	No. found positive	..	..	..	57
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	505
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	784
B. SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENTS (CIRCULAR 19/64)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	5,776
(ii)	No. found positive	..	..	..	789
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	4,770
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	4,779
Total vaccinated with B.C.G. in 1967					5,563
Total number of persons vaccinated since beginning of scheme					71,650

Mass Miniature Radiography

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for providing this service for doctors' patients and for the general public. As tuberculosis has receded as a major infectious disease, radiography units have concentrated on checking contacts of cases and in making themselves available in both rural and urban areas for the public and for commercial and industrial premises.

Attached to the Newcastle General Hospital is one mobile unit which during the year placed most emphasis on public sessions and in addition visited two factories and a mental hospital.

At Preston Hospital, North Shields, is a smaller caravan unit and they too toured the County taking nearly 5,000 films.

Details of the work done is shown on page 85.

The total films of chests increased from 8,841 to 14,789. 168 persons were referred to a Chest Clinic and three new cases of tuberculosis were notified. This is equivalent to 0.02% compared with 0.06% and 0.12% for the past two years.

Prevention of Venereal Diseases

CONTACT TRACING

The total number of contacts sought within the area was 23, 6 of whom were men. 17 female contacts were identified, 11 by contact tracers and 6 by patients themselves.

13 female contacts were examined and the results were as follows :—

Syphilis	..	..	..	—
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	11
Non-venereal	..	..	..	2
				—
				13
				—

Of the men, five were identified and examined. Four were diagnosed gonorrhoea and one was non-venereal.

As well as visits to contacts, health visitors paid 97 visits to other patients, mainly defaulters from treatment. 9 patients were escorted to the clinic in an effort to promote regular attendance.

ANTE-NATAL SEROLOGICAL TESTS

There were 3,643 serological specimens submitted from the department's clinics for examination during the year.

Seven cases of maternal syphilis were treated prior to delivery. Six babies were subsequently tested and found to be non-venereal. At the end of the year one baby had not been born.

Chiropody Service

The Council's arrangements for the provision of a chiropody service remained unchanged during the year.

A total of 4,187 patients was treated by County Chiropodists and a further 3,275 elderly persons received treatment through local schemes provided by Voluntary Committees. In all, 29,484 treatments were given : 17,063 at clinics and surgeries and 12,421 in patients' homes.

Increased financial grants were made available to 31 Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committees who were providing approved services for the elderly.

A record of work carried out is produced in Table 14.

Health Education

During 1967 there was a general increase in activities connected with Health Education. Talks on a wide range of health topics were given by Doctors, Dentists, Health Visitors, the County Health Inspector and the County Ambulance Officer.

The use of various visual aids to add interest and weight to lectures has become increasingly important ; the most popular of these is undoubtedly the sound film unit with an increased use of 40% over the previous year. The purchase of three 8mm. loop projectors added to the range of equipment available and proved popular and very useful to the Health Visiting Staff for Mothercraft teaching.

Home Safety Exhibitions were staged at Prudhoe, Hexham, Berwick and Wideopen covering a total of fifteen days. Attendances were very encouraging — particular interest was shown by schools in the areas and organised parties of children visited the exhibitions.

Campaigns for the collection of unused Drugs were organised in the Hexham and Ashington areas. The Ashington campaign was most successful with the collection of 10,539 tablets and a considerable number of other medicines. The Hexham campaign was not so successful, largely due to the local hospital having organised a similar campaign earlier in the year. However, in both cases valuable publicity was given to the necessity for greater care in the taking, storing and disposal of medicines.

A " Health Week " was held at the Ashington Hirst East Girls' School, talks were given on Food Hygiene, Growth and Spread of Germs, Cleanliness, the Care of Hair and Feet and on Home Safety.

Talks and films on Smoking and Health, Sex Education and Human Behaviour were given at a number of schools, and a film highlighting the problem of Venereal Disease was shown. Posters on the dangers of Smoking were regularly displayed in schools, libraries and clinics as a constant reminder to the public of the hazards to health. In addition the School Medical Officer at each medical inspection advised both parent and child on hygiene, the value of proper feeding and, in the case of the older child, the hazards of smoking. A great deal of Dental Health Work was undertaken during the year with the Dental Officers visiting schools to give talks and show films on the care of teeth.

The search for suitable Health Education films continued and a number were previewed during the year resulting in the purchase of a film entitled " Breath of Life " which proved very useful as an introduction to the practical demonstration given to schools and Mothers' Clubs on the Mouth to Mouth Method of Resuscitation.

Posters and leaflets on a wide range of topics were distributed to all clinics in the County and were used in conjunction with displays in the clinics.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service has continued to expand and as always the majority who use it are old people and those who are chronically ill. The administration is carried out from the area health offices and the supervision of patients and home helps by four home help organisers. The table on page 95 shows the number of cases assisted and the number of home helps employed at the end of the year. In addition there is a comparison of 1966 with the present year as regards the type of case assisted.

Of the total of 4,728 households, 4,146 contained old people and of these 3,777 were over 65 years of age.

The service has continued to be of great assistance in keeping these old people independent and in their own homes. The work of the 1,054 home helps has been very satisfactory from the patients' point of view.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION

The staff of the service consisted of ten mental welfare officers and a welfare assistant. The officers work from seven district offices and, in addition to their work under the Mental Health Act, they also have social welfare duties under the National Assistance Act, 1948. The service is supervised by a Senior Mental Welfare Officer.

The training centres staff consisted of seven supervisors who are qualified, five qualified assistants, nine unqualified assistants and two nursery assistants.

The staff of the two industrial units consisted of a manager, assistant manager, two senior instructors who are all qualified and one senior instructor and seven instructors unqualified.

TRAINING OF STAFF

Two mental welfare officers were seconded to attend a full time two years' course for the Certificate in Social Work.

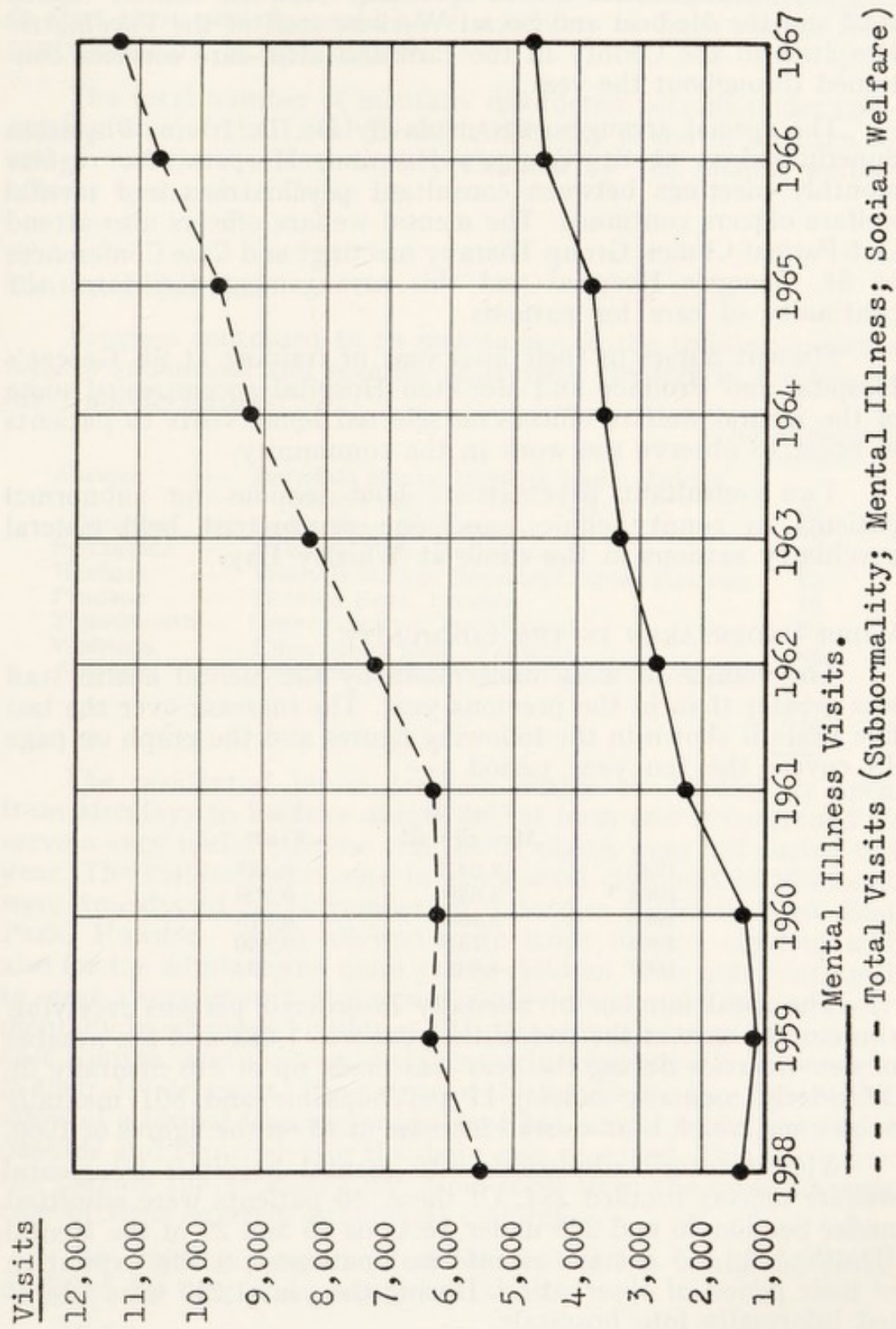
A supervisor, an assistant supervisor, two trainee assistants and a senior handcraft instructor completed full time courses for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, and were awarded the Training Council's Diplomas.

A week's refresher course for staff of training centres organised by the National Association for Mental Health was held in Bristol and seven members of the staff attended.

The majority of the staff of training centres and industrial units attended a Regional Study Day which was arranged by Durham County Local Health Authority. This included lectures on problems of subnormal children and adults, followed by discussion groups.

A week-end residential study course was held at Barndale House, Alnwick, for selected staff of three Junior Training Centres and industrial units, together with mental welfare officers. The theme of this course was " Bridging the Gap " which provided the staff with opportunities to consider some of the common problems which arise in the transitional stage when mentally subnormal children attend industrial units. Talks were given by a Tutor of Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped, a H. M. Inspector of Factories and a Probation Officer, and were followed by films and discussions.

This was the first residential study to be organised by the local health authority for the staff and as it proved most stimulating and successful, it is hoped to arrange similar courses later.



CO-ORDINATION WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES

The arrangements for co-operation between mental health staff and the Medical and Social Workers staff of the Psychiatric Hospitals in the County in the care and after-care services continued throughout the year.

The special arrangements made by Dr. D. Irwin, Physician Superintendent at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth, for regular monthly meetings between consultant psychiatrists and mental welfare officers continued. The mental welfare officers also attend Out-Patient Clinics, Group Therapy meetings and Case Conferences at St. George's Hospital and this arrangement facilitates the continuity of care for patients.

Student nurses in their final year of training at St. George's Hospital and Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital accompanied some of the mental welfare officers on selected home visits to patients in order to observe the work in the community.

Two consultant psychiatrists hold sessions for subnormal patients in county clinics, and one psychiatrist held general psychiatry sessions in the clinic at Whitley Bay.

WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The volume of work undertaken by the mental health staff was greater than in the previous year. The increase over the last five years is shown in the following figures and the graph on page 43 covers the ten year period :—

		<i>Visits to Mentally ill</i>		<i>Total Visits</i>
1963	..	3,047	..	8,439
1964	..	3,659	..	9,226
1965	..	3,986	..	9,915
1966	..	4,751	..	10,808
1967	..	4,948	..	11,274

The total number of mentally disordered persons receiving community care at the end of the year was 1,065 and the number of new referrals during the year was made up of 216 mentally ill, 37 elderly mentally infirm, 11 psychopathic and 801 mentally subnormal which is an overall increase of 45 on the figures of 1966.

The statutory admissions into mental hospitals by mental welfare officers totalled 281. Of these, 56 patients were admitted under Section 26 and 225 under Sections 25 and 29 of the Mental Health Act. 165 remain as informal patients on the expiration of their period of observation. During the year 1,247 were admitted informally into hospitals.

There were 78 mentally subnormal patients admitted into hospital, 63 of whom were informal admissions, 13 under Sections of the Mental Health Act and 2 under Section 4 of the Children

and Young Persons Act. Arrangements were made for 47 mentally subnormal children to be provided with short-term care in hospital so that their parents could have a holiday or have respite from continual care of the patient.

The total number of mentally disordered persons under community care of the Local Health Authority is shown on page 97 and a summary of the work performed by the mental welfare officers is shown in Table 22.

TRAINING CENTRES

Progress continued to be maintained in the training facilities for 216 subnormal and severely subnormal children in the following training centres :—

					<i>No. of places provided</i>
Alnwick	—	Barndale House, Howling Lane, Alnwick.			
		(Residential)	..	..	31
Ashington	—	South View, Ashington	..	..	40
Bedlington	—	1 Beech Grove, Bedlington	..	..	35
Hexham	—	Priory Buildings, Beaumont Street, Hexham			12
Prudhoe	—	54 West Road, Prudhoe	..	..	10
Tweedmouth	—	Grove Gardens, Tweedmouth	..	..	30
Wallsend	—	Elton Street East, Wallsend	..	..	48
Wallsend	—	East End Park, Howdon (Special Care Unit)			10
					<hr/> 216 <hr/>

The residential junior training centre at Alnwick is open from Mondays to Fridays during school term and it continued to serve a very useful purpose and the 31 places were full during the year. The children who were in the special care unit in Wallsend were transferred in November to a former Clinic in East End Park, Howdon, which allowed more scope for the children and also for the admission of more young children. This unit continued to serve a very important purpose in providing for the very severely mentally handicapped children a happy atmosphere and an enjoyable routine, and in some instances achieving some improvement in their development. The nature of the handicaps does not readily allow of a formal training programme but simple social training is possible and is included in the daily care provided. This unit gives the parents the necessary day time relief from the quite onerous care of their severely subnormal children.

