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Contributors

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Prudhoe Urban District Council.

County of Northumberland.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1951.



Prudhoe Urban District Council.

County of Northumberland.



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For the Year 1951.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

—o—

Chairman : Councillor N. P. PARKER.

Members : Councillors Mrs. E. E. STOKOE.

J. L. STOKOE.

W. FINDLEY.

J. J. HESLOP.

Dr. C. R. DAVISON.

S. RUTHERFORD.

H. PEART.

T. PEEL.

—o—

OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

W. G. TWEDDLE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

CLERK AND SHORTHAND-TYPIST : Miss J. GRAY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Prudhoe Urban District Council :—

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,889
Population	9,484
Inhabited Houses	2,545

The main occupations in the area are Coal Mining and Chemical Works.

The District consists of the following Parishes :—

Prudhoe	1,457.368	acres.
Prudhoe Castle	644.944	"
Eltringham.. .. .	355.658	"
Mickley	1,430.554	"

The Registrar General's population figure showed a decrease of 2 on the figure of 9,486 for 1950.

BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	63	57	120
Illegitimate	4	2	6
	67	59	126

The Natural Increase of Population.

The number of births in excess of deaths was 38 during 1951 compared with the same number in 1950 and 62 in 1949.

Birth Rate.

There was a further decrease in the birth rate to 13.3 per 1,000 population per annum in 1951 from the rate of 14.23 for this district in 1950 and 16.16 in 1949.

The rate for England and Wales in 1951 was 15.5 per 1,000 population per annum.

The number of illegitimate births increased by 2 giving a total of 6.

The still birth rate was 0.63 per 1,000 population per annum compared with 0.36 for England and Wales in 1951 and 0.52 for this district in 1950.

Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3	6

The number of still births increased to 6 in 1951 from 5 in 1950.

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The total number of deaths registered during 1951 was 88 compared with 97 in 1950. The death rate was 9.2 per 1,000 population per annum compared with 10.2 in 1950 and 12.5 for England and Wales in 1951.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	9	6
Coronary Disease, angina	8	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	—
Other Heart Disease	10	8
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1
Influenza	2	—
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	2	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	3
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	53	35

Individual Causes of Death.

There was a decline of 8 in the number of deaths from "Coronary Disease, Angina" there being 13 in 1951 and 21 in 1950.

Deaths from cardiac disease generally decreased to 33 in 1951 from 41 in 1950. A slight increase took place in the number of deaths from "Vascular Lesions of nervous system" to 15 in 1951 from 12 in 1950.

Deaths from Pneumonia decreased to 2 in 1951 from 4 in 1950.

Malignant Disease.

Deaths from this cause showed a welcome slight decrease to 12 in 1951 compared with 16 in 1950. There were 10 deaths from this cause in 1949 and 13 in 1948.

There were no deaths classified as due to "Malignant Neoplasm of the stomach" or "of the uterus" whereas there were 3 deaths in each classification in 1950. Those classified as due to "Malignant Neoplasm of the lung and bronchus" increased to 3 in 1951 from one in 1950.

There were no deaths from "Congenital malformations" in 1951 and 3 in 1950.

Deaths due to "All other accidents" (other than motor vehicle accidents) rose to 4 in 1951 from none in 1950.

Deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis decreased to 4 in 1951 from 8 in 1950.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths registered during 1951 for the fourth successive year. The figure for England and Wales in 1951 was 0.79 per 1,000 live and still births.

Infant Mortality.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 6 in 1951 compared with 7 in 1950 and 8 in 1949. Three of the deaths occurred during the first month of life compared with 5 in 1950 and 4 in 1949.

In 1951, two of the neo-natal deaths were due to cerebral haemorrhage and one to prematurity.

