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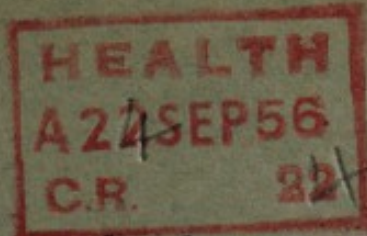
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Sunderland Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

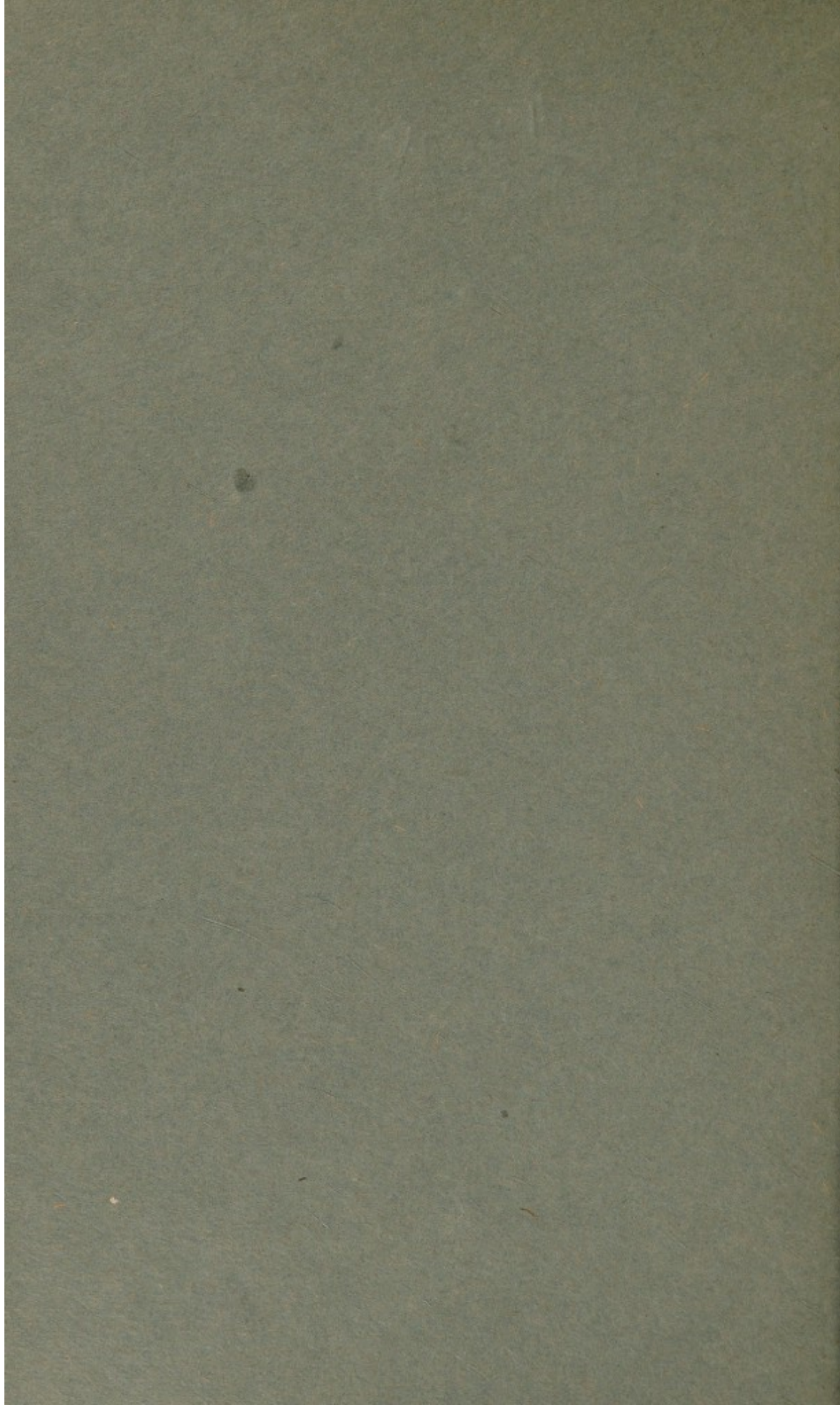
and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1955

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

M. B. H. CHURCHILL, M.S.I.A.,
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SUNDERLAND
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

— 1955 —

Chairman:

Councillor W. MULLANEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor GEO. C. PARK, J.P.

Coun. Mrs. I. Beaney	Coun. G. E. B. Perfremment
„ W. P. Bewick	„ W. Sharratt
„ S. Comb	„ T. Sheils
„ J. Cummings	„ H. L. Thoburn
„ A. Lilley	„ Mrs. E. W. Thompson, J.P.
„ H. Miller	„ E. Weightman
„ T. J. Markham	
„ Mrs. P. Nicholson	

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor H. MILLER

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Council Offices.

1, The Esplanade,
Sunderland.

Officials :

Medical Officer of Health: R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: M. B. H. CHURCHILL,
M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: W. WOODS, M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Health Department: MISS W. M. YOUNG.

Junior Clerk: Miss M. R. Wilkinson.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Sunderland Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hereby submit my fifteenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district, together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. M. B. H. Churchill.

