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**THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SEDGEFIELD.**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
FOR THE  
**YEAR ENDING**  
**31st DECEMBER, 1947.**

FERRYHILL :  
A. Blamire, Electric Printing Works,  
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## SEDGEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
SEDGEFIELD,  
STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 70th Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary work of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

There is a slight decline in the estimated total population from 33,412 in 1946 to 33,109 in 1947.

#### Birth Rate.

The live birth figure of 20·03 shows a slight decline to that of 20·27 for 1946; there being 14 fewer live births in 1947 than in 1946.

The still birth rate shows an increase of 0·18 from 0·33 in 1946. There were 17 still births in 1947 and 11 in 1946.

#### General Death Rate.

This rate shows a slight reduction from 10·65 in 1946 to 10·33 this year. It remains fairly constantly at a slightly lower level than that of the country generally as it has done during the past 20 years.

#### Infantile Mortality.

The death rate of all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 37·70. This figure shows a considerable decline from that of 1946, which was 45·80.

It is pleasing to note that this figure of 37·70 for 1947 is below that for England and Wales, which is 41·0, whereas in 1946 it was slightly higher.

On comparing the Infantile Mortality figures of 1936 and 1937 which were 77 and 74 respectively, it is most startling to find that by the 1947 rate the figure is halved.

This is, in spite of the housing difficulties and young couples 'living in.'

The use of the sulphonamide drugs and penicillin, as well as the gradually increasing high standard in the care of mothers and young children and in mothercraft, are all helping to lower this figure which is often regarded as the best index of the general health of a population.

This is also the first time the Sedgefield figure has been lower than that of England and Wales since 1928 (see tables on page 7) except for an isolated instance in 1940.

It is very gratifying to note this.

#### Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

The figures for these deaths is 1·51 for 1947, compared with that of 5·8 for the country generally.

In 1946 the figure for this district was 5·9 compared with 4·4 for the country.

While the figure for England and Wales has slightly increased in 1947 that for Sedgefield shows an abrupt and welcome decline.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

The maternal mortality rate is 2.94 for 1947 compared with 2.91 for 1946. There were two maternal deaths in each year. The small difference in the figure is due to a slight decline in the number of births.

The rate is slightly higher than that of the country generally, which is 1.01.

### **Individual Causes of Death.**

Heart disease continues to head this list. The number of deaths is 92 in 1947, being more than in the previous years, when there were 79 in 1946 and 90 in 1945.

Deaths from cancer come next, there being 52 in 1947 and 49 in 1946.

There is an increase this year in the number of deaths from cancer 'of other sites' among males *i.e.* 21 as compared with 12 in 1946.

A considerable decline in deaths due to prematurity has taken place. The figure this year being 3 compared with 13 in 1946.

### **Tuberculosis.**

The mortality rate for the respiratory form of the disease shows a slight decline.

The mortality rate for the non-respiratory form has decreased considerably there being one death in 1947 compared with 7 in 1946.

There was a decrease of 3 in the number of new cases of the pulmonary type notified during 1947 (excluding the Mental Hospital) and an increase of 2 in the non-pulmonary form.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

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

There has been a marked increase in the incidence of Measles in 1947 there being 117 cases notified compared with 51 in 1946.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough shows a decline from 39 in 1946 to 13 in 1947.

111 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year compared with 123 in 1946. This shows a slight decline but the figure is still high.

There was one positive case of Diphtheria in 1947 (an inmate of the Durham County Mental Hospital) and no deaths.

### **Dysentery.**

14 cases were notified during the year. These were from the Durham County Mental Hospital.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

4 cases of this disease were notified during 1947. The first case was notified in August and the last in October of that year. Of the 4 cases, two were abortive and the other two, both young children, showed residual paralysis and subsequently received orthopaedic treatment at the Emergency Hospital.

Seven people, who became contacts of the disease while on holiday, were kept under surveillance. None contracted the disease.

An Iron Lung was available at the Isolation Hospital.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Details of this scheme are given in a separate section of the report.

### Scabies.

37 cases of Scabies were notified during the year and 31 received treatment at the Cleansing Centre, Spennymoor, compared with 47 cases and 59 persons treated in 1946.

