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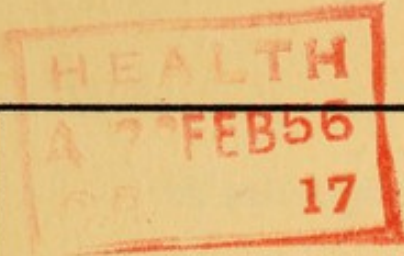
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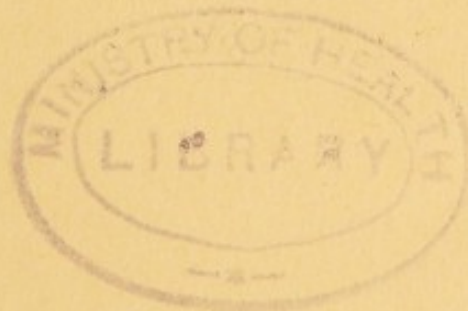
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Washington Urban District Council

**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1954



L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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L. A. M. JOHNSTON,
B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Washington.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my fourth Annual Report being for the year 1954. Incorporated therewith is the Report of your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The general vital statistics for the district are on the whole satisfactory. There is an increase in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which is partly due to early diagnosis but with early diagnosis a cure is much easier to obtain and should lead ultimately to a decline in the number. It is pleasing to note that there was only one death due to tuberculosis during the year.

Welfare work amongst the aged continues and nine clubs for "Over 60's" are in existence. There is sometimes a danger that too much emphasis can be put on the clubs and the other aspects of welfare may be neglected. Not all over 60's are club-minded and many are unable to attend and it is the desire that all who are lonely or needy in their later years should be helped.

I gladly take this opportunity of thanking all members of the Council and my colleagues on the staff for their assistance so readily given whenever required.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. M. JOHNSTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

The Staff consists of:—

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Whole time conjoint appointment (see below). Degrees of B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrews).

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Association and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other Foods. Also acts as Factory and Workshop Inspector, Shops Inspector, Cleansing Officer, Petroleum Officer and Rodent Control Officer.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR. Whole time. Holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER. Whole time. Associate Member Institution of Municipal Engineers.

The Medical Officer of Health also acts as Medical Officer to the Urban Districts of Houghton-le-Spring and Hetton, also as Assistant Medical Officer for Durham County Council for No. 5 Area.

Other Health Services

The following Health Services are administered by Durham County Council as the responsible Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulance.	Child Welfare and Maternity.
Home Nursing.	School Medical.
Home Helps.	Welfare of the Aged.
Vaccination.	Welfare of the Blind.
Immunisation against Diphtheria.	Health Visitors.

The County Council are also responsible for the administration of Part III of the National Insurance Act, 1948.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTORS are appointed by, and work under the direction of, the County Council.

VETERINARY INSPECTORS are fully qualified men appointed by, and working under the direction of, the Ministry of Agriculture—being responsible for conducting routine examinations of the cow population throughout the County in order to maintain and raise the standard of health of said cows.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—5,758 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1954—17,730.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Books—5,493.

Rateable Value—£80,343.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£291.

Chief Industries

The chief industries in the Urban District of Washington are Coal Mining, Chemical Works and Iron Works, the latter chiefly engaged in manufacturing equipment for the coal mining industry.

There are various subsidiary industries, one of the most important being agriculture, the district having some very good dairy farms. Two farms are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk, three accredited milk, and the other fifteen non-graded milk.

The majority of the working population in the district not employed in the above-named industries earn their livelihood in the Timber Yards, Springwell Stone Quarries, Brickyards and in general trading.

Industrial Diseases are fortunately rarer than in former days due to the strict enforcement of numerous precautions but cases of miners' nystagmus, pneumoconiosis and silicosis still occur among the miners and more rarely asbestosis among workers at the Chemical Works. It is to be hoped and expected that each year will see a reduction in those affected for the first time.

Housing

It is with pleasure that we note the continued improvement in the number of traditional type houses erected during 1954 compared with the post-war years 1946-52. As will be seen from

the table which appears in the centre of this report 154 houses were erected by the Council partly by direct enterprise, partly by contract and 14 houses by private enterprise.

It is hoped that this rate can be maintained if not improved on for, apart from houses required for reasons such as to house sub-tenants, abate overcrowding and house those who are living outside the district and desiring to live in the area because of working in it, approximately four hundred are urgently needed within the next five years to re-house tenants living in properties which are to be included in the five years' programme for slum clearance.