The following are the main features of the vital statistics. The estimated population of 25,940 shows a decrease of 60 over the previous year. The increase of births over deaths was 81; the Live Birth Rate was 18.3 per thousand of the estimated population and the Still-Birth Rate was 0.27 per thousand. There were 17 more deaths this year than last year. The vast majority of deaths were people over the age of 65. Deaths from Cancer were 56, Coronary Thrombosis and Angina 111—an increase of 7 over the previous year; but 'strokes' showed an increase of 25—73 this year as against 48 in 1954.

The general health of the district's population during 1955 was of a reasonably high standard, one serious outbreak of infectious disease occurring :—

In April, a local doctor reported that one of his patients had been admitted to hospital suffering from dysentery and that he had two other patients suffering from gastro-enteritis. It was discovered that all three patients had been to a wedding party.

Later, the laboratory findings were that the patient in hospital was suffering from Paratyphoid fever.

At once, specific measures were instigated—contacts of the wedding feast, about 45 in all, living in the rural area were visited, and five persons who were ill and found to have symptoms of the disease were at once admitted to hospital. Apparatus for testing material was left at a number of houses and collected for the laboratory the following day.

All local doctors were notified, also the medical officer of health for Stoke-on-Trent, where one of the contacts was ill with fever. North-eastern firms supplying cakes and bread were notified and all their employees were scrutinised. Other foodstuffs and drinks were investigated. Food handlers at local shops were questioned regarding food preparation. A food stall in the town market was visited as some of the cream cakes had been purchased there. The Sunderland County Borough Health Department undertook the disinfection of the bedding, etc.

The wedding party took place at Ryhope, and the reception was held in the Miners' Hall. One week later eleven persons became ill with general tiredness, malaise, nausea, vomiting, frontal headache, pain in the pit of the stomach and the right side of the abdomen, rising temperature, grossly dry, furred tongue, flushed face, loss of appetite, dry cough, and some with mild night delirium.

This outbreak was certainly due to the consumption of infected food — in all probability from a healthy carrier who assisted in the preparation of either cream cakes or pease pudding.

The number of infectious diseases notified was 396 as against 578 the previous year. No cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria were notified; the latter has practically disappeared now, undoubtedly due to the excellent response to Diphtheria Immunisation.

As before, a close liaison between infectious diseases, especially Tuberculosis, and the housing problem was maintained.

Lung Cancer.

Over the past 20 years this grim disease has continued to increase the deaths in England and Wales from less than 3,000 per annum to over 17,000.

The influence of heavy cigarette smoking—together with impurities in town air of ash, arsenic, sulphur and benzene compounds—appear to irritate the bronchial mucous membrane and this favours a localised cell increase which is the beginning of a growth.

Among non-smokers the death rate in towns is, although very small, about 7 times greater than that in rural districts for all ages over 45; but in heavy smokers the Urban and Rural death rates are about equal — there being a marked increase in the number of deaths over both areas.

Clearly, there must be at least three factors at work to initiate cell overgrowth—(1) The impurities in coal and car fumes; (2) Cigarette tobacco and its paper covering; (3) Diminution of sunlight in towns which may act on the radio-active particles in smoke.

The mortality of pipe smokers is about one quarter of those who smoke cigarettes and may be due to the fact that the amount of tobacco smoked in a pipe is much less than in cigarettes. One ounce of tobacco is equivalent to 25 cigarettes and although this last figure is the daily average in this survey, very few men smoke more than 3 ozs. of pipe tobacco a week.

The fact that deaths from bronchial cancer do occur in non-smokers in rural areas, although very few, may be due to “fall out” of toxins from wind-borne air or the influence of previous environments in an urban area.

Again the death rate is greater as the distance from the Equator increases and therefore suggestive of the influences of sunlight on cancer. An analysis of the death rate of a fixed community on some sun-drenched island removed from coal smoke would be helpful to estimate the influence of the latter on cell hyperplasia.

Furthermore, there appears to be a relationship between chronic cough—often from cigarette smoking—and bronchial cancer.

The public require education regarding certain signs and symptoms of chest disease, e.g. unexplained cough of a month or more, loss of weight and energy, dyspnoea, chest pains, blood spitting, anaemia and localised wheezing.

The time cannot come too quickly when the discharge into the atmosphere of dust, etc., is prevented and any carcinogenous material removed from cigarette tobacco or an efficient filter provided.

In this area there were 7 deaths from lung cancer; five were heavy cigarette smokers, one moderate, one a pipe smoker. The average cigarette consumption per day was 25 over a period of many years.

The number in this analysis is of course too small to say definitely that cigarette smoking causes chest cancer; also most adults smoke these days, but the relationship between industrial town air and tobacco smoked is a factor of the greatest moment and grave concern.

The results of the Old Age Survey in Silksworth and Tunstall area was published in the British Journal of Social and Preventive Medicine.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from Members of the Council at all times during the past year.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department.

July, 1956.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	6,645
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1955	25,940
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1955	8,164
Rateable Value	£124,124
Sum represented by penny rate	£471

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of births in the district was 474.
The sex and legitimacy classification is shown thus:—

LIVE BIRTHS :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	240	220	) 474
Illegitimate	8	6	) 14

The birth-rate per thousand of the estimated population is 18.3, a slight decrease over the previous year.

The Comparability Factor, issued in order to determine a more accurate birth-rate, is for the year 1955 0.95; therefore, the Corrected Birth-Rate calculated therefrom is 17.4.

