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**REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR 1955

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



**Washington Urban District Council**

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B.Sc., M.F.C.S., D.B.A.

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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Washington.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my fifth Annual Report being for the year 1955. 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

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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.

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## 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 Assistance 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.

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## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in acres—5,758 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-1955—17,800.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Books—5,503.

Rateable Value—£81,056.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£304.

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### 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 1955 compared with the post-war years 1946-54. As will be seen from



the table which appears in the centre of this report, 56 houses were erected by the Council partly by direct enterprise, partly by contract and 4 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 5,503 shown at the commencement of this section as being the number of inhabited houses in the area is composed of 5,340 dwelling houses, 83 houses and shops, 53 farm houses and farm cottages and 27 houses connected with Licensed Premises. Since the Council already own 2,083 permanent houses and 258 temporary, total 2,341. It may be seen that the proportion of Council-owned houses to privately-owned houses is becoming fairly high.

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## Vital Statistics

### Births and Birth Rate

The nett number of live births (as corrected by the Registrar General for outward and inward transfers) during 1955 was 327 compared with 312 for 1954.

Sex and Legitimacy are shown thus:—

		Total				
		Male	Female			
Live Births	{	Legitimate	320	169	151	} Giving a birth rate of 18.37 per 1,000 of the estimated population.
	{	Illegitimate	7	4	3	

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 17.08 as compared with 14 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 1955 as compared with the years 1946-54.

Year	Total births	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000	Total increase
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
1955	327	173	154	18.37	123

#### Still Births

During 1955 there were 11 still births in the district.

		Total	Male	Female		
Still Births	Legitimate	10	5	5	} Giving a Still Birth Rate of 32.54 per 1,000 Total (live and still births).	
	Illegitimate	1	1	—		

There is a Still Birth Rate of 0.62 per 1,000 population in Washington U.D., as compared with 0.34 for England and Wales.

#### Deaths and Death Rate

The Registrar General reports that after correction for outward and inward transfers, 201 residents of the Washington area died during 1955, being 111 males and 90 females.

Locally compiled figures show that there were 137 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, being 73 males and 64 females. 3 persons died within the area during the period under consideration, who did not normally reside therein—there was therefore 3 outward transfers.

64 persons, being 38 males and 26 females normally resident in the district died outside the area—there were therefore 64 inward transfers.

During 1954, 204 residents of Washington died, being 119 males and 85 females.

The death rate for 1955 corrected for outward and inward transfers and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 11.29 for Washington U.D., compared with 11.5 in 1954.

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 14.11, whilst that for England and Wales is 11.1

#### **Total Deaths under 5 years (corrected locally)**

During 1955 13 children died before attaining the age of five years as compared with 6 in 1954. 12 children being 7 male and 5 females were under one year of age.

Therefore 6.47% of the total deaths were of children under five years of age as compared with 2.94% in 1954.

#### **Deaths in Institutions**

Of the 64 residents who died outside the area 57 died in hospital and 7 in private houses.

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

General Hospital, Chester-le-Street	...	...	14
General Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	3
Maternity Hospital, Sunderland	...	...	1
Bensham Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	4
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	6
Sheriff Hill I.D. Hospital, Gateshead	...	...	1
R.V.I., Newcastle	...	...	4
418, Westgate Road, Newcastle	...	...	2
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle			3
General Hospital, Newcastle	...	...	1
Windsor Nursing Home, Newcastle	...	...	1
Dryburn Hospital, Durham	..	...	9
Crossgate Hospital, Durham	...	...	3
Leeholme Hospital, Easington	...	...	1
Shotley Bridge, Consett	...	...	2
District Hospital, Paignton	...	...	1
General Hospital, Sedgfield	...	...	1
TOTAL			57

### Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths 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 ... ..	369	0.54	0	.000
Due to abortion ... ..	68	0.10	—	—
Total Maternal Mortality ...	437	0.64	0	.000

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year

During 1955 there were 12 children, being 7 legitimate male and 5 legitimate females who died in the area before attaining the age of one year. This is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 36.69 per 1,000 live births or a rate of 35.5 per 1,000 total (live and still births) compared with a rate per 1,000 total births of 23.1 for England and Wales.

In 1954 there were five children who died under one year of age, yielding an Infantile Mortality Rate of 15.57 (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 years 1946-1955.

		All Infants per 1000 live births		Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births		Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births
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
1955	...	36.69	...	35.5	...	0.00

It will be noted from Table II that there were two deaths of infants under one year of age in Usworth Colliery, two in Great Usworth, four in Washington Station, and four in Washington Wards.

The ratio of infant deaths per 1,000 population is 0.67.