There is a welcome decline in the incidence of this disease.

The Council's ambulance was used to convey patients to Spennymoor.

### Housing.

The need for many more new houses is urgent in order to alleviate overcrowding and families sometimes several in number 'living in,' and to re-house the occupants of condemned and almost derelict old houses.

During 1947, 1,186 applications for Council houses were received (see section on Housing page 16).

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

An analysis of a sample of water taken in Fishburn is included in the report.

As this showed some surface pollution the Durham County Water Board were communicated with, and the necessary action taken.

The details shown under this section have been supplied by the Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Clough and Mr. Curry.

I wish to express to the Council my appreciation of your support, my grateful thanks to the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable help and co-operation during the year, to the Sanitary Inspectors, members of the Health Department, and other Council Officials for their loyal support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

MADGE HOPPER,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 39,212 acres.

Population 33,109.

No. of inhabited houses 8,990 + 35 ex-army huts occupied by squatters.

Rateable Value £126,554.

Sum represented by a penny rate £469 12s. 10d.

### Vital Statistics.

Births.—Live Births	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	328	308	636
Illegitimate	15	12	27
	343	320	663
Life Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 20.03			
Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	9	6	15
Illegitimate	—	2	2
	9	8	17

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Total Births (Live and Still)	352	328	680
Still birthrate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still):			25·00
Total Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population			20·54.

#### Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year : 25.

#### Infantile Mortality Rate.

Death rates of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live births: 37·70.

Death rate of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 Legitimate Live births: 39·30.

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year.

<b>Deaths.</b>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
	342	194	148

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 10·33

#### Maternal Deaths.

Deaths from Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis 1

Other maternal causes ... 1

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births (*i.e.* Live and Still): 2·94

<b>Causes of Death.</b>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
ALL CAUSES	194	148
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	6
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Influenza	4	3
Measles	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis, Polioencephalitis	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	1
Cancer of Buccal cavity and oesophagus-M	2	5
uterus-F		
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	10
Cancer of breast	—	3
Cancer of all other sites	21	8
Diabetes	1	4
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	16	19
Heart Disease	55	37
Other diseases of Circulatory System	14	3
Bronchitis	14	8
Other respiratory Diseases	3	1
Pneumonia	4	6
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	3	—
Diarrhoea under two years	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive diseases	2	6
Nephritis	5	3
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	2	1

Causes of Death—*continued.*

	Males.	Females.
Congenital malformation, birth injuries	2	6
Suicide ... ..	3	—
Road traffic accidents ... ..	1	1
Other violent causes ... ..	11	2
All other causes ... ..	15	12

**Cancer.**

The following table gives the deaths from cancer in age groups and localisation.

			Ages in years.					Totals.
			1-25	26-45	46-65	66-75	76 up	
Stomach	...	...	—	—	4	3	2	9
Breast	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	3
Prostate	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	2
Uterus	...	...	—	1	3	—	—	4
Liver	...	...	—	2	6	2	—	10
Lungs	...	...	—	2	2	1	—	5
Bowels	...	...	—	—	3	3	4	10
Other sites	...	...	—	2	1	5	1	9
			—	7	21	15	9	52

Table of Birth and Death rates for the past 20 years (1928-1947) as compared with Rates for England and Wales.

Year.	General Death Rate.		Infantile Mortality Rate.		Birth Rate.	
	Sedgefield	England and Wales	Sedgefield	England and Wales	Sedgefield	England and Wales
1928	11.5	11.7	79.9	65	19.9	16.7
1929	11.7	13.4	85.5	74	19.9	16.98
1930	11.4	11.4	69.4	60	19.6	16.99
1931	10.9	12.3	86.1	66	17.8	16.47
1932	11.1	12.0	71.5	65	17.8	15.96
1933	11.3	12.3	86.5	64	16.8	15.02
1934	11.3	11.8	88.8	59	15.5	15.42
1935	11.7	12.1	70	57	18.55	15.32
1936	10.9	12.1	77	59	18.4	15.41
1937	12.2	12.4	74	58	18.15	15.50
1938	11.41	11.6	73	53	17.84	15.70
1939	11.33	12.1	65	50	17.38	15.59
1940	13.83	14.3	50.81	55	17.74	15.15
1941	10.78	11.6	73	53	17.80	15.70
1942	9.71	11.6	71.80	49	19.44	16.34
1943	10.53	12.1	65.30	49	18.45	17.01
1944	10.73	11.6	48.74	46	21.61	18.11
1945	9.96	11.4	58.29	46	20.56	16.56
1946	10.65	11.5	45.80	43	20.59	19.63
1947	10.33	12	37.70	41	20.54	21

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality and Maternal  
Death Rates in the year 1947.