STILL BIRTHS :

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	4	2	) 7
Illegitimate	1	—	) 1

During the year there were 7 still-births in the district. The Still-Birth Rate of the population is 0.27 per thousand, a decrease over the figure recorded in 1954, viz., 12 still-births, which gave a mortality rate of 0.46 per thousand total population.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The total number of deaths in the district during 1955 (corrected for inward and outward transfers, and including deaths from all causes and at all ages) was 393,

viz., 180 males and 213 females. The recorded death-rate being 15.1 per thousand of the estimated population.

The Comparability Factor for deaths is 1.12 and the Corrected Death-Rate calculated therefrom is 16.9 per thousand of the estimated population.

The following Table shows the variation in the birth and death-rates and estimated population during the preceding four years as compared with 1955:—

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
Sunderland R.D.			
1951	25,610	20.9 ^a	13.5 ^a
1952	25,660	18.3 ^a	11.4 ^a
1953	25,770	19.3 ^a	14.6 ^a
1954	26,000	18.7 ^a	16.2 ^a
1955	25,940	17.4 ^a	15.1 ^a

a—Corrected Birth and Death Rates.

Infantile Mortality.

Thirteen children died during 1955 before attaining the age of one year, twelve of these under four weeks of age.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	8	5	) 13
Illegitimate	—	—	

The death-rate for infants under one year is shown according to the number of live births and legitimacy:—

Death Rate for all infants per thousand live births is 27.4.

The deaths were due to Birth Injuries, Bronchitis, Enteritis and Pneumonia.

Causes of Death in the Sunderland Rural District during 1955.

The following Table shows in detail the number of deaths, male and female, and the causes of death in the district during the year. Compared with the Table for the preceding year, a decrease in the number of deaths from Coronary Disease, Angina and other Heart Diseases, and Tuberculosis is recorded.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	5	—	5
" (non-respiratory)	—	1	1
Syphilitic Disease ...	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	3	4
Cancer ...	24	39	63
Leukaemia ...	2	1	3
Diabetes ...	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	30	43	73
Coronary Disease, Angina	30	26	56
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	3	6
Other heart disease ...	20	29	49
Other circulatory disease ..	8	11	19
Pneumonia ...	7	6	13
Bronchitis ...	9	9	18
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	7	2	9
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	3	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations ...	3	—	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	18	24	42
Accidents—Motor Vehicle	1	1	2
Accidents—All other ...	5	4	9
Suicide ...	3	1	4
Totals ...	180	213	393

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is operated under the direction of the Durham County Council. All telephone calls or other messages in respect to the service of an ambulance are now directed to East Herrington 3137, which is the ambulance station at Devon Street, New Herrington, covering the parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth and Tunstall, Ford, Offerton and the Herringtons, or Hebburn 32157, which is the ambulance station at 1, St. John's Avenue, Hebburn, covering the parish of Hylton.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examination of sputa, faeces and throat swabs are now undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Hylton Road, Sunderland, which is under the direction of P. B. Crone, M.D., Dip., Bact. According to reports received by the Medical Officer of Health, the following specimens were submitted for examination :—

Bacteriological Examinations for the year 1955 :—

For Organisms of the Enteric, Dysentery and Food Poisoning Groups.

Positive 44	Negative 44
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Bacteriological Examination of Meat.

Pig flesh and kidney examined for organisms of the salmonella group Negative
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year, 396 cases of infectious disease, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified as compared with 575 cases for the previous year and 624 cases in 1953.

Scarlet Fever.

The notification of this disease amounted to 5 cases, a 50% decrease over last year's figure which was 10

cases. The disease was a very mild type and caused no anxiety.

Diphtheria.

There were no notifications of Diphtheria throughout the year 1955.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified in the area during the year.

Measles.

Cases of Measles notified during the year amounted to 200, a decrease of 80 cases over the preceding year. Measles is a disease which shows periodic increase, cycles every three or five years. Very few children escape infection.

The appended Table sets out in detail the notifications of infectious disease during the year 1955, together with the ages at which the disease occurred and the incidence in each of the respective parishes; the number of cases treated at infectious diseases hospitals is also shown.

TUBERCULOSIS

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non- Pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1 yr.	1	..	...	.	...	...	...	...
1 - 4 yrs.	2	3	...	1	...	...	...	1
5 - 9 "	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
10 - 14 "	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 - 24 "	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
25 - 34 "	8	5	...	...	1	...	...	...
35 - 44 "	6	4	2	...	...	...	...	...
45 - 64 "	9	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
65 & over	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals ...	34	16	3	2	5	...	...	1

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, in relation to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action has been taken under Section 72 of the Public Health Act 1936, which relates to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Central Kitchens.

The Education Authority's central kitchens have again been supervised throughout the year. Only occasionally was it necessary to make recommendations with regard to the interior decoration, etc.

Disinfection of Premises.

Disinfection of premises and bedding has been carried out by your staff on the removal of cases of infectious disease, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient was isolated at home. Disinfections were

also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis had occurred.

WATER SUPPLIES

As before, the district was supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Board. Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the owners; the examinations being necessary in case any water-borne disease had been brought into the district.

At the Herringtons a small number of houses are still supplied by the National Coal Board from their pumping station situated in Silksworth Lane. This supply was satisfactory.

At Offerton, the supply is taken from a well situated in a field to the north-west of the village. The water is lifted from the well by a pump which is driven by a windmill, and the water is stored in iron storage tanks situated near Offerton Hall. From thence it is led to the various houses in the village. This supply was satisfactory.

