#### [Report 1964] / Medical Officer of Health, Wigton R.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

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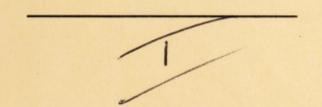
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Wigton Rural District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

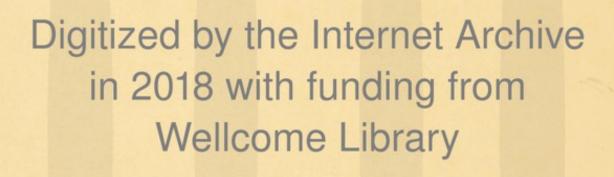
#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

### THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1964



#### HEAT TH DEPARTMENT STAFF

H.C.T.SMITH

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A., Medical Officer of Health, also Medical Officer of Health to Penrith Urban District Council, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

R. C. BLACKBURN

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.A. (Scot.), Chief Public Health Inspector.

A.PARTINGTON

Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate of the R.S.I. for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods. Additional Public Health Inspector.

Pupil Public Health Inspector.

MRS.F.E. HAMMOND Clerk-Typist.

Tel. Wigton 2133 & 2134.

Health Department, Council Offices, WIGTON, Cumberland.

6th January, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigton Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the health of the District for 1964.

In the last three years concern has been expressed at the large number of deaths of infants in the first month of life. It is good to see the neo-natal mortality rate for 1964 at a low level.

In environmental health progress has been made particularly in the matter of water supply. When the Caldbeck scheme is complete some 97 per cent of the houses in Wigton R.D. will have a pure and plentiful water supply which is very good for a scattered area. The remaining properties are mainly remote and can only be supplied at a very high cost. Reference has been made in the report also to the cost of sewerage schemes for small and scattered villages. In the field of housing, problems are changing. Most of the need is now for bungalows. The problem of unfit property when this is owner-occupied or attached to a farm or business will need more thought in the future.

This is the last report which I shall write to the Council. A Medical Officer of Health does very little in isolation and is dependent on the support of medical colleagues, other officers of the Council, the Councillors themselves and above all to a large number of individuals in the district whom he meets on various health matters. This co-operation has been so normal here that one is inclined to take it for granted. I am therefore very glad to have the opportunity of saying thank you to those with whom I have worked and who have made my stay in the district such a pleasant one.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H.C.T.SMITH.

Medical Officer of Health.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	137,201
nd Stillbirtha 216 211 A27	
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population	21,770
Population at Census of 1931	
do. 1951	
do. 1961	21,866
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1964 (according to rate books)	7,247
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1964	£508,112
Sum represented by a Penny Rate - Estimated 1964/5	£2,057

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#### VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	Total	Rate
Number	213	209	422	
Rate per 1000 population				19.4
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)				4.0
Stillbirths				
Number	3	2	5	
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths				11.7
Total Live and Stillbirths	216	211	427	
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	4	2	6	
Infant Mortality Rates				
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births				14.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births				12.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births				58.8
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000 total live births)		Educin		7.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 total live births)				7.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)				18.7
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)				
Number of deaths		nil		
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths				nil
Deaths				
Number	147	153	300	
Rate per 1000 population				13.8

#### Causes of Infant Deaths

-	Cause	one hour	two hours	three days	two months	six months	seven months	Total
	Boys			390		100		
	Prematurity	-	1	- 1	-	8-	- 1	1
	Atelectasis Immaturity	'wă	# MB	1	H Pr	2 B X	had bed bed	1
	Enteritis	U M	-1-	G = 1	1	10. 5	1 -010	1
-	Motor vehicle accident		1 _1	111	1-1	14-1	1	1
-	Girls	1 1		4-1	1.1	114	LII	Sal.
	Prematurity	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Acute leukaemia	. 7	1 71	7.1	1 40	1	1 - 1 1	1
-	Tetals	1	1,	1 ,	,1,	1 1	1 1 _ 1	6