The figure of 5,493 shown at the commencement of this section as being the number of inhabited houses in the area is composed of 5,332 dwelling houses, 82 houses and shops, 53 farm houses and farm cottages and 26 houses connected with Licensed Premises. Since the Council already own 2,027 permanent houses and 258 temporary, total 2,285. It may be seen that the proportion of Council-owned houses to privately-owned houses is becoming fairly high.

Vital Statistics

Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for outward and inward transfers) during 1954 was 312 compared with 324 for 1953.

Sex and Legitimacy are shown thus:—

		Total				
		Male	Female			
Live Births	Legitimate	306	164	142	}	Giving a birth rate of 17.59 per 1,000 of the estimated population.
	Illegitimate	6	6	—		

To exactly compare the Birth Rate in Washington Urban District with that for England and Wales, as a whole, it must be multiplied by a comparability factor of 0.93 giving a rate of 16.36 as compared with 15.2 for England and Wales.

The following table shows (1) the total number of births (2) the number of males born, (3) the number of females born, (4) the birth rate per 1,000 population and (5) the total increase of population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) for 1954 as compared with the year 1945-1953.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
1945	314	170	144	19.18	137
1946	332	Not available		19.48	Not available
1947	381	203	178	22.25	204
1948	395	195	200	22.52	218
1949	362	197	165	20.49	166
1950	325	160	165	18.29	163
1951	332	183	149	18.7	111
1952	302	158	144	17.06	102
1953	324	177	147	18.33	169
1954	312	170	142	17.59	108

Still Births

During 1954 there were 9 still births in the district.

		Total Male Female			
Still Births					
	Legitimate	9	5	4	Giving a Still Birth Rate of 28.04 per 1,000 Total (live and still births).
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	

There is a Still Birth Rate of 0.51 per 1,000 population in Washington U.D., as compared with 0.36 for England and Wales

Deaths and Death Rate

The Registrar General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 204 residents of the Washington area died during 1954, being 119 males and 85 females.

Locally compiled figures show that there were 127 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 65 males and 61 females. One person died within the area during the period under consideration who did not normally reside therein—there was therefore 1 outward transfer.

78 persons, being 54 males and 24 females normally resident in the district died outside the area—there were therefore 78 inward transfers.

During 1953, 155 residents of Washington died, being 78 males and 77 females.

The death rate for 1954 corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 11.5 for Washington U.D., compared with 8.77 in 1953.

In order to compare the local figure with that for England and Wales, the former must be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.25, giving a Death Rate for Washington of 14.37, whilst that for England and Wales is 11.3.

Total Deaths under 5 years (corrected locally)

During 1954 six children died before attaining the age of five years as compared with twelve in 1953. Five children being 1 male and 4 females were under one year of age.

Therefore 2.94% of the total deaths were of children under five years of age as compared with 7.73% in 1953.

Deaths in Institutions

Of the 78 residents who died outside the area, 76 died in hospital and 1 in a private house.

The following table shows the number of deaths of Washington residents in various hospitals outside the area:—

Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	2
General Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	39
General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	4
General Hospital, Hexham	...	...	1
Bensham Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	4
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	1
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	...	...	6
Babies' Hospital, Leazes Terrace, Newcastle	...	...	1
418, Westgate Road	...	...	2
Brandon Hospital, Brandon	...	...	1
169, Harton Lane, South Shields	...	...	1
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	...	...	5
Crossgate Hospital, Durham	...	...	2
General Hospital Ryhope	...	...	1
Cherry Knowles Hospital, Ryhope	...	...	1
Leeholm, Easington	...	...	2
Dunston Hill Hospital, Whickham	...	...	1

Maternal Mortality

There was one death among women from puerperal sepsis, pregnancy or abortion.

Comparisons between England and Wales and Washington

The maternal mortality per 1,000 total live and still births based on deaths which are primarily classed as due to diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperal state is shown in the following table.

				England and Wales		Washington Urban District	
				Nos.	Rate	Nos.	Rate
Maternal Causes, excluding							
abortion	...	...	402	0.58	1	3.98	
Due to abortion	...	...	76	0.11	—	—	
Total Maternal Mortality	...	...	478	0.69	1	3.98	

Death Rate of Infants under One Year

During 1954 there were 5 children, being 1 legitimate male and 4 legitimate females who died in the area before attaining the age of one year. This is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 16.02 per 1,000 live births or a rate of 15.57 per 1,000 total (live and still births) compared with a rate per 1,000 total births of 25.4 for England and Wales.