The only area (apart from some scattered farms) not provided with a piped water supply is that of Offerton.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1955, TOGETHER WITH THE AGES AT WHICH THE DISEASE OCCURRED AND THE INCIDENCE IN EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES.

Infectious Disease.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED											PARISHES						Total cases removed to Hospital.		
	At all Ages.	0 - 1 year	1 - 2 years	2 - 3 years	3 - 4 years	4 - 5 years	5 - 10 years	10 - 15 years	15 - 25 years	25 - 35 years	35 - 45 years	45 - 65 years	65 and over	Ford	Herringtons	Hylton	Offerton		Ryhope	Silksworth	Tunstall
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	3	10	10	12	4	5	1	..	29	5	10	21
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	4
Scarlet Fever	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	75	7	11	12	10	23	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	22	11	14	1
Measles	200	2	26	34	22	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	80	89	6	18	1
Pneumonia	28	6	2	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	8	6	12	1
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Paratyphoid Fever	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..
Meningococcal Infections	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Dysentery	16	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	4
TOTALS	396	16	43	50	50	37	112	3	10	14	17	29	15	15	10	103	183	28	57	41

**SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
PUBLIC CLEANSING — COLLECTION AND
DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE**

Refuse Collection.

Regular collections of house refuse were again maintained during the year in spite of the fact that there was a fair amount of time (439 days) lost due to sickness among the refuse collectors. There were prolonged spells of severe frost, but generally speaking the work was carried out at least up to a standard which brought forth no general complaint.

Six vehicles, comprising four Karrier Bantams (7 cub. yd. capacity) and two Bedfords (7 cub. yd. capacity) were again regularly employed in carrying out the work, and the refuse collection staff consisted of six drivers and seventeen loaders.

During the year, 615,537 dustbins holding 13,428 tons of refuse were dealt with; this represents a weekly collection and disposal of approximately 258 tons.

The annual cost of Refuse Collection work for the financial year ending 31st March 1956 was £12,393 0s. which is equivalent to 18s. 1d. per ton of refuse collected.

Refuse Disposal.

The refuse from the parishes of Ryhope, Silksworth and Tunstall (representing approximately 75% of the district's total refuse) was disposed of at the new refuse tip which is situated in a central part of Ryhope, north of Ryhope Street and east of the old slum clearance area of Burdon Street.

During the year, 11,071 tons of refuse were deposited in this tip by means of "controlled tipping"; the remainder of the refuse collected in the district was disposed of by a modified form of control.

The cost of disposal amounted to £2,196-0-0, the equivalent of 3s. 3d. per ton.

The opportunity is taken to include herewith a copy of the Costing Return for the year ending 31st March 1956.

Cost Statement 1955 - 56

Item	Particulars 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Totals 4	Percentage of total gross expenditure 5
	REVENUE ACCOUNT (note (a))				
		£	£	£	£
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE :				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	7,910	1,489	9,399	64.43
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	4,280	658	4,938	33.85
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	174	49	223	1.53
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	29	—	29	.19
	(v) Total gross expenditure	12,393	2,196	14,589	100
2	GROSS INCOME (note (f))		1,679	1,679	—
3	NET COST	12,393	517	12,910	—
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) (note (g))	—	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS (note (h))				
		s d	s d	s d	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	11 9	2 3	14 0	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	6 4	1 0	7 4	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	18 5	0 10	19 3	
		£	£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	477	21	498	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,518	63	1,581	

Operational Statistics.

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 10. | Area (statute acres)—land and inland water | 6,645 acres |
| 11. | Population at 30th June, 1955 (Registrar General's estimate) | 25,940 persons |
| 12. | Total refuse collected (tons) (estimated weight) | 13,428 tons |
| 13. | Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) | 28 cwts. |
| 14. | Number of premises from which refuse is collected | 8,164 premises |
| 15. | Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly | 100% of total |
| 16. | Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point (including..... miles by secondary transport) | 1 mile |
| 17. | Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection | NIL % |
| 18. | Total refuse disposed of | 13,428 tons |
| 19. | Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded) : | |
| | (a) Crude tipping | —% |
| | (b) Controlled tipping | 99.16% |
| | (c) Direct incineration | —% |
| | (d) Separation and incineration | .84% |
| | (e) Other methods (state nature) | —% |
| | | 100% |
| 20. | Salvage—Analysis of income and tonnage : | |
| | | Income |
| | | (Included in |
| | | Item 2). |
| | | £ |
| | | Tons |
| | (a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a)) ... | — |
| | (b) Scrap Metal | — |
| | (c) Waste Paper | 1,679 |
| | (d) Other Salvage | — |
| | (e) Totals | 1,679 |
| | | 184½ |
| 21. | Trade Refuse : | |
| | (a) Income | NIL. |
| | (b) Tonnage | NIL. |
| 22. | Remarks : | |

Salvage.

Waste Paper collections continued to be maintained during the year by means of attaching trailers to the refuse collection vehicles and collecting waste paper simultaneously with house refuse.

The demand for waste paper increased enormously during 1955 and as a result the prices for the various grades made more attractive.

In order to stimulate collections the Council decided to re-institute a waste paper bonus scheme for the collectors. It was decided that the Council should have all the revenue arising from the sale of 12 tons per month, and for every ton per month in excess of 12 tons the collectors would receive $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the proceeds.