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Total all causes	Suicide	100	All other accidents		Motor venicie		Other defined a	Nephritis and r	Gastritis, ente	Ulcer of stomach	Other diseases	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	circul	Other heart dis	Hypertension with heart
98			dents	day	accidenus	and don't	and ill-defined	nephrosis	enteritis and diar	h and duodenum	of respiratory			ρ:	disease	th heart disease
				130		12	diseases		diarrhoes	1 200	system			aybe		30
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Coronary disease, angina	Vascular lesions of nervous system	Diabetes	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	Syphilitic disease	Tuberculosis, respiratory	Cause of Death
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12	13	1 ->	1 10	4-20		1 1	I	22	1 1	1 1	75 and

	1			-	
1964	1963	1962	1961	1951- 1960	Year
13.8	14.2	13.9	14.2	12.3	Death Rate
19.4	19.2	17.6	16.7	17.3	Birth Rate
4.0	5.1	5.2	4.6	3.5	Illeg. Birth Rate
11.7	14.2	18.0	21.3	23.6	Stillbirth Rate
14.2	36.1	44.5	32.7	25.7	Infantile Mortality Rate
7.1	33.7	36.7	32.7	19.9	Neo-natal Mortality Rate
18.7	47.4	51.4	50.7	39.5	Perinatal Mortality Rate

# Comparison with other areas 1964

Rural District of Wigton	Rural Districts of Cumberland	Urban Districts of Cumberland	Admin. County of Gumberland .	England and Wales	Ansara desensats anaxiques turas
13.8	12.0	11.5	11.8	11.3	Death Rate
19.4	18.1	18.8	18.4	18.4	Death Rate Birth Rate
4.0	3.7	5.9	4.7	7.2	Illeg. Birth Rate
11.7	15.0	22.9	18.2	16.4	Stillbirth Mortality Mortality Mortality Rate Rate Rate
14.2	16.8	20.5	18.3	20.0	Infantile Mortality Rate
7.1	11.5	16.4	13.5	13.8	Infantile Neo-natal Perinatal Mortality Mortality Rate Rate Rate
18.7	24.3	36.6	29.4	28.2	Perinatal Mortality Rate

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified (other than tuberculosis) during the year :-

Disease	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25 & over	Total	Deaths
Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Measles Acute poliomyelitis (P) do. (NP) Diphtheria Smallpox Meningococcal infection Acute encephalitis (I) do. (PI)  Dysentery Ophthalmia Neonatorum Puerperal Pyrexia Acute pneumonia Para-typhoid fever Enteric or typhoid fever Food poisoning Erysipelas Malaria	42	591	6 13	A COMPANIES OF THE PARIES OF T		11 26 3	Landing Landin

#### BRUCELLOSIS

Three new cases were discovered during 1964. Two were farm workers and in both cases the herds of dairy cattle with which they worked were found to be infected with the organism Brucella abortus. It was found possible to stop the sale of unpasteurised milk without taking any official action.

The third case, at Silloth, had no connection with farming. Although living in an area where practically all milk is pasteurised the man chose to drink raw milk. This was available in small quantities in the area and samples were taken from the farm where it originated. The tests showed that one or two cows in the herd were excreting Brucella abortus and accordingly a notice was served under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959 prohibiting the sale of unpasteurised milk from this source. Further samples have been taken but these still showed the organism and the notice remained in force at the end of the year.

At the end of 1963 a notice was served on a farmer at Welton whose herd was infected. Tests have been taken during 1964 but none were completely negative. The notice therefore remains although the farmer does not intend to resume the retail sale of raw milk.

In the last three years there have been seven known cases of brucellosis, all but one in persons handling cattle. It is an infection characterised by intermittent fever, sweating, headache and general aching and may last for months and even years. Modern drug therapy however can curtail the infection. The control of brucellosis is possible. Drinking only heat treated milk protects the consumer. Elimination of the infection from dairy cattle would also be possible but the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have been slow in giving a lead in this matter.

#### SALMONELLOSIS

Typhoid. There were no cases in this area but outbreaks elsewhere had their repercussions throughout the county. A canteen worker who had been in Aberdeen at the time of the epidemic was excluded from her work for three weeks.