The training programme at the centres has continued to be modified by new and progressive ideas.

Mid-day meals have continued to be provided in day training centres by the Schools Meals Service at a charge of 1/- per day excepting in cases of parental financial hardship, when arrangements are made for meals to be provided free of charge.

Arrangements continued whereby medical and dental examinations were carried out by the school medical and dental staff.

The training centres have made a valuable contribution to students from Certificate Courses for Social Workers and Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped in arranging placements and visits of observation for them in the centres. Similar facilities have also been given to student nurses and students from Universities and Technical Colleges.

The centres received most generous support from individual and local organisations in the form of donated gifts which were greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff.

INDUSTRIAL UNITS

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Kitty Brewster | — | Blyth Industrial Unit, Kitty Brewster Trading Estate, Blyth. |
| Willington Quay | — | Addison Potter Industrial Unit, Claver-
ing Street, Willington Quay. |

BLYTH INDUSTRIAL UNIT

The County's first purpose built industrial unit, which was completed in January 1967, was opened by Mr. Julian Snow, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, on 22nd May. It is built in the trading estate at Cowpen in Blyth. Forty-five trainees were transferred from Ashington and Bedlington Training Centres to the new premises.

The Unit contains a large dining room, with modern kitchen facilities, run on a cafeteria system to cater for a maximum of 100 trainees of both sexes. The dining room provides adequate recreational space and includes a confectionery kiosk which, under supervision, is run by the trainees and is open during morning and afternoon breaks. There are also domestic training, further education and medical rest rooms. One of the important factors of this unit is that it was planned along factory lines, containing three large workshops sufficiently flexible to allow a variety of work to be carried out at the same time.

The number of trainees employed in the unit at the end of the year was 90. It has been possible to attract and maintain a great variety in contract work from industrial organisations, e.g. assembling of cartons, plastic materials, confectionery decorations, packing talcum powder, weighing and packing malt and hops, repairs to inspection trays and work for the County Council included the production of incontinence pads, enuresis alarms and pads, bed rests and bath seats. This work which produced an income of £3,300 by the end of the year was repaid to the trainees as a 'wage packet' to a maximum of £2 per week, after deducting 1/- per day for lunch.

The training programme has included a variety of 'formal' education and social training for all trainees who are capable of absorbing this instruction.

All trainees travel from their homes to the unit on public transport and the cost of their fares is refunded to them.

ADDISON POTTER INDUSTRIAL UNIT

This unit was opened in November 1967 in former school premises, 44 men being transferred from the adult sections in a former clinic and 34 women from accommodation in a junior training centre. The premises provide more accommodation for an intake of additional trainees.

The majority of sub-contract work carried out in the unit has consisted of assembling cartons and plastic materials for neighbouring industrial firms. A number of male trainees have been fully employed on printing machines producing forms etc., for the local health authority.

The income during the year from work done at this unit was £1,936 which was paid to trainees up to a maximum of £2 according to their respective abilities and productivity. Social education is also an important part of the training programme.

Arrangements were made through the School Meals Service for provision of mid-day meals for the trainees at a cost of 1/- per day. Private hired transport was used to convey the men and women to and from the unit.

The total number of individuals attending training centres and industrial units increased from 248 in 1963 to 352 at the end of the year.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

In June, Mental Health Week was the second of a series of three such weeks. These have been initiated jointly by the National Association for Mental Health and the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. During this week there were special 'Open Days' in the training centres, industrial units and psychiatric social clubs for members of the public to stimulate interest in mental health careers, also to increase recruitment and to encourage those already engaged in other careers to give time to voluntary work in the mental health field.

THERAPEUTIC SOCIAL CLUBS

The four psychiatric clubs have continued to meet weekly throughout the year with an average membership of 25 under the supervision of the mental health staff together with voluntary workers, supported by members of the consultant and social worker staff of St. George's Hospital, Morpeth.

These clubs provide a useful service in stimulating group activities in an informal atmosphere and are of particular value during the immediate post-hospital period when the patients are re-adapting themselves once again to community life.

There are also two clubs providing a variety of social activities suited to the needs of the mentally handicapped men and women under the leadership of the industrial units staff and voluntary workers.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Two organisations, the Gosforth and District Peter Pan Society and the Whitley Bay and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children have continued to arrange weekly social clubs for mentally subnormal persons and these and other activities have been greatly appreciated.

For the fourth year, the Northumberland Branch of the British Red Cross Society organised a week's holiday camp for 28 boys and girls and this was most successful and enjoyed by the children.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

There was no change in the number of homes provided for old people. The maternity hospital buildings, which were originally part of the Thomas Taylor Homes at Stannington, closed down during the year and plans to make 40 additional places for old people were agreed.

The building programme for the future advanced by the acquisition of a site in Cramlington New Town for a home for 60 persons.

The number of residents in the homes averaged over 900 and there were 635 old people admitted during the year. The staff at the homes are unsparing in their efforts to maintain the comfort of the residents at all times.

Present establishments, with bed accommodation, are as follows :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION			Total
	Males	Females		
Bell View, Belford	3	23	..	26
Greenholme, Haltwhistle ..	19	—	..	19
Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington	181	198	..	379
Nicholas Garrow Home for the Blind, Hepscott	9	23	..	32
Haining Croft, Hexham	12	11	..	23
Springfield, Morpeth	—	15	..	15
Priorsdale, Newcastle	16	—	..	16
Doxford Hall, Chathill	30	23	..	53
Tynedale, Wallsend	14	19	..	33
Ralph Allan Home, Warkworth ..	22	41	..	63
Cowpen House, Blyth	16	17	..	33
Northfield, Morpeth	10	—	..	10
Earsdon Grange, Whitley Bay ..	25	38	..	63
Merley Croft, Morpeth	16	16	..	32
Essendene, Ashington	25	37	..	62
Seton Hall, Tweedmouth	26	37	..	63
	424	498	..	922

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

During the year 29 family groups of 29 mothers and 56 children were housed for short periods in the temporary accommodation provided at the Thomas Taylor Homes, to enable the mothers to sort out their problems. The assistance of the Children's Department was available for many of these families in dealing with their problems, though a number made their own arrangements to obtain accommodation.

OTHER RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

The number of private rest homes registered by the Council increased again by four and now consists of 28 homes, the majority in Whitley Bay, providing 593 places for old and handicapped people. Eight of these homes are owned by religious and charitable organisations and between them, they account for nearly 300 of the 593 places. During the year the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution opened Scarbrough Court at Cramlington New Town with 60 beds.

All registered homes have been visited regularly by members of the staff and complaints investigated when necessary.

Voluntary organisations continued to provide special housing for the elderly and as a result received financial aid from the Council. Details as follows :—

	<i>Residents</i>
Abbeyfield (Hexham) Society	5
Abbeyfield (Gosforth) Society	10
Autumn Homes Ltd., Hexham	6
Avenue Friendship Club, Whitley Bay ..	8
Catholic Women's League, Whitley Bay	7
Whitley Bay and Monkseaton Housing Association Ltd.	80

The Urban and Rural District Councils have now become interested in providing special housing with welfare facilities and in addition to the three schemes mentioned last year, the Council approved grants towards housing at Ashington (88 flats), Glendale (60 flats) and Wallsend (326 bungalows and flats). These schemes offer an invaluable addition to the facilities for the aged in the county.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Council continued to give financial aid to 93 Over 60 clubs. Twenty six Meals on Wheels schemes and 19 luncheon clubs have been provided by local voluntary effort and these worthwhile helps are greatly appreciated by the old people.

The Northumberland Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee with its associated rural and urban committees and their field workers continued in operation and the Council maintained their financial support. Voluntary help in County homes throughout the year and especially at Christmas was given by the W.R.V.S., British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Rotary Clubs and Round Tablers, Religious bodies, Civil Defence Corps, Police Cadets, Youth Clubs and in many places by children from County schools.

The generosity of Working Men's Clubs and various breweries with Christmas gifts was gratefully acknowledged.

WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

The staff of the handicapped section comprised a supervisor, a welfare officer for the generally handicapped, seven blind welfare officers (including one part-time), three welfare assistants and four craft instructors.

In addition, two occupational therapists conducted craft classes in the north of the County on a sessional basis and a mental welfare officer visited handicapped persons in the Berwick area.

A close liaison between the Department's staff and medical practitioners, hospital medico-social workers and officers of the various Ministries was maintained in dealing with the requirements of all categories of handicapped persons.

A total of 2,513 persons were registered as handicapped in 1967 as compared with 2,410 registered in December 1966. Although the register of blind has not shown a marked increase, the number at the end of the year exceeded 750 for the first time. During the last ten years the number of generally handicapped registered increased from 505 to 1,221. This is partly due to a closer liaison between the hospital and local authority services, increasing number of patients referred for help and advice by medical practitioners and the fact that the handicapped people generally are becoming more aware of the benefits of registration. At the same time, it must be remembered that registration is purely voluntary and there are many handicapped people known to the department who are not registered.

It has been impracticable, so far, to establish a purpose-built day centre in the County but by December 1967, 13 handicraft classes for the generally handicapped and 9 for blind and partially sighted were functioning. The majority of the classes are held in Health Department clinics or rented halls but three classes take place in Cowpen Day Centre — previously a child welfare clinic — but now adapted for the use of handicapped persons. Both blind and physically handicapped were encouraged to find a market for the articles they made but a number of goods were sold at exhibitions and sales of work organised by the department. These exhibitions also give the public an opportunity of seeing the type of work a handicapped person can do.

Every effort was made to meet the needs of handicapped people who applied for holidays but suitable accommodation is difficult to obtain as handicapped persons require ground floor accommodation. 204 people enjoyed holidays which we were able to arrange and a special camping holiday arranged with the Thropton Association of Youth Clubs was enjoyed by 37 persons. A holiday at Caister Bay was arranged in conjunction with the West Northumberland Voluntary Committee for Handicapped Persons. In addition arrangements were made for some of the older handicapped persons to go to Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington, for temporary periods to relieve their relatives.

Twenty three voluntary committees for blind and other handicapped persons which continued to function, arranged clubs and other social activities.

Blind and Partially Sighted

The age groups of the blind and partially sighted persons registered on 31st December were :—

	BLIND			PARTIALLY SIGHTED		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Under 5	1	—	1	1	1	2
5—15	10	7	17	17	8	25
16—20	3	2	5	10	8	18
21—49	63	44	107	32	11	43
50—64	66	65	131	17	19	36
65 plus	182	312	504	33	97	130
TOTAL	325	430	755	110	144	254

142 newly registered blind and partially sighted were referred by doctors, Ministry of Social Security and officers of the department.

CAUSES OF BLINDNESS AND DEFECTIVE VISION

The following table summarises the causes of blindness and defective vision :—

	Cataract		Glaucoma		Others	
	Blind	P.S.	Blind	P.S.	Blind	P.S.
Number of cases registered during year ..	32	10	21	4	53	22
<i>Recommendations :</i>						
(a) No treatment ..	8	1	2	—	22	4
(b) Treatment recommended :—						
Surgical	17	1	—	1	1	4*
Medical or hospital supervision ..	6	5	19	3	28	8
Optical	1	3	—	—	2	6
<i>Follow up treatment carried out :</i>						
Surgical	7	—	—	—	1	—
Medical or hospital supervision	5	5	18	3	28	8
Optical	1	3	—	—	2	6
Willing to undergo treatment when eyes are ready or beds become available, or if physical condition improves	6	1	—	1	—	4
Not agreeable for treatment, undecided or too frail	2	—	—	—	—	—
Died	3	—	1	—	—	—

*For secondary cataract

SOCIAL WELFARE

A summary of visits paid by the staff during the year is shown in Table 24. All registered blind and partially sighted persons were visited by the blind welfare officers at intervals according to individual needs. The newly blind persons living alone, or those with additional disabilities often require more frequent visits, although in helping with social problems the officers frequently had to deal with the family as a whole.

Arrangements were made for a blind lady to go to Oldbury Grange, Bridgnorth, for a course of social rehabilitation. Blind and partially sighted persons were encouraged to attend handicraft classes but domiciliary instruction was also given to housebound or other persons who were unable to attend a class.

A blind lady attained her hundredth birthday and to mark the occasion the Voluntary Committee for the Blind honoured her with a birthday party and she stood up and personally responded to the various speeches made.

The clubs for the blind in the County area continued to attend each others meetings and competed for two domino challenge shields. In addition to outings arranged by Voluntary Committees, blind people and their friends from various areas in the County visited Blagdon Hall, Seaton Burn, through the courtesy of the Rt. Hon. Viscount and Viscountess Ridley and the Civil Defence Headquarters at Morpeth where Brigadier P. H. M. May and his staff received and entertained them.

Talking Books were provided through the British Talking Book Service for the Blind, radios through the British Wireless for the Blind Fund and Braille and Moon literature obtained from the Northern Counties Library for the Blind and Tynemouth Library for the Blind.

Three blind persons obtained guide dogs through the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Apparatus such as Braille watches and clocks, dominoes and other games, white sticks, Braille frames, etc., continued to be supplied by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The Institute continued to allocate a proportion of its collections to the County Blind Persons Trust Fund — which made bi-annual grants to voluntary committees for the blind.

EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION

Ten blind and partially sighted persons attended industrial rehabilitation courses at the centres administered by the Royal National Institute for the Blind at Torquay, the Ministry of Labour being financially responsible.

