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Urban District Council of Washington


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1948

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

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

1949

PELAW-ON-TYNE :
CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S PRINTING WORKS.



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Urban District Council of Washington.

List of Councillors for the year 1948-49.

Chairman :

Councillor T. ANDERSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor W. TROTTER.

Councillor M. ALLON.	Councillor R. MCGLEN
„ L. BOWMAN.	„ W. OLDS.
„ R. COATES.	„ R. PARKIN.
„ A. W. COLE, J.P.	„ R. PATTERSON.
„ J. R. COXON.	„ W. PURDY.
„ J. M. CULLINAN.	„ H. PRICE.
„ H. DYSON.	„ A. RODDAM.
„ C. HALL.	„ Mrs. J. TEMPEST.
„ W. HASKETT.	„ Mrs. M. THOMPSON.
„ W. JAMIESON.	

Clerk to the Council :

ARTHUR C. JONES, A.C.A.

Urban District Council of Washington
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List of Councilors for the year 1948-49

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.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

E. B. COOP, M.S.I.A.



*Council Chambers,
Washington,
Co. Durham.*

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MESDAMES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, and the work of the Health Department for the year 1948.

The birth-rate has increased from 22·2 in 1947 to 22·5 per 1,000 in 1948.

The death-rate has decreased slightly from 10·3 in 1947 to 10·0 per 1,000 in 1948.

I wish to apologise for a mistake in my report of last year. In that report the death-rate was stated to be 13·4 per 1,000. This figure should have read 10·34 per 1,000.

The infantile mortality rate is higher than last year, the figure being 50·62 per 1,000 live births, compared with 41·92 in 1947. Thirteen babies died before reaching the age of one year, and of these the number of premature babies who died was comparatively high, viz., 7.

The incidence of diphtheria and scarlet fever remained low, 5 cases of the former and 29 cases of the latter being notified.

There were 21 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, compared with 9 notifications in 1947. Four cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred, compared with 8 cases in 1947.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and 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
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1948 according to rate books)	...	...	...	...	4,813
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£65,928
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£241
Population	...	...	...	...	17,540

Extract from Vital Statistics.

Live Births—	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
Legitimate	.... 383	.... 189	.... 194
Illegitimate	.... 12	.... 6	.... 6
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 22·5			

Still Births—	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
Legitimate	.... 7	.... 3	.... 4
Illegitimate	.... 1	.... 1 —
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			
			.... 18·0

Deaths	TOTAL.	MALE.	FEMALE.
....	.... 177	.... 106	.... 71

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10·0

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 — —
No. 30—Other Maternal causes	.... 2	..... 4·5
Total	.... <u>2</u>	..... <u>4·5</u>

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	... .. 50·62
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 46·98
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... 166·66

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... .. 24
„ Measles (all ages)	... .. 0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... .. 0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... .. 1

Vital Statistics.

Births.

The birth-rate increased from 22·2 in 1947 to 22·5 in 1948.

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

	Rate per 1,000 of population.
England and Wales	17·9
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	20·0
148 Smaller Towns	19·2
London Administrative County	20·1
Washington Urban District	22·5

Still Births.

England and Wales	0·42
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	0·52
148 Smaller Towns	0·43
London Administrative County	0·39
Washington Urban District	0·46

Deaths.

The death-rate in 1948 was 10·0, compared with 10·3 in 1947.

The following figures show comparisons :—

England and Wales	10·8
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns .	11·6
148 Smaller Towns	10·7
London	11·6
Washington Urban District	10·0

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, 1948.