The withdrawal of certain batches of corned beef put a great deal of work on to the Public Health Inspectors particularly as the Ministry of Health gave four separate instructions on the matter. However the opportunity was taken of giving advice about food hygiene at a time when the personnel of the food trade may have been particularly receptive to that advice.

Food poisoning. No human outbreaks of salmonella infection were reported. One reported carrier of S. typhi murium moved into the district from elsewhere but specimens taken here were negative.

Towards the end of the year two outbreaks of S. dublin infection occurred in cattle but this is an organism which does not readily spread to humans.

#### ANTHRAX

Some five cattle died of this disease in Cumberland. In this district four animals were suspected of dying of this disease but proved to be another infection on post mortem examination.

#### SKIN INFECTIONS

Scabies. Two small outbreaks occurred during the year which shows that this infection although now rare still has to be remembered. Family spread is usual and it is a disease particularly troublesome in institutions.

Ringworm. Ringworm of the body is usually derived from animal sources both domestic and farm and sporadic cases are to be expected in an area such as this one. It is not highly contagious among humans.

Ringworm of the scalp is now rare but was formerly troublesome and difficult to eradicate particularly that form due to the fungus M audouinii. In December there was a small outbreak at Silloth of typical scalp ringworm. It originated in a household where a number of cats were kept and the laboratory were able to confirm that M. canis was the infecting organism.

Headlice are now rarely seen. A small number of school children have nits and they are usually from families where the standard of cleanliness is very low.

Plantar warts are increasingly common. Outbreaks occur in secondary schools and other premises where there is communal changing and large numbers walking about barefoot in a small space. Athletes foot spreads in similar circumstances.

#### WHOOPING COUGH

During the winter 1963-4 a large number of children developed a prolonged hard cough. A few actually whooped. Any tests carried out did not reveal the causal organism B. pertussis. Whooping cough is more serious in early childhood and can be a dangerous infection in babies. Therefore it is essential for parents to ensure that their children are immunised early. Triple antigen is used and three injections give good protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

#### INFECTIVE HEPATITIS

Sporadic cases occur and it is only where there are groups of cases that the Medical Officer of Health is likely to come into the picture. A small outbreak occurred among school children at Aspatria. Inquiry was made and case to case spread was thought most likely. The virus causing this disease is excreted in the faeces and contamination is the mode of spread. In my experience the outbreaks of this disease have all been in schools where the sanitary accommodation is poor with the wash basins remote from the water closets.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of cases notified and of the deaths during 1964

the year which	anity ut	New c	ases	oud!up.	Liums	Deaths			
Age Group	Respi	ratory		on- ratory	Respi	ratory	Non- Respiratory		
extre most bayb	M.	F.	M.	F.	м.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1	NO SOL	En Tetrece	7/70	d Jon	-	- 5co	145-8	result s	
1-5	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5-15	oroh a	מעל לאים	OTLE V	on al o	Laca e	dd to d	TO THE	Я-	
15-25	of which	motalds	no colo	Dolds	10 50	267	03 -0	1.	
35-45	1	3	1	1	37-	AT CHES	1 - 1	os-Leol	
45-55	-	2	Id -	00 TY20	-	etis br	-	often a	
55-65	-	-	-	-	1	and Inn	TO TO	Jos ini	
65 & upwards .	-	-	-	-	-	_	-		
Totals	2	6	1	1	1	0.016	01168	4-	

In addition to the ten new cases one case was added to the register as an inward transfer from another area. Fourteen cases were removed from the register.

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis register at the end of 1964:-

the purposess of the fact that the	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary		22 3 25	57 6 63

New cases recorded during the past ten years are shown in the following table :-

avig emulabe,m	New cases						
Year	Respiratory	Non-respiratory					
1955	19	2					
1956	20	1					
1957	11	14					
1958	2+	2					
1959	10	3					
1960	5	I at a sea 1 at the nortes					
1961	5	ware we at 1 howers to					
1962	4	th schools there she al					
1963	14	mote from the water old					
1964	8	2					

The number of new cases has increased from the exceptionally low level prevalent since 1960. In two instances children were found to be slightly infected at the time the diagnosis was made in one of their parents. Otherwise the cases are widely scattered and no single social or epidemiological factor would seem to be responsible.