In 1953 there were twelve children who died under one year of age, yielding an Infantile Mortality Rate of 36.25 (per 1,000 total births).

The following table shows the death rates for infants under one year of age according to the total number of live births and legitimacy for the year 1945-1954.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
1945	...	50.96	...	53.69	...	0.00
1946	...	60.2	...	61.18	...	45.45
1947	...	41.99	...	40.65	...	83.33
1948	...	50.66	...	63.60	...	166.66
1949	...	52.49	...	53.98	..	0.00
1950	...	30.77	...	30.91	..	0.00
1951	...	42.17	...	43.81	...	0.00
1952	...	19.86	...	20.54	...	0.00
1953	...	37.03	...	37.97	...	0.00
1954	...	16.02	...	15.57	...	0.00

It will be noted from Table II that there was one death of an infant under one year of age in Springwell, one in Usworth Colliery, one in Great Usworth and two in Washington Station Wards.

The ratio of infant deaths per 1,000 population is 0.28.

The following table shows in detail the number and causes of deaths in infants during the first year of life and also the deaths at the various ages.

Infant Mortality during the year ended 31st December, 1954

Cause of Death	Age of children	Total
Congenital Heart Disease: 7 days and 1 month	2
Prematurity: 4 days; 6 hours; 4 days	3
		<hr/> 5 <hr/>

Since the total deaths in the district at all ages was 204 then 2.45% of the total were of children under 1 year of age. Of these infants 80% were 1 week old or younger.

		Nett Live Births—Legitimate		Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General	...	164	142	6	—	=	312
Nett Deaths	...	1	4	—	—	=	5

During 1954 there were 178 deaths certified by medical practitioners, 6 were certified by the Coroner after post-mortem and inquest, 6 by the Coroner after inquest, 8 by the Coroner after post-mortem without inquest and 6 were uncertified.

The distribution of deaths (at all ages and corrected for inward and outward transfers) in the various wards is shown in the following tables. Table I shows the incidence during each quarter of the year, i.e., the Seasonal Incidence and Table II shows the age and sex distribution of deaths in each ward.

Table I. Seasonal Incidence.

Ward	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Great Usworth	7 ...	9 ...	11 ...	14 ...	41
Usworth Colliery	13 ...	13 ...	7 ...	11 ...	44
Washington	9 ...	6 ...	13 ...	12 ...	40
Washington Station	13 ...	7 ...	13 ...	18 ...	51
Springwell	7 ...	3 ...	2 ...	8 ...	20
Washington Staithes	1 ...	— ...	3 ...	— ...	4
Barmston	1 ...	2 ...	1 ...	— ...	4
Totals	51 ...	40 ...	50 ...	62 ...	204

Table II. Age Incidence.

Ward.	Under 1 year		1-5 years.		5-15 years.		15-25 years.		25-45 years.		45-65 years.		65-75 years.		75 years & over.		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Great Usworth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	6	4	8	5	10	4	28	14
Usworth Colliery	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	10	5	4	3	8	8	26	18
Washington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	6	4	10	8	6	17	23
Springwell	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	5	2	2	2	14	5
Washington Station	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	9	6	8	4	13	6	31	20	
Barmston ¹	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	2
Washington Staithes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	3
Total	1	4	1	...	1	...	2	...	6	5	36	21	29	26	43	29	119	85

Causes of Death in Washington Urban District during 1954.

Causes of Death.				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	7	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	7	10
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	1	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	18	10
18.	Coronary disease angina	...	...	14	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	19	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	2	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	7	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	15	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	5	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	4	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	—
All Causes				119	85

Causes of Death

Tuberculosis

There was 1 death from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1954 being equivalent to a death rate of .056 per 1,000 population from the pulmonary form and 0.00 from the non-pulmonary.