						England and Wales	Sedgefield Rural District
						(Rates per 1,000 population)	
Births :—							
Live	...	...	...	...	...	20.5	20.03
Still	...	...	...	...	...	0.5	0.51
Deaths :—							
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	12.0	10.33
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.06
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.09	0.21
						(Rates per 1,000 Live Births)	
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	41	37.70
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	...	...	...	...	...	5.8	1.51
Maternal Mortality :—							
Puerperal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	Not	1.51
Others	...	...	...	...	...	Available	1.51
TOTAL						—	3.02
						(Rates per 1,000 Total Births) (i.e. Live and Still)	
Maternal Mortality :—							
Puerperal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	0.16	1.47
Others	...	...	...	...	...	0.85	1.47
TOTAL						1.01	2.94

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table of cases as notified in the whole district set out in age groups.      Civilians only.

	At all ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total deaths	Hos- pital	Home
Scarlet Fever ...	112	—	1	6	6	6	37	38	7	8	1	2	—	—	106	6
Diphtheria ...	9	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	9	—
Erysipelas ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	2	—	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	—	1	8	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	2	4	—	—	14	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	9	3	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	9	—
Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1
Pneumonia (Prim. and Influz.) ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	1	1	—	6	4
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	117	9	10	16	16	15	46	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	116
Whooping Cough ...	13	1	—	—	4	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	13
TOTALS ...	308	14	12	23	28	25	94	41	10	35	10	12	4	4	159	149

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table of cases after correction in the whole district set out in age groups.

	At all ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	111	—	1	6	6	6	37	38	7	7	1	2	—
Pneumonia ...	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	2
Dysentery ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	5	4	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	117	9	10	16	16	15	46	1	—	2	—	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	13	1	—	—	4	2	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	295	14	11	23	27	24	90	40	10	28	12	12	4

# SCARLET FEVER.

111 Positive Cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1947 as against 123 in 1946. This is a slight decline to the 1946 figure but is a marked increase on the number of notifications during the last few years.

Location	All ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35 and over	Home	Hos- pital
Chilton Buildings ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	1	—	—	6
Ferryhill ...	31	—	—	1	1	3	11	10	1	2	2	1	30
Fishburn ...	32	—	1	1	1	3	8	13	—	4	1	4	28
Trimdon ...	17	—	—	3	2	—	6	5	1	—	—	1	16
Sedgefield ...	8	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	8
Cornforth ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	4	—	—	—	12
Bishop Middleham ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	5
TOTALS ...	111	—	1	6	6	6	37	38	7	7	3	6	105

**Diphtheria.** During 1947 9 cases of Diphtheria were notified as against 7 in 1946, no deaths occurred and only one of these cases turned out to be positive.

**Paratyphoid.** One case of Paratyphoid was notified during the year from the Durham County Mental Hospital.

**Smallpox.** No cases of smallpox occurred in the district.

**Laboratory Work.**

The undermentioned table shows the use made of this during the year :—

Bacteriological Examination				
Results for :				
		<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tubercle Bacillus	...	14	97	111
Diphtheria Bacillus	...	—	46	46
Meningococcus	...	1	3	4
Haemolytics Streptococci	...	23	27	50
Vincent's Angina	...	—	2	2
Dysentery	...	3	12	15
Salmonella Organisms	...	—	1	1
Staphylococcus Aureus	...	1	—	1
Paratyphus	...	—	5	5
Br. abortus	...	—	2	2
		42	195	237

**Notification of Tuberculosis.**

Tuberculosis (New cases and Mortality during 1947).