The following table shows the employment position of the registered blind :

Employed in Workshops for the Blind..	..	..	24
Engaged in open employment :			
Physiotherapists .. .. .	..	..	2
Teacher .. .. .	..	..	1
Clergyman .. .. .	..	..	1
Solicitor, Barrister .. .. .	..	..	2
Ministry Officer .. .. .	..	..	1
Typist and office worker .. .. .	..	..	2
Telephone Operators .. .. .	..	..	8
Business proprietors and executives ..	..	..	3
Salesman .. .. .	..	..	1
Labourer .. .. .	..	..	6
Factory workers .. .. .	..	..	3
Domestic workers .. .. .	..	..	2
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	5
		—	37
			61
			—

Generally Handicapped

REGISTRATION

The principal causes of disabilities of persons newly registered were organic nervous diseases and arthritic and rheumatic conditions and 148 of the 178 persons registered were in the 16 — 64 age groups.

A summary of disabilities is given in Table 25.

The age groups of the persons registered on 31st December were :—

	Males		Females		Totals
Under 16 ..	21	..	17	..	38
16 — 29 ..	85	..	83	..	168
30 — 49 ..	204	..	152	..	356
50 — 64 ..	228	..	217	..	445
65 and over ..	103	..	111	..	214
Totals ..	641	..	580	..	1,221

SOCIAL WELFARE

The County Architect's Department was of great assistance in giving advice and preparing plans for structural alterations to houses. Housing authorities were co-operative and in many cases agreed to carry out the alterations recommended. During the year the Committee approved assistance towards the cost of adaptations and the provision of equipment for 74 handicapped persons (compared with 9 in 1957).

Two quadriplegic men were provided with POSSUM control equipment during the year. The device (patient operated selector mechanism) which is provided as part of the National Health Service, enables paralysed and other severely handicapped persons to operate a range of electrical equipment by mouth or by small physical movements. It is a small control unit to which pieces of equipment can be connected for operation by the handicapped person to control light, heater, radio, telephone, door bell, typewriter etc.

Although the basic equipment has been provided through the National Health Service the Council has accepted financial responsibility for providing additional equipment for these men.

A third quadriplegic man had previously been provided with similar equipment through the Polio Research Fund which carried out the initial experiments to produce the control equipment.

Handicapped persons were encouraged to carry out household and other duties even though chairbound, but at the same time they were grateful for part-time assistance provided through the Home Help Service.

The craft classes mentioned in the introduction to the report and also domiciliary craft instruction provided a valuable service in helping in the rehabilitation of the handicapped. Crafts taught included weaving, cane work, knitting, rug making, mosaic work, lamp shade making and stool seating. A total of 400 classes was held and 2,804 domiciliary visits were paid by the craft instructors during the year.

Two hundred and one car badges, including 86 new issues and 115 re-issues and renewals were issued to physically handicapped drivers in 1967.

EMPLOYMENT

Difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable employment for handicapped persons but close liaison was maintained with the Group Disablement Resettlement Officers of the Ministry of Labour. One man obtained work as a clerk book-keeper, two young women as shorthand typists and two men as labourers.

Arrangements were made for two youths to go to the Portland Training College, Mansfield, for educational courses and the Ministry of Labour agreed to accept financial responsibility from the Education Committee as soon as their educational standard enabled them to commence clerical training. One woman continued to be employed in sheltered workshops at Dorincourt Estates, Leatherhead.

EPILEPTIC AND SPASTIC PERSONS

There were 61 adult epileptic persons registered in December, five of whom were newly registered during the year. In addition

there were 32 children registered, nine attending special schools, 12 in ordinary schools, three receiving home tuition and eight unsuitable for education.

During the year the Committee maintained 12 epileptic persons in colonies the majority of whom were able to return home to their parents or relatives for holiday periods during the year. In other cases, the colonies made arrangements for holidays for which the Committee assumed financial responsibility.

Of 97 spastic persons registered, 43 were children. 24 of these attended special schools, nine attended ordinary schools, five were receiving home tuition and five were considered unsuitable for education.

Sixteen persons attended the Percy Hedley Day Work Centre and five of these were accommodated in Chipchase Hostel.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

In all parts of the County, except the north and west the Northumberland and Durham Mission to the Deaf continued to act as agents. They were also available for specialist services including interpretation and placement in work in the whole County.

Age groups of the Registered deaf on 31st December were :—

	Males		Female		Total
<i>Deaf with speech—</i>					
Under 16 ..	7	..	1	..	8
16 — 64 ..	52	..	48	..	100
65 plus ..	8	..	14	..	22
	<hr/> 67		<hr/> 63		<hr/> 130
<i>Deaf without speech</i>					
Under 16 ..	9	..	22	..	31
16 — 64 ..	33	..	27	..	60
65 plus ..	3	..	6	..	9
	<hr/> 45	..	<hr/> 55	..	<hr/> 100
<i>Hard of Hearing—</i>					
Under 16 ..	4	..	7	..	11
16 — 64 ..	19	..	15	..	34
65 plus ..	3	..	5	..	8
	<hr/> 26	..	<hr/> 27	..	<hr/> 53
TOTAL ..	<hr/> 138	..	<hr/> 145	..	<hr/> 283

SOCIAL WELFARE

Details of visits paid to the deaf are given in Table 24. Northumberland deaf living in areas adjacent to Newcastle continued to attend the Newcastle Club and periodic club meetings were held at Blyth and Wallsend.

EMPLOYMENT

Three deaf women were placed in factories and two school leavers apprenticed as tailors.

Special Homes

NICHOLAS GARROW HOME FOR THE BLIND, HEPSCOTT

The 32 residents in the home on 31st December comprised six over the age of 90, 13 in the 80 - 90 age group, 8 who were between 70 and 80 years of age and 5 under 70 years of age.

Residents competed in the domino challenge competitions each month or by entertaining a visiting club. They continued to enjoy knitting and other crafts and there was no difficulty in finding a market for the goods made.

MERLEY CROFT, MORPETH

This home which was opened in 1963 continued to provide accommodation for 32 physically handicapped persons in the younger age groups. Two beds were reserved for the greater part of the year for short term stays and the fact they were always occupied proved that a need existed for temporary accommodation. This arrangement gave relatives an opportunity to have a rest or a holiday and also proved to be of considerable benefit to the handicapped persons. The permanent residents suffered from a variety of disabilities — multiple sclerosis, post poliomyelitis, parkinson's disease, hemiplegia resulting from strokes, rheumatoid arthritis, Friedreich's ataxia, muscular dystrophy and congenital conditions.

Instruction was given three times a week by the department's craft instructors. Physiotherapy was provided on a sessional basis and one of the department's chiropodists gave regular treatment.

The special vehicle, although garaged at Merley Croft, has been used by other voluntary organisations of the County who cater for handicapped people.

Some of the residents attended the monthly club meetings arranged by Bedlington and Ashington Voluntary Committees for Handicapped.

OTHER VOLUNTARY HOMES FOR HANDICAPPED

Matfen Hall was opened by the Cheshire Foundation in February, 1967 and handicapped persons from various parts of the country were admitted during the year including three from the County area for whom the Committee accepted financial responsibility.

The home at present provides accommodation for patients on the ground floor but the Cheshire Foundation plan to install a lift and provide additional accommodation on the first floor when funds become available.

The Committee also maintained two handicapped persons in Spofforth Hall, Harrogate, another home of the Cheshire Foundation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES

The year 1967 was a better one in regard to the provision of new houses, and the total, 3,258, exceeded the post-war annual average for the first time for six years (the corresponding figure for 1966 was 2,398). The increase was shared by local authorities and private builders. Houses built by county district authorities totalled 1,358, the highest number recorded since 1957 and compared with 1,014 the preceding year. Private building added a further 1,470 (compared with 1,122 in 1966) and Newcastle Corporation continued to expand their "overspill" estates in the county by a further 319 houses and flats erected within the Castle Ward Rural District. Details will be found in Table 26.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The number of houses discontinued as dwellings during the year was 707 as compared with 740 in 1966 (see Table 27). Nine county districts report no slum clearance remaining to be carried out, but in the other 17 areas, although the original clearance programmes have in many cases been completed, there are estimated still to be over 4,000 houses which could be the subject of formal clearance procedure within the foreseeable future.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary grants for the reconditioning of properties sound in fabric but lacking modern amenities continued to be made by the various district councils and as will be seen from Table 28 only two authorities failed to approve any during 1967. The total of 558 was, however, lower than that for the preceding year (592) and there has been a downward trend for the past four years. There were in addition 60 local authority-owned houses modernised in this way.

Standard grants available to owners as of right for the provision of certain basic amenities totalled 352 which is about the average for the past few years (see Table 28). The legal power now available to compel owners to make these improvements to their property has not, with one notable exception, been made much use of in the county, but the Gosforth Urban District Council having initiated formal procedure in respect of one area of 103 dwellings had by the end of the year secured the bringing up to standard of 46 of the houses therein.

The Sample Census carried out in 1966 and published during the year provides some interesting statistics on this subject. If the figures extrapolated from the sample can be taken as correct, the proportion of houses in Northumberland with no hot water supply

was 7.9%, and with no bath 12.2%. Five years earlier, the corresponding figures from the 1961 Census were 15% and 19% respectively. This shows a steady improvement in living standards, but one must keep in mind the fact that only 78.2% of the houses in the county were classified in the 1966 survey as fit in all respects, i.e. having exclusive use of hot water, bath and inside water closet. Although this figure seems to compare well with the rest of the country, until the remaining 21.8% have been either brought up to modern standards or cleared, improvement grant work should not be allowed to slacken off.

WATER SUPPLIES

There was no change in the arrangements for water supply during the year. The County is served by two statutory undertakings whose areas of supply are as follows :—

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD WATER COMPANY : The Boroughs of Berwick, Blyth and Wallsend ; the Urban Districts of Alnwick, Amble, Gosforth, Hexham, Longbenton, Newburn, Prudhoe and Seaton Valley ; the Rural Districts of Alnwick, Belford, Bellingham, Castle Ward, Glendale, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Norham and Islandshires and Rothbury. (A small part of the extreme south of Hexham Rural District is, as a matter of convenience, included in the statutory area of the Durham County Water Board).

TYNEMOUTH CORPORATION : The Boroughs of Morpeth and Whitley Bay ; the Urban Districts of Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin ; the Rural District of Morpeth.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company derives its supplies from an impounding reservoir at Catcleugh, from certain main springs and two river intakes, at Barrasford and Wylam. The Tynemouth supply is derived from main springs, an impounding reservoir on the River Font and from a river intake at Mitford. Both undertakings are also participants in the Coquet Water Board Scheme with a river intake at Warkworth, and this now forms the main source of supply for the districts in the north of the county which are within the Water Company's statutory area.

The amount of water furnished from the Coquet supply to these districts did not increase during the year, but was maintained at about the level of 900,000 gallons per day.

The comprehensive water supply scheme for Alnwick Rural District came into full operation early in the year and this left no major water schemes to be completed in the County. There are only a few very small and isolated centres of population in the county not served by statutory undertakings and here reasonable expense is the overriding factor. Figures supplied by the district councils show that there are now less than 250 houses in the county still relying on standpipes for their water supply, and over 1,600 without mains water at all.

The bacteriological examination of water is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Copies of the reports on water samples by authorities in the administrative county were received in the department and unsatisfactory results were investigated. Seven hundred and sixty were taken during the year (as compared with 785 in 1966) from public and private supplies. Five hundred and ninety-four were highly satisfactory, 14 satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 151 (or 20% of the total unsatisfactory). Although the number of unsatisfactory samples may appear high this is accounted for mainly by special investigations into individual private sources with a view to their improvement or their abandonment in favour of newly-provided public supplies.

FLUORIDATION

There was no progress to report in this direction for 1967. The principle of fluoridation having been agreed with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, a start was to have been made at their Whittle Dene and Throckley undertakings towards the end of the year, but essential equipment not having been delivered in time, the operative date had to be postponed until 1968.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The new joint sewage treatment works for Hexham town and the adjoining parishes were completed towards the end of the year and the works intended to serve the Cramlington New Town also made good progress. Other schemes in hand or completed were mostly of a minor nature. It was pleasing in this connection to see two coastal villages in the tourist area of the county in process of abandoning their existing sea outfalls in favour of biological treatment plants.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS

1944 — 55

Schemes Submitted for Approval

The following schemes were submitted during the year for the consideration of the County Water Supplies and Sewerage Committee under the above Act :

Alnwick Rural District	Sewer extension, Longhoughton Village	£23,000
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Newton-on-the-Moor (revised scheme, original cost £22,000).	£64,000
Bellingham Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for East Woodburn	£6,763
Hexham Rural District	Sewerage system for Ovingham, Ovington and Horsley, to connect to Prudhoe U.D.C. disposal works	£120,580
	Water supply scheme, Settlingsstones	£10,569
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Ropehaugh	£5,775
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Ellington	£154,000
Norham and Islandshires Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, East Ord Village (revised scheme — original cost £19,000)	£16,975

Ministry Inquiries and Investigations

Local investigations into the following proposed schemes were held by Ministry of Housing and Local Government Inspectors.

- (a) An investigation at Hexham on the 4th April into the Hexham Rural District Council's scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal for Corbridge, Riding Mill, and Stocksfield, £456,670.
- (b) An investigation at Belford on the 5th April into the Belford Rural District Council's scheme for sewers and sea outfall for Bamburgh, £53,350.
- (c) An investigation at Alnwick on the 23rd May into the Alnwick Rural District Council's sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Newton-on-the-Moor, £64,000.

My Department was represented on these occasions and evidence was given where appropriate in support of the schemes. The scheme for Newton-on-the-Moor was rejected by the Ministry on the grounds of cost, and the Bamburgh proposals were referred back for further float tests to be carried out. The remaining scheme for Corbridge — Stocksfield subsequently received permission to go to tender.

Work in Progress

The following are details of work in progress during the year with some indication of the stage reached by 31st December.