Comparative Table:

Year	No. of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	No. of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis England and Wales	Death Rate per 1,000 population from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Washington U.D.
1945	4	.519	.244	1	.100	.061
1946	7	Not available	.410	3	Not available	.176
1947	9	.47	.525	3	.079	.175
1948	10	.44	.570	1	.067	.570
1949	9	.403	.509	2	.054	.113
1950	5	.321	.281	1	.043	.056
1951	2	.275	.113	3	.041	.164
1952	6	.212	.339	1	.028	.056
1953	5	.179	.283	0	.022	.000
1954	1	.160	.056	0	.019	.000

Heart Disease and Disease of the Circulatory System

This includes:—	Males	Females
Coronary Disease — Angina ...	14	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	3
Other Heart Disease ...	19	10
Other Circulatory Disease ...	2	7
Total ...	38	34

Therefore in 1954 there were 72 deaths due to the above-named causes—that is 35.29% of the total deaths or a death rate of 4.06 per 1,000 population. The percentage of total deaths in 1953 was 31 and the death rate 2.72.

One of the most common causes of heart disease is rheumatism and one cannot over-emphasise the importance of medical treatment even for the mild forms, especially amongst children, as it is only too often that the mildest, undiagnosed and untreated rheumatism of the child which results in a diseased heart and this complication could, in the majority of cases, be prevented by the early treatment of the rheumatism. Another cause, not quite so frequently seen, is chorea (or St. Vitus Dance). Both rheumatism and chorea should have medical treatment and most careful nursing.

Comparative Table:

Year	Total Deaths All Causes	Deaths due to Heart Disease	Death Rate per 1000 population		Percentage Total Deaths due to Heart Disease
			All Causes	Heart Disease	
1945	177	24	10.81	1.41	19.21
1946	189	44	11.09	2.58	23.33
1947	177	37	10.34	2.16	20.90
1948	177	46	10.09	2.62	25.99
1949	196	55	11.09	3.11	28.07
1950	162	42	9.12	2.36	25.92
1951	221	61	12.47	3.44	27.6
1952	200	53	11.29	2.99	26.55
1953	155	48	8.77	2.72	31.0
1954	204	72	11.51	4.06	35.29

Cancer

This includes all malignant growths and diseases.

During 1954 there were 37 deaths certified as being due to malignant growths, being 18 males and 19 females. Of these 6 were due to cancer of lungs and bronchi and 12 to cancer of stomach, 1 breast, 1 uterus and 17 to other malignant growths.

	England and Wales	Washington Urban District
Death Rate (per 1,000 population cancer, lungs and bronchi ...	.369	.338
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) other cancer ...	1.66	1.746

In Washington Urban District during 1954 of the total number of deaths, 18.13 per cent. were due to cancer.

The following table shows the number of deaths in the area due to cancer and the mortality rate from this disease in 1954 compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Number of Deaths					Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.	
	Male		Female		Total		
1944	...	14	...	15	...	29	1.78
1945	...	7	...	14	...	21	1.28
1946	...	14	...	15	...	29	1.76
1947	...	15	...	8	...	23	1.35
1948	...	15	...	9	...	24	1.37
1949	...	15	...	15	...	30	1.69
1950	...	6	...	8	...	14	0.79
1951	...	10	...	11	...	21	1.19
1952	...	21	...	12	...	33	1.86
1953	...	12	...	11	...	23	1.30
1954	...	18	...	19	...	37	2.08

If diagnosed and treated in the early stages practically all forms of cancer are curable and it is therefore of vital importance that anyone suffering from a suspicious lump or unusual discharge especially during middle age, should seek and follow medical advice immediately.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Public Health Officers of the Authority

(see commencement of this report.)

The County Council as the Local Health Authority, are responsible for the following services under the National Health Service Act.

Ambulances.

Cases of accident or illness requiring transport are conveyed by Ambulances belonging to and under the control of the County Council. Washington Urban District, for this service, forms part of an area with Boldon Urban District and that part of Sunderland Rural lying North of the River Wear.

The National Coal Board continue to maintain their own ambulances to deal with accidents in the mines.

Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation is the responsibility of the County Council.

Local practitioners may immunise their patients and claim fees for this treatment from the Health Authority (County Council). Child Welfare Medical Officers will immunise children under five if requested to do so and if necessary the County Medical Officer endeavours to arrange for sessions to be held in schools.

Vaccinations if desired are performed by the family doctors who are paid for this service by the County Council.

Nursing in the Home

This is now available to all who require such assistance and the Nurses who served the area so loyally in the employment of the District Nursing Association continue in their good work.