Causes of Death.		Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	.. .. .	106	71
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	..	..
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..
3	Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..
4	Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..
5	Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	5
7	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	..
8	Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	..	..
9	Influenza	2	..
10	Measles .. .. .	..	..
11	Acute Polio Myelitis and Polio Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..
12	Acute Infantile Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..
13	Cancer of Buc. Cavity and Œsop. (M) Uterus (F).	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	3
15	Cancer of Breast .. .. .	..	..
16	Cancer of all other Sites	9	5
17	Diabetes .. .. .	..	..
18	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	12
19	Heart Disease	26	20
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	1
21	Bronchitis	10	3
22	Pneumonia	3	1
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	..
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	..
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	..
26	Appendicitis .. .. .	..	..
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	..
28	Nephritis	4	3
29	Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis .. .. .	..	..
30	Other Maternal Causes .. .. .	..	2
31	Premature Birth	4	3
32	Con. Mal.; Birth Injuries, Infant.; Dis.	4	2
33	Suicide	1	..
34	Road Traffic Accidents	1	..
35	Other Violent Causes	3	1
36	All Other Causes	10	9

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
 (Statistical Branch),
 SOMERSET HOUSE,
 STRAND, W.C.2.

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 a change in the laboratory arrangements during the year. Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Ponteland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 5, and samples requiring biological examination are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Service.

On the 5th July, 1948, the County Council took over the duty, from the Washington Urban District Council, of making provision of sufficient ambulances where necessary for the conveyance of persons suffering from illness.

“Illness,” in the National Health Service Act, 1946, is defined to include mental illness, or any injury or disability requiring medical or dental treatment or nursing.

For the purposes of the County Ambulance Service, the Urban District of Washington is included with Boldon Urban District and that part of Sunderland Rural District lying north of the River Wear.

Ambulances available at Washington (Telephone Washington 126) or Hebburn (Telephone Hebburn 32157).

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.
7. Eye Infirmary, Sunderland.
8. Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) *Water Supply.*

The Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and the South Shields and Sunderland Water Co., supply the Urban District with water, which is satisfactory in quality.

The plumbo-solvent action is little in evidence in the system of water supply to the Urban District.

All the dwelling-houses within the Urban area are supplied from public mains in the method herewith given :—

(a) Direct to houses	....	....	....	4,652
(b) By means of stand pipe in yard or wash house	....	....	....	<u>165</u>
TOTAL	....	....	....	<u>4,817</u>

During the year the system was further extended on the Blue House Lane area, a 3-inch main being installed to supply 48 houses under construction.

A pressure reducing tank at High Usworth was removed and a pressure reducing valve installed to remove the possibility of contamination and give an increased flow of water to the occupants of dwelling-houses and premises on the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. supply.

Three samples of water were taken from the Usworth Colliery (deep well) service supplying East House Farm and other cottages and submitted for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory reports were received regarding all three samples. Following discussions with the Area Agent, National Coal Board, on the matter, the colliery supply to the dwelling-houses was disconnected and the existing service coupled to the public main supply at a convenient position. The alteration was speedily and economically carried out with satisfactory results to all concerned.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The sewage of the District is discharged into the River Wear at three points, one near Barmston Forge, and two at Washington Staithes. The waste matter at Barmston only is treated in settlement tanks before being allowed to flow into the river. The settlement tanks were cleansed during September, 1948.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Complaints alluding to the deposit of trade waste and sewage on the banks of the River Wear within the Urban District were noted. Following inspections and discussions, some improvement was effected with regard to the deposit of sewage on the banks of the river.

Pollution of the Don Burn in the Usworth Colliery Ward was removed following the renewal of a length of sewer which had been fractured.

The condition of other water courses in the district were satisfactory during the year.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

At the end of the year the various types in use within the Urban District were as follows :—

	1946	1947	1948
Water-closets	4,990	5,053	5,224
Ash-closets	35	34	34
Ash-pit Privies	2	2	2
Chemical-closets	14	4	4

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The personnel includes foreman, 3 drivers, and 10 loaders. The vehicles at present in use are two Karrier-Bantams of 7 cubic yards and one Dennis wagon of 10 cubic yards capacity, and provide the area with a service varying, according to circumstances, from three to five days throughout the year.