The infant mortality rate for 1951 was 47.6 per 1,000 live births and that for England and Wales was 29.6. The figure of 47.6 is the lowest recorded for this district which has shown a gradual progressive decline during recent years. (See table in report). Even so, it was relatively high compared with the national figure as the numbers involved were small.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the position at 31st December, 1951, and also the previous four years :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
31st Dec., 1947	13	13	11	16	53
31st ,, 1948	16	8	8	10	42
31st ,, 1949	15	8	9	8	40
31st ,, 1950	20	14	9	9	52
31st ,, 1951	21	17	12	10	60

Classification of New Cases Notified in 1951.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Age under 2 years	—	—	—	—
2-9 years ..	—	—	—	1
10-19 ..	—	2	1	—
20-29 ..	1	1	2	—
30-39 ..	—	—	—	—
40-49 ..	1	—	—	1
50-59 ..	1	—	—	—
60-69 ..	—	—	—	—
	3	3	3	2

The register at 31st December, 1951 showed 60 cases made up as follows :—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Age under 2 years	—	—	—	—
2-9 years ..	1	—	1	1
10-19 ..	4	5	5	1
20-29 ..	7	5	4	1
30-39 ..	3	4	2	4
40-49 ..	4	2	—	3
50 years and over	2	1	—	—
	21	17	12	10

There were 3 deaths (two pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) registered from this cause in 1951 and 2 deaths (one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary) in 1950. The two deaths in 1951 and the one death in 1950 from pulmonary tuberculosis were of long-term residents in an institution in the district.

The death rate, which includes these institutional deaths, was 0.31 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales in 1951 was the same as that for this district. In 1950 the death rate in Prudhoe was 0.21 per 1,000 population and that for England and Wales 0.36.

The number of new notifications has declined slightly to 11 in 1951 from 13 in 1950. The most noticeable decrease was in the number of female notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis from 7 in 1950 to 3 in 1951. The three notifications were entirely in the 10 to 29 years age groups, none in the younger and older groups. There were 5 notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in 1951 and one in 1950.

In the past five years the numbers of new notifications of tuberculosis (pulmonary and non-pulmonary) were 13 in 1950, 10 in 1949, 5 in 1948 and 17 in 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

The notifications of these diseases are set out in a separate table in the report.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 124 compared with 91 in 1950 and 181 in 1949.

Measles.

This disease showed its usual biennial rise in incidence to 91 cases notified during 1951 from 59 in 1950 and 100 in 1949. The majority of the cases occurred from March to July.

Whooping Cough.

Notifications of Whooping Cough rose to 23 in 1951 from 7 in 1950 and 11 in 1949.

Pneumonia.

The number of notified cases increased to 6 in 1951 from none in 1950.

Scarlet Fever.

No case of Scarlet Fever was notified during the year. There were 15 cases notified in 1950, 33 in 1949 and 42 in 1948. This disease has become usually of a very mild type in recent years.

Diphtheria.

For the fourth year in succession no positive case of Diphtheria occurred in the district.

Poliomyelitis.

During 1951 no case of Poliomyelitis was notified compared with 3 during the previous year.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning.

No case of these diseases was notified in 1951.

Investigations were made in a family of contacts of a case of Dysentery in a neighbouring district but these proved negative.

A lecture organised by the Central Council for Health Education was given in Newcastle on the 6th March, 1951. A suitable circular inviting attendance at the lecture was sent to all food handlers in the district.

Research on Poliomyelitis.

Sewage swabs, two each, were placed in 30 manholes in the district for a period of four days during the months of May and again in June. This involved the taking of 120 swabs in all and their despatch to the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale, near London.

The swabs were taken in conjunction with the Medical Research Council's investigation, in an effort to determine the distribution of the virus in epidemic and non-epidemic periods in certain smaller towns in the country.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, (children 0-5 years), at the schools (5-15 years) and by the General Practitioners of the district.

127 children up to 15 years of age were immunised during the year, 123 under 5 years and 4 from 5 to 15 years. In addition 115 received a reinforcing injection during the year. At 31st December, 1951, 82% of the total child population had been immunised at some time during their life. In 1950 this figure was 85%. The percentage of immunised children under 5 years of age again showed a slight decline to 62% from 65% in 1950 and 68% in 1949.

The percentage of immunised children 5-15 years of age was 93% in 1951 from 98% in 1950 and 1949. There is a very slight but definite decline in the percentage of children immunised in the district.

The following are some recent figures and observations received from the Ministry of Health :—

“ The mortality and incidence of Diphtheria throughout the country continues to fall. In 1951 deaths numbered 34 (provisional) against a yearly average of about 2,800 deaths between 1930 and 1940. Notifications (uncorrected) were 1,983 compared with a yearly average of 55,000 in the same decade.