Midwifery

The Nurses employed by the County Council for this work act either as Maternity Nurses or Midwives. Since the services of both doctors and nurses are free to the patient there is an increasing tendency for the services of the general practitioner to be arranged for in addition to those of the nurse so that the latter acts more frequently as a Maternity Nurse than as Midwife, the reverse of what previously existed when a mother had to pay the fees of the doctor in addition to the Nurse.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

As before the appointed day, these centres are administered by the County Council.

That for Washington is held in the Miners' Welfare Hall, New Washington.

The clinics are held as follows:—

Ante Natal Clinic ...	...	Tuesday afternoons weekly. Alternate Thursdays.
Child Welfare Clinic	...	Monday mornings weekly. Friday mornings weekly.
Birth Control Clinic	...	Alternate Tuesday mornings.
Post Natal Clinic ...	...
Ultra Violet Ray Clinic	...	Monday afternoons weekly. Friday afternoons weekly.

School Medical Clinics

These are administered by the County Council.

Home Helps

Women who are suitable are employed as Home Helps, being sent out to give domestic assistance in the event of illness of the housewife or frailty of the aged, if a request for such aid be made. Application can be made directly to the County Medical Officer or if any such request is made to this office it will at once be transmitted to the County Health Department. Charges for this service are based on the household income and none are made in necessitous cases.

Services Supplied by Regional Hospital Board

Hospital Treatment. Outpatient or inpatient treatment is available to all who require same, for ordinary sickness or infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis Clinics and Venereal Diseases Clinics

These are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead Water Co., and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Co., supply the Urban District with water.

The supply of water to the district is satisfactory in quality. The quantity is being carefully observed and further progress has been made with the increase to the bulk supply to the district, materials having been delivered.

No treatment is installed in the supply system within the Urban District. The taking of samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis are carried out by the companies involved.

The waters do not appear to have plumbo-solvent action.

Samples of main supply water taken during the year gave satisfactory results, there being no evidence of contamination.

All the dwelling-houses within the Urban District are supplied from public water mains by the method herewith tabulated:—

(1)	Direct to houses	5,354
(2)	By means of tap in yard or wash-house	139
		<hr/>
		5,493
		<hr/>

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

New sewers have been laid to meet the housing development in the Great Usworth and Springwell Wards during the year.

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, 1954. The need for new sewage disposal works is recognised and is under consideration.

Rivers and Streams

Favourable reports as to the condition of the various water-courses in the district were received during the past year.

Closet Accommodation

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

	1951	1952	1953	1954
Water Closets ...	5,767	5,900	6,087	6,243
Ash Closets ...	32	25	26	12
Ash-pit Privies	2	2	2	2
Chemical Closets	6	6	6	6

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The household refuse collection service within the Urban District is carried out by direct labour with the exception of fourteen isolated houses throughout the area which are done by contract.

The personnel includes foreman, three drivers and twelve loaders. Three vehicles are operated within fixed areas of the district. They are Dennis 10 cu. yard type (two petrol and one diesel) each manned with a crew of five, maintain a service which varies from 4 to 7 days during the year. The number of dwelling-houses, shops and other premises dealt with total 5,643, an increase of 160 compared with 5,483 in 1953.

Time lost to the service during the year is given as follows:

Sickness and time lost among the personnel ...	266	days
Inclement weather (all vehicles) ...	1½	days
Repairs to vehicles ...	19½	days

The disposal of refuse collected is by tipping on the sites of disused quarries and on low lying agricultural land at the request of the owner or tenant. During the period under review 9,193 tons of refuse were tipped at six disposal points, including three disused quarries and three agricultural areas.

The location, tonnage, and type of tipping are shown in the following table, viz:—

Location			Tonnage	Tipping
Tips- -Swinburn's, Springwell	...	...	7,860 tons	Controlled
" Seldom Seen "	...	...	450 tons	Controlled
Biddick	...	...	300 tons	Crude
Hobsen Terrace	...	...	380 tons	Crude
Agricultural Land (2)	...	...	113 tons	Crude
			<hr/> 9,103 tons <hr/>	

The estimated weight per place of call for year was 1.61 tons including trade refuse, builders' refuse and garden refuse. Complaints of nuisance arising from tipping areas numbered twenty-eight, seven instances of rat infestation and twenty-one cases of fire.

The cost of the service during the year was £8,452.

Unit Costs

Expenditure per ton per annum—18s. 6.92d.

Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum—£1,497/15/3.

Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum—£479/7/0.