The number of dwelling-houses, shops, and other premises dealt with by your personnel total 4,990, which is an increase of 190 compared with the previous year. The Hostel Estate and provision of 98 new houses accounting for the increase.

Three crews with vehicle are responsible for the removal of household refuse from a defined part of the area. Conditions, naturally at the present time, demand the frequent alteration of the areas for efficient cleansing purposes. The Dennis vehicle, of 10 cubic yard capacity with its loaders' cab, has been on service since 1st June, 1948. The successful working of the vehicle in the Usworth Colliery area amply justifies the placing of an order for the second wagon of similar type as part of Council's future plan. The other vehicles, including the Shelvoke and Drury freighter (since passed over to the Highways Department), are rapidly deteriorating and involved 49 days repairs.

Inclement weather during the year involved the loss of $2\frac{1}{2}$ days working time for all crews.

Sickness and time lost among the personnel during the year amounted to 105 days.

The collection of household refuse forever increasing creates minor difficulties. The modern lay-out of housing estates and schemes increase the length of lift for the loader, and a consequent increase in the time for collection and increased length of haul to point of disposal. The experiment tried out during the year with dust-bin carriers proved a saving of time, and their use in the future appears to be more essential to the economic running of the larger collecting vehicles. The collection of refuse from 15 isolated dwelling-houses being dealt with by private individuals.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping on the site of disused quarry workings and on low-lying agricultural land on agreement between owner or tenant and the Council. An area of land at Oxclose was taken over for refuse-tipping purposes, and following the culverting of the Oxclose Burn for approximately 100 yards with 54-inch spun concrete pipes at a cost of £1,645, the area has been in use as a major tipping ground for the Usworth and Washington Station areas. During the period under review, 9,508 tons of refuse were tipped at 11 disposal points throughout the area. The location, tonnage, and type of tipping is shown in the following table, viz. :—

Locations	Tonnage	Tipping
Field at " F " Pit....	1,820 tons	Controlled.
Area at Hobson's Terrace	950 "	"
Springwell Quarry	3,368 "	Crude.
Area—Oxclose Road	1,160 "	"
„ Usworth Station	1,280 "	"
Other Areas (6)	930 "	"
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> <u>9,508 tons.</u>	

Approximately 4,000 tons, or 42 per cent. of the total tonnage involved, was utilised on agricultural land.

Complaints of nuisance arising from tipping areas during the year numbered five. Two were treated for rat infestation, one covered with coal-washer waste material to minimise the breeding of flies, one required attention for fire, and an area used in 1936 as a tipping ground was cleared of street sweepings, builders' refuse, and other materials from kennels, &c., deposited on the site by unauthorised persons.

The scarcity of tipping areas within the Urban District was commented upon in my last report, and satisfactory action taken by the Council. Nevertheless, the piping of the water course in the field at Usworth Station would greatly facilitate the disposal of refuse and the economic running of the service during the winter months.

Facilities for the modernisation of garage and messing accommodation have had the consideration of the Council, and the provision of another repair pit suitable for all vehicles, improved messing conditions, and the provision of ample drying and locker facilities are urgently required and would be much appreciated by the employees.

UNIT COSTS.

Expenditure per ton per annum	....	....	....	11s. 2d.
„ per 1,000 houses per annum	....	....	....	£1,066
„ per 1,000 population per annum	....	....	£305	11s. 5d.
„ per house per week	....	....	....	4·9d.
The estimated weight per house per year	....	....	....	1·90 tons.

A comparative statement of the scavenging costs for the three previous years and the year prior to the war is given herewith:—

Year.	Annual Cost.	Approximate cost per house.	
		s.	d.
1938-39	£ 2,418	10	8
1946-47	4,380	18	7
1947-48	5,083	21	2
1948-49	5,320	21	3

(iii) Salvage.