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Blyth Borough	Main drainage scheme	Commenced
Seaton Valley Urban District	Cramlington New Town drainage and disposal works	90% completed
Alnwick Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Embleton and Christon Bank ..	95% completed
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Alnmouth and Lesbury	25% completed
Haltwhistle Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Henshaw and Bardon Mill ..	36% completed
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Greenhead and Bankfoot ..	36% completed
Hexham Rural District	Water main extensions, Brunton Bank and St. Oswalds	75% completed
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Thirston	60% completed
Rothbury Rural District	Reconditioning and extension of sewage disposal works, Rothbury	5% completed

Schemes completed during year

<i>District</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Month</i>
Ashington Urban District	Woodhorn Sewerage Scheme	August
Hexham Urban and Rural Districts	Sewerage disposal scheme for Hexham Town and Oakwood/Anick	November
Alnwick Rural District	Comprehensive water supply scheme (by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company)	March
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Rennington	June
Belford Rural District	Provision of disintegrator at Beadnell sea outfall sewer	March
Haltwhistle Rural District	Water supply scheme, Kellah	November
Hexham Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Blanchland	December
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, Hepscott	February

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Smoke control areas now in operation in the County show a modest increase over the previous year, there being now 16, comprising 4,731 acres and 8,922 existing properties (with much additional new development envisaged). The distribution of these areas is as follows : Newburn Urban District 8 ; Wallsend Borough 4 ; Whitley Bay Borough 2, and Longbenton and Seaton Valley Urban Districts one each (these being in fact the areas of the Killingworth and Cramlington New Towns). Whitley Bay will have a further area of 61 acres in operation by the time this report is printed, and during the year submitted a fourth area to the Ministry for confirmation, while Castle Ward Rural District Council have also submitted proposals for the Newbiggin Hall—Whorlton Grange area immediately adjoining the Newcastle City Boundary, the first time any rural district in the County has become involved under the Act. It is however, disturbing to note that the two authorities who have so far been most active, Newburn and Wallsend, have both resolved to defer submission of further proposals because of the current financial situation. When even the enthusiastic councils find themselves in this way unable to make progress, it is obvious that the road to clean air in Northumberland is going to be a long one.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963
Milk (Special Designation) (Amendment) Regulations 1965

Under the above Regulations, the County Council as food and drugs authority has the duty of licensing and supervision of all dealers in designated milk and this work is carried out within the department, together with supervision of milk treatment plants, specified area enforcement, etc. Exceptions within the administrative county are the Borough of Wallsend and the Longbenton Urban District Council which are separate authorities for this purpose.

The designations permitted under the Regulations are "Untreated", "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra Heat Treated." There have as yet been no applications within the county for licences in connection with the last-mentioned grade.

DEALERS' LICENCES

Changes in the number of licences in force are shown in the accompanying Table.

	At 1st January 1967	Additions during year	Deletions during year	At 31st December 1967
Licence to bottle Untreated Milk (Form B)	19	—	2	17
Pasteuriser's Licence (Form C)	6	—	—	6
Steriliser's Licence (Form D)	2	—	—	2
Dealer's Licence for Untreated, Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk (Form F)	321	33	18	336
Dealer's Licence for Sterilised Milk only (Form F)	278	12	13	277
	626	45	33	638

Most of the alterations were accounted for by changes of ownership. Apart from the purely administrative work of issuing licences, regular inspections of dealers' premises are required and samples of milk are taken for examination by the statutory tests laid down in the Special Designation Regulations. This work is carried out by the County Health Inspector and during the year 371 visits were paid to dealers other than licensed processors, as compared with 444 in the previous year. Only a few minor contraventions of the Regulations were noted and these were dealt with by informal action.

PRODUCERS' LICENCES

These continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food through their county officers, to whom I am indebted for the figures quoted in this paragraph. The number of farms in the county registered for milk production at the end of the year was 664 compared with 706 for the previous year. This number has continued to decrease by about the same amount each year during the past few years, but it is understood that the gallonage of milk does not show the same marked decline, pointing to an increase in efficiency on the part of the producers remaining. All herds are now attested and licences are only necessary for those producers who dispose of milk by retail or as "farm-bottled" of which there were 149 at the end of December, though not all of these were necessarily carrying on a substantial retail business.

MILK SAMPLING — STATUTORY

During the year the policy was continued of organising routine sampling so as to relate the frequency of sampling to the volume of business carried on by the various dealers, to avoid as far as possible duplication, but at the same time to spread the work over the areas of the various County districts. Each local authority is furnished with a monthly report of all samples taken within its area. Greater supervision is obviously necessary in the case of raw milk. On the other hand, since the statutory test for sterilised milk is only intended to indicate efficiency of heat treatment, and since milk which complies with the test at the time of production will not subsequently fail, there is little point in extensive sampling from dealers' shops.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 1,468 as compared with 1,640 for the preceding year. In consequence of the altered policy regarding samples for brucellosis investigation (referred to in the next paragraph) the number of Untreated samples taken from producer-retailers declined sharply and this is reflected in the total. Producer-retailers' samples, if not also intended for Milk Ring or Biological testing, are of limited use, not being statutory samples, and can only be reported to the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture for such action as they may deem appropriate.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
Untreated Milk—				
Methylene Blue Test ..	115	12	—	127
Pasteurised Milk—				
Methylene Blue Test ..	609	37	—	646
Phosphatase Test	645	1	—	646
Sterilised Milk—				
Turbidity Test	49	—	—	49
	1,418	50	—	1,468

MILK SAMPLING — BRUCELLA ABORTUS

As was foreshadowed in last year's report, after consideration of Ministry of Health Circular 17/66, the pattern of sampling for this purpose was changed in 1967 from dealer sampling by the County Health Department to sampling direct from farms by county districts, in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations. It was originally hoped thereby to cover all retailers of raw milk quarterly, the Ministry ideal of monthly samples being thought unattainable. In the event even the lower frequency of sampling has not been achieved. A total of 369 samples was submitted for ring test by district councils, involving 119 herds, to which must be added 75 samples taken by the County Health Inspector and involving 46 herds. This rate of sampling was far below what is desirable. Nor was there uniformity of coverage throughout the county: 295 of the samples were taken by a single rural authority from 54 producers, while another rural district having 16 "Untreated" licence-holders in its area was unable to collect any samples whatsoever. Quite clearly there will have to be a re-appraisal here and it may be necessary to consider whether intensive street sampling at more frequent intervals may not better fit the case than occasional visits to farms, even though one is thereby assured of samples being fully representative.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the year, the nation-wide precautions against the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic made farm visits inadvisable and this did affect the total sampling activity as well as interfering with the following up of some of the cases in hand.

Of the ring tests carried out, 11 positives were recorded and 1 doubtful. In addition, 2 cases were referred from an adjoining authority and 1 positive was obtained from the supply of a wholesale producer taken at his own request for investigation, making in all 14 positive rings. Nine of these were not confirmed by culture. From the remaining herds, 9 cows were found secreting the organism and their milk voluntarily excluded from sale untreated, but two cases had not been completely cleared up by the end of the year. No compulsory heat treatment orders were served under Regulation 20, and in fact co-operation with farmers within the county is usually excellent, rendering formal action unnecessary. Biological testing for tuberculosis has now been run down to a minimum, and only 51 tests were carried out during the year, chiefly on Untreated supplies of school milk, hospital farms etc. No positives were recorded, the last case so found was in 1959.

PASTEURISING PLANTS

The number of licensed pasteurising plants in the County remained at 6, with daily throughputs varying from 1,100 to 11,000

gallons. All the plants were of modern design operating on the H.T.S.T. system, the total quantity of milk treated being about 26,000 gallons per day.

Pasteurised homogenised milk is processed at two of the dairies, one of which also pasteurises a limited quantity of Channel Islands milk.

The dairies concerned were regularly inspected by the County Health Inspector and samples of treated milk were taken. Washed bottles were also taken from time to time for bacteriological examination.

Number of inspections made	..	..	158
Number of samples taken at dairies	..	..	221

Of these samples, 5 failed the methylene blue test and one failed the phosphatase test. The last mentioned was investigated in great detail at the dairy concerned, but no reason for the failure could be found. Four of the methylene blue failures occurred in samples collected from 3 separate dairies on the same morning — it is difficult to know what significance to attach to this. The processing plants were maintained in good condition, and only minor matters in the various dairies required to be brought to the notice of the managers. Various routine plant renewals were carried out, and there was an extension during the year of the amount of farm milk brought in by bulk tanker collection : one small dairy turned over completely to this method. Unfortunately it will never be possible in a county such as Northumberland for collection by churn to be abandoned completely : many dairy farms are too inaccessible.

Of 97 washed bottles examined from the plants, 7 failed to reach the standard of bacteriological cleanliness recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. All the unsatisfactory bottles were from the same plant and were apparently due to the use of an unsuitable detergent while the usual grade was temporarily unobtainable. Once the supply difficulty had been overcome, the bacteriological results returned to their usual high standard. This standard is of course purely an advisory one and not enforceable by law. The visibly dirty bottle however, is quite a different matter, and it is a matter of regret that it has to be recorded that 4 convictions were obtained by district councils in the county in respect of milk supplied in bottles not thoroughly cleansed, with fines ranging from £1 to £50. In two of these cases it was almost certain that the contamination of the bottle had been its use for the discharge of a Guy Fawkes' rocket, leaving a residue almost impossible to remove by the normal bottle washing procedure and almost impossible to see in an empty bottle on the filling line. Some further education of the public is necessary in the matter of care of returnable food containers. One dairy in the county installed a new automatic cartoning machine during the

year but their experience suggests that customers generally are not yet ready to accept the extra cost involved in this method of packaging, and there seems little chance as yet of the glass bottle being completely superseded.

STERILISING PLANTS

The two plants licensed for milk sterilisation continued in operation during the year and gave satisfactory results. One of these consists of the conventional oven batch treatment, the other being an ultra-high-temperature plant working in conjunction with a continuous in-bottle steriliser. Fifty-two visits of inspection were made to the premises and 52 samples taken at the dairies all satisfied the turbidity test. In view of the limited value of this statutory test, occasional samples were also submitted for bacterial assay and all showed that a good standard was being maintained.

SPECIFIED AREA

The County Council as food and drugs authority are responsible for enforcement of the specified area scheme, which forbids the sale of milk otherwise than under one of the special designations, i.e. "Untreated", "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised."

No serious contraventions have ever been noted. The sort of minor infringement which may from time to time be seen is when a producer finds himself without the correctly designated bottle caps, due perhaps to non-delivery by his supplier, and has recourse temporarily to unmarked caps.

Exception is made as a last resort for the issue by the Ministry of a "consent" to a retailer to dispense with the requirements of the Order where there is no possibility either of the immediate grant of a producer-retailer licence or of an alternative supply of milk, and at the end of the year 4 such "consents" were in operation. The amount of milk represented by these was very small.

Milk in Schools Scheme

New contracts for school milk not being due to expire until 1968, there was little change to report in the arrangements for the supply of milk during the year.

The following table shows the position as at 31st December, 1967.

<i>Grade of Milk</i>		<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage of schools</i>	<i>Percentage of pupils</i>
Pasteurised .. ..	.. ..	346	92.3	98.48
Untreated .. ..	.. ..	27	7.2	1.49
No Fresh Milk .. ..	.. ..	2	.5	0.03
		<hr/> 375	<hr/> 100.0	<hr/> 100.00

There was a reduction of 2 in the number of schools receiving untreated milk. Every effort is made to obtain pasteurised milk, but for a number of rural schools this is not possible and an approved untreated supply has to be accepted, sometimes even in bulk, to obtain milk at all. As will be seen from the table the number of pupils concerned is relatively small. With the closing of one isolated country school, the number of schools with no fresh milk supply fell to 2, and it is understood that the closure of one of these is imminent.

All sources of supply were subject to prior approval by the department and regular samples from all sources were taken for examination, particular attention being paid to those schools receiving raw milk in which case routine testing for both tubercle and brucella infection was also carried out. The following table shows the results obtained during 1967.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
<i>Untreated Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	39	5	—	44
<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	175	15	—	190
Phosphatase Test ..	190	—	—	190

The number of samples is similar to that for 1966, with a slight improvement in the number of keeping-quality failures in respect of pasteurised milk. There was no evidence found in any of the samples of any milk infection.

There were as usual a few minor complaints from schools, mainly of delivery arrangements, which had to be followed up during the year. None of these was of a serious nature. There was also one complaint in reverse, where a non-maintained school was found to have returned to a dairy a batch of $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint bottles containing the residue of a chocolate milk drink, which once having dried was somewhat difficult to remove. The implications of this having been pointed out to the principal, the practice of mixing milk shakes "in bottle" was discontinued.

The proportion of children availing themselves of the service under the scheme on a selected day in October was 83.8%.

ICE CREAM

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1959

There was a noticeable increase in sampling activity by district councils during the year in respect of ice cream. Altogether 433 samples were submitted for examination by the Public Health Laboratory, as compared with 274 in 1966, and 171 in 1965. The results obtained continued to be satisfactory : 305 samples, or

70%, were classified as Grade I by the methylene blue test, and 73, or 17%, as Grade II. The Ministry suggest that taken over a period, 50% should reach Grade I and 80% Grades I and II combined. Only 25 samples, representing 6% of the total, were of Grade IV or unsatisfactory. In addition 32 ice lollies were examined, using a similar technique to that applied to samples of drinking water, and of these only 2 failed to show a satisfactory state of sterility. Ten districts submitted no samples during the year.