Expenditure per call per week—6.92d.

The comparative statement of the house refuse removal costs for the five previous years is given herewith:—

Year	Annual Cost	Approximate Cost per Premise
	£	s. d.
1949	5,224	20 6
1950	5,764	22 4
1951	6,373	24 4
1952	7,252	27 4
1953	7,938	29 0
1954	8,452	29 11

While the maintenance of a satisfactory service during the year under review was mainly due to the team-work of your personnel, the fact that I mentioned the need for additional facilities for the service is a matter of urgency that required early consideration if the same efficiency is to be maintained.

Salvage

The collection of salvage materials was maintained during the year and was confined to paper and metals.

				£	s.	d.
Income from Salvage	...	...	...	1,104	14	4
Expenditure	...	...	...	894	19	9
				<hr/>		
Total Balance	...	...	...	£209	14	7
				<hr/>		

Year	Weight		Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
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
1949-50	82	4	599	6	9
1950-51	92	10	541	12	0
1951-52	91	7	1387	5	2
1952-53	105	10	938	5	0
1953-54	107	5	755	0	0
1954-55	127	12	1104	14	4
<hr/>			<hr/>		
	1230	17	£8745	3	5
<hr/>			<hr/>		

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a) Number and Nature of Inspection.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1792
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...				3
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	5
„ Factories and Workshops	...	...	...		16
„ Work in progress	...	...	...	...	73
„ Food premises	...	...	...	...	107
„ Pig-keepers' premises	...	...	...		15
„ Shops	...	...	...	...	76
Visits made in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises	...	...	...	...	54
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures					25
Visits and re-visits to premises in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	193
					<hr/> 2359 <hr/>

Shops Act

Seventy-six inspections of shops were made during the year and in three cases improvements were carried out by informal action, viz:—

One case of improvement in structure and cleanliness and two cases of repair to W.C. compartments.

Smoke Abatement

In this Urban area the need to take action is not deemed necessary.

Swimming Baths

There are no Swimming baths in the district.

Rat Infestation

During the year maintenance treatments for rats within the area were carried out as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division. A summary of the work entailed on surface infestations is given in the following table:

Premises.	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (incl. Business and Industrial)	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	* 34	5200	53	406	5693
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as result (a) of notification (b) survey (c) otherwise. ...	(a) 3 (b) 10 (c) 11	37 244 312	2 11 28	5 23 201	47 288 552
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats ...	1 (Major) 3 (Minor)	.... 16	.... 4	.... 2	.... 25
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice ...	3	29	....	8	40
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	7	45	1	10	63
6. Number of notices served under Section 4—	....	....	....	1	1
(1) Treatment ...	....	....	....	....	...
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ...	....	....	....	....	...
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notices under Section 4 ...	....	...	....	....	....
8. Legal Proceedings	....	....	....	....	....
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	Four				

* Figures given as per Valuation Roll on 31st December, 1954

At the end of the year 11 farms were on contract to the County Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats, and action was taken on 4 premises following informal notice, 1 Block treatment was completed with the co-operation of the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

(b) Number of Notices served and complied with

	Number of informal Notices Served	Number of Statutory Notices Served	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dw'ling-houses } Structural Def'ts	45	5	406
} Foul Conditions	...	...	...
} Overcrowding	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	2	...	2
Slaughter houses ...	2	...	2
Ashpits and Privies ...	3	1	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	20	1	20
Water Closets ...	34	5	34
Defective Yard Paving ...	14	...	12
House } Defective Traps	5	...	5
Drainage } No disconnection	...	...	...
} from sewers	...	...	...
} Other Faults	34	17	83
Water Supply ...	38	...	25
Pigsties ...	...	...	...
Animals Improperly Kept ...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...
Ash Bins ...	48	...	70
Totals ...	245	29	659

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)	524
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1835
(2)(a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	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	97
(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	233

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	194
--	-----

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 ...	19
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	17
(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	10
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	10
(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	4
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

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 |

During the period under review 170 houses were erected and occupied within the Urban District, viz:—

Permanent houses by Local Authority	156
Houses built by Private Enterprise	14

4. Overcrowding

In the Urban District overcrowding is much in evidence, more particularly with regard to houses overcrowded by reason of more than one family being in occupation.

The following is a Summary of the Permanent Dwelling houses, including number of Apartments erected by the Local Authority up to December 31st, 1954.