This virtual elimination of the disease has tended to make parents and the general public dangerously unmindful of the disease as very few have now first hand knowledge of it.”

It is important that every effort should be made to impress the point that the virtual elimination of the disease is by no means absolute but is “ **conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation** ” especially during the first year of life and upon its reinforcement at suitable intervals.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

In 1951 there were 4 primary vaccinations and 4 revaccinations compared with one primary vaccination and 10 revaccinations in 1950. In view of the possible risk of infection from an occasional case of Smallpox, usually imported, this number is still extremely small.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) IN 1951.

	Total Cases.					
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Pneumonia	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Diphtheria	—
Erysipelas	3
Measles	91
Dysentery	—
Malaria	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—
Whooping Cough	23
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—
						124

FOOD POISONING.

Total number of outbreaks	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with No. of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with No. of outbreaks of each
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The examination of sputum, swabs, faeces, milk, water and ice cream was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bacteriological Reports.

	Posi- tive.	Results. Nega- tive.	Total.
Throat Swabs	—	1	1
Urine and Faeces Specimens ..	—	9	9
Sputum	—	2	2
Hair and Scalp	2	1	3
	2	13	15

Section 15, Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Byelaws).

Byelaws under this Section were formally adopted by the Council on the 5th September, 1950. Particular attention is paid to their enforcement during regular visits made to all food premises by the Sanitary Officer.

No statutory action was necessary.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.**

Several visits of investigation were made but no action was necessary under this section of the Act.

Section 50—Burial of the Dead.

There were no burials under this section of the Act.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES (FOR COMPARISON).

Year	Prudhoe U.D.C.	England & Wales
1945	67.6	46.0
1946	60.8	43.0
1947	60.24	41.0
1948	51.7	34.0
1949	52.9	32.0
1950	51.8	29.8
1951	47.6	29.6

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cerebro vascular disease	..	..	Male	1 month
Cerebro spastic paraplegia	..	..	Female	6 months
Infantile convulsions	..	..	Male	2 months
Congenital cerebral haemorrhage	..	..	Male	3 days
Prematurity	..	..	Female	8 hours
Cerebral haemorrhage, birth trauma	..	..	Male	1 week

Total 6 deaths.

**TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES.**

YEAR	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1945	8.9	11.4	67.6	46.0	15.3	16.10
1946	10.16	11.5	60.8	43.0	15.8	19.1
1947	10.1	12.0	60.24	41.0	17.95	20.5
1948	9.2	10.8	51.7	34.0	18.73	17.9
1949	9.5	11.7	52.9	32.0	16.16	16.7
1950	10.2	11.6	51.8	29.8	14.23	15.8
1951	9.2	12.5	47.6	29.6	13.3	15.5

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Hospitals.

In the district there is the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital for mental defectives under the management of the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital Management Committee.

The Hexham and Newcastle groups of hospitals are available to patients from this district.

2. Ambulance Service.

PRUDHOE AMBULANCE.—4, High Row South, Mickley Square, Stocksfield. Tel. Stocksfield 3110.

The Urban District is served directly by an ambulance stationed at Mickley and in addition by the ambulances of the Newburn Station.

NEWBURN AMBULANCES.—Council Offices, Newburn.
Tel. Lemington 74535.

Driver Trueman who had many years of loyal and devoted service as ambulance driver to the people of this district, died suddenly on the 26th November, 1951. Driver Bell was appointed in his place.

During 1951 the Mickley Ambulance made 343 journeys, carried 1,205 patients including 97 stretcher cases and 17 accident or emergency cases, and had a total mileage of 13,853 miles.

3. Home Help Services.

This service is under the control of the County Council through the South Area Health Administration. During 1951, 76 cases resident in this district received the services of Home Helps. The cases served comprised 31 of illness, 26 aged and infirm people, 6 of confinement, 5 following operations, 3 of paralysis, 2 blind persons, 2 cases of accident and one of tuberculosis.

4. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—Council Yard, Prudhoe.

Sessions for babies, children and expectant mothers and for dental treatment are held by the Northumberland County Council at the above centre.