LIQUID EGG

Liquid Egg Pasteurisation Regulations 1963

Twenty samples of treated liquid or frozen egg were taken during the year and all satisfied the alpha-amylase test for efficiency of heat treatment. There are no treatment plants actually in operation within the administrative county.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

No further learner swimming pools were opened at County schools during the year and the total number provided remained at 8, all equipped with full water treatment plant, comprising diatomaceous earth filters and automatic dosing apparatus using liquid hypochlorite for sterilisation. Each pool is under the care of a full time swimming instructor who is also responsible for maintaining the water in satisfactory condition. Routine supervision continued to be carried out by the County Health Inspector who during the year made 81 inspections checking the free residual chlorine and pH of the water, and examining the pool log books. Instructors are advised to maintain "break-point" chlorine conditions. Water samples were also taken from time to time but only when conditions suggested the need for further investigation : if a satisfactorily high residual chlorine can be demonstrated there should be no significant bacterial activity in the water. Out of 19 samples so taken, 3 failed to reach the "highly satisfactory" standard for swimming pool water and the instructors concerned were advised of the need for re-adjustment of their plant.

The open-air pool at Bellingham Camp Secondary School also received supervision during the comparatively short season when it was in use, and in spite of the "rule of thumb" method of hand chlorination in use, a satisfactory standard appeared to be maintained.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(MR. C. L. ARLIDGE)

During the year the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 3,022 samples of food and submitted them to examination for compliance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Preservative Regulations and the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

The articles may be summarised as follows :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. taken</i>
Beer, Wines and Spirits	28
Butter, Margarine, Lard, Cooking Fats, Cheese (including Processed Cheese)	83
Drugs, Medicines and Household Medicaments ..	71
Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables, Dried Fruit, Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	131
Ice Cream	10
Jams, Preserves, Honey and Jellies	95
Milk and Cream	1,834
Pickles, Sauces, Vinegar and Condiments	68
Sugar, Sugar Confectionery, Flour Confectionery, Chocolate, Chocolate Confectionery and Cereals ..	175
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Beverages, Minerals and Cordials..	132
Tinned Meats, Meat, Meat Products (including Sausages), Fish, Fish Products, Fish and Meat Pastes ..	192
Miscellaneous	203
TOTAL	3,022

Samples reported by the Public Analyst to be unsatisfactory

<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Chopped Pork with with Ham	Statement of ingredients included the term M.S.G. this not being the common or usual name as required by the Labelling of Food Order.	The Cannors agreed to amend their label.
Strawberry Jam	Returned under complaint by the purchaser who found a piece of wood in the jam ..	The matter was brought to the attention of the Polish Authorities.
Butter Shorties	Only 50% of fat Butterfat ..	Manufacturers agreed to declare the actual Butterfat content.
White Haricot Beans	Contained a percentage of damaged beans	The vendors accepted responsibility and refunded the purchase price.

Parsley	Contained 80 p.p.m. of Zinc ..	Enquiries failed to reveal the source of the Zinc. Further samples will be procured.
Liqueur Preserve	Contained 62.5% of Soluble Solids	Manufacturers agreed to improve their quality checking system.
Sage and Onion Stuffing	The fat in the sample showed signs of rancidity ..	Remainder of stock withdrawn from sale.
Butter Crescents	Did not contain Butterfat ..	Manufacturers agreed to change the name so that the presence of butter is not inferred.
Rice Cake with Butter	Total Fat 19%, Butter Fat 5%	The manufacturer ceased to advertise the presence of butter in this type of cake.
Apricot Crumble	The main panel of the packets did not bear a notice that additional ingredients were necessary for the production of these products. The filling supplied was in pulp form, not whole fruit as depicted on the packet	The manufacturers redesigned the packet so that the necessary information is given. The fruit pulp has been changed to whole fruit.
Blackcurrant Crumble		
Pineapple Crunchy Sponge		
Gooseberry Crunchy Sponge		
Lemon Meringue Pie		
Chocolate Meringue Pie		
Instant Fruit Juice Powder	Incorrectly described as no fruit juice was present. This product contained sodium cyclamate which is not permitted in articles other than soft drinks	This product was imported from Japan. Following legal proceedings in Nottinghamshire, the remaining stock was withdrawn from sale.
Pineapple Chutney	The Labelling of Food Order requires a specific declaration of the type of fruit that has been used.	Manufacturers agreed to amend their label.
Pork Luncheon Meat	5% deficient in meat contents..	Produce of Holland. Deficiency due to a production plant breakdown. Action has been taken to ensure that articles are more rigorously checked before being despatched for export.
Marmalade	3.4% deficient in soluble solids	Producer advised to adhere to manufacturing instructions.
Seville Orange Marmalade	9.2% deficient in soluble solids	Producer advised to adhere to manufacturing instructions.
Jellied Beet	Ingredients not declared	Producer advised as to labelling requirements
Lemon Curd	24.2% deficient in citric acid..	Producer advised as to labelling requirements

<i>Name of Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Lobster Biscuits	Ingredients not declared ..	Produce of Hong Kong Firms concerned discontinued to sell this product.
Roast Chicken	The pictorial representation on the carton shows considerable departure from the contents..	The manufacturers produced a new carton and agreed to scrap the stock of existing cartons.
Green Colouring	Contained artificial blue, the use of which was prohibited in food as from 26th June, 1967	Sample taken at Bothal Secondary School Canteen. This article was supplied prior to the Regulations being made in 1966. Remainder of stock destroyed and instructions issued to school canteens not to use artificial colouring matter.
Mincemeat	Deficient in Soluble Solids ..	Manufacturers agreed to increase the sugar content.

Prosecutions

As a result of the discovery that a carton of dried onions purchased by a Sampling Officer for the purposes of analysis by the Public Analyst, was in an advanced state of decomposition, legal proceedings were brought against the Co-operative Wholesale Society as the persons responsible for the offence. Enquiries showed that the onions had been packed by the Society as long ago as May 1965. A plea of guilty was tendered on their behalf and a fine of £20 0s. 0d. was imposed.

When a bottle of milk, sold by a local dairyman to a house holder at Lesbury, was examined by the Public Analyst, it was found that the milk contained foreign matter consisting mainly of decomposed insect fragments, cotton fibres and other vegetable tissue and a few pieces of structureless red matter resembling rubber. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, the owners of the plant where the milk was processed and bottled, were charged as the actual offenders. A plea of guilty was tendered and the Society were fined £50 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £1 14s. 6d. costs.

Hunters (The Bakers) Ltd., were brought before the Whitley Bay Magistrates as the actual offenders charged with selling to the prejudice of the Northumberland County Council a loaf of bread which was not of the quality demanded. The loaf contained iron compounds and oil. A plea of guilty was tendered and they were fined £20 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £4 14s. 0d. costs.

T. W. Bell & Sons, West Chevington, Morpeth, were charged at Morpeth Court with exposing for sale for human consumption milk to which had been added water and with having in their

possession for the purpose of sale for human consumption, milk to which water had been added. Pleas of guilty were tendered on their behalf. They were fined £20 0s. 0d. (£10 0s. 0d. on each of two charges), and ordered to pay £56 0s. 6d. costs.

William Rutherford & Sons of East Mill Hills Farm, Haydon Bridge, were charged at Hexham Court with having in their possession for sale for human consumption, milk to which water had been added. A plea of guilty was tendered and they were fined £15 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £8 6s. 0d.

Shortbread

The analyses of samples of Shortbread taken in various parts of the County prior to Christmas 1966 revealed wide variations in composition. It is apparent that the charge to the consumer is no indication as to the compositional quality of the article. It is claimed by some confectioners that whilst Shortbread made in Scotland usually contains only Butter Fat, Shortbread manufactured in England can be made with either Butter or Margarine or a mixture. It must be pointed out, however, that no information as to the differing fat content appears to be given to the Public.

It would seem opportune for the Food Standards Committee to consider the advisability of making a Food Standard Order prescribing the type of fat and a minimum percentage thereof that should be present in Shortbread.

Food Standards Orders

The Cheese Regulations prescribing compositional standards for various cheeses came into force on the 1st February, 1967, whilst the Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations, The Canned Meat Products Regulations and The Sausage and other Meat Products Regulations, were made during the year. These Food Standards Orders specify requirements for the labelling, description and advertisement of these foods and will do much to remove the uncertainty that has existed as to the composition of such products.

TABLES
of
STATISTICS
1967

TABLE I.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

POPULATION—YEAR 1967.

BOROUGHs :

Berwick-upon-Tweed	..	..	..	..	..	11,650
Blyth	..	..	..	..	..	36,120
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	14,340
Wallsend	..	..	..	..	..	48,290
Whitley Bay	..	..	..	..	..	38,380
						<hr/> 148,780

URBAN DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	7,500
Amble	..	..	..	..	..	4,980
Ashington	..	..	..	..	..	26,320
Bedlingtonshire	..	..	..	..	..	30,810
Gosforth	..	..	..	..	..	27,540
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	9,730
Longbenton	..	..	..	..	..	48,480
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	..	..	..	..	..	9,920
Newburn	..	..	..	..	..	33,230
Prudhoe	..	..	..	..	..	10,660
Seaton Valley	..	..	..	..	..	28,410
						<hr/> 237,580

RURAL DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	12,320
Belford	..	..	..	..	..	4,820
Bellingham	..	..	..	..	..	5,120
Castle Ward	..	..	..	..	..	34,820
Glendale	..	..	..	..	..	6,640
Haltwhistle	..	..	..	..	..	6,690
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	20,470
Morpeth	17,910
Norham and Islandshires	3,810
Rothbury	5,240
						<hr/> 117,840

TOTALS	<hr/> 504,200
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TABLE 2.
POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF
AREA ADMINISTRATION.

AREA.			POPULATION.
North No. 1	..	..	26,920
North No. 2	..	..	30,040
Central	..	..	68,490
East..	..	..	66,930
South	..	..	109,020
South-East..	..	..	115,270
West	..	..	39,240
Wallsend	..	..	48,290
TOTAL			504,200

TABLE 3.
VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

YEAR.	Birth rate per 1,000 living.	General death rate per 1,000 living.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 living.	Death Rate from Cancer (excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia) per 1,000 living.
1940	15.00	12.44	59.00	0.55	1.58
1941	15.07	12.84	74.00	0.51	1.61
1942	16.39	11.59	54.00	0.39	1.59
1943	17.61	12.50	56.00	0.51	1.72
1944	19.87	12.16	48.00	0.50	1.86
1945	17.58	12.24	50.00	0.47	1.84
1946	19.74	11.98	48.00	0.49	1.73
1947	20.66	12.14	43.00	0.44	1.77
1948	18.04	11.13	40.00	0.43	1.74
1949	17.52	11.92	36.00	0.37	1.82
1950	16.69	12.24	36.60	0.28	1.75
1951	16.46	12.58	32.49	0.24	1.82
1952	16.08	11.25	29.37	0.17	1.92
1953	16.90	11.78	28.46	0.16	1.89
1954	16.26	12.23	27.03	0.15	1.95
1955	16.34	12.06	26.75	0.15	1.92
1956	16.51	11.87	25.80	0.11	1.90
1957	16.68	11.49	23.51	0.06	1.87
1958	17.08	12.05	24.03	0.06	2.03
1959	17.23	11.56	23.58	0.04	1.90
1960	16.66	11.80	20.28	0.05	1.95
1961	16.75	11.97	19.75	0.06	1.93
1962	17.20	12.23	23.28	0.05	2.08
1963	17.13	12.52	20.79	0.05	1.99
1964	16.80	11.76	20.11	0.03	2.10
1965	16.13	12.38	16.05	0.03	2.15
1966	15.08	12.29	20.10	0.02	2.14
1967	14.76	11.63	17.61	0.02	1.99

TABLE 4.
GENERAL STATISTICS.

	NUMBERS			RATES		
	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.
Population	386,360	117,840	504,200			
Births (Live)	5,880	1,560	7,440	15.22	13.24	14.76
Legitimate	5,512	1,480	6,992	14.27	12.56	13.87
Illegitimate.. ..	386	80	448	0.95	0.68	0.89
				(per 1,000 population)		
Births (Still)	85	20	105	14.25	12.66	13.92
Legitimate	78	20	98	13.95	13.33	13.82
Illegitimate.. ..	7	—	7	18.67	—	15.38
				(per 1,000 Registered Births)		
Births (Live and Still)	5,965	1,580	7,545	15.44	13.41	14.96
Legitimate	5,590	1,500	7,090	14.47	12.73	14.06
Illegitimate.. ..	375	80	455	0.97	0.68	0.90
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths (Total)	4,420	1,422	5,862	11.44	12.24	11.63
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age	105	26	131	17.86	16.67	17.61
Legitimate	96	26	122	17.42	17.57	17.45
Illegitimate.. ..	9	—	9	24.46	—	20.09
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age	76	17	93	12.93	10.90	12.50
Legitimate	70	17	87	12.70	11.49	12.44
Illegitimate.. ..	6	—	6	16.30	—	13.39
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of Age	62	15	77	10.54	9.62	10.35
Legitimate	57	15	72	10.34	10.14	10.24
Illegitimate.. ..	5	—	5	13.59	—	11.16
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Maternal Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—
				(per 1,000 Births— Live and Still)		

	Births	Deaths
Comparability Factors (Administrative County)	1.00	1.03
Rates per 1,000 Population after adjustment	14.76	11.97

TABLE 5.

BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

COUNTY DISTRICTS	LIVE.					STILL.					Total Births— Live and Still.
	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Boroughs :											
Berwick	107	107	7	9	230	4	—	—	—	4	234
Blyth	252	242	20	23	537	4	3	—	—	7	544
Morpeth	101	93	7	3	204	2	—	—	—	2	206
Wallsend	387	339	30	25	781	11	5	2	1	19	800
Whitley Bay	258	215	25	16	514	2	—	—	1	3	517
Urban Districts :											
Alnwick	46	35	4	5	90	1	—	—	—	1	91
Amble	52	48	1	1	102	—	1	—	—	1	103
Ashington	223	196	8	11	438	1	6	—	—	7	445
Bedlingtonshire	244	224	22	17	507	3	2	—	—	5	512
Gosforth	189	177	11	8	385	2	1	—	1	4	389
Hexham	82	72	5	4	163	1	2	—	—	3	166
Longbenton	294	252	15	23	584	7	1	—	—	8	592
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	85	65	5	8	163	1	1	1	—	3	166
Newburn	278	292	21	7	598	3	5	—	1	9	607
Prudhoe	78	58	3	1	140	2	—	—	—	2	142
Seaton Valley	206	215	8	15	444	3	4	—	—	7	451
Rural Districts :											
Alnwick	85	96	9	6	196	3	1	—	—	4	200
Belford	31	26	—	3	60	2	—	—	—	2	62
Bellingham	24	26	4	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	54
Castle Ward	237	196	9	13	455	1	2	—	—	3	458
Glendale	35	31	1	1	68	—	—	—	—	—	68
Haltwhistle	39	44	2	1	86	—	1	—	—	1	87
Hexham	128	133	7	6	274	2	—	—	—	2	276
Morpeth	115	118	8	6	247	6	1	—	—	7	254
Norham and Islandshires	19	23	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	42
Rothbury	35	39	2	2	78	1	—	—	—	1	79
TOTALS	3630	3362	234	214	7440	62	36	3	4	105	7545

TABLE 6.

INFANT DEATHS.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Live Births	FIRST YEAR		FIRST MONTH		FIRST WEEK	
		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortal- ity Rate per 1000 live births	Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age	Death Rate per 1000 live births	Infant Deaths under 1 week of age	Death Rate per 1000 live births
<i>Boroughs :</i>							
Berwick ..	230	3	13.04	3	13.04	3	13.04
Blyth ..	537	11	20.48	10	18.64	8	14.90
Morpeth ..	204	4	19.61	3	14.71	3	14.71
Wallsend ..	781	15	19.21	6	7.68	3	3.84
Whitley Bay ..	514	4	7.78	1	1.95	—	—
<i>Urban Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	90	1	11.11	1	11.11	1	11.11
Amble ..	102	2	19.61	2	19.61	1	9.80
Ashington ..	438	7	15.98	3	6.85	3	6.85
Bedlingtonshire	507	8	15.78	6	11.83	4	7.89
Gosforth ..	385	6	15.58	6	15.58	6	15.58
Hexham ..	163	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longbenton ..	584	13	23.97	9	15.41	8	13.70
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ..	163	5	30.67	5	30.67	3	18.40
Newburn ..	598	12	20.07	9	15.05	9	15.05
Prudhoe ..	140	4	28.57	3	21.43	2	14.28
Seaton Valley ..	444	10	22.52	9	20.27	8	18.02
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	196	2	10.20	1	5.10	1	5.10
Belford ..	60	2	33.33	—	—	—	—
Bellingham ..	54	4	74.07	—	—	—	—
Castle Ward ..	455	8	17.58	7	15.38	7	15.38
Glendale ..	68	1	14.71	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle ..	86	1	11.63	1	11.63	—	—
Hexham ..	274	4	14.60	4	14.60	3	10.95
Morpeth ..	247	2	8.10	2	8.10	2	8.10
Norham and Islandshires ..	42	1	23.81	1	23.81	1	23.81
Rothbury ..	78	1	12.82	1	12.82	1	12.82
TOTALS ..	7440	131	17.61	93	12.50	77	10.35

TABLE 7.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (Year 1967) ACCORDING TO DISEASE.

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS			RURAL DISTRICTS			TOTAL COUNTY		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ..	8	—	8	3	2	5	11	2	13
Tuberculosis (Other) ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Syphilitic Disease ..	6	—	6	—	1	1	6	1	7
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	2	2	4	2	4	6	4	6	10
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Stomach ..	68	41	109	9	12	21	77	53	130
Lung, Bronchus ..	175	45	220	43	10	53	218	55	273
Breast ..	—	60	60	—	19	19	—	79	79
Uterus ..	—	32	32	—	9	9	—	41	41
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	203	156	359	58	64	122	261	220	481
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	13	7	20	2	3	5	15	10	25
Diabetes ..	11	16	27	4	8	12	15	24	39
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	283	388	671	148	180	328	431	568	999
Coronary Disease, Angina Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	665	420	1085	188	130	318	853	550	1403
Other Heart Disease ..	24	29	53	5	9	14	29	38	67
Other Circulatory Disease ..	188	275	463	83	95	178	271	370	641
Influenza ..	71	102	173	29	36	65	100	138	238
Pneumonia ..	—	3	3	1	2	3	1	5	6
Bronchitis ..	94	99	193	12	22	34	106	121	227
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	179	69	248	32	12	44	211	81	292
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	19	8	27	9	4	13	28	12	40
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	13	11	24	7	1	8	20	12	32
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	12	11	23	3	2	5	15	13	28
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	16	9	25	7	2	9	23	11	34
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	12	—	12	7	—	7	19	—	19
Congenital Malformations ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and Ill- Defined Diseases ..	19	14	33	7	3	10	26	17	43
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	171	171	342	46	49	95	217	220	437
All other accidents ..	31	16	47	8	7	15	39	23	62
Suicide ..	70	58	128	18	21	39	88	79	167
Homicide and Operations of War ..	14	9	23	2	2	4	16	11	27
	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	2367	2053	4420	733	709	1442	3100	2762	5862

TABLE 8.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

COUNTY DISTRICTS	Population	Stomach	Lung Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	TOTALS.		RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION	
								Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia
<i>Boroughs—</i>											
Berwick ..	11650	7	4	1	—	15	—	27	27	2.32	2.32
Blyth ..	36120	9	19	5	3	32	1	68	69	1.88	1.91
Morpeth ..	14340	2	4	4	1	11	—	22	22	1.53	1.53
Wallsend ..	48290	11	39	9	7	44	2	110	112	2.28	2.32
Whitley Bay ..	38380	5	19	12	3	32	—	71	71	1.85	1.85
<i>Urban Districts :</i>											
Alnwick ..	7500	1	4	2	2	9	1	18	19	2.40	2.53
Amble ..	4980	1	2	1	—	7	—	11	11	2.21	2.21
Ashington ..	26320	12	19	3	—	19	4	53	57	2.01	2.17
Bedlingtonshire ..	30810	17	20	2	2	31	1	72	73	2.34	2.37
Gosforth ..	27540	6	12	4	2	26	2	50	52	1.82	1.89
Hexham ..	9730	—	5	1	1	12	—	19	19	1.95	1.95
Longbenton ..	48480	11	29	8	1	42	5	91	96	1.88	1.98
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	9920	2	2	2	—	13	—	19	19	1.92	1.92
Newburn ..	33230	10	20	5	2	31	2	68	70	2.05	2.11
Prudhoe ..	10660	6	6	—	2	9	1	23	24	2.16	2.25
Seaton Valley ..	28410	9	16	1	6	26	1	58	59	2.04	2.08
<i>Rural Districts :</i>											
Alnwick ..	12320	4	5	2	3	14	—	28	28	2.27	2.27
Belford ..	4820	—	—	1	—	3	—	4	4	0.83	0.83
Bellingham ..	5120	2	2	2	—	4	—	10	10	1.95	1.95
Castle Ward ..	34820	5	19	1	3	34	1	62	63	1.78	1.81
Glendale ..	6640	1	2	2	—	6	—	11	11	1.66	1.66
Haltwhistle ..	6690	—	2	2	—	10	1	14	15	2.09	2.24
Hexham ..	20470	2	10	5	3	30	1	50	51	2.44	2.49
Morpeth ..	17910	4	9	3	—	12	1	28	29	1.56	1.62
Norham and Islandshires ..	3810	1	2	—	—	2	—	5	5	1.31	1.31
Rothbury ..	5240	2	2	1	—	7	1	12	13	2.29	2.48
TOTALS ..	504200	130	273	79	41	481	25	1004	1029	1.99	2.04

TABLE 9.

DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER

(excluding Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)

YEARS 1940 to 1967.

YEAR.	Population.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
1940	411,400	648	1.58
1941	407,120	656	1.61
1942	398,300	635	1.59
1943	397,740	686	1.72
1944	390,320	725	1.86
1945	392,510	725	1.84
1946	412,080	712	1.73
1947	417,510	740	1.77
1948	431,850	750	1.74
1949	436,370	796	1.82
1950	438,310	768	1.75
1951	437,600	797	1.82
1952	438,300	843	1.92
1953	440,600	836	1.89
1954	445,900	871	1.95
1955	453,000	870	1.92
1956	459,800	874	1.90
1957	463,900	866	1.87
1958	470,300	954	2.03
1959	475,000	904	1.90
1960	482,480	944	1.95
1961	480,530	929	1.93
1962	487,170	1014	2.08
1963	491,200	977	1.99
1964	494,440	1039	2.10
1965	498,430	1072	2.15
1966	501,380	1073	2.14
1967	504,200	1004	1.99

TABLE 10.
TUBERCULOSIS.
STATISTICS—YEARS 1941 to 1967.

YEAR.	NOTIFICATIONS.			DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		
	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms
1941	346	116	462	208	51	259	0.51	0.13	0.65
1942	298	116	414	156	36	192	0.39	0.09	0.48
1943	458	125	583	202	50	252	0.51	0.13	0.64
1944	506	134	640	195	43	238	0.50	0.11	0.61
1945	608	127	735	186	47	233	0.47	0.12	0.59
1946	454	116	570	200	42	242	0.49	0.10	0.59
1947	439	125	564	186	39	225	0.44	0.09	0.53
1948	442	137	579	187	32	219	0.43	0.07	0.50
1949	506	104	610	160	26	186	0.37	0.06	0.43
1950	519	116	635	124	26	150	0.28	0.06	0.34
1951	523	87	610	105	18	123	0.24	0.04	0.28
1952	519	91	610	77	15	92	0.17	0.04	0.21
1953	480	111	591	71	12	83	0.16	0.03	0.19
1954	556	101	657	66	7	73	0.15	0.01	0.16
1955	564	79	643	67	8	75	0.15	0.02	0.17
1956	399	68	467	50	5	55	0.11	0.01	0.12
1957	356	69	425	26	7	33	0.06	0.01	0.07
1958	340	57	397	28	4	32	0.06	0.01	0.07
1959	309	35	344	20	4	24	0.04	0.01	0.05
1960	330	37	367	25	1	26	0.05	0.002	0.05
1961	284	49	333	27	+	31	0.06	0.008	0.06
1962	246	34	280	23	3	26	0.05	0.006	0.06
1963	224	36	260	24	5	29	0.05	0.01	0.06
1964	181	21	202	16	3	19	0.03	0.006	0.04
1965	181	28	209	17	1	18	0.03	0.002	0.04
1966	131	20	151	13	2	15	0.02	0.001	0.03
1967	105	16	121	13	1	14	0.02	0.002	0.03

TABLE 11.
NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS
DURING THE YEAR 1967.

AGE PERIODS.	* NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.			Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
0—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	4	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	30	20	50	5	4	9	1	—	1	—	1	1
45—	24	8	32	1	2	3	2	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards..	8	2	10	1	3	4	8	2	10	—	—	—
Totals .. .	69	36	105	7	9	16	11	2	13	—	1	1

* Includes new cases coming to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer other than by formal notification.

TABLE 12.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

Area	Number X-Ray Films	Number Referred to Chest Clinic	New Cases of Tuberculosis
1. Unit from Newcastle General Hospital :			
(a) Industrial Firms,			
Wallsend	2,019	8	1
(b) General Public :			
Alnwick	1,076	16	—
Amble	401	5	—
Ashington	386	4	—
Bedlington	637	8	—
Berwick	769	6	—
Blyth	902	7	1
Cramlington	136	2	—
Gosforth	538	12	—
Morpeth	942	9	—
Newburn	256	10	—
Ponteland	227	5	—
Wallsend	195	3	—
Westerhope	300	8	—
Whitley Bay	387	—	—
(c) Psychiatric Hospitals	929	9	—
2. Unit from Preston Hospital :			
(a) General Public :			
Ashington	125	2	—
Blyth	368	3	—
Cramlington	537	6	—
Hexham	233	4	—
Killingworth	1,173	15	1
Otterburn	33	2	—
Seaton Delaval	148	1	—
Wallsend	551	6	—
Whitley Bay	56	1	—
Wooler	671	7	—
(b) Hospitals, Colleges and Approved Schools			
Alnwick	71	—	—
Blyth	116	—	—
Netherton	78	—	—
Ponteland	384	4	—
Stannington	145	5	—
TOTALS	14,789	168	3

TABLE 13.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE.**WORK OF THE SOCIAL WORKER**

Home Visits	648
Sanatorium Visits	326
Seen at Chest Clinics	765
Details of help given :—	
After-Care Sub-Committees :	
Extra nourishment	135
Bedding and clothing	12
Travelling expenses	30
Other help	36
Ministry of Social Security :	
Extra nourishment	23
Bedding and clothing	16
Travelling expenses	5
Allowances	47
Other help	6
Resettlement :—	
To Ministry of Labour D.R.O.	29
To Government Training Centre or Industrial Rehabilitation Unit	3
Attended Resettlement Clinics	—
Commenced work	15

Help for cases was also obtained from other sources including Nursing Care Committees, Home Help, Handicapped and Mental Welfare Services, Children's Department, National Society for Cancer Relief, Marie Curie Foundation, Chest and Heart Association, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, local and voluntary services and other societies.

TABLE 14.

