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Urban District Council of Washington

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1937.

---

WILLIAM D. MILLAR,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.

J. MITCHELL,


M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

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1938.

PELAW-ON-TYNE :

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S PRINTING WORKS.



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## Urban District Council of Washington.

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### *Chairman :*

Councillor R. C. WANLESS, J.P.

### *Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor J. OLDS, J.P.
--------------------------

Councillor T. ANDERSON.

„ A. W. COLE.

„ J. R. COXON.

„ J. CULLEN.

„ J. M. CULLINEN.

„ H. DYSON.

„ B. FITZSIMONS.

„ W. J. FOSTER.

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„ J. W. GIBSON.

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„ S. PURVIS.

„ A. RODDAM.

„ J. J. WALKER.

„ J. WALMSLEY.

„ G. H. YOUNG.

### *Clerk of the Council :*

Mr. M. ANDERSON.

## Staff of the Health Department.

---

*Medical Officer of Health :*

WILLIAM D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

J. MITCHELL, M.S.I.A.

*Second Sanitary Inspector :*

G. S. STANLEY, M.S.I.A.





*Council Chambers,  
Washington,  
Co. Durham.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Washington.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my First Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District, and the work of the Health Department during the year 1937.

There were several changes on the staff during the past year. Following the death of the late Medical Officer, Dr. W. E. Peacock, an Acting Medical Officer was appointed until the vacant post was filled. Dr. Rosenbloom acted in this capacity until my appointment on June 1st.

The population at mid-year was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 17,150, an increase of 320 compared with the previous year.

The birth-rate of the district, 17·8 per 1,000, continues to fall gradually, the birth-rate for 1936 being 18·2 per 1,000. The figure of 17·8, however, is still 2·9 per 1,000 higher than the average for England and Wales.

The death-rate increased from 11·1 per 1,000 in 1936 to 13·5 in 1937.



The infantile mortality still remains high, a figure of 82.5 per 1,000 live births being recorded.

Scarlet fever still remains prevalent, 150 cases being notified as against 138 in 1936. Fortunately, the type of disease is fairly mild, only one death occurring during the year.

There was a decrease in the notifications of diphtheria, 28 cases being notified in 1937 as against 39 in 1936. The Urban District of Washington escaped the epidemic which was fairly extensive over the whole of northern Durham.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the assistance afforded to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, by my fellow Officials, especially those on the staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics of the Area.

Area of the Urban District	...	...	...	...	5,758 acres
Resident population, mid-year 1937 (estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	17,150
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1937 according to rate books)	...	...	...	...	4,406
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£57,846
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£199

### Social Conditions.

The district is chiefly industrial, and the principal industries include mining and chemical works, viz :—

Glebe Colliery,  
 Washington Colliery,  
 Usworth Colliery,  
 Springwell Colliery,  
 Washington Chemical Works.

*Unemployment.*

I am indebted to Mr. Walker, of the Employment Exchange, for the following figures :—

## Wholly Unemployed—

				1936. December.	1937. December.
Men	...	...	...	913	638
Boys	...	...	...	35	30
Women	...	...	...	25	31
Girls	...	...	...	35	20
				<hr/> 1,008	<hr/> 719

## On Short Time—

Men	...	...	...	76	187
Women	...	...	...	2	6

The figures continue to show a downward trend, due to a gradual improvement in all trades. Temporary stoppage increase is due to Christmas holiday period.

**Extract from Vital Statistics.**

## Live Births—

	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate	297	156	141	Birth-rate per 1,000 per estimated resident population ... 17·8
Illegitimate	9	6	3	

## Still Births ... 13

Legitimate	12	7	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 41·6
Illegitimate	1	0	1	

Deaths	...	232	136	96	Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... 13·5
--------	-----	-----	-----	----	--

## Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)—

				Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	1	3·2
No. 30—Other Puerperal causes...	...	...	...	0	0
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	1	3·2



## Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	82.5
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	77.3
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	222.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	22
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

## Vital Statistics.

*Births.*

The birth-rate decreased from 18.2 per 1,000 in 1936 to 17.8 in 1937. The total number of births was 297, of which 156 were males and 141 females.