The total amount of bonus paid to the collectors up to the end of March 1956 was £262 15s. 2d.

The total weight of waste paper collected during 1955 was approximately 33 tons in excess of the amount collected in 1954 and represented a 3d. rate.

The following table shows the amount of waste paper collected each month and the corresponding revenue received.

Waste Paper Collections, 1955.

Month	Quantity in			£	s.	d.
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.			
January	5	16	0	47	13	0
February	8	16	0	72	14	6
March	6	18	0	57	3	0
April	10	14	0	93	16	0
May	10	15	0	95	2	0
June	14	5	0	124	16	0
July	12	6	0	110	4	3
August	12	0	0	107	2	9
September	15	3	0	136	6	6
October	17	15	0	162	14	6
November	15	7	2	144	14	6
December	18	15	2	175	17	3
Total Amount ...	148	11	0	£1328	4	3

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The appended summary "TABLE A" sets out the number and the nature of inspections made as to nuisances and sanitary defects, contraventions of Bye-laws, etc., during the year, together with the number of notices served to remedy such defects.

It will be seen from the summary that the bulk of the notices served were of an informal character and include letters and verbal intimations.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 31 privies were demolished at Ryhope following upon the vacation of the corresponding dwelling houses, and six other privies were converted into water closets.

It is very pleasing to be able to report progress in this matter and I am looking forward to the complete elimination of all privies in the district.

The total number of privies existing in the district at the end of the year was 94 as detailed herewith.

District in which situated.	No. of existing Privies.	In probable Clearance Areas, or Conversions otherwise not likely.	Possible Conversions
RYHOPE—			
Ryhope Street	21	21	—
Miscellaneous	6	5	1
SILKSWORTH—			
Farms Cottages	18	16	2
Village School	4	4	—
Hall Lodge and Cottages	9	9	—
HERRINGTON—			
Farms and Cottages	3	1	—
OFFERTON & COXGREEN—			
Farms and Cottages	11	11	—
Miscellaneous	9	9	—
HYLTON—			
Farms and Cottages	13	13	—
TOTAL	94	89	3

Complaints Received.

During the year 1955, 900 complaints or requests were received and attended to relating to matters briefly summarised as follows :—

Verminous and dirty premises	31
Choked drains	48
Water supply (defective fittings)	8
Defective drains	3
Drain tests	211
Defective waste pipes	2
Defective W.C.s, privies, etc.	12
Defective dustbins	288
General housing defects	78
Overcrowding	1
Rodent infestations (including mice)	109
Offensive smells	8
Requests to remove refuse	9
Houses and bedding to disinfect	15
Offensive accumulations	2
Requests to inspect food	37
Drains inspections	27
Miscellaneous	11

Total ... 900

TABLE A—SUMMARY—SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES SERVED 1955.

	No. of inspections during the year.	No. of defects or contraventions of Byelaws.	No. of Informal Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING—							
Structural Defects	718	58	58	28	30	30	...
Defective Food-store ...		5	5	2	3	3	...
Dampness ...		25	25	8	17	17	...
Overcrowding ...		1	...	...	..	...	...
NUISANCES—							
Dirty or verminous premises ...	52	31	31	31	...	...	...
Choked drains ...	453	425	425	421	4	4	...
Various ...	11	11	11	11	...	...	...
Offensive Accumulations ...	17	17	17	17	...	...	...
WATER SUPPLY—							
Insufficient (defective fittings) ...	18	8	8	6	2	2	...
Unsatisfactory ...	4	2	2	2	...	...	...
DRAINAGE—							
Insufficient ...	19	6	6	6	...	...	...
Defective ...	10	4	4	4	...	...	...
New drains testing, etc. ...	211	...	...	...	...	...	...
New drains provided	6389 yds. of	...	4 in. drain	...	...	...	...
SANITARY							
CONVENIENCES—							
Insufficient ...	21	10	10	4	6	6	...
Insanitary ashpits, and dustbins ...	296	276	276	256	20	20	...
New W.C. basins ...	19	7	7	2	5	5	...
Shops and Stores ...	118	11	11	11	...	...	...
Dairies & Milkshops	11	1	1	1	...	...	...
Slaughterhouses ..	124	12	12	12	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	18	2	2	2	...	...	...
Fruit Store ...	11	1	1	1	...	...	...
Food Manufacturing Premises ...	73	14	14	14	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	37	3	3	3	...	...	...
Snack Bars ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rat Infestations ...	226	111	111	111	...	...	...
Schools ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Factories ...	11	2	2	2	...	...	...
Fried Fish Shops ...	42	2	2	2	...	...	...
Ice-cream Premises	35	1	1	1	...	...	...
Piggeries ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wet Fish Shops ...	25	2	2	2	...	...	...
	2586	1047	1047	960	87	87	—

The following summary shows the main type of work done or improvements effected as the result of inspections made and subsequent action taken :—

SUMMARY OF WORKS EFFECTED, 1955

Housing Defects.

Repairs to roofs and spouts	25
„ walls and pointing... ..	9
„ chimneys, firegrates and ovens ...	15
„ windows and sash cords	7
„ floors, doors, stairs and woodwork	31
„ wash-houses, coppers and furnaces	3
„ wall and ceiling plaster	16
„ yards and outhouses	3
„ food stores	5
Dampness remedied	27

Nuisances.