CHIROPODY

SERVICE	Number of Patients Treated	NUMBER OF TREATMENTS										TOTAL
		DOMICILIARY					CLINICS					
		Expec- tant Moth- ers	Elderly		Handi- capped		Expec- tant Moth- ers	Elderly		Handi- capped		
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
County Chiropodists	4187	2	1714	5714	449	846	8	1379	5719	56	113	16009
Voluntary Services	3275	—	829	2867	—	—	—	1950	7858	—	—	13484
Totals : 1967	7462	2	2543	8581	449	846	8	3309	13577	56	113	29484
Totals : 1966	7309	2	2411	8634	752	1508	11	2988	13099	76	159	29640

TABLE 15

Attendances at Ante-Natal Relaxation Clinics

Clinic	Attendances		No. of Half-day Sessions
	1st Visits	Re-Visits	
*Alnwick	56	249	46
*†Ashington	83	518	57
*Bedlington Station ..	28	186	42
*Blyth	118	597	47
*Chapel House	42	215	42
*Cramlington	44	170	44
*Gosforth	55	460	44
*Guide Post	25	169	48
Haltwhistle	37	144	25
*Hexham	45	201	40
*Longbenton	62	230	49
Lynemouth	16	114	45
*Monkseaton Village ..	56	391	40
*Morpeth	73	422	47
*Newbiggin-by-the-Sea ..	44	183	47
*Ponteland	61	331	48
Prudhoe	55	195	48
*Seaton Delaval	25	156	45
*†Shiremoor	8	53	22
South Broomhill	14	99	26
*Throckley	28	216	44
*Tweedmouth	63	358	50
Wallsend	110	529	70
*Whitley Bay	62	422	46
Willington Quay	38	165	45
*Woodlands Park	50	227	50
TOTALS	1,298	7,000	1,157

†Health Visitors commenced to take separate relaxation classes at Ashington Clinic from 5th October, 1967.

†Shiremoor Clinic commenced to operate from 6th June, 1967.

*These clinics are held by Physiotherapists

TABLE 16.

Dental Services for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children under 5 years

PART A.—ATTENDANCES AND TREATMENT :

Number of Visits for Treatment During Year :

	Children 0—4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
First Visit	1,893	577
Subsequent Visits	2,649	1,529
TOTAL VISITS	4,542	2,125
Number of Additional Courses of Treatment other than the First Course commen- ced during the year ..	317	36
Treatment provided during the year —		
Number of Fillings	2,293	1,263
Teeth Filled	2,075	1,100
Teeth Extracted	2,202	792
General Anaesthetics given ..	678	80
Emergency Visits by Patients	94	26
Patients X-Rayed	8	80
Patients Treated by Scaling and/or Removal of Stains from the teeth (Prophy- laxis)	553	371
Teeth Otherwise Conserved ..	743	—
Teeth Root Filled	—	7
Inlays	—	2
Crowns	—	3
Number of Courses of Treat- ment Completed during the Year	2,231	625

PART B.—PROSTHETICS :

Patients Supplied with Full Upper or Full Lower (First Time) ..	94
Patients Supplied with Other Dentures	101
Number of Dentures Supplied ..	311

PART C. ANAESTHETICS :

General Anaesthetics Admin-
istered by Dental Officers. . . Nil

PART D.—INSPECTIONS :

	Children 0 — 4 (incl.)	Expectant and Nursing Mothers
Number of Patients given First Inspections During Year.	A. 3,417	D. 635
Number of Patients in A and D above who required Treat- ment	B. 1,978	E. 584
Number of Patients in B and E above who were Offered Treatment	C. 1,931	F. 584

PART E.—SESSIONS

*Number of Dental Officer Sessions (i.e. Equivalent
Complete Half Days) Devoted to Maternity and
Child Welfare Patients :*

For Treatment 949
For Health Education 15

TABLE 17.
MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

MIDWIFERY

Year	Nurses and Midwives Employed	Private Midwives In County	Attended By Midwives	Attended By Private Midwives	Number of Patients Delivered In Hospitals and Other Institutions But Discharged and Attended by Midwives Before Tenth Day	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions But Discharged and Attended by Private Midwives Before Tenth Day	Puerperal Pyrexia
1962	118	13	1,870	159	4,291	10	3
1963	116	11	1,678	140	4,574	15	2
1964	120	12	1,469	112	5,130	14	3
1965	126	8	1,144	109	5,435	14	6
1966	127	10	929	127	5,366	13	1
1967	126	3	707	69	5,746	4	2

GENERAL NURSING

Year	New Cases	Total Visits	Number of Children Under 5 Years	Number of Old Persons Over 65 Years	Advisory Visits To The Aged
1962	7,704	255,164	425	3,433	9,587
1963	9,787	255,100	500	5,188	10,114
1964	10,201	265,526	546	4,880	10,685
1965	10,782	272,389	457	5,152	10,680
1966	11,164	282,587	461	5,305	11,944
1967	11,990	294,251	543	6,148	13,422

TABLE 18.
VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Sub Committee Area.	DIPHTHERIA					WHOOPING COUGH					TETANUS					POLIOMYELITIS												
	Children Born in Years :—										Others under 16 yrs.																	
	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960-63	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960-6	Others under 16 yrs.	Total	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960-63	Others under 16 yrs.	Total							
North No. 1	153	205	11	7	11	1	388	152	205	11	6	10	1	385	153	205	11	7	11	6	393	127	232	40	14	25	13	451
North No. 2	184	248	46	1	15	2	502	184	248	46	1	15	2	496	184	248	46	1	15	24	518	111	246	61	6	23	12	459
Central	356	528	24	17	17	59	1001	356	510	24	13	6	3	912	356	528	24	17	18	257	1200	308	568	29	15	31	7	958
East	313	520	37	23	87	112	1092	313	520	37	23	20	3	916	313	520	37	23	88	113	1094	309	557	33	22	41	17	979
South	606	858	54	17	71	177	1783	601	854	52	14	15	4	1540	606	858	54	19	95	819	2451	527	913	81	24	35	11	1591
South East	585	822	63	13	62	19	1564	585	815	61	11	29	8	1509	585	821	63	14	78	23	1584	505	866	72	13	61	31	1548
West	161	293	19	3	11	25	512	161	288	18	3	9	23	502	158	293	19	3	11	60	544	138	324	21	3	13	19	518
Wallsend	276	325	28	19	202	25	875	275	324	27	18	12	—	656	276	325	28	19	202	440	1290	192	414	26	16	195	—	843
TOTALS	2634	3799	282	100	476	426	7717	2627	3764	276	89	116	44	6916	2631	3798	282	103	518	1742	9074	2217	4120	363	113	424	110	7347
1966 Totals	2148	3373	232	77	487	245	6562	2138	3358	226	71	160	39	5992	2148	3372	233	77	507	1441	7778	1801	3710	444	161	644	229	6989

Completed Primary Courses :

Reinforcing Doses :

North No. 1	3	13	136	35	336	58	581	3	8	86	19	68	23	207	3	14	136	35	336	59	583	—	14	116	39	322	83	574
North No. 2	8	22	280	52	365	98	825	6	19	200	37	142	41	445	8	23	284	52	365	116	848	6	26	227	47	368	16	690
Central	—	27	692	64	862	743	2388	—	26	670	58	97	12	863	—	27	692	66	871	561	2217	—	26	689	71	903	94	1783
East	4	16	576	95	935	759	2385	1	11	559	83	146	24	824	6	16	575	94	957	612	2260	2	6	526	95	642	14	1285
South	—	74	1056	281	1796	2328	5535	—	72	1021	262	371	134	1860	—	75	1035	281	1772	1972	5155	—	50	1001	249	1347	119	2766
South East	—	61	1031	212	1452	56	2812	—	43	995	184	453	46	1721	—	61	1031	212	1452	39	2795	—	42	990	245	1343	41	2661
West	—	—	329	107	460	92	988	—	—	281	90	157	6	534	—	—	329	107	461	109	1006	—	—	335	104	458	15	912
Wallsend	—	4	238	37	819	476	1574	—	4	234	37	15	—	290	—	4	238	37	819	236	1334	—	5	234	49	732	—	1020
TOTALS	15	217	4338	883	7025	4610	17088	10	183	4046	770	1449	286	6744	17	220	4340	884	7033	3704	16198	8	169	4118	899	6115	382	11691
1966 Totals	—	183	3812	945	5652	3147	13739	—	176	3620	882	1417	103	6198	—	183	3812	943	5658	1749	12345	4	220	3598	945	5117	545	10429

TABLE 19.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

AMBULANCES AND SITTING CASE CARS.

AREA	FIRST QUARTER			SECOND QUARTER			THIRD QUARTER			FOURTH QUARTER			TOTAL		
	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.
North No. 1 ...	649	2,911	40,748	695	2,937	49,034	748	3,177	51,826	728	3,155	50,519	2,820	12,180	192,127
North No. 2 ...	766	2,917	37,927	754	2,799	42,663	746	2,463	39,498	742	2,725	37,012	3,008	10,904	157,100
Central ...	2,630	10,588	79,809	2,775	11,366	78,783	2,866	9,653	74,640	2,798	9,712	72,988	11,069	41,319	306,220
East ...	1,805	7,449	50,219	1,820	7,148	49,146	1,927	6,618	48,931	1,830	7,245	48,480	7,382	28,546	196,776
South East ...	1,757	7,281	48,856	1,764	7,036	47,015	1,784	7,017	47,017	1,699	6,387	43,814	7,004	27,721	186,702
South ...	2,954	13,350	91,087	3,136	15,452	98,043	3,133	14,173	75,267	3,135	13,832	94,584	12,358	56,807	378,981
Wallend ...	1,422	5,850	25,069	1,534	6,447	28,289	1,661	5,835	31,514	1,756	6,628	34,643	6,373	24,760	119,515
West ...	1,311	6,143	46,607	1,364	6,368	50,687	1,370	5,936	49,894	1,261	5,970	45,304	5,306	24,417	192,492
TOTAL ...	13,294	56,489	420,322	13,842	59,553	443,660	14,235	54,958	438,587	13,949	55,654	427,344	55,320	226,654	1,729,913

AMBULANCE CAR SERVICE

AREA	FIRST QUARTER			SECOND QUARTER			THIRD QUARTER			FOURTH QUARTER			TOTAL		
	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.
North No. 1 ...	397	1,430	22,132	389	1,376	23,275	340	1,094	19,679	316	1,195	17,474	1,442	5,095	82,560
North No. 2 ...	31	267	831	48	427	1,096	40	177	991	41	157	1,094	160	1,028	4,012
Central ...	196	932	9,610	186	889	8,921	188	829	9,502	207	793	9,796	777	3,443	37,829
West ...	496	2,509	28,264	538	2,831	31,541	448	2,223	24,744	502	2,459	28,175	1,984	10,022	112,724
South ...	411	2,213	14,816	482	2,672	18,113	370	1,612	12,973	420	2,475	14,744	1,683	8,972	60,646
TOTAL ...	1,531	7,351	75,653	1,643	8,195	82,946	1,386	5,935	67,889	1,486	7,079	71,283	6,046	28,560	297,771
Total Ambul ance Service	14,825	63,840	495,975	15,485	67,748	526,606	15,621	60,893	506,476	15,435	62,733	498,627	61,366	255,214	2,027,684

J—Journeys. P—Patients. M—Mileage.

TABLE 20.

AMBULANCE SERVICE STATISTICS.

STATIONS	VEHICLES	JOURNEYS	PATIENTS	MILEAGE
Alnwick	3	1,906	6,716	89,971
Ashington	6	6,258	19,211	122,626
Bedlington	5	3,396	14,353	98,558
Berwick	3	1,933	7,378	94,793
Blyth	4	3,724	13,557	91,182
Broomhill	3	1,526	8,916	82,958
Morpeth	4	3,001	12,124	97,138
Prudhoe	1	733	4,131	23,489
Seaton Delaval ..	4	2,835	11,697	87,354
Throckley	5	4,438	21,079	136,259
Wallsend	4	6,112	24,146	108,239
Whitley Bay	4	4,169	16,024	99,348
Wideopen	7	7,187	31,597	219,233

Agency Services

Smith's,				
Rothbury	2	1,102	4,188	67,129
British Red Cross				
Society	9	4,451	21,319	225,313
St. John Ambul-				
ance Brigade ..	1	1,740	7,896	64,491
Henderson,				
Alston	1	2	4	22
Private 'Bus				
Operators	3	807	2,318	21,810

DETAILS OF PERSONS CARRIED.

Year.	Accident and Emergency Stretcher Cases.	Accident and Emergency Other Cases	Treatment including Maternity Cases.	Others	Total Patients Carried.	Relatives Carried	Total No. of Persons Carried.
1961	5,227	6,134	181,323	2,778	195,462	62,987	258,449
1962	5,139	5,825	179,549	4,483	194,996	63,011	258,007
1963	5,536	5,777	190,566	4,110	205,989	64,656	270,645
1964	5,972	5,563	193,735	5,409	210,679	64,164	274,843
1965	6,090	5,530	191,870	7,396	210,886	60,561	271,447
1966	6,000	5,264	199,397	7,938	218,599	57,776	276,375
1967	6,022	5,678	203,803	8,833	224,336	57,137	281,473

TABLE 21.
HOME HELP SERVICE.

Area.	Number of cases assisted.		Home Helps employed at 31st December.	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
North No. 1	—	144	—	52
North No. 2	—	251	—	71
East	1	771	—	129
Central	1	632	1	112
South	8	938	—	215
South-East	—	1,209	1	210
West	1	347	—	134
Wallsend	—	425	—	129
TOTALS	11	4,717	2	1052

TYPES OF CASE ASSISTED.

	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Total for 1966
Confinement	10	118	128	145
Acute Illness	—	331	351	322
Old Age and Chronic illness	—	4,146	4,146	3,887
Blind	—	78	78	82
Tuberculosis	—	28	28	32
Mentally Disordered ..	—	6	6	8
Problem cases including children in absence of mother ..	1	10	11	11
TOTALS	11	4,717	4,728	4,487

The number of Home Helps employed compared with last year was :

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
31st December, 1967	2	1,052	1,054
31st December, 1966	4	942	946

TABLE 22.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Number of mentally ill patients dealt with by Mental Welfare Officers under the Mental Health Act, 1959 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Admitted for Observation (Section 25)	30	70	100
Admitted for Treatment (Section 26)	32	24	56
Admitted for Observation in cases of Emergency (Section 29)	64	61	125
	126	155	281

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS.