The birth-rate of Washington compared with the rest of the country generally is as follows:—

England and Wales	...	...	...	14.9
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns	.	...	...	14.9
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	15.3
London Administrative County	...	...	...	13.3
Washington Urban District	...	...	...	17.8

*Still Births.*

The number of still births in the district was 13, and compared with the country generally was as follows:—

	Rate per 1,000 of population.
England and Wales	...
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns	...
148 Smaller Towns	...
London Administrative County	...
Washington Urban District	...

*Deaths.*

The death-rate in 1937 was 13.5, compared with 11.1 in 1936. The following figures show comparisons:—

England and Wales	...	...	...	12.4
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns	.	...	...	12.5
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	11.9
London	...	...	...	12.3
Washington Urban District	...	...	...	13.5

The statistics regarding causes of death, supplied by the Registrar-General, classified according to sex and the 36 divisions of the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes, are set out below.

**Causes of Death in Washington Urban District, 1937.**

Causes of Death.							Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .							207	171
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .						..	..
2	Measles .. .. .						..	..
3	Scarlet Fever .. .. .						1	..
4	Whooping Cough .. .. .						1	..
5	Diphtheria .. .. .						..	1
6	Influenza .. .. .						9	4
7	Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .						..	..
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .						..	1
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .. .						5	6
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases .. .. .						1	2
11	Syphilis .. .. .						2	..
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis .. .. .						..	..
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease .. .. .						9	13
14	Diabetes .. .. .						..	2
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. .. .. .						9	2
16	Heart Disease .. .. .						38	12
17	Aneurysm .. .. .						..	..
18	Other Circulatory Diseases .. .. .						9	10
19	Bronchitis .. .. .						7	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .						9	4
21	Other Respiratory Diseases .. .. .						..	1
22	Peptic Ulcer .. .. .						1	..
23	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) .. .. .						1	..
24	Appendicitis .. .. .						..	1
25	Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .						..	..
26	Other Diseases of Liver, &c. .. .. .						..	..
27	Other Digestive Diseases .. .. .						5	5
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis .. .. .						..	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .						..	1
30	Other Puerperal Causes .. .. .						..	..
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. .. .. .						6	8
32	Senility .. .. .						1	2
33	Suicide .. .. .						2	1
34	Other Violence .. .. .						7	4
35	Other Defined Disease .. .. .						12	11
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown .. .. .						1	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)—								
	Small-pox .. .. .						..	..
	Polionyelitis .. .. .						..	..
	Polioencephalitis .. .. .						..	..



## SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area.

A list of Public Health Officers will be found on page 4.

**Laboratory Facilities.**

There has been no change in the laboratory arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in accordance with arrangements made between the County Council and Durham University.

Bacteriological examinations made during the year 1937 under the above arrangements :—

			Positive.	Negative.		Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	3	7	.....	10
Tuberculosis	...	...	3	32	.....	35
Miscellaneous	...	...	1	2	.....	3
Total number of Examinations						..... 48

**Ambulance Facilities.**

In cases of infectious disease two ambulances are provided by the Chester-le-Street Joint Hospital.

For cases of accident or sickness two ambulances are provided by the Local Authority.

Ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the area.

**Hospital.**

Persons who are suffering from an infectious disease are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Chester-le-Street.

Other hospitals outside the district which are made use of for the treatment of medical and surgical cases are :—

1. Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne.
2. Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
3. Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
4. Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
5. Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
6. Eye Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.



## SECTION C.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) *Water Supply.*

As in previous years, water is supplied to the Urban District by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Gateshead Water Co. and the South Shields and Sunderland Water Co., the total amount of water used being about 8,000,000 gallons per month. The North Biddick portion of Chester-le-Street Rural District which was taken over in April was previously supplied with water from your mains.