The dual method of refuse removal and collection of salvage materials has been operated since 1940. Trailers are used with the refuse vehicle to facilitate the storage of the salvage until deposited at the Salvage Depot, where two men are employed sorting, grading, and despatching the various materials to merchants.

The demand for animal feeding stuffs by pig and poultry keepers within the Urban area has been large, as a result no kitchen waste has been collected by the local authority. An estimate of the amount collected privately varies between three and five tons per month.

The following returns show the quantities and value of materials collected by Council employees since the inception of salvage within the Urban area :—

Year.	Weight.			Value.		
	Tons.	cwts.		£	s.	d.
1940-41	93	0	.....	339	16	0
1941-42	222	1	.....	811	5	7
1942-43	211	2	.....	832	11	8
1943-44	199	1	.....	824	12	8
1944-45	122	1	.....	604	3	4
1945-46	82	19	.....	468	8	4
1946-47	60	0	.....	417	15	10
1947-48	72	12	.....	455	0	0
1948-49	87	16	.....	649	0	0
	<u>1,150</u>	<u>12</u>	.....	<u>£5,402</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>

(iv) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	1152
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	34
„ Bakehouses	9
„ Factories and Workshops	25
„ Work in progress	77
„ Slaughterhouses	—
„ Pig-keepers' premises	11
„ Fish and Fruit Shops	37
Visits paid in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises	48
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures... ..	8
Total number of Visits	<u>1,401</u>

INFESTATION.

The work of treatment for rats within the sewerage system in the urban district was carried out by the method as prescribed by the Ministry of Food.

Complaints received during the year regarding surface infestations numbered 40, of which 9 appeared to be unfounded, 4 were in respect of premises previously notified.

The following table shows the kind of premises involved and the nature of the infestation dealt with :—

Premises.	Nature of Infestation.		
	Minor.	Major.	Reservoir.
Food Shops	7	0	0
Other Shops	5	0	0
Refuse Tips	1	0	0
Poultry Pens	2	0	0
Dwelling-houses	15	0	0
Schools	1	0	0
Other places	3	0	0

(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 .	559	107	573
„ Foul conditions ... ..	...	...	...
„ Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ... ..	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	2	...	2
Cowsheds	3	...	3
Bakehouses	1	...	1
Slaughterhouses ... ..	...	...	...
Ash-pits and Privies	1	...	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	3	...	3
Water-closets	42	4	40
Defective Yard Paving	8	5	7
House-drainage—			
Defective Traps	8	1	8
No disconnection from Sewers .	...	...	...
Other Faults	69	3	63
Water Supply	39	...	33
Pigsties	1	...	1
Animals improperly kept ... ..	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ... ..	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	40	...	35
Ash Bins	60	8	60
Totals	836	128	830

(v) *Shops Act, 1934.*

Under the Shops Act, 1934, inspection of 56 shops in the district was carried out during the year. It was found necessary in 4 cases to serve informal notices on owners of shops, having regard to structural improvements, and in 1 case to the lack of suitable and sufficient water-closet accommodation.

(vi) *Smoke Abatement.*

No action taken during the year.

(vii) *Swimming Baths.*

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*

	Infested.	Disinfested.
(1) Council houses	—	—
Other houses	16	16
(2) Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs	Zaldecide or Foompest.	
(3) Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses	Zaldecide or Foompest.	
(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 under the jurisdiction of the County Council of Durham and the water supply and sanitary conditions are adequate and satisfactory.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MESDAMES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Thirteenth contribution to the Annual Report of your Medical Officer on the work of your Health and Cleansing Department during the year 1948.

Complaints recorded during the period under review totalled 391. The major proportion being from occupiers, having regard to the condition of existing accommodation and overcrowding. No complaints of nuisances from spoil-banks within the area were received during the year.

The housing position within the Urban District is still acute. Overcrowding being much in evidence in Council and privately-owned houses. Repairs to property are being carried out in many cases by the owners under protest. In other instances the property has deteriorated to such an extent that income derived from the rents in no way would meet the cost of reasonable repairs asked for.