Age Periods		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	5	1	—	—	1	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	1	2	1	2	—	2	—	—
20—25	...	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
25—35	...	4	7	—	—	2	3	—	—
35—45	...	2	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—55	...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		14	18	7	4	8	6	1	—
		32		11		14		1	
		43				15			

Of the above new cases 11 respiratory cases were notified from the Durham County Mental Hospital.

**Tuberculosis.**

The total number of new cases of the pulmonary form of the disease notified from the area, excluding the Mental Hospital was 21. This was a decrease of 3 from the figure for 1946 which was 24.

New notifications of the non-pulmonary form of the disease numbered 11 an increase of 2 from the number for 1946.

Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis showed a decrease from 15 in 1946, to 14 in 1947, while in the non-respiratory form of the disease, the number of deaths was 1, as against 7 in 1946.

Tuberculosis Mortality Rate	(Respiratory) 1946	0.449
Do.	(Respiratory) 1947	0.423
Do.	(Non-respiratory) 1946	0.2095
Do.	(Non-respiratory) 1947	0.0302

See Comparative table re Tuberculosis Statistics for past 10 years on page 14.

No. of cases on register at 31st December, 1947.						
Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total cases
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
116	125	241	96	89	185	426

### Scabies.

Scabies became a Notifiable Disease in the Rural District on June 17th, 1946.

Number of cases of Scabies notified during 1947	37
Number of cases treated at the Cleansing Centre	31
Average number of treatments required per person	2
Total number of treatments	74

The number of cases of Scabies notified shows a reduction on that for 1946 which was, for the last six months of 1947, 47 cases.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

134 cases were admitted to the Sedgefield Isolation Hospital during 1947, as against 156 in 1946.

Admissions were as follows from Sedgefield Rural District:—

#### 105 cases of Scarlet Fever.

1	„	Diphtheria.
2	„	Scarlet Fever Carriers.
6	„	Tonsillitis.
2	„	T. B. Meningitis.
6	„	Cerebro Spinal Fever.
1	„	Influenzal Meningitis.
1	„	Epistaxis.
1	„	Stomatitis.
1	„	Parotitis.
1	„	Poliomyelitis.
2	„	Pneumonia.
2	„	Dysentery.
1	„	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1	„	Measles.
1	„	German Measles.

4 deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital during the year, 1 from Pneumonia, 1 from Influenzal Meningitis, and 2 from T. B. Meningitis.

**COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.**

NEW CASES.						DEATHS.						NO. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR.					
Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1938 13	13	26	17	11	18	11	4	15	1	4	5	58	61	119	64	72	136
1939 11	7	18	16	6	22	7	5	12	3	1	4	59	62	121	72	75	147
1940 33	8	41	10	5	15	8	7	15	2	4	6	64	62	126	77	73	150
1941 17	34	51	14	9	23	12	6	18	4	—	4	67	80	147	87	78	165
1942 22	30	52	10	14	24	4	5	9	3	2	5	81	94	175	88	89	177
1943 15	27	42	7	8	15	4	4	8	5	3	8	78	106	184	94	96	190
1944 17	19	36	5	8	13	2	7	9	4	5	9	83	102	185	83	91	174
1945 24	21	45	15	10	25	5	3	8	—	3	3	101	116	217	98	100	198
1946 20	16	36	5	5	10	8	7	15	6	1	7	108	117	225	90	90	180
1947 14	18	32	7	4	11	8	6	14	1	—	1	116	125	241	96	89	185

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

### Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of  
Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5-9 1938- 1942	10-14 1933- 1937	Total under 15
Born in year								
Number immunised ...	41	250	255	320	219	2,106	2,304	5,495
Estimated mid year child pop- ulation 1947	2,880					5,190		

### Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area.

	<i>Under 5 years.</i>	<i>5 to 14.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Total number of children who were given a re-inforcing injection.</i>
Jan.—June 1947 =	165	22	187	132
July—Dec. 1947 =	244	22	266	53
	<u>409</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>453</u>	<u>185</u>

For the year 1947, the figures show that 37.67% of the total child population of the Rural District under 5 years and 84.97% of the 5 to 15 years child population has completed a full course of immunisation.