The supply is pure in quality and sufficient in quantity.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The sewage of the Urban District flows into the river Wear at two points, one near Barmston Forge and the other near Washington Staithes. The river is tidal, and the sewage at Barmston only is treated in settlement tanks before being allowed to flow into the river. There was no progress to report during 1937 in the improvement of the character and sufficiency of the arrangements for drainage, sewerage, and sewage disposal in all parts of the area.

2. *Rivers and Streams.*

It was found not necessary to take any action with regard to river pollution in your area during the year.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*

The district, with the exception of 90 dwelling-houses and 11 isolated dwellings, is provided with the water-carriage system.

The high number of dwellings without the water-carriage system being accounted for by the "added" area of North Biddick which was taken over in April.

At the end of the year the various types of conveniences in use in the district were as follows:—

			1937.	1936.
Water-closets	...	...	4,644	4,540
Ash-closets	...	...	90	6
Ash-pit Privies	...	...	2	2
Chemical-closets	...	...	4	3



(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

The scavenging services during the year were chiefly carried out by direct labour. Eleven isolated premises were dealt with by private individuals, and the North Biddick area was scavenged by contract until the end of June.

The cleansing staff include nine loaders and three drivers, an additional loader being employed to equalise the working strength for each area and to make good the taking over the North Biddick area from the Chester-le-Street Rural District.

At the beginning of April the single-vehicle collection system, as an experiment, was introduced in place of the relay system. It was planned that by the adoption of such a system to give primarily an improved and more regular collection service to the householder and the occupiers of other premises, and secondly to have more control over the staff, which was hardly possible in the relay method of collection.

In other districts the cleansing officers may find the "relay" system advantageous, but where the area is widespread, and considering the special circumstances existing in the area, the single-vehicle system is worth an extended trial.

To date, the system has been a success in this area. Since the inauguration of the system the interval between calls has not exceeded five days, while complaints with regard to the service have been greatly reduced.

Disposal is by tipping the refuse at available places, such as disused quarry workings in the area in which refuse collection is being carried out. The tips are trimmed, and, when possible, are covered with a sufficient layer of earth.

It was not found necessary to deal with any vermin infestation at any of the tips during the year. The tip at Oxclose on two occasions and Springwell tip on one occasion had attention having regard to fire.

Useful work is also being accomplished by the levelling of agricultural land which has been subject to subsidence.

During the year many applications were made for the assistance of the department, and it is estimated that approximately 1,350 tons have been disposed of to the benefit of applicants.

The total estimated quantity of refuse collected and disposed of during the year was 10,201 tons. The number of houses and premises in the area is 4,540.

#### UNIT COSTS.

Expenditure per ton per annum	...4s. 9d.
„ per 1,000 population per annum	... £138
„ per head per week	... 0.6d.
„ per 1,000 houses per annum	£538
„ per house per week	... 2.4d.
The estimated weight per 1,000 population per day	... 31.7 cwt.
The estimated weight per house per year	... 2.25 tons

A comparative statement of the scavenging costs for the last year before the change over to motor transport and the existing costs is given below.

Year.	Method.	Annual Cost.	Approximate No. of Houses.	Approximate Cost per House.
1930-1	Direct Labour and Contract, Horse Transport	£2,914	3,700	16/-
1934-5	Direct Labour, Motor Haulage ... ..	£2,648	4,100	13/-
1935-6	Direct Labour, Motor Haulage ... ..	£2,503	4,300	11/8
1936-7	Direct Labour, Motor Haulage ... ..	£2,431	4,360	11/4
1937-8	Direct Labour, Motor Haulage ... ..	£2,424	4,540	10/10

A few remarks with regard to the Cleansing Department may be made here.

The staff have shown interest in the working of the single-vehicle system and have done much to make the service a success.



The maintenance of the vehicles is due in no small way to the care exercised by the drivers and to the supervision and efficiency of your mechanic.

I would also draw your attention to the facts that while the service is effective at the present time, two of your freighters are in their eighth year of service, and there is no auxiliary vehicle for emergency purposes.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspections of the Area and General Sanitary Work.*

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The number of factories on the register is 42.