Ward	Size of House or Type					Total
	2BR	3BR	P.T.	A.P.	S.P.	
Washington	107	167	23	20	—	317
Washington Station ...	34	229	10	24	—	297
Springwell	26	128	—	16	—	170
Usworth Colliery ...	287	182	38	—	—	507
Great Usworth ...	56	628	—	44	6	734
Total	510	1,334	71	104	6	2,025

The total number of Dwelling-houses under the control of the Urban District Council is tabulated herewith:—

Permanent	2,025
Temporary	258
Others	2
	<hr/>
	2,285

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1946	No. of Houses Erected 1946—1954 inclusive.													Total	
		Trad. Perm.	Temp. Prefabs	Perm. Non-Trad.	Traditional Permanent											
					1946-49	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8	1947-8		1947-8
Usworth	107														107
Village	42														42
Washington Station (A)	...	47														47
Washington Station 1924	...	18														18
Spout Lane	242														264
Aged Persons	80														80
Heworth Road	400														400
Grasmere	36														36
The Drive	214														253
Other Houses	2														2
Springwell															60
Falshaw Place		40													40
Usworth Green		60													60
Washington Station	...		158													172
Hostel Estate															158
Blue House Lane															277
Oxford Avenue															175
Heugh Hill															94
		1,188	258	52	94		30	51	69	89	85	62	64	87	156	2,285

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply

Details of licensing under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, and the various Regulations made thereunder are given as follows:—

Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	9
Licensed to sell "T.T." Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary)	...	...	...	2
Registered to sell "Sterilised" Milk	...	...	...	64

(b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

With meat rationing ending in June, 1954, the Council called a meeting with the butchers in the Urban District with the view to the supply of meat being maintained within the area and the possibility of slaughtering being done in a limited number of places compared with eleven in pre-war period. Five applications for slaughtering premises were granted following repairs and improvement being made in two instances. At the end of the year under review, slaughtering has been taking place regularly in two places licensed.

The following table is given showing inspections and condemnations:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	424	—	192	257
Number inspected	424	—	192	169
All cases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39	—	2	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with Disease other than T.B.	9.2%	—	1.5%	1.7%
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned	25	—	—	1
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	5.8%	—	—	0.6%

Unsound foodstuffs, involving the issue of 159 certificates, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year, and included the following:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	334 lbs.
Tinned meat and meat food products						536 lbs.
Tinned vegetables	...	...	...	...		101 lbs.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...		372 lbs.
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...		7 lbs.
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...		52 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	...		58 dozen
Cheese	...	...	...	...		27 lbs.
Other Foods	...	...	...	...		3 lbs.

(c) Ice Cream

Number of Producers registered	...	...	2
Number of Retailers registered	...	...	42

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 — Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	5	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	11	1	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	...	...	...
Total	45	16	1	...

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :					
Insufficient ...	1	1	...	1	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	...	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	2	2	...	1	...

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

During 1954 there were 101 cases of Infectious Diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) notified as occurring in the district compared with 224 in 1953.

Scarlet Fever

There were 4 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1954 of which 2 were admitted to hospital. In 1953 there were 11 cases notified.

During 1954 no cases of puerperal pyrexia (i.e. a disease sometimes resulting from contact with scarlet fever) were notified.

Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria in 1954.

This is undoubtedly the result of immunisation, but the campaign for this must go on ceaselessly. Unless a fairly large proportion of the children are immunised and so protected from diphtheria, then it is most probable that the disease will become widespread once again and the great danger is that young parents, having practically no knowledge of the killing and maiming power of diphtheria will become careless and not avail themselves of the free opportunities for protecting their offspring.

At the end of 1954 the following position existed in the area: 647 children under 5 years of age had received a full course of immunisation.

2 children under 5 years of age had received a booster dose.

2,115 children between 5 and 15 years of age had received a full course of immunisation.

516 children between 5 and 15 years of age had received a booster dose.

That is 2,762 children under 15 years of age were fully protected and of these at least 518 had received a booster dose.

A small amount of diphtheria anti-toxin is kept in the Health Department, available to medical practitioners on request for use in doubtful cases whilst awaiting diagnosis, or if the patient is to be nursed at home.

Influenza and Pneumonia

Influenza was prevalent at the beginning of the year, but, fortunately, was not of a very severe nature. There were only 7 cases of pneumonia notified during the year, including influenza and other forms. Unfortunately 7 males and 4 females died from pneumonia and showing that a large number of cases were possibly not notified. 2 males and 1 female died from influenza during the year.