Children's Session : Every Wednesday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon ; 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Session : 1st and 3rd Tuesday 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. 1st and 3rd Friday 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council. There are three District Nurse Midwives working in the Prudhoe Urban District Council's area.

HOUSING.

During 1951 the Council completed 21 houses at their Oaklands Estate making a total of houses owned by the Authority 725, of which 304 have been completed since the war. At 31st December, 1951, work was proceeding on the erection of approximately 150 more houses, all the roads and sewers being then practically completed.

In 1951 two private houses were built.

No statutory action was possible in respect of 310 back-to-back houses. The National Coal Board carried out considerable repair work at Mickley and West Wylam.

Houses in Aiston's Yard, Locomotive Yard, Broomwood Huts and Etal Cottages though condemned before the war are still occupied.

No closing orders were applied during the year.

At 31st December, 1951 there were still over 200 sub-tenant applicants for council houses who had never had a house, included in the total of over 500 applicants for council houses.

Four applicants, one tubercular, living in unsuitable housing conditions were rehoused on urgent medical grounds.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and the supply is well maintained. There are still a small number of houses served by standpipes.

During the year storage accommodation at Drawback was increased from 250,000 gallons to 500,000 gallons and the open reservoir was covered in.

Samples taken at various parts of the area were all found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

The details shown under this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Sanitary Officer.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee of the Council for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department and to the Sanitary Officer and clerk of the Health Department and other officials of the Council for the assistance afforded me throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HÖPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ended 31st December, 1951.

To Dr. Madge Hopper.,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Steady progress has been made in the field of environmental hygiene and is shown under the various tabulated headings.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT WHICH HAS ENTAILED THE FOLLOWING VISITS.

Water Supply	62
Drainage	236
Shops	44
Public Health and Housing Acts	1,029
Factories	52
Bakehouses	3
Public Conveniences	60
Refuse Collection and Disposal	255
Rodent Control	96
Infectious Diseases	15
Disinfection	8
Verminous Premises	16
Slaughter Houses, Butchers, Greengrocers, Grocers, Fish Fryers and Other Food Premises	195
Ice Cream Premises and Dairies	28
	2,099
No. of Informal Notices Served	366
No. of Informal Notices Complied with	280
No. of Statutory Notices served	1
No. of Statutory Notices Complied with	1

Sanitary Administration.

During the past twelve months work has been carried out in dealing with defects and nuisances coming within the jurisdiction of the Health Department. The number of complaints received and recorded in the office was 235 and nearly as many verbal complaints were received and dealt with during inspections of the district.

Schools.

The six schools in the district are as follows :—Low Prudhoe, Eltringham, West Prudhoe, East Prudhoe, Mickley and R.C. School.

Sanitation is satisfactory although the fittings in some cases are old.

Water supplies to each school are satisfactory being obtained from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Untreated sewerage flows into the River Tyne at Mickley Junction but the number of houses involved is small. There are no W.Cs., connected to these drains. The Northumberland and Tyneside River Board is now responsible for pollution and collect samples of the various effluents entering the river for analysis and examination.

The Oaklands Estate was further developed during the year, another 21 houses being built and occupied. Drainage from these houses is discharged to the Low Prudhoe Sewage Disposal Works.

The following work was carried out in connection with conversion of privies to W.Cs., and other drainage work :—

No. of yards of drains laid, examined and tested	506 yards
No. of inspection chambers provided	50

Opportunity is taken whenever alterations are taking place of improving drainage by providing access where possible and replacing old insanitary gullies with self-cleansing types.

Practically all the colliery houses at Mickley and West Wylam have cesspool gullies which can easily cause nuisance unless regularly attended to. 14 old gullies were removed and replaced and 33 additional self-cleansing gullies provided.

Sewage Disposal.

The following works are owned and operated by the Council :—

- (1) MICKLEY S. D. WORKS—No adequate means of dealing with sludge and effluent from sludge bed.
- (2) ELTRINGHAM S. D. WORKS—Receives drainage from 60 houses in Eltringham Village.
- (3) EASTWOODS S. D. WORKS—Small works serving 12 houses.
- (4) LOW PRUDHOE S. D. WORKS—These works receive all the drainage of properties east of Beaumont Terrace to district boundary at Stanley Burn.