Comparative figures for the year 1946, were 34.55% for the children under 5 years and 87.44% for the 5 to 15 years children.

In 1945 the figures were 25% of children under 5 years and 77% 5 to 15 years.

The national effort of recent years has been especially directed towards of securing early immunisation. The figures in this District show a gradually improving percentage of children immunised under 5 years. The year age group figures show that 106 more children under 2 years were immunised in 1947 than in 1946.

### Refresher or Reinforcing Injections.

These injections have been mainly given at clinics held at the schools. Since the injections were started in 1946, a total of 955 have been given, *i.e.* in 1946 410, 1947 = 185.

### Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in 1947.

Of six children under 15 years notified as suspected Diphtheria cases, none proved positive.

A total of nine suspected cases of all ages one proved positive, an inmate of the Durham County Mental Hospital.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Your Council employ a part-time Medical Officer of Health and two full-time qualified Sanitary Inspectors along with clerical assistance.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Housing.

During the year 62 houses were constructed by the Council and occupied. This left 48 houses to be completed to finish the Council's first post-war programme of 134 houses.

The situation of the 62 houses let during the year was as follows:

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Ferryhill	20
Cornforth	16
Sedgefield	14
Chilton Buildings	10
Trimdon Grange	2

At the latter part of 1947 a commencement was made with the construction of the second post war housing programme of 146 houses and the preparation of sites for 92 aluminium bungalows on three central sites:

<i>Site.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>	<i>No. of Bungalows.</i>
Trimdon Village	56	30
West Cornforth	36	31
Ferryhill (Kensington Gardens)	44	31
	—	—
	136	92

The number of private houses constructed and occupied during 1947 was 23 as against 16 in 1946.

The total number of new houses constructed and occupied in this district since the termination of hostilities in 1945 up to 31st December, 1947, was:

<i>By local authority.</i>	<i>By private enterprise.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
86	39	125

The number of applicants for Council houses on December 31st was 1,186.

This excludes applications for Aged Persons Bungalows.

#### Drainage and Sewage.

The whole of your District is drained and sewered. The sewage disposal works consist for the most part of detritus and precipitation tanks and filter beds, together with land for final treatment. In other parts of your district precipitation and land irrigation are employed, whilst Bradbury and Mordon are drained with settling tanks only.

Table on page 17 shows particulars of Sewage Works within your district.

# PARTICULARS OF SEWAGE WORKS WITHIN THE SEDGEFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

	Approximate Population draining to Sewage system	Capacity of settling Tanks in Gals.	Capacity of filter beds in cubic yards	Capacity of humus Tanks in gals.	Sludge drying area in sq. yards	Dry weather flow in gals. per day.	Pumping Plant
Sedgefield ...	3,000	17,670	690	7,872	350	52,000	2—4" clock pumps cap- able of del- ivering 20,000 gals, per hr. each
Fishburn ...	2,500	50,000	1,788	13,400	500	60,000	
Trimdon Village ...	900	12,000	200	1,500	120	9,000	20,000 gals, per hr. each
Trimdon Colliery ...	4,500	90,000	3,490	—	120	34,000	
Chilton Buildings	4,600	22,500	1,250	—	300	35,000	
West Cornforth ...	4,200	51,250	—	—	200	35,000	
Ferryhill (Southside) ...	5,400	82,200	2,180	16,400	400	99,000	do.
Ferryhill (Northside) ...	3,500	16,000	1,780	—	200	50,000	
Bishop Middleham	1,000	17,100	400	—	100	10,000	
Ferryhill and Chilton Joint ...	4,800	60,000	1,684	17,200	660	96,000	

Systems are all partially separate.

Pithead baths are additional.

### Sanitary Conversions.

During 1947, 14 ash-closets were converted to the water carriage system.

The following table shows the total number of closets in the district at 31st December, 1947.