District.	Population (Esti- mated)	Subnormal and Severely Subnormal	Mental Illness	Social Welfare	Total
Alnwick	38,995	179	349	314	842
Ashington	118,755	575	1,159	623	2,357
Berwick	26,920	308	341	140	789
Blyth	74,500	474	803	1,251	2,528
Hexham	52,670	214	332	406	952
Newbure	144,070	729	1,415	652	2,796
Wallsend	48,290	250	549	211	1,010
	504,200	2,729	4,948	3,597	11,274

TABLE 23.
NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CARE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1967.

	Mentally Ill				Elderly mentally infirm		Psychopathic				Subnormal				Severely Subnormal				Total		
	Under age 16		16 and over		M.	F.	Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over		Under age 16		16 and over				
	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
(a) Total Number ...	—	—	102	114	16	21	—	—	—	—	8	3	9	7	56	71	132	94	211	221	1065
(b) Attending training centre or industrial units ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	7	6	26	22	90	59	69	68	352
(c) Awaiting entry to training centre or industrial units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	10	12	1	—	27
(d) Attending day Hospitals	—	—	15	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	5	7	8	7	5	54
(e) Receiving home visits and not included in (b) (c) and (d) ...	—	—	86	109	16	21	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	28	43	25	15	134	148	632

TABLE 24.

WELFARE OF BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS

REGISTER OF BLIND PERSONS.

Total — 31st December, 1966							733
Names added to register :—							
New cases	90						
New cases transferred from register of Partially Sighted	16						
	—	106					
Transfers In		12					
		—	118				
			851				
Names removed from register :—							
Deaths		74					
Decertified		10					
Transfers out		12					
		—	96				
Total — 31st December, 1967 .							755

REGISTER OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED—

Total — 31st December, 1966							260
Names added to register :—							
New cases	34						
Transferred from register of blind	2						
	—	36					
Transfers In		3					
		—	39				
			299				
Names removed from register :—							
Deaths		20					
Transfers to register of Blind		16					
Transfers Out		4					
Decertified		5					
		—	45				
Total — 31st December, 1967							254

BLIND WELFARE OFFICERS VISITS—

Social visits (blind)	5,240
Social visits (partially sighted)	995
To give lessons	503
To investigate new cases	155
To accompany patients to hospital, etc.	51
Special visits	1,454
To homes and hospitals	424
Conveyance to clubs	649
	9,471

CHILDREN.

On 31st December, 1967, the children on the register were classified as follows :—

						Blind	Partially Sighted
Under 5—							
At home..						1	2
In hospital						—	—
5 — 15							
Attending special schools						11	18
Attending other schools						—	4
Not at school for health reasons						—	—
Ineducable						6	3
						18	27
REGISTER OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED						—	—
Total — 31st December, 1966						..	1,133
Names added to register :—							
New cases						177	
Transfers In						1	
						—	178
							1,311
Names removed from register :—							
Deaths						61	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register						29	
						—	90
Total — 31st December, 1967						..	1,221

VISITS PAID TO AND ON BEHALF OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS 7,277

REGISTER OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING							
Total — 31st December, 1966						.	284
Names added to register :—							
New cases						15	
Transfers In						—	15
							299
Names removed from register :—							
Deaths						7	
Left district and miscellaneous removals from register						9	
						—	16
Total — 31st December, 1967						..	283

VISITS PAID BY STAFF OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MISSION

At home	..	..	..	..	..	..	710
In hospitals	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
At work	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
On behalf of deaf..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
							975

(In addition, home teachers in the North and West paid 90 visits to deaf persons).

TABLE 25

GENERAL HANDICAPPED—CLASSIFICATIONS
(including Children under 16)

		Total on register 31st December	New cases registered during year
A/E	Amputation	111	14
F	Arthritis and rheumatism	146	30
G	Congenital deformities	89	7
H/L	Diseases of the digestive and genito- urinary systems ; of the heart or circula- tory system ; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin :—		
	Asthma	16	2
	Bronchitis and bronchiectasis	23	5
	Valvular disease of the heart, angina pectoris, cardiac degeneration, Myo- carditis, rheumatic heart, mitral stenosis	33	7
	Miscellaneous	9	3
		— 81	—
Q/T	Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper or lower limbs and of the spine :—		
	Paraplegia	83	9
	Osteomyelitis	7	1
	Muscular atrophy, dystrophy	29	3
	Miscellaneous injuries	193	18
		— 222	
V	Organic nervous diseases :—		
	Disseminated Sclerosis	118	22
	Epilepsy	61	5
	Parkinson's Disease	21	4
	Post Poliomyelitis	94	6
	Cerebral Palsy (spastic)	97	2
	Cerebral Thrombosis	21	3
	Hemiplegia	86	23
	Encephalitis Lethargica	6	1
	Miscellaneous	28	4
		— 532	
U/W	Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders (not included in V)	8	1
Y	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	10	3
Z	Miscellaneous	22	5
		— 1,221	— 178

TABLE 26.

HOUSING.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1967				TOTAL 1966
	Local Authority	Other Housing Authority	Private	Total	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick	42	—	39	81	12
Blyth	141	—	17	158	125
Morpeth	4	—	76	80	68
Wallsend	18	—	81	99	4
Whitley Bay	—	—	57	57	120
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	—	—	12	12	2
Amble	—	—	5	5	61
Ashington	141	—	45	186	292
Bedlingtonshire	17	—	7	24	90
Gosforth	132	—	35	167	57
Hexham	—	3	40	43	70
Longbenton	307	—	134	441	241
Newbiggin by the Sea	14	—	4	18	70
Newburn	175	—	315	490	363
Prudhoe	—	—	27	27	10
Seaton Valley	103	—	269	372	257
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total	1,094	3	1,163	2,260	1,842
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	30	—	14	44	11
Belford	—	—	9	9	13
Bellingham	28	—	3	31	1
Castle Ward	90	321	128	539	399
Glendale	—	—	4	4	6
Haltwhistle	58	—	1	59	8
Hexham	6	—	80	86	81
Morpeth	40	106	60	206	9
Norham and Islandshires	—	—	4	4	16
Rothbury	12	—	4	16	12
Rural Districts Total	264	427	307	998	556
TOTALS	1,358	430	1,470	3,258	2,398

* Includes 319 by Newcastle Corporation

TABLE 27.
SLUM CLEARANCE.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Formal Action		Discontinued Informally	Deduct houses in Col. 1 previously reported as 'Closed'	Total Discontinued
	Demolished	Closed not Demolished			
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick upon Tweed ..	8	4	1	—	13
Blyth	65	18	—	—	83
Morpeth	13	2	3	—	18
Wallsend	2	6	—	—	8
Whitley Bay	19	—	—	—	19
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	10	1	—	3	8
Amble	27	—	—	—	27
Ashington	143	—	—	—	143
Bedlingtonshire ..	114	28	49	85	106
Gosforth	39	—	—	—	39
Hexham	—	1	1	—	2
Longbenton	4	—	2	—	6
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	—	30	—	—	30
Newburn	—	53	—	—	53
Prudhoe	31	—	—	—	31
Seaton Valley	72	4	—	—	76
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	547	147	56	88	662
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	7	—	—	—	7
Belford	—	2	—	—	2
Bellingham	3	—	—	—	3
Castle Ward	—	—	—	—	—
Glendale	—	1	—	—	1
Haltwhistle	—	3	1	—	4
Hexham	—	3	—	—	3
Morpeth	1	—	6	—	7
Norham and Islandshires	8	—	5	—	13
Rothbury	—	—	5	—	5
Rural Districts Total ..	19	9	17	—	45
TOTALS	566	156	73	88	707

TABLE 28.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(I) Standard Grants.

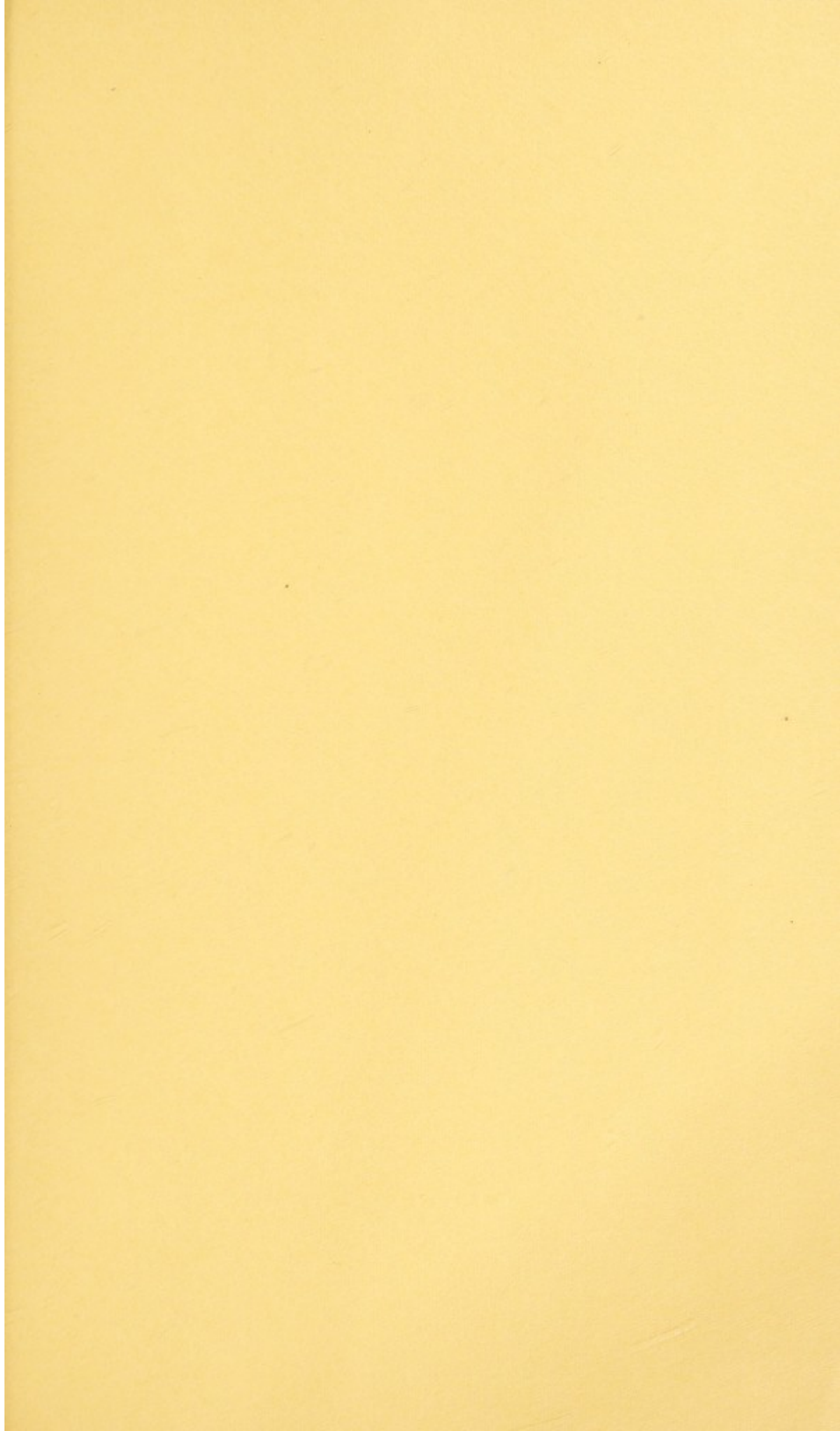
COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Number of separate houses for which grants were made	
	During 1967	Total to Date
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>		
Berwick upon Tweed	5	50
Blyth	28	95
Morpeth	13	105
Wallsend	5	320
Whitley Bay	9	60
<i>Urban Districts—</i>		
Alnwick	3	47
Amble	4	28
Ashington	17	108
Bedlingtonshire	14	83
Gosforth	55	182
Hexham	8	56
Longbenton	17	123
Newbiggin by the Sea	15	118
Newburn	27	240
Prudhoe	8	31
Seaton Valley	15	159
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	243	1,805
<i>Rural Districts—</i>		
Alnwick	38	271
Belford	5	40
Bellingham	10	36
Castle Ward	5	48
Glendale	5	165
Haltwhistle	7	85
Hexham	21	131
Morpeth	14	86
Norham and Islandshires	2	24
Rothbury	2	33
Rural Districts Total	109	919
TOTALS	352	2,724

NUMBER OF HOUSES PROVIDED WITH

	Bath or Shower	Washhand Basin	Hot Water Supply	Water Closet	Food Store
1967	211	235	233	317	196
Total to Date.. .. .	1748	1991	1722	2093	1453

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(2) Discretionary Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Applications dealt with during 1967			Total approved to date
	Submitted to Local Authority	Rejected	Approved	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>				
Berwick	21	2	19	210
Blyth	22	—	22	354
Morpeth	1	—	—	158
Wallsend	34	2	28	534
Whitley Bay	6	—	6	39
<i>Urban Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	2	—	2	131
Amble	19	2	17	256
Ashington	218	2	216	2,304
Bedlingtonshire	33	—	33	1,028
Gosforth	—	—	—	—
Hexham	14	—	14	203
Longbenton	15	—	15	257
Newbiggin by the Sea	9	—	9	205
Newburn	10	—	10	307
Prudhoe	8	—	8	162
Seaton Valley	6	—	6	191
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total	418	8	405	6,339
<i>Rural Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	16	3	13	468
Belford	4	—	4	258
Bellingham	25	—	25	295
Castle Ward	22	—	22	466
Glendale	14	—	14	606
Haltwhistle	9	—	9	307
Hexham	45	—	45	1,169
Morpeth	4	—	4	608
Norham and Islandshires	9	—	9	298
Rothbury	8	—	8	366
Rural Districts Total	156	3	153	4,841
TOTALS	574	11	558	11,180



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