Dirty and verminous premises cleansed and disinfested	31
Obstructed drains cleared	425
Accumulations removed	17

Water Supply.

Burst pipes and defective taps repaired ...	8
Separate internal supplies provided	2

Drainage.

Wash-up sinks provided	2
Defective drains repaired	4
Sink waste pipes repaired	2
Yards paved or repaired	6

Sanitary Conveniences.

Privy ashpits abolished	37
Water closets provided	7
Water closets repaired	11
Dustbins provided	276
Privies repaired	1

Public Conveniences.

Routine inspections have been made during the year to all public conveniences in the district, with a view to ascertaining the existence of nuisances which may arise

from time to time. The conveniences are thoroughly cleansed each day (including Sundays) by workmen on the staff of the Health Department.

Factories.

The following tables in the form required by the Home Office show the inspections made to factories with mechanical power, factories without mechanical power, and other premises, together with defects found and remedied during the year.

1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

PREMISES (1)	NUMBER OF		
	<i>Inspections</i> (2)	<i>Written Notices</i> (3)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power	2	—	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power	9	2	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act including works buildings and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises ...	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	2	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—

Smoke Abatement.

During the year no complaints were received in the department, neither was any action necessary relating to the above matter. The Ryhope Colliery Spoil Heap has been improved by removing the apex and thereby reducing the height.

The National Coal Board continues to control the combustion by means of fine water sprays directed upon the burning portions of the spoil heap.

The spoil heap was inspected upon several occasions by the Ministry of Health's Alkali Works, etc., inspector.

Swimming Baths.

There are no such baths in the area, either public or privately owned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year six complaints were received in respect to bed bug infestations, five being in Council houses and one in a private house.

Vigorous efforts are made by this department for the complete eradication of bed bugs. This can only be done successfully with the full co-operation of the tenants.

Both owners and occupiers are encouraged to seek advice and assistance from the department. They themselves are made responsible for the stripping of the walls, removal of skirting moulds, picture rails, etc.; this is followed up by the spraying of the rooms with a reliable insecticide by a Health Department employee.

During the year Zaldecide containing D.D.T. was used for spraying.

Drainage.

A considerable amount of work has again been incurred in the Health Department during the year as a result of the Council's building programme.

The various housing schemes in progress throughout the district have claimed the time of the inspectors as soon as the respective drainage systems became ready for inspection and testing. In addition to this, much time is devoted to the arrangement, inspection and testing of drains attached to private houses.

All main and branch drains were tested by means of the "Water Test" in order to ensure that they were sound and watertight.

During the year, 6,389 yards of 4in. drain were tested, involving some 211 visits.

Rodent Control.

During the year two treatments were again undertaken and completed on each set of sewers in the district. Several treatments on each of the three refuse tips in the area were also undertaken and it is pleasing to be able to report that none of the three tips bear the mark of a major infestation.

Surveys have been made at various intervals to determine what degree of infestation exists particularly in the vicinity of business premises, and where such premises were infested, treatments were carried out and a charge sufficient to cover normal expenses was made against the owner of the premises.

Infestations in dwelling-houses are dealt with free of charge.

The whole work throughout the year was effected by a trained rodent operative and the methods used were those prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Rodent Division).

The following table indicates the number of premises in the area, the number and types of infestation, and the number of premises dealt with during 1955.

TYPE OF PROPERTY.

	NON-AGRICULTURAL				(5)
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. C'ncl Houses)	(3) All other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1.) (2) & (3)	Agri- cultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's area. . .	12	8164	131	8307	33
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification . . .	8	—	16	111	—
(b) Survey . . .	—	—	115	115	—
(c) Otherwise . . .	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total Inspections . . .	8	87	131	226	—
4. Number of properties inspected found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats, Major . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Minor . . .	8	53	10	71	—
(b) Mice, Major . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Minor . . .	—	34	6	40	—
5. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority.	8	87	16	111	—

Housing.

During the year 1955 great emphasise was placed upon measures for dealing with unfit houses throughout the whole of the country.

It is pleasing to be able to report that this Council is no less emphatic upon this important work, and to this end they have decided to embark upon a Five-Year Slum Clearance Programme.

It is estimated that in the whole of the district there are 425 unfit houses, comprising 507 families.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government asked local authorities to submit to him a suggested programme for the year ending 1st September, 1956, and this Council responded by sending up to him the following proposals, covering clearance areas and individual unfit houses.

Suggested Programme of Slum Clearance for the year ending 1st September, 1956.

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Description.</i>	<i>Name of Area.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>	<i>No. of Families.</i>	<i>No. of Persons.</i>
Ford.	Nos. 1-4 Stewart Terrace.	Stewart Terrace.	4	6	15
	Nos. 1-6 Hastings Square.	Hastings Square.	6	6	16
	Nos. 1-5 & 7-10 Union St.	Union Street.	10	13	36
	Nos. 18-20 Church Street. Nos. 1-5 Frederick Street.	Frederick Street & Church Street.	7	11	30
Ryhope.	Nos. 1-18 Gibson Terrace. Nos. 1-16 Taylor Street.	Gibson Terrace & Taylor Street.	34	34	95
	Nos. 1-5 Oxclose.	Oxclose.	5	5	13
	TOTALS	6	66	75	205

In addition to the above clearance areas, it is proposed to deal with at least the following individual houses under either Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, or Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

23 The Village,	Ryhope.
80 Ryhope Street South,	„
82 Ryhope Street South,	„
East Station House,	„
West Station House,	„

5 Cambria Street,	South Hylton.
2 The Gill,	„
4 The Gill,	„
5 The Gill,	„

The following is a list of unfit houses which have been dealt with during the year under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 :—

Parish of Ford.