The cleansing service to the community has been satisfactorily carried out and credit is due to the teamwork shown by the personnel.

The salvage of materials, under direction of the Board of Trade, is being continued although difficulties in the disposal of certain articles are being experienced.

A summary of the work done by the department is given under the various sections, and in tabulating the matter relative to the different subjects, I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance afforded me by members of the Council, staff, and members of the public in general.

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) 756
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...1,152
- (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) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 153
- (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 ... 247

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 206

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 33
- (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 8
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 8
- (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 Nil.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

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

During the period under review there were 98 houses erected and occupied within the Urban District, viz. :—

Permanent houses by Local Authority	....	....	91
Houses built by private enterprise	....	....	7

In the same period the following houses were removed from the register as being demolished or converted for purposes other than human habitation, viz. :—

	Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
The Green	3	4

4. OVERCROWDING.

The number of houses overcrowded by reason of :—

- (a) One family 286 involving 1,442 persons
- (b) More than one family ... 610 „ 2,135 „

During the year 25 families with a total of 169 persons were re-housed by Council. Four families found other accommodation.

5. MEDICAL.

Families defined as coming within this category were considered during the year with the following results :—

22 families re-housed by reason of overcrowding.

14 families re-housed for medical reasons.

The above involved 36 families with a total number of 149 persons.

The following is a summary of the different types of dwelling-houses erected by the Local Authority up to March 31st, 1949 :—

Houses built under :	No. of Houses	No. of Apartments			
		2	3	4	5
Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890	149	....	86	4	59
Housing Act, 1919	79	....	....	69	10
„ „ 1924	744	80*	310	353	1
Housing Acts, 1930-6	244	....	30	214	....
„ Act, 1936	204	....	115	61	28
„ „ 1936	91	....	7	60	24
TOTAL	1,511	80*	548	761	122

* Aged Persons Houses.

6. THE HOSTEL ESTATE.

The above estate, comprising of 76 huts, 4 bungalows, and some buildings suitable for business premises, were taken over by the Urban District Council from the Ministry of Health on the 9th June, 1948.

The huts are in process of being converted to accommodate 158 families.

At the end of March, 1949, there were 74 families involving 259 persons re-housed in huts (three apartments) that had been suitably altered.

The total number of houses controlled by the Urban District Council is now 1,591, including 74 houses (made reasonably fit for human habitation) on the Hostel Estate, 5 requisitioned houses, and 1 other.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

The following are details of persons and premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, within the district :—

Number of cowkeepers	...	...	...	16
Number of wholesale and retail purveyors of milk	...	...	...	53
Number of dairies	...	...	...	15

There are 35 retail purveyors of milk registered for the sale of milk in closed and unopened bottles in which it is delivered to the premises.

Visits to cowshed and dairy premises numbered 46. The premises inspected were found generally to be satisfactory.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations the following licences were granted during the year :—

Licences to sell " Pasteurised " Milk (Supple- mentary Licence)	...	...	...	1
Licences to produce " Accredited " Milk (granted by County Council)	...	...	...	4

The following table shows the number of samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland

Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 5, for bacteriological and biological examination, and the results of the various tests :—

Designation	No. of Samples submitted	Type of Examination						Examination for Tubercle Bacilli	
		Coliform Test		Methylene Blue		Phosphatase Test		Neg.	Pos.
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed		
Accredited Milk ...	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
Pasteurised Milk ...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Non-designated Milk ...	6	4	2	5	1	...	...	6	...
Total number of Samples submitted ...	9	6	2	7	2	1	...	8	...

Where samples of designated milk failed to comply with the standards specified in the Regulations, the matter was taken up with the producer. Non-designated milk samples showing an unsatisfactory bacteriological standard were referred to the producers for their observations. Further visits and inspections of their premises are followed up by taking "repeat" samples.