In the 1963 report the changing policy regarding Mass X-ray surveys was discussed. It is to be hoped that while fit members of the public will have fewer x-rays those with coughs or who are in any way out of sorts will make increasing use of the static unit at Brunswick Road, Carlisle.

The early diagnosis, effective treatment and follow-up of tuberculosis are carried out by the hospital service. As well as helping the individual they are of great benefit to the community in limiting the possibility of spread of the disease. Another part of prevention is B.C.G. vaccination. The hospital authorities vaccinate all contacts who have not had experience of the disease. The County Health Authority offer B.C.G. vaccination to all children aged 12 and this is very effective in protecting them over the vulnerable years of adolescence.

Primary prevention lies in raising the living standards of the community particularly the nutritional and housing standards. In the latter the Council undoubtedly play their part by relieving overcrowding, closing slum property and giving grants for the improvement of old property.

#### HOUSING AND THE ELDERLY

The increasing number of elderly persons in the community and particularly the increasing number of persons surviving with severe handicaps are occupying more and more of the time and energy of hospital, general medical and county welfare services. As assistant County Medical Officer of Health I have been given certain duties with the elderly which merge with some of the District Council duties and am able to liaise with colleagues in general practice and hospital, and with social workers and voluntary bodies. Undoubtedly the largest field for voluntary effort is now in helping the elderly, many of whom have not shared in the post-war wave of prosperity.

Housing is the main field in which this Council are concerned with the welfare of the elderly. The proportion of applicants for bungalows has risen each year and now the chief need is for bungalows rather than houses. There are four main considerations in selecting applicants for bungalows:-

- 1. Medical reasons. The reduced mobility of many elderly people due to heart or chest disease or arthritis is common and many find difficulty with stairs. Outside lavatories, inconvenient kitchens and old fashioned fireplaces are other features of many houses making life difficult for the elderly.
- 2. Unfit houses. Slum houses often have only one or two rooms and the rent is very small. At least half are now occupied by elderly people. Many have stayed in these houses all their lives and do not take well to rehousing away from the centre of their town or village.
- 3. No home of own. Many elderly persons after an illness or a bereavement have given up their homes and gone to stay with relatives. This arrangement in many cases does not work out in the long term and old people start looking for another home of their own.
- 4. Under-occupation of Council houses. An unknown number of three and four bedroomed houses are occupied by one or two persons and if they can be given a smaller house a family house is released.

In this district a large number of elderly persons qualify on these grounds. Many of course are unwilling to move from familiar surroundings even though their house has many defects. The older generations of people have led a harder life than most younger persons and value their independence more than anything else even to the extent of not applying for assistance to which they are entitled.

The 20 partial dependency dwellings at Western Bank have now been occupied for two years. The people in them are well satisfied and the system has worked well in spite of some administrative difficulties between the County Council and the District Council. A further ten such bungalows are being built at Aspatria in association with a small County Council home. There is an undoubted need for such accommodation but the difficulty in a rural area is in providing it at the right time and the right place. Cases are apt to come to light at a time when no accommodation is available. Conversely in the initial stages when ten or 20 bungalows are being let at once some of them are given to more fit persons.

As with ordinary house letting the problem is one of short supply and the difficulty of meeting what people need let alone what they want.

#### WATER

I am indebted to Mr. Williamson of the West Cumberland Water Board for the following table of parish water supplies.