8 & 9 Alma Street,	South Hylton.
11 Alma Street,	„
13 Alma Street,	„
12 Croft Terrace,	„
8 Dawson Terrace,	„
9 Dawson Terrace,	„
10 Dawson Terrace,	„
11 Dawson Terrace,	„
27 John Street,	„
30 John Street,	„
32 John Street,	„
34 John Street,	„
18 Wear Street,	„
20 Alma Street,	„

Parish of Hylton.

1 Woodbine Cottages,	North Hylton.
2	„
3	„
4	„
5	„
6	„

Parish of Ryhope.

Silksworth Crossing Cottage, Ryhope.

Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

Parish of Ryhope.

79 Ryhope Street South,	Ryhope.
81 Ryhope Street South,	„
92 Ryhope Street South,	„
15 The Village,	„
16 The Village,	„

Parish of Tunstall.

East Farm Cottage, Tunstall Village.	
West Cottage,	„
5 John Street,	New Silksworth.
8 Tempest Street,	„
10 Vane Street,	„
40 William Street,	„
43 William Street,	„

In addition to the above work undertaken to dispose of unfit houses, 26 applications were received from owner-occupiers asking for grants toward the costs involved in the necessary improvement of their dwelling-houses. Of the total applications received 23 were approved by the Council.

During the year no applications were received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Houses erected during the year :—

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ...	261	—)
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ...	—	10	) 271

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	826
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,558
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	83

(4) (a) 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	743
2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	739
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 informal 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 de-)	Nil.)
fault of Owners	Nil.)
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	87
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	87)
(b) By Local Authority in de-)	87)
fault of Owners	Nil.)
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	65
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	55

(d) Proceedings under the Local Government
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	11
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were deter- mined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Inspection and supervision of the usual commodities of food intended for human consumption has again received the keen attention of the Department during the year. A large proportion of the normal available time is devoted to this very important branch of the work.

It involves the inspection of all meat, both home-killed and imported, the inspection of all doubtful canned foods offered for sale, the supervision of the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, supervising the premises occupied by milk distributors and the inspection of all premises in which foods are manufactured or stored for the purpose of sale.

Milk Supply.

It still remains the responsibility of local authorities to see that all milk, in their respective districts, is distributed in a hygienic manner.

All retailers in the district now deliver milk in stoppered bottles only.

The following number were on the register of licensed dealers at the end of 1955 :—

Number licensed to retail	Pasteurised Milk	.....	17	
“	“	“	Pasteurised Tuber-	
“	“	“	culin Tested Milk	..... 13
“	“	“	Tuberculin Tested Milk	9
“	“	“	Sterilised Milk	..... 50
Number of Supplementary licences issued		.....	12	

Ice-Cream.

There are only three premises in the Council's area upon which this commodity of food is manufactured for sale, but there are twenty-two other premises registered as being satisfactory for the storage and sale only.

All premises are visited regularly in order to ascertain that the ice-cream is manufactured, stored and sold

under hygienic conditions, and that all utensils are sterilised and kept free from contamination.

During the year regular samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The total number of samples taken was 81, and the reports received showed the following results :—

No. of Samples.	Grade.
69	1
12	2
—	3
—	4

Precautions against Contamination of Food.

All premises in which food is manufactured, stored or sold for human consumption have again been regularly inspected during the year. Experience has shown that there is no real substitute for systematic inspection of such premises, and although various food traders have, in general, faced up well to their responsibilities, there still remains the necessity for regular inspection in order to maintain a reasonably high standard of food hygiene upon the premises.

During the year 1955, 178 visits were made to all premises in which food was manufactured, stored or sold, and as a result of such inspections the following works were effected :—

Water supply provided	1
Wash-hand basins installed	1
Gas or electric water heaters installed	1
Wall redecorated	2
Ceilings re-decorated	2
New drains laid	1
Premises cleansed	2
Additional W.C's provided	1
W.C's repaired	2

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The usual inspection of all carcasses was again maintained during the year, on the principle that the essence of efficient meat inspection, in the matter of ensuring a safe meat supply to the public, is that it should be regular and carried out as a matter of routine.

The return to private slaughtering has considerably reduced the large proportion of time it was necessary to devote to this work during the period of Government Control.

The reason is that most of the butchers are buying in carcase meat instead of purchasing the animals and having them slaughtered. All animals slaughtered in the district are inspected before being exposed for sale, and no carcasses or organs are allowed to leave the slaughter-house without examination.

During the year no evidence of "Cysticercus Bovis" was found to be present in any of the carcasses examined.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year 1955 was 3,000, and a total of 124 visits were made to the slaughter house for this purpose.

The total number of animals slaughtered and inspected is set out below :—

MONTH	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
January ...	78	2	—	202	63	345
February ...	69	—	1	55	165	290
March ...	49	3	1	40	210	303
April ...	81	3	3	—	249	336
May ...	47	2	—	—	185	234
June ...	62	1	—	—	142	205
July ...	47	2	1	20	105	175
August ...	37	3	1	17	81	139
September ...	67	3	1	44	103	218
October ...	42	2	2	62	67	175
November ...	32	2	3	72	46	155
December ...	38	1	1	90	295	425
TOTALS ...	649	24	14	602	1711	3000

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year 1955 is shown herewith.