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, 1955

Cause of Death	Ages of Children					Total
Convulsions: 4 months	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho Pneumonia: 6 months; 1 month	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prematurity: 9 hours; 1 day; 1 day; 9 hours	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebral Haem.: 2 days	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis: 2 months; 2 months	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hydrops Faetalis: 4 hours	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shock: 15 hours	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
						12
						—

Since the total deaths in the district at all ages was 201 then 5.99% of the total were children under 1 year of age. Of these infants 51.7% were 1 week old or younger.

		Nett Live Births—Legitimate		Illegitimate			
		Males	Females	Males	Females		
Corrected as per Registrar General	...	169	151	4	3	=	327
Nett Deaths	... ..	7	5	—	—	=	12

During 1955 there were 162 deaths certified by medical practitioners, 4 were certified by the Coroner after post-mortem and inquest, 8 by the Coroner after inquest, 17 by the Coroner after post-mortem without inquest and 10 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	12	...	9	...	9	...	7	...	37
Usworth Colliery	22	...	15	...	5	...	15	...	57
Washington	12	...	8	...	8	...	14	...	42
Washington Station	11	...	18	...	10	...	10	...	49
Springwell	4	...	4	...	3	...	5	...	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>201</b>

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	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	8	4	7	5	3	4	21	16	
Usworth Colliery	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	6	13	5	9	8	11	23	34
Washington	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	3	9	7	5	2	24	18	
Washington Station	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	4	10	10	10	5	28	21		
Springwell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	2	2	3	9	7		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>96</b>

## Causes of Death in Washington Urban District during 1955

Causes of Death.				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	1
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	7	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	14	7
15.	Leukaemia aleukaemia	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	10	18
18.	Coronary disease angina	...	...	17	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	5	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	9	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	4	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	13	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	10	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	5	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	—	—
All Causes				111	90

## Causes of Death

## Tuberculosis

There were 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during 1955 being equivalent to a death rate of .112 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.
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
1955	2	.145	.112	0	.015	.000

## Heart Disease and Disease of the Circulatory System

This includes:—	Males	Females
Coronary Disease — Angina ...	17	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	5
Other Heart Disease ...	9	11
Other Circulatory Disease ...	3	4
	—	—
Total ...	34	26
	—	—



Therefore in 1955 there were 60 deaths due to the above-named causes—that is 29.85% of the total deaths or a death rate of 3.37 per 1,000 population. The percentage of total deaths in 1954 was 35.29 and the death rate 4.06.

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	
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
1955	201	60	11.29	3.37	29.85

### Cancer

This includes all malignant growths and diseases.

During 1955 there were 45 deaths certified as being due to malignant growths, being 24 males and 21 females. Of these 9 were due to cancer of lungs and bronchi and 7 to cancer of stomach, 5 breast, 3 uterus and 21 to other malignant growths.

	England and Wales	Washington Urban District
Death Rate (per 1,000 population cancer, lungs and bronchi ...	0.39	.550
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) other cancer ...	1.66	2.02

In Washington Urban District during 1955 of the total number of deaths, 22.399 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 1955 compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Number of Deaths			Mortality Rate per 1000 pop.
	Male	Female	Total	
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
1955	24	21	45	2.528

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

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### 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 ... ..	5,366
(2)	By means of tap in yard or wash-house	137
		5,503

### 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	1955
Water Closets ...	5,767	5,900	6,087	6,243	6,291
Ash Closets ...	32	25	26	12	12
Chemical Closets	6	6	6	6	6

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

The household refuse collection service within the Urban District is carried out by direct labour except for ten isolated houses throughout the area which are done by contract.

The personnel includes three foremen/drivers and twelve loaders. Three vehicles are operated within fixed areas of the district. The vehicles are Dennis 10 cub. yard type (two petrol and one diesel) which are manned with a crew of five. A service varying from 4 to 7 days is maintained to the community during the year. The number of dwelling houses, shops and other premises dealt with total 5,673, an increase of 30, compared with 5,643 in 1954.

Occasional weights of refuse are taken and during the period under review the estimated tonnage removed and calls involved is tabulated herewith:—

Home refuse ...	9,100 tons	Calls made for the purpose	345,570
" Stone " ...	540 tons		12,430
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	9,640 tons		358,000
	<hr/>		<hr/>

As tabulated above the amount of " stone " in coal collected by the service weighed 54 tons and for the purpose of disposal a vehicle with driver and two men were on loan from the Highways Dept. for an accumulated period of nine weeks. The amount of " stone " given does not include the quantity disposed of by the household refuse removal personnel.