Considerable quantities of sludge containing grit and sand are generated at these works. This sludge has to be removed at regular intervals or tanks become overcharged with consequently a poor effluent. Detritus channels have to be emptied daily as they are continually filling up with grit, especially during wet periods. Much of the grit trouble is caused by the sewers serving district roads, grit filling up the gullies and overflowing into the drains. Some back flooding from the River Tyne occurs whenever the level of the river rises to a certain height.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Privies).

During the year a further 27 privies were abolished and replaced by W.Cs. The following shows the locality where the work was carried out :—

Beaumont Terrace	(2)	Oaktree Terrace	..	(2)	Tulip Street	..	(9)	
West Road	..	(4)	Victoria Terrace	..	(2)	River View	..	(2)
Neale Street	..	(1)	Wesley Street	..	(1)	Front Street	..	(1)
Leaburn Terrace	(1)	Holyoake Street	..	(2)				

This process of eliminating privies and ashpits has been a continuous one, since 1946 nearly 300 have been removed. The privies in the area still number 524 at 31st December, 1951.

The No. of Dwelling Houses in the District	.. ..	2,545
The No. of Dwelling Houses using Privies	.. ..	771
The No. of Dwelling Houses using W.Cs	.. ..	1,769

The attention of the Council is drawn to the following places where conditions are bad :—

Oak Street, West Mickley	.. ..	(open ashpits)
Elm Street, West Mickley	.. ..	(open ashpits)
Thorncliffe Cottages, Prudhoe	.. ..	(open ashpits)
Gordon Terrace, Prudhoe	.. ..	(open ashpits)
Brookhouse Yard, West Road, Prudhoe	.. ..	(open ashpits)
St. Thomas' Terrace, Prudhoe	.. ..	(ash privies)

The hard core of the privy conversion problem is at (a) Eltringham, 56 privies (b) Mickley Square, Colliery Houses, 114 privies (c) West Wylam, 145 privies.

Public Conveniences.

The Health Committee is responsible for the supervision of the Council's conveniences.

BRANCH END—Males and Females.

ROAD ENDS, PRUDHOE—Males and Females. These conveniences have proved to be of great benefit to the public and are open day and night.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. (Including Trade Refuse).

The cleansing services have been well carried out despite bad weather and periods of sickness by the workmen. The amount of residual ash from the colliery houses is very high and the number of ash privies which have to be scavenged are a considerable drag on the service especially as new houses are being added at Oaklands Estate.

The Council's Karrier Bantam wagons have undoubtedly been a good investment as they have continued to stand up well after several years of service, although having to traverse very bad streets in the villages of West Wylam and Mickley.

REGISTRATION NO.		YEAR PURCHASED.	
JVK	199	.. ..	Feb., 1945.
JVK	361	.. ..	Aug., 1945.
KBB	118	.. ..	Mar., 1946.
BJR	306	.. ..	Dec., 1946.
ETY	298	.. ..	May, 1951.

Four wagons are employed full time and one wagon is kept in reserve.

Refuse is deposited at West Wylam Tip and some idea of the amount deposited in the last five years is shown by the fact that the floor of the entire dene has been raised by over 35 feet.

The estimated cost per ton for Refuse Collection and Disposal was approximately 19/6d. The amount of refuse removed was over 6,000 tons.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 56 factories on the Register consisting of the following premises :—

Garages	12
Joiners' and Builders' Premises	10
Bakeries	2
Boot Repairers	5
Sanitary Pipes and Bricks	3
Blacksmiths' and Light Engineering	2
Battery Charging	3
Chemical Works	1
Sand and Gravel	2
Miscellaneous	16
	—
	56
	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	28	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	22	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	—	—
TOTAL	56	52	1	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				No. of cases in which Pro-secutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	1	—

OUTWORK.

NATURE OF WORK	NO. OF OUT-WORKERS IN AUGUST
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	1

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Inspection of meat for retail sale has been carried out and the table below gives the amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption. Meat is supplied to this district from abattoirs at Hexham and Newcastle and is delivered to butchers' premises in covered vans.

Inspection of canned goods has required a considerable amount of time but I have again to report that traders are very co-operative.