	<i>Water Closets.</i>	<i>Ash-closets &amp; Privies.</i>
Ferryhill ...	2837	57
Chilton ...	1700	18
Trimdon ...	1078	307
Cornforth ...	1303	50
Bishop Middleham	338	40
Sedgefield (incl. Hospitals)	1119	52
Fishburn ...	633	31
Mainsforth ...	76	13
Remainder of district including Aycliffe school	168	259
	<hr/> 9252	<hr/> 827

In 1930 the number of ash-closets and privies in the area was 5,771, now the number has been reduced to 827. Representations have been made for the conversion of a further 117 ash-closets to water closets; of the remaining ash-closets and privies a large percentage are attached to houses that have been condemned and to outlying farms.

### Public Cleansing.

During 1947 two new vehicles were obtained for refuse collection bring the fleet of vehicles engaged wholly in refuse collection to six Karrier Bantam and one Morris.

The following shows the district that each of the above mentioned vehicles serve.

<i>Vehicle.</i>	<i>District.</i>
Karrier Bantam No. 1	Portion of Ferryhill and Chilton Lane.
Karrier Bantam No. 2	Remainder of Ferryhill not covered by No. 1, and Dean Bank.
Morris No. 3	
Karrier Bantam No. 3	Sedgefield and Fishburn.
Karrier Bantam No. 4	Chilton Buildings, Windlestone Parish Portion of Woodham Parish, and Chilton Lane Council houses.
Karrier Bantam No. 5	Cornforth Parish.
Karrier Bantam No. 6	Trimdon Grange—Portion of. Trimdon Colliery—Portion of. Trimdon Village.

Bradbury, Mordon, Stillington and the remaining portion of Trimdon Colliery are visited by one of your vehicles which is engaged part time in refuse collection, whereas Mainsforth, Bishop Middleham, East Howle, and the remaining portion of Trimdon Village have the refuse collected by Contractors.

Refuse disposal is by means of controlled tipping, there are five tips, all disused quarries, over the district and under the Council's Control.

No new tipping sites were acquired during the year.

The work of collection and disposal was carried out in a normal manner during the year except for a period from the

beginning of February to the end of March. Heavy snowfalls during this period greatly handicapped this work and at times it was brought to a standstill. Additional vehicles and fillers were engaged to prevent the work getting too far in arrears and when the weather improved these were kept on till the whole district was cleared. April saw this work returned to normal.

Collections are made twice weekly at seventy-five per cent of the houses in the district, the remainder receive attention once weekly.

As there was a number of dry ashpits in the area representation was made, during the year, to the owners to replace these with dustbins.

Consideration was given to the question of carrying out that work undertaken by contractors, by direct labour.

### Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1947.

(1) Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority.	Number of Nuisancee abated after Notice.
Dwelling houses :			
Foul conditions ...	1	—	1
Structural Defects ...	291	6	224
Overcrowding ...	3	—	3
Lodging houses ...	—	—	—
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops ...	16	—	15
Bakehouses ...	2	—	2
Slaughterhouses ...	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	6	—	6
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	5	—	5
Water Closets ...	65	—	64
Defective Yard Paving ...	2	—	1
House Drainage ...	109	—	109
Water Supply ...	1	—	1
Pigsties ...	4	—	4
Animals Improperly kept ...	1	1	1
Other Nuisances, etc. ...	131	—	1
Totals ...	637	7	522

### Water Supplies.

The Ferryhill, Chilton, West Cornforth, Mainsforth, Trimdon, Fishburn, Bishop Middleham, Sedgfield and Bradbury Townships have their water supplied by the Durham County Water Board. Most outlying farms and cottages in these Townships obtain water from wells and springs.

With the exception of the outlying premises water is supplied to the Stillington Township by the Tees Water Board.

Several houses at Sedgfield Station, in the Bradbury Parish, and Bishopton Crossing, part of which is in the Elstob Parish and the remainder in the Parish of Stillington, obtain their water

from a piped supply running along side the Sedgfield to Stillington Railway Line. This pipe-line was transferred during the year from the ownership of the London North Eastern Railway to the Durham County Water Board, and one farm which had no proper supply of water was connected up to this pipe-line.

In 1939 a water main was laid by the Durham County Water Board, from Bradbury to Aycliffe, which is outside this district, this enabled premises in certain parts of the Parish of Woodham to obtain a piped supply. The remainder of the premises in the Parish of Woodham and the majority of those in the Windlestone Parish are supplied with water by meter from the Durham County Water Board through a privately owned pipe-line.