Measles and Whooping Cough

There were 32 cases of measles and 3 of whooping cough in 1954 compared with 149 cases of measles and 31 of whooping cough in 1953. There were no deaths due to either of these diseases.

No action was taken in the area towards using measles serum for the prevention or attenuation of the disease.

Prevention of the spread of measles and whooping cough is particularly difficult since in the case of measles infectivity is especially great during the three or four days preceding the rash when parents may think that the child is suffering from a cold. Similarly in whooping cough there is a danger of infection before the characteristic whoop is heard. Since these diseases may have serious complications the patient should be isolated from others at the earliest possible opportunity and if contact with a case of measles or whooping cough is known to have taken place then strict observation should be kept on the child particularly during the second and third weeks after contact so that the earliest symptoms may be noted at once and the child isolated until there is no further doubt as to its freedom from infection.

Erysipelas

There were no cases of erysipelas during 1954.

Anterior Poliomyelitis

Six cases were notified during 1954 compared with nil in 1953. No deaths occurred from this cause.

School Notification of Disease

No fresh cases of any infectious disease was notified from the schools.

Notifiable Disease during the year 1954

The incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, as notified in the district during the period under consideration, the number of cases which received treatment in hospital and the number of deaths from such infectious diseases are shown in the following table.

Diseases					Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	4	2	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric. F. (incl. Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
Ophthalmia Noenatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	32	1	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	5	5	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	19	2	...
Totals	...	...	...	...	73	17	11

The following table shows certain important facts, viz.: the age incidence of the cases of each of the various diseases including all forms of tuberculosis, the incidence of each disease in every ward, the number of cases of each disease removed to hospital other than tuberculosis and the rate per thousand population for each.

Cases of Infectious Diseases during 1954—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
	At Ages—Years												Washington	Washington Station	Usworth Col.	Great Usworth	Springwell	Wash. Staithes	Barmston	Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
Scarlet Fever	1	...	3	4	1	1</

Prevention of Blindness

Schemes for the above are entirely under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1954 under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1926 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New Cases of Mortality during 1954

26 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 11 males and 15 females, were notified or came to notice during the year, and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, being 1 male and 1 female.

The following table shows the notification of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex for the year 1954 compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1944	9	4	13	2	1	3
1945	8	7	15	—	2	2
1946	6	11	17	1	2	3
1947	3	6	9	7	1	8
1948	15	6	21	4	—	4
1949	11	6	17	4	2	6
1950	5	15	20	1	2	3
1951	9	9	18	3	2	5
1952	12	12	24	2	2	4
1953	14	4	18	1	—	1
1954	11	15	26	1	1	2

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1954 according to sex and ward incidence.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Washington	5	1	1	....	7
Washington Station	2	3	....	....	5
Usworth Colliery	3	4	....	....	7
Great Usworth	1	6	....	....	7
Springwell	....	1	....	....	1
Washington Staithes	....	....	....	1	1
Barmston	....	....	....	....	....
Totals ...	11	15	1	1	28

The following table shows the various age periods for males and females at which the new cases were notified and the age of those who died from tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	11	15	1	1	1	—	—	—

Occupation

The occupations of those who were notified during 1954 as sufferers from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis were as follows:—

Pulmonary: 3 miners, 5 factory workers, 4 housewives, 4 schoolchildren, 3 shop assistants, 2 labourers and 5 unknown.

Non-Pulmonary: 2 schoolchildren.

Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases

1 neck glands; 1 peripheral glands.

Examination of Sputa

Specimens of Sputa sent by the family doctor or other medical practitioner are examined free at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit which has been operating in the County for some years has helped in the detection of early cases of Tuberculosis which to a certain extent may account for increase in notifications. The early diagnosis is of the utmost importance in getting speedy cures with a greatly shortened time of incapacity from work and a tremendous reduction in the danger of infectivity to other persons.

During 1954 a total of 1378 persons were X-rayed, being 799 males and 579 females, in the Washington Urban District. This includes miners and general public. The importance of an annual check up by X-rays cannot be over-emphasised and it is hoped that many more will avail themselves of this facility in the future. The Unit will be visiting the area twice annually and as it is unnecessary nowadays to undress, whole families, mixed sexes, may attend together.