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	649	24	14	602	1711
Number inspected	649	24	14	602	1711
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	294	4	...	1	101
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.	45.3%	16.7%	...	.17%	6.4%
TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	4	...	...	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.08%	16.7%	...	...	2.8%

As a result of the inspections at the Slaughterhouse, various diseased or unsound conditions were discovered as detailed in the following tables.

The amount of Tuberculosis is dealt with in TABLE 1 and other diseased or unsound conditions in TABLE 2.

**TABLE 1.
TUBERCULOSIS IN FOOD ANIMALS**

PORTION DEALT WITH.	In Bovines		In Pigs	
	Number Con- demned	Weight.	Number Con- demned.	Weight.
MEAT	...	Stones ...	...	Stones ...

Total Weight of Meat ...	...	...	...	...
OFFALS		Stones		Stones
Heads	7	15	26	26
Sets of Lungs	17	13	11	2
Livers	2	2	11	3½
Stomachs	1	2	...	...
Intestines	1	½	...	...
Total Weight of Offal ...	...	32½	...	31½

TABLE 2.
OTHER DISEASED OR UNSOUND CONDITIONS IN FOOD ANIMALS

Diseased or Unsound Conditions.	Meat Condemned.			Edible Offals Condemned.				
	No. of Whole Carcases.	Parts of Carcases	Wght	Sets of Lungs	Livers.	Half-Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs & Intestines.
CATTLE.			Stones					
Abscesses ...	...		...	...	20	...	...	...
Cirrhosis ...	...		...	...	104	...	...	...
Flukes ...	...		...	...	...	170	...	...
Actinomycosis ...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...
Bone-Taint ..	...	3 Portions Hindquarter	23	...	...	...	...	...
		1 Portion Forequarter	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Total weight of Beef and No. of Offals ...			27 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	124	170	...	...
SHEEP & LAMBS								
Abscesses ...	...	1 Portion Forequarter	18	...	...	...	...	...
Total Weight of Mutton ...			1	...	...	...	...	...
PIGS								
Fevered ...	2	...	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...
Abscess ...	2	1 Portion of Pork	18	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis ...	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...
Moribund ...	3	...	18	...	...	...	...	...
Oedema ...	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Total Wt. of Pork & No. of Offals ...	...	...	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	14	...	...	...

Total weight of home-killed meat and offals condemned on account of Tuberculosis and Other Diseased or Unsound Conditions :—

Beef	60 stones	Beef Offals	148 stones
Mutton	1 „	Mutton „	— „
Pork	73 „	Pork „	38 „
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	134 „		186 „
	<hr/>		<hr/>

320 stones (2 tons.)

The following foodstuffs were also found to be unfit for human consumption :—

338 tins	Tomatoes	118 tins	Peas
54 „	Peaches	13 „	Shoulder Ham
105 „	Evaporated Milk	2 „	Chicken Soup
30 „	Steak	2 „	Brisket Beef
4 „	Beans	20 „	Plums
16 „	Tongue	8 „	Fruit Salad
37 „	Pork Luncheon Meat	6 „	Oxtail Soup
2 „	Pork in Juice	1 „	Steak Pudding
4 „	Crawfish	8 „	Tomato Soup
7 „	Minced Beef Loaf	31 „	Pears
6 „	Beans in Tomato	79 „	Corned Beef
27 „	Pineapple	2 „	Fruit Pie Fillings
1 „	Raspberries	13 „	Condensed Milk
1 „	Loganberries	1 „	Pease Pudding
50 „	Apricots	5 „	Grapes
11 „	Grapefruit	2 „	Veal Loaf
2 „	Jellied Veal	32 „	Oranges
4 „	Pressed Beef	3 „	Cooked Ham
3 „	Irish Stew	7 „	Strawberries
4 „	Rice Pudding	8 „	Crab
12 „	Chopped Pork	18 „	Baked Beans
8 „	Cream	25 „	Salmon
3 jars	Pickle Onions	3 „	Sardines
1 „	Chicken	1 „	Pilchards
28 btles.	Sauce	7 „	Lobster
8 „	Fruit Salad	1 „	Pork Brawn
4 „	Raspberries	3 „	Scotch Broth
62 lbs.	Butter	4 jars	Chicken Paste
2 tins	Jellied Pork	1 „	Minced Pork
3 „	Beans & Pork Saus'ge	2 pkts.	Cheese
8 „	Butter Beans	2 tins	Greengages
1 „	Nescafe	1 „	Veg. Soup
1 „	Carrots	1 „	Creamed Rice
2 „	Beef Steak	1 „	Mixed Veg.
2 „	Steak & Kidney Pud'g	1 „	Tripe & Onions
1 „	Mushroom soup	2 „	Beetroot

Offensive Trades.

The only offensive trade carried on in the area is that of tripe boiling.

The premises upon which this trade is performed are under the control of the Ryhope & Silksworth Industrial & Provident Society Ltd., and are attached to their Slaughter-house.

The regular inspection of the premises has been maintained during the year, involving 18 visits.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MATTHEW B. H. CHURCHILL, M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