There are still a number of people who keep pigs for their own use, these pig styes are visited from time to time and notifications of slaughter are received by the Health Department through liaison with the local office of the Ministry of Food. Any doubtful or abnormal conditions are investigated and advice given.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered
Pork (Home -Killed)	2 stones
Fruit	19 lbs.
Canned Goods	489 tins.
Pickles	11 jars.
Sausage	9 lbs.
Hams	144 lbs.
Various Meats	23 lbs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 38—Sale of Horse Flesh.

There are no premises selling horse flesh in the district.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Further washing facilities were provided in food shops during the year. The provision of wash-up sinks with hot water in constant supply for the use of staff in food premises is now fairly general in the district.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14—Registration of Premises.

Regular routine visits have been made to these premises which are required to be registered under this section. The number of such premises is 26 and includes Ice Cream Manufacturers and Retailers also premises used in the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed or preserved food, intended for sale.

Practically all ice cream sold in the district is prepacked and sold direct from refrigerators.

Two travelling vans selling ice cream periodically visit the district and each has been inspected.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57—Licensing of Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards.

There are 3 licensed slaughter houses, these are available for slaughter of " Self Supplier's " pigs and in an emergency.

Control of Snack Bars.

There are 3 snack bars in Prudhoe, each of which is inspected at regular intervals and found to be satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 13.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 89.

There are 4 licensed clubs and 9 public houses. Sanitation in some of these public houses is not entirely satisfactory.

Hawkers Vans and Carts.

From time to time hawkers selling herrings, kippers and fresh fish

have been found in the district. Inspection of the vehicles, utensils, etc., has been made and anything which was not satisfactory pointed out verbally.

Travelling Shops and Vans.

Three travelling shops are in use in this district and all are highly satisfactory.

Butchers' carts and motor vans for retail meat deliveries have also been inspected and found in order.

Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies.

A large proportion of milk sold in the area is heat treated, supplied either from Stocksfield Dairy or Coast Creamery Ltd., Foxhunters Road, Whitley Bay. There is still a certain amount of milk sold direct from churns.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of licences—12.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of licences—12.

Dairies.

There are 3 on the register.

Milk is still retailed in many cases from open vehicles which give no protection to the milk from sun, rain or atmospheric pollution.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269—Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The number of licences in force at 31st December, 1951 was one. During the year an old dilapidated caravan at Edgewell was demolished as unfit for habitation and the hutment near Orchard House was discontinued as a dwelling.

Stables and Manure Pits.

The use of horse transport continues to decline. The Blaydon Co-operative Society Ltd., discontinued their stable in Front Street and removed the manure pit at the rear of the butcher's premises.

Disinfection of Premises.

Library books, dwelling houses and school class rooms have been disinfected following sickness or notifiable disease. Liquid formaldehyde and gaseous disinfectant have been used.

Verminous Premises.

This district is remarkably free from verminous premises but from time to time infestations of beetles, ants and fleas are dealt with. Gammexane and various insecticides have been used and advice given to occupiers.

Places of Public Entertainment. (Circular 120, Ministry of Health).

There are 3 cinemas all of which are satisfactory. Other places of public resort such as halls have been inspected.

Pollution of the Atmosphere.

Chimneys from boiler installations have been kept under observation. Advice is given to boilermen when heavy smoke is discharged, but difficulty has been experienced in the kind of fuel used. There are however no byelaws in force in the district. The chimney of the Stocksfield and District Laundry emits considerable quantities of smoke although various means to eliminate this have been tried out.

HOUSING.

Repair work to dwelling houses has shown an improvement :—

Dampness abated	14
Walls and ceiling plaster repaired	27
Roofs repaired	45
External walls repointed	29
Eaves gutters renewed	35
Floors repaired or renewed	22
Doors and window frames repaired	38
W.Cs. repaired	14
Burst water pipes repaired	22
Yard surfaces renewed	27
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	28
Chimney stacks repointed	9
Waste pipes repaired	44
Drains repaired or cleared	63
Dustbins provided	86

In West Wylam and Mickley Square, further general repairs have been done in colliery houses. Most brick floors have been removed and replaced with concrete also the plastering of walls and the provision of new ceilings have improved the internal conditions of these houses. Wash-up sinks have been provided, this being a joint arrangement between the National Coal Board and the occupier.