Butterwick, Old Acres, Elstob, Preston-le-Skerne, Embleton, Foxton and Shotton obtain their water supplies chiefly from privately owned wells and springs.

In the Parish of Mordon there is a pump and well which is maintained by this authority, the remainder of Mordon Parish obtains water from privately owned wells.

A scheme was prepared by this Council under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, whereby it is anticipated that practically all farms and outlying premises together with Mordon Village will be supplied with a pipe supply. This scheme was, during the year, approved in principle by the Minister of Health.

A sample of water as supplied by the Durham County Water Board to the consumers was taken during the year from a house at Fishburn. An extract of the analyst's report is submitted herewith:

	Parts per 100,000.
Chlorine as chlorides	7.0500.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.0840.
Ammonia	.0014.
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0040.
Oxygen Absorption	.1866.
Injurious Metals	None.
Total solid matter dried @ 100° C	44.0000
Temporary Hardness	7.4 Degrees.
Permanent Hardness	3.6 „
Colour of Sample on Hazen Scale	18
Appearance of Sample in 2 foot tube	Not quite clear.
Odour when heated to 50° C	None.

#### Microscopical Examination.

Small deposit from  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon, consisting of earthy matter, vegetable debris, fungus growths and some micro-organisms.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 37° C. after 72 hours	11 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 20-22° C. after 72 hours	136 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37° C.	
after 72 hours.	Positive in 10 ml.
Clostridium Welchi Test @ 45° C.	Negative in 40 ml.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The sample is free from any evidence of pollution by sewage or other foul drainage, but there is some indication of contamination by impurities derived from the surface.

In particular, the coliform test does not provide very satisfactory results since the probable number of organisms of this group in 100 ml. of sample is of the order of 18+, but if the defect can be remedied no exception could be taken to the use of the supply as represented by the sample for human consumption.

On receipt of this analysis, a copy was forwarded to the Water Board. Flushing of the mains in the locality was carried out as the condition of the water was attributed to the sediment in the pipes.

After flushing a further sample was submitted for examination and was found to be satisfactory. A copy of the report of the second sample is submitted herewith:—

		Parts per 100,000.
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	9.5000.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	.0310.
Ammonia	...	.0045.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	.0048.
Oxygen Absorption	...	.0800.
Injurious Metals	...	None.
Total solid Matter dried @ 100° C.	...	58.0000.
pH Value of Sample	7.6	
Temporary Hardness	13.0 Degrees.	
Permanent Hardness	0.6 "	
Colour of Sample on Hazen Scale		10
Appearance of Sample in 2 ft. tube		Not quite clear.
Odour when heated to 50° C.		None.

#### Microscopical Examination.

Very small deposit from  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon, consisting of earthy matter, vegetable debris, fungus growths and some micro-organisms.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 37° C. after 72 hours	5 in 2 ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar	
@ 20/22° C. after 72 hours	6 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37° C.	
after 72 hours	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 45° C.	Negative.
Streptococci Test.	

### OBSERVATIONS.

The sample is free from any evidence of pollution by sewage or other foul drainage, and is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Owing to the dry spell during the summer a large number of wells attached to outlying farms and other premises became dry for over a long period, which consequently led to large quantities of water having to be carried from nearby Townships.

The undermentioned table shows the number of houses in the various parishes where the water supply is obtained by water mains direct to the houses or by means of stand-pipes and also the population so served:—

Parish	No. of houses with pipe supply direct to houses	Estimated population obtaining water as aforesaid	No. of houses with stand-pipe supply	Estimated population deriving water from stand-pipe supplies
Bishop Middleham	317	1,179	—	—
Bradbury ... ..	43	160	8	30
Butterwick ... ..	—	—	—	—
Chilton ... ..	1,683	6,182	—	—
Cornforth ... ..	1,230	4,524	—	—
Elstob ... ..	6	22	—	—
Embleton ... ..	1	4	—	—
Ferryhill ... ..	2,909	10,754	—	—
Fishburn ... ..	635	2,369	3	12
Foxton and Shotton	—	—	—	—
Mainsforth ... ..	75	280	—	—
Preston-le-Skerne ...	2	8	—	—
Mordon ... ..	3	11	—	—
Sedgefield ... ..	625	2,258 (excluding inmates D.C.M.H.)	2	7
Stillington ... ..	43	160	—	—
Trimdon ... ..	1,021	3,795	179	666
Woodham (excluding Aycliffe Approved School ...	34	127	—	—
Windlestone ... ..	32	118	6	22