Time lost to the service during the year:—

Sickness and other time lost among the personnel ...	268 days
Inclement weather (all crews) ... ..	1½ „
Repairs to vehicles ... ..	19 „

The disposal of refuse collected was similar to that of previous years. During the year four disposal points, including two quarries and two agricultural areas were in use for the disposal of 9,640 tons of refuse. The location, tonnage and type of tipping are shown in the following table, viz:—

Location	Tonnage	Tipping
Swinburn's Tip ... ..	6,875 tons	Controlled
Biddick Tip ... ..	2,640 tons	Crude
Agricultural Land (2) ... ..	125 tons	Crude
	9,640 tons	

The estimated weight per place of call for year was 1.7 tons including trade refuse, builders' refuse and garden refuse. Complaints of nuisance arising from tipping areas numbered nineteen, three instances of rat infestation and seven cases of fire.

The cost of the service during the year was £8,810/13/5.

#### Unit Costs

Expenditure per ton per annum—	18s. 3.35d.
Expenditure per 1,000 premises per annum—	£1,553/10/0.
Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum—	£494/19/7½.
Expenditure per call per week—	7.17d.

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

Year	Annual Cost	Approximate Cost per Place of Call	
		£	s. d.
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
1955 ...	8,810-13-5	...	31 1

**Salvage**

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

	£	s.	d.
Income from Salvage ... ..	1,336	7	0
Expenditure ... ..	1,483	7	11
Total Loss ... ..	£147	0	11

The following table shows the collection during the previous 12 years.

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
1955-56	126	14	1336	7	0



**Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

(a) Number and Nature of Inspection.

Visits and re-visits to premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	2639
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...				7
„ Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	11
„ Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	16
„ Work in progress	...	...	...	...	103
„ Food premises	...	...	...	...	82
„ Pig-keepers' premises	...	...	...	...	17
„ Shops	...	...	...	...	47
Visits made in connection with Infectious Diseases and disinfection of premises	...	...	...	...	65
Visits to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures					29
Visits and re-visits to premises in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	216
					3232

**Shops Act**

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

Three cases of improvement in structure and cleanliness and four 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	Agri-cultural	All other (incl. Business and Industrial)	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	* 34	5337	53	420	5844
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as result (a) of notification (b) survey (c) otherwise. ...	(a) 5	39	3	7	54
	(b) 8	263	9	21	301
	(c) 14	342	17	164	537
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats ...	2 (Major)	....	....	....	....
	7 (Minor)	14	3	3	27
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice ...	7	30	....	9	46
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	16	44	1	12	73
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, 1955

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	204	14	196
{ Foul Conditions	1	...	1
{ Overcrowding	...	...	...
Lodging-houses ... ..	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	...	...	...
Cowsheds ... ..	...	...	...
Bakehouses ... ..	3	...	3
Slaughter houses ... ..	2	...	2
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	3	...	3
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ... ..	1	...	1
Water Closets ... ..	30	1	23
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	6	...	7
House            { Defective Traps	2	1	2
Drainage        { No disconnection	...	...	...
{                    from sewers	...	...	...
{ Other Faults	49	5	57
Water Supply ... ..	25	1	30
Pigsties ... ..	...	...	...
Animals Improperly Kept ... ..	...	...	...
Offensive Trades ... ..	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...
Ash Bins ... ..	109	1	117
Totals ... ..	435	23	442

## 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) ... ..	603
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	2639
(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 ... ..	62
(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... ..	162

### 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 ... ..	137
--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

### 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 ... ..	15
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners ... ..	15
	(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 ... ..	18
(2)	Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners ... ..	18
	(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 ... ..	4

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 60 houses were erected and occupied within the Urban District, viz:—

Permanent houses by Local Authority	... ..	56
Houses built by Private Enterprise	... ..	4

#### 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, 1955.

Ward	Size of House or Type					Total
	2BR	3BR	P.T.	A.P.	S.P.	
Washington	107	167	23	20	—	317
Washington Station	42	229	10	28	—	309
Springwell	26	128	—	16	—	170
Usworth Colliery	287	182	38	—	—	507
Great Usworth	78	650	—	44	6	778
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,081</b>

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

Permanent	... ..	2,081
Temporary	... ..	258
Others	... ..	2
		2,341

SITE	No. of houses erected prior 1946		No. of Houses Erected 1946—1955 inclusive.												Total			
	Trad. Perm.	Temp. Prefabs	1946-49	Perm. Non-Trad.		Traditional Permanent												
				1947-8	1953	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954		1955		
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
Usworth Green ...																		60
Washington Station ...																		184
Hostel Estate ...																		158
Blue House Lane ...																		277
Oxford Avenue ...																		219
Heugh Hill ...																		94
	1,188		258	52	94	30	51	69	89	85	62	64	87	156	56			2,341