The number of workshops on the register is 51.

During the year it was found necessary to serve written notices in respect of defects found in five factories or workshops in the area.

A table relating to proceedings under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, is set out below :—

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937, for the Urban District of Washington,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with

**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES,**

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	42	2	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	51	...	...
Workplaces (other than Out-workers' premises) ...	4	3	...
Total ... ..	97	5	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND  
WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Re-medied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	5	5	...	...
Want of Ventilation ...	2	1	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors	3	3	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	7	7	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective .	4	4	...	...
Not separate for Sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act—				
Illegal occupation of Under-ground Bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other Offences ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	21	20	...	...

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	2,451
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops ...	139
„ Bakehouses ...	10
„ Factories and Workshops ...	64
„ Work in progress ...	73
„ Slaughterhouses ...	412
„ Pig-keepers' premises ...	81
„ Fish and Fruit Shops ...	23
Visits paid in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises ...	218
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures...	4
Total number of Visits ...	<u>3,475</u>



## (b) Number of Notices served and complied with.

	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Statutory Notices Served.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses—Structural defects .	719	3	678
„ Foul conditions ...	4	...	4
„ Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	21	...	11
Cowsheds ...	3	...	3
Bakehouses ...	2	...	2
Slaughterhouses ...	3	...	3
Ash-pits and Privies ...	44	2	39
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	2	...	1
Water-closets ...	63	...	63
Defective Yard Paving ...	33	1	26
House-drainage—			
Defective Traps ...	19	1	19
No disconnection from Sewers .	...	...	...
Other Faults ...	129	...	118
Water Supply ...	195	...	195
Pigsties ...	5	...	5
Animals improperly kept ...	2	...	2
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	1	...	1
Other Nuisances ...	29	1	29
Totals ...	1,274	8	1,199

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet fever incidence shows an increase of 12 compared with 1936. Home treatment was undertaken in 10 cases.

Diphtheria continues to show a decline, 11 less being notified in comparison to 39 in 1936.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is kept in stock for distribution to medical practitioners on request.

(iv) *Shops Act, 1934.*

Routine inspections of all shops in the district was carried out during the year. It was found necessary in three cases to serve informal notices on owners of shops having regard to the



lack of suitable and sufficient water-closet accommodation, and in one case to provide washing facilities. No application for certificate of exemption was received during the year.

(v) *Smoke Abatement.*

Periodical observations of smoke emission from industrial chimneys in the district were made during the year. The emission of black or dark coloured smoke was again negligible. It was found necessary for the purpose of abatement of smoke nuisance in the area to direct the attention of the owner of brick-making premises to the excessive emission of black smoke. The owner made improvements on his plant and promised to exercise more careful supervision.

(vi) *Swimming Baths and Pools.*

There are no swimming pools in the district.

(vii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

					Infested.	Disinfested.
(1)	Council houses	...	...	...	18	18
	Other houses	...	...	...	8	8
(2)	Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs	...	...			Fumipest
(3)	Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses	...	...	...		Fumipest
(4)	Whether work carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor	...				Local Authority
(5)	The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing	...	...	...		None

4. *Schools.*

The schools in the area are under the jurisdiction of the County Council of Durham, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are adequate and fairly satisfactory.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Washington Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Annual Report on the numerous duties administered by your Health and Cleansing Department.

Improvements have taken place during the year in the different branches of public health work with regard to increase of the standard of efficiency and economy.

New legislation came into force during the year, and although the Acts were chiefly consolidation enactments, they brought in their trail increased responsibilities that are the lot of all public health officials and which they are quite accustomed to expect and to receive.

The boundaries of your district were further enlarged in April by the addition of North Biddick from Chester-le-Street Rural District, and a small area of Sunderland Rural District to the north-east of your area under the Durham County Review Order. The total added area comprises of some 732 acres.