RODENT CONTROL, PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following report gives some idea of the work carried out in the prevention and extermination of rodents. Numerous cases were dealt with during the year and all complaints were given immediate attention.

The war against rats is waged continually. Sewers are treated twice yearly but tips and S.D. Works receive regular treatment several times a year. 50% of the cost is recoverable from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Zinc phosphide, red squill, bread mash and biscuit meal were used. The most difficult places to deal with are hen runs and piggeries where useful harbourage is always available.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	2,505	27	83	2,627
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) — (b) 12	51 23	6 16	6 2	63 53
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	Major 1 Minor 3	— 32	— 4	— 1	1 40
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	9	—	4	13
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority	4	41	4	5	54
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 :—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	32	2,661	57	101	2,851

HOUSING.

HOUSES COMPLETED DURING YEAR		With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority,	Permanent	21	—	21
	Temporary	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons,	Permanent	—	2	2
	Temporary	—	—	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year :

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).

(2)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	163
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	140
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :		
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
		Nil.
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
		1
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949. Section 3).	Nil.
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above...		
		1
HOUSING ACT, 1949. (Sec. 20).		
(a)	Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	Nil.
(b)	Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	Nil.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

		By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies and Privy Ashpits abolished	39	—	39
	" " " " repaired ...	33	—	33
	Pail Closets abolished ...	—	—	—
	Water Closets provided ...	73	—	73
	Number of above for which grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47 ...	26	—	26
	Sanitary bins provided ...	65	—	65
	Sanitary bins renewed ...	21	—	21
Drainage	New drains constructed ...	55	—	55
	Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	6	—	6
	Additional gullies provided ...	33	—	33
	Old gullies replaced ...	14	—	14
	Scullery sinks provided ...	35	—	35
	Scullery waste pipes repaired ...	9	—	9
	Scullery waste pipes trapped ...	35	—	35
	Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	27	—	27
Water Supply	Sources closed or discontinued : None	No. of houses	None	
	New Service provided :			
	(a) By Local Authority ...	21	No. of houses	... 21
	(b) By Private Owner ...	2	No. of houses	... 2
	Number of dwelling-houses supplied by :—			
		(a) internal tap	2,473	
		(b) standpipe ...	60	

LIST OF BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

12th May, 1939.

New Buildings.

5th October, 1927.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures.

9th October, 1950.

Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food.

Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

For securing cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

Conclusion.

Health Department work is never spectacular but efforts are continuously being made to see that clean water, clean air and clean food are provided for the inhabitants of the district and that all waste matters are removed as expeditiously as possible so that living conditions are as good as they can be.

In concluding my report I would like to thank you Dr. Hopper for kindly advice on many occasions, Mr. Philipson, Clerk of the Council for assistance and Mr. Ireland, Engineer for his co-operation also Miss J. Gray who has efficiently carried out her work in the department.

To the Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Public Health Committee and members of the Council, I wish to tender thanks for all the help, encouragement and support they have given me.

I am, Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

	No. of Inspect-ions during year.	No. of Defects or Con-ventions of Bye-laws.	No. of IN-ORMAL Notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action.	No. of STATU-TORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice.	Legal Pro-ceedings
HOUSING—							
Structural defects ...		78	78	89	—	—	—
Defective Food Store ...		14	11	13	—	—	—
Dampness ...	423	39	35	41	1	1	—
Overcrowding ...		5	—	5	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY—							
(Insufficient) ...	62	22	4	28	—	—	—
(Unsatisfactory) ...		—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE—							
(Insufficient) ...	236	55	48	58	—	—	—
(Defective) ...		29	29	32	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES	264	39	14	47	—	—	—
(Insufficient) ...		42	31	39	—	—	—
(Defective) ...							
Food Premises	212	27	8	19	—	—	—
Shops Act ...	44	2	2	2	—	—	—
Dairies ...	8	1	1	1	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	12	1	1	1	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ...	11	2	2	2	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ...	52	4	1	4	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ...	16	8	8	8	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	189	98	89	104	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations ...	41	18	4	21	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	14	3	—	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	1,584	487	366	517	1	1	—