## 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 ... ..	60

### (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	Cows	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	516	244	63	180
Number inspected ... ..	513	242	57	173
All cases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	58	26	3	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Disease other than T.B.	11.3%	10.7%	5.2%	6.2%
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	1
Carcasses in which some part or organ was condemned...	53	29	—	6
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis...	10.3%	11.9%	—	0.4%

Unsound foodstuffs, involving the issue of 124 certificates, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year, and included the following:—

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	165 lbs.
Tinned meat and meat food products						644½ lbs.
Tinned, vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	136½ lbs.
Tinned fruit	...	...	...	...	...	211 lbs.
Tinned fish	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Tinned milk	...	...	...	...	...	34 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	33½ dozen
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	9 bottles
Ground Coconut	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Pork Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Beef Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.

**(c) Ice Cream**

Number of Producers registered	...	...	3
Number of Retailers registered	...	...	24



**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 ...	23	9	...	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	18	2	...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	...	...	...
Total	54	27	2	..

**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) ...	1	1	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S2) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature(S3)	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S4) ...	...	...	...	..	...
Inef'ctive drainage of floors(S6)	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S7) :					
Insufficient ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	...	2	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Not including offences relating to outwork) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	3	2	...	2	...

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

---

During 1955 there were 670 cases of Infectious Diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) notified as occurring in the district compared with 101 in 1954. This large increase was due chiefly to 492 cases of measles and 142 cases of whooping cough.

### Scarlet Fever

There were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1955 of which 4 were admitted to hospital. In 1954 there were 4 cases notified.

During 1955 one case of puerperal pyrexia (i.e., a disease sometimes resulting from contact with scarlet fever) was notified.

### Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria in 1955.

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 10 cases of pneumonia notified during the year, including influenza and other forms. Unfortunately 4 males and 2 females died from pneumonia and showing that a large number of cases were possibly not notified.

### Measles and Whooping Cough

There were 492 cases of measles and 142 of whooping cough in 1955, compared with 32 cases of measles and 3 of whooping cough in 1954. 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 1955.

### **Anterior Poliomyelitis**

Two were notified during 1955 compared with six in 1954. 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 1955**

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 ... ..	10	4	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Enteric. F. (incl. Paratyphoid) ...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	9	7	6
Ophthalmia Noenatorum ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	497	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	147	1	...
Dysentery ... ..	1	1	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
Food Poisoning ... ..	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	667	15	6

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 1955—Showing Age Incidence and Distribution.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Total No. of Cases Notified in Each Ward					Cases Removed to Hospital.	No. per 1000 Population.			
	At Ages—Years											Washington	Wash. Station	Usworth Col.	Great Usworth	Springwell			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	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	...	...	...	10	1	5	1	10	4	0.56		
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	0.056		
Pneumonia ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	2	2	1	10	3	1	1	10	7	0.56			
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.112		
Non-Pulmonary } Male	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	...	...	9	...	...	4	...	9	...	0.505		
Tuberculosis } Female	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	0.056		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	0.056		
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Whooping Cough ...	14	22	17	24	20	44	1	...	...	...	...	142	25	48	22	19	142	1	7.976		
Measles ...	16	58	58	53	89	214	3	1	...	...	...	492	115	138	89	57	492	1	27.65		
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Acute Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Polio-myelitis ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	0.112		
Polio-Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
<b>Totals</b>	31	81	77	79	110	263	6	6	9	3	3	2	670	144	195	130	123	78	670	28	37.643

### Prevention of Blindness

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

### Tuberculosis

There has been no action taken during 1955 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 1955

11 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, being 2 males and 9 females, were notified or came to notice during the year, and 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, being 1 male.

The following table shows the notification of tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, according to sex for the year 1955 compared with the preceding ten years.

Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
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
1955	2	9	11	1	—	1

The following table shows the distribution of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1955 according to sex and ward incidence.

Ward	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Washington	....	....	....	....	...
Washington Station	....	2	1	....	3
Usworth Colliery	2	3	....	....	5
Great Usworth	....	4	....	....	4
Springwell	....	....	....	....	...
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>12</b>

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 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	9	1	—	1	—	—	—

### Occupation

The occupations of those who were notified during 1955 as sufferers from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis were as follows:—

Pulmonary: 1 retired miner, 2 factory workers, 3 housewives, 1 schoolchild, 1 shop assistant, and 3 unknown.

Non-Pulmonary: 1 trainee.

### Sites of Lesions in Non-Pulmonary Cases

1 right testicle.

### 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.