**Housing.**

Work on 60 houses was commenced during the year as a further step in the housing replacement programme. The houses being constructed on the Heworth Road site were expected to be completed by the contractor towards the end of the year, but the demand for materials and the adverse weather conditions that prevailed delayed re-housing until early in the following year.

Negotiations for further building sites for the re-housing of tenants in their respective wards are in progress.

Five houses in your area were voluntarily brought up to a satisfactory standard ; washing facilities including provision for hot water, bath, sink, wash-hand basin and necessary drainage were provided, lighting and ventilation of rooms were improved, internal arrangement of the dwelling-house substantially altered, and provision made to retard or prevent dampness as far as possible.



During the year the attention of certain owners was directed to the provisions and benefits of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1931, with the object of improving the dwelling-houses of agricultural workers in the district. Circular letters were forwarded to owners of such property as was deemed suitable for alteration, and which would entitle them to a loan or grant, varying up to a certain sum, provided the necessary requirements of the Act were recognised. Interviews took place and suggestions were offered, with the result that at the end of the year application forms with regard to eight dwellings were issued on request and two plans were submitted for consideration. The ultimate result in your area may be satisfactory, but owners, in certain cases, are loath to expend a large amount of money upon improvements and alterations, and especially where little more expenditure would be incurred in the provision of habitation in a suitable and more convenient position. It would appear that the isolation of occupiers in certain of these houses require the further consideration of the Minister of Health, as there can be no doubt that social, financial, and educational benefits are not participated in to any desired standard.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. MITCHELL, M.S.I.A.,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.





## SECTION D.

## Housing.

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 1036  
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1451
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. 334  
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 342
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 156
- (4) 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 ... 217

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 209

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 20
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners ... 33  
 (b) By Local Authority in default 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 ... .. 5
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners ... .. 5
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

## C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the 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 ... .. 1

## 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 ... .. 4
- (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. HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING.

During 1937 the Minister of Health fixed for your area the 1st day of July, 1937, as the “appointed day” from which the statutory provisions relating to overcrowding operate. The first step having been made by the Ministry, and combined with the Exchequer grants now available for this work, will give local authorities added encouragement to go ahead with building in general and remove those conditions as mitigate against the progressive well-being of some of the community.



- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of  
the year ... 334  
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 356  
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 2,235
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during  
the year ... 5
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during  
the year ... 42  
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 251
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have  
again become overcrowded after the Local  
Authority have taken steps for the abatement  
of overcrowding ... Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding  
conditions upon which the Medical Officer of  
Health may consider it desirable to report—  
(1) Overcrowding cases relieved by re-housing  
from Clearance Areas ... Nil.  
(2) Sub-tenants re-housed from Clearance  
Areas ... Nil.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

At the end of the year there were 19 producers of milk and 44 purveyors of milk on the registers kept under the Milk and Dairies Acts and the Milk and Dairies Order.

Visits to farm and dairy premises numbered 139. The premises inspected were found generally to be very satisfactory. Extensive alterations were carried out on Village Farm, the dwelling-house and dairy premises being remodelled, outhouses reconstructed, and improvements made to cowshed. At the end of the year alterations were also in progress at Low House Farm.

Twenty-one samples of milk were taken from producers' and from retailers' premises and were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Agricultural Department of King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The reports received in all cases were communicated to the respective dairymen, their premises visited later, and suggestions made where found necessary.

The following is a tabulated statement of reports received :—

Sample.	Grade.	Average No. of Organisms per C.C.	Coliform B. found in two or more counts.
1 ...	Ordinary ...	1,770 ...	Not present.
2 ...	„ ...	2,600 ...	„
3 ...	„ ...	23,200 ...	„
4 ...	„ ...	440,000 ...	„
5 ...	Accredited ...	12,500 ...	„
6 ...	Ordinary ...	12,000 ...	Present.
7 ...	„ ...	480,000 ...	Not present.
8 ...	„ ...	10,500 ...	Present.
9 ...	Accredited ...	4,320 ...	„
10 ...	Ordinary ...	over 1mil. ...	„
11 ...	„ ...	„ ...	Not present.
12 ...	„ ...	„ ...	Present.
13 ...	„ ...	„ ...	„
14 ...	„ ...	„ ...	Not present.
15 ...	Accredited ...	110,000 ...	Present.
16 ...	Ordinary ...	6,320 ...	„
17 ...	„ ...	1,210 ...	Not present.
18 ...	„ ...	382,000 ...	Present.
19 ...	„ ...	169,000 ...	„
20 ...	Accredited ...	880 ...	„
21 ...	Accredited ...	38,000 ...	Not present.