During the year representation was made to the owners of 42 houses to supply a piped supply direct into the houses.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

As from the 15th of January, 1940 all slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption and for sale was carried out in premises occupied by the Ministry of Food. The meat from this area is slaughtered outside the area and distributed from a distributing centre at West Cornforth.

Tinned food, fish, etc., are dealt with in retail shops; the shop-keepers co-operate very well in notifying the Sanitary Inspectors of any doubtful food-stuffs, when these are inspected and surrendered.

During the year 120 certificates were issued against food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

#### Milk Supplies.

At 31st December there were 112 premises entered in the register under the Milk and Dairies Orders for milk production, and 61 persons registered as retail purveyors of milk. The condition of both byres and dairies continues to improve.

The water supply of several farms is a point that requires attention. The scheme as submitted under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, when carried out would overcome this.

Two applications were received from farmers to be registered as cowkeepers. After visits accompanied by a representative from the County Agricultural Executive Committee and consideration by the Council the applications were granted.

Accredited milk is produced at 12 farms in the district. No 'Tuberculin Tested' or 'Pasturised' milk is produced but adequate supplies of 'Pastuerised Milk' are available.

Food adulteration is under the supervision of the County Authority.

### **Rodent Control.**

During the year two complete rounds of all sewers in the district were made, all sewage works visited at least twice, while refuse tips were examined every three months and treated if necessary. Complaints of infestation at 58 dwelling houses and business premises have also been investigated and surface treatment carried out.

### **Sewers.**

The total number of manholes on sewers is 1,300 and in each maintenance treatment it was found necessary to bait 1,238 of these, each manhole is first test baited, then prebaited and followed by poison baiting, a further visit is also made to observe the amount of poison bait taken and clear away that not taken.

The details are:—

Manholes treated	...	2474
Prebait takes	...	418
Poison bait takes	...	187
Amount of poison taken		250 ozs.

Estimated kill according to the Ministry  
of Food formula ... 608 rats.

Three sections show no takes at either treatment (a section being the sewers radiating from one sewage works).

### **Sewage Works.**

The number of baiting points at sewage works for test baiting was 469, prebait takes numbered 399, and poison bait takes 224, poison taken 281 ozs. and estimated kill 698 rats.

### **Refuse Tips.**

Baiting points used on tips numbered 190, prebait takes being 167, poison bait takes 87, poison taken 99 ozs. and estimated kill 249 rats.

### **Surface Infestations.**

These investigations and treatments were chiefly made as a result of complaint from dwellinghouses and business premises and the method employed being in every case block treatment so as to include drains and sewers.

In many instances broken drains and gullies were found to be the cause of the infestation and these defects have all been remedied.

On these surface infestations 88 ozs. of poison bait was taken with a resultant estimated kill of 207 rats.

The estimated total number of rats destroyed is 1762.

Infestations dealt with include Sedgefield Military Camp, Aycliffe School, Sedgefield Public Assistance Institution (found to be due to a defective gully, and East End, Sedgefield, this included Agricultural premises and the co-operation of the Durham War Agricultural Committee Rodent Officer was sought and the dwelling houses and farm buildings cleared. An infestation at Trimdon was also referred to the D.W.A. Committee Rodent Officer.

# Factories Act, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.  
Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspect- ions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occup'rs prosec'd (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	12	30	3	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	48	50	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	8	16	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		68	96	3	—	

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prose- cutions were in- stituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remed- ied	Referred To H.M. By H.M. In- In- spectors spector			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate venti- lation (S.4.) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7.) ...							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	3	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences ag- ainst the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	3	3	—	—	—	60

M. HOPPER, Medical Officer of Health.