(b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

As in the previous year, slaughtering for the Urban District was carried out under Government control at Newcastle upon Tyne, and the meat transported in bulk to a local centre for final distribution to meat retailers. The experience of supervision of the distribution of such meat during the war and post-war period created an impression that the standard of cleanliness and method of control leaves much to be desired.

In the same period pig-keeping and killing within the Urban District would appear to be on the increase, 90 having been killed by licensed slaughterers, and inspection of 64 of these being carried out. The arrangement of having pigs slaughtered at two recognised places within the district is appreciated and facilitates local control and supervision.

In the performance of the duties of Meat and Foods Inspector during the year 212 visits were made to food premises. Informal notices served resulted in improvements being carried out on two premises.

With regard to foodstuffs other than meat, improved control at wholesalers' premises seems to be a very necessary essential, and would certainly result in a reduction of awkward situations created under the present method of control.

The following is a list of foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption and for which 96 certificates were issued :—

Tinned meat and M.F. Products	...	116 lb.
„ vegetables	... ..	114 lb.
„ fish	... ..	20 lb.
„ soups	... ..	10 lb.
„ milk	... ..	116 tins
Meat	... ..	10 lb.
Sausage	... ..	1 lb.
Bacon	... ..	26 lb.
Fruit	... ..	365 lb.
Cheese	... ..	6 lb.
Butter	... ..	60 lb.
Margarine	... ..	30 lb.
Jam	... ..	26 lb.
Flour	... ..	98 lb.
Sugar	... ..	224 lb.
Other foods	... ..	314 lb.

The following foodstuffs were returned to wholesalers as unfit for human consumption, viz. :—

Meat (English)	... ..	699 lb.
„ (frozen)	... ..	304 lb.

Ice Cream.

Number of Producers registered	... ..	4
Number of Retailers registered	... ..	12

Samples taken and submitted for bacterial examination were satisfactory except in one case. Further samples from this producer's premises were found to give good results.

SECTION F.

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

The number of scarlet fever cases which occurred in 1948 was 29, compared with 35 cases in 1947.

The number of diphtheria cases was 5, compared with 6 cases in 1947.

Diphtheria antitoxin is kept in stock for distribution to medical practitioners on request.

Diphtheria prophylaxis (A.P.T.) is obtained from the Public Health Laboratories, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5, when required by medical practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children who are now immunised in the area is estimated as follows :—

Ages.	Total number of Children.	Estimated number Immunised.	Percentage.
0-4 years ...	1,646	793	48·48
5-14 years ...	2,646	1,833	69·27

The number of children who were immunised during 1948 was—

0-4 years ...	...	...	...	229
5-14 years ...	...	...	...	42
				—
	Total ...	...	...	271
				—
Third or reinforcing dose ...	...	...	...	40
				—

Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1948.

AGE PERIOD.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 Year	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 Years	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 „	2	5	1	...	...	3	...	...
25 „	6	...	1	...	2	...	...	...
35 „	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45 „	1	1	...	...	2	2	...	...
55 „	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 „ and up'ds	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	15	6	4	...	5	5	1	...

Tuberculosis.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—21 notifications were received, compared to 9 in 1947.

There were 10 deaths, compared to 9 last year.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—4 notifications were received, compared to 8 in 1947.

There was 1 death, compared to 3 last year

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number of						M/c line No. (7)
	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	27	17	4	..	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	34	43	9	..	2	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	2	..	..	3
TOTAL .. .. .	..	65	62	13	..	..

2. **Cases in which DEFECTS** were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found						M/c line No. (8)
	M/c line No. (2)	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	8	8	..	..	..	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	..	..	..	..	..	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	..	..	..	..	..	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	1	..	..	..	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient	9	2	2	..	2	..	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	4	4	..	..	..	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	..	..	..	..	..	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	..	..	..	..	..	12
TOTAL	60	15	15	..	2	..	60