Much time has been spent impressing upon milk producers the necessity, from a public health point of view, that a high standard of bacteriological purity should be maintained and can be reasonably done by the observation of the prime essential measures. No great difficulty should be experienced by having clean milkers, adopting a routine method of grooming of flanks and cleansing of udders and maintaining a clean environment. These necessary precautions coupled with proper sterilisation of milking utensils



being observed, a milk producer need have no fear of recurring adverse reports as to bacterial counts and the presence of bacilli coliform in milk the production of which he supervises.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923 and 1936, the following licences were issued :—

Producers of Accredited Milk	...	...	3
Retailers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	1
„ Accredited Milk	...	...	5
„ Pasteurised Milk	...	...	1

Report of the Veterinary Officer upon inspections carried out in Washington Urban District during the year 1937 :—

Number of visits to Cowkeepers	...	48
„ Cows examined	...	543
General condition and type of Cows		Fair
„ cleanliness of Cows	...	Good
„ conditions of sanitation	...	Satisfactory
Chief methods of Milk disposal	...	{ Retail and Wholesale

Number of Animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order—

(a) Tuberculosis of the udder or giving T.B. Milk	...	...	3
(b) Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	0
Total	...	...	3

Number of cases of diseases other than Tuberculosis (chiefly Mastitis)	...	...	...	...	25
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#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the whole a fairly good class of cow is kept in this area, and the general hygiene in the cowsheds and dairies is well up to standard.

Three cows were found to be suffering from clinical tuberculosis.

(Signed) J. SMITH,

27th January, 1938.

Veterinary Officer.

**(b) Meat Inspection.**

There were nine slaughterhouses in the district at the end of 1937. They are well conducted and kept in a cleanly state. Informal notices issued with regard to three premises were satisfactorily attended to.

Slaughtering licences were renewed to 31 persons, two new licences were granted, and three persons did not make further application for renewal.

It is impracticable to carry out ante-mortem inspection of animals, but all animals slaughtered are inspected shortly after. All unsound meat is destroyed by burial and by burning.

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number Killed ... ..	605	2	1206	312
Number Inspected ... ..	590	2	1115	294
All diseases except Tuberculosis— whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	125	...	25	12
Tuberculosis only—whole car- cases condemned ... ..	1	...	...	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	34	...	...	4



## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet fever continued to be of a high incidence during the year, an increase of 12 cases being notified compared with 1936. The cases were, on the whole, of a mild type, many of them not being discovered until after the onset of desquamation.

Diphtheria showed a further reduction on the previous year of 11 cases, thus reaching the lowest level since 1932.

The number of cases of pneumonia notified was seven, yet the number of deaths occurring from this disease was 13, showing that a number of these cases are not being notified.

Table showing the Age Incidence, Deaths, &c., from Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

[illegible]



### Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1937.

AGE PERIOD.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1 Year ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
5 Years ...	...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...
15 „ ...	2	1	1	...	...	2	...	1
25 „ ...	3	3	1	...	2	2	...	1
35 „ ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
45 „ ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 „ ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 „ and up'ds	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	6	7	6	2	6	5	1	2

#### Mortality.

The number of deaths registered as occurring from respiratory tuberculosis was 11. This is equivalent to a death-rate from respiratory tuberculosis of 0.64 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 0.65 in 1936.

The number of deaths due to non-respiratory tuberculosis was 3, as against 5 in 1936.