Parish	Dwellings	Estimated Population	Dwellings Supplied	Estimated Population Supplied
Aikton	131	384	131	384
Allhallows	212	621	211	618
Allonby	204	598	204	598
Aspatria	1,005	2,944	1,005	2,944
Blennerhasset	162	475	155	454
Boltons	189	553	158	463
Bowness-on-Solway	447	1,309	445	1,304
Bromfield	188	551	179	524
Caldbeck	251	735	165	483
Dundraw	52	152	51	149
Hayton	70	205	70	205
Holme Abbey	270	791	268	785
Holme East Waver.	93	272	92	269
Holme Low	108	316	108	316
Holme St.Cuthbert	146	428	146	428
Ireby	165	483	123	360
Kirkbampton	104	305	99	290
Kirkbride	151	442	151	442
Sebergham	125	366	106	310
Silloth	983	2,880	983	2,880
Thursby	290	850	289	847
Waverton	110	322	105	308
Westnewton	74	217	74	217
Westward	229	671	204	598
Wigton	1,486	4,355	1,486	4,355
Woodside	186	545	185	542
Totals	7,431	21,770	7,193	21,073

#### SEWERAGE

In making this review of sewerage in the district reports by Mr. Graham and Mr. Summers to the Council have been drawn on and thanks are due to both of them.

Existing schemes are shown below :-

Parish	Town or Village	Treatment	Number of Pumping Stations
Allhallows	Fletchertown Watch Hill	Disposal works do.	-
Allonby	Allonby	Sea outfall	.01_
Aspatria	Aspatria	Disposal works	
Blennerhasset & Torpenhow	Blennerhasset Torpenhow	do.	1 -
Boltons	Bolton-low-houses	do.	187
Bowness-on- Solway	Bowness-on-Solway Port Carlisle Glasson Drumburgh	Sea outfall do. do. do.	o od - on E a 1 d Ivan 1
Hayton & Mealo	Hayton	Disposal works	umoE end financia
Holme Abbey	Abbeytown	do.	1
Holme East Waver	Newton Arlosh	do.	3
Ireby	Ireby Uldale	do.	those insta
Kirkbampton	Kirkbampton Littlebampton	do. do.	veron Juani.
Kirkbride	Kirkbride	do.	2
Silloth	Silloth, Blitterlees and part Skinburness	Sea outfalls	3
Thursby	Thursby	Disposal works	hi wood od d
Westnewton	Westnewton	do.	1
Wigton	Wigton	do.	odni 1 milet
Woodside	Oulton	do.	-
	24		14

In September the Council decided on a system of priorities for new sewage schemes as follows :-

- 1. Aspatria sewage works extension
- 2. Oughterby
- 3. Waverton
- 4. Caldbeck
- 5. Hesket Newmarket
- 6. Wiggonby
- 7. Blencogo, Langrigg and Bromfield
- 8. Easton
- 9. Wiggonby, Aikton, Biglands and Gamelsby
- 10. Welton, Sebergham and Churchtown
- 11. Old Mawbray, New Mawbray, Beckfoot and Edderside
- 12. Curthwaite
- 13. Boltongate
- 14. Skinburness
- 15. Lessonhall, Kelsick and Dundraw
- 16. Anthorn.

The Council decided that some of the schemes should be tackled by Consulting Engineers.

Some rather fundamental problems of sewage disposal have been discussed by the Council in the last two years.

The question of admitting farm effluent and if so whether to make a charge for it was discussed. In general most farms are not near sewers but in this area some villages have three or four farms. In these instances there may be good public health reasons for admitting the farm effluent to the sewer. The volume and strength of farm effluent however produces problems and the expense is very high.

Apart from Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket the larger villages now all have sewers and the question arises at what size of village or hamlet does a sewerage scheme become uneconomic. This is a problem which can not be resolved in principle and each individual village must be considered on its merits. The number of houses, the life of the property, possible future increases in housing, any existing nuisance or health risk and various engineering problems have all to be taken into consideration.

REPORT

on the

Work Carried Out

by the

Public Health Inspectors

Demolition Orders were scaled and five formal Undertakings socophedic form

During the Year

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigton Rural District Council.

May I begin my part of the report with an appreciation of Dr.Smith as head of the health department.

His departure to a more important post in Northumberland is a considerable loss to the department and the work it seeks to do. My close association with Dr. Smith revealed a man of broad vision and keen intellect, rather than one concerned with detail. I soon realised he was too good for the limited scope afforded him in this area and knew he must one day move on to pastures new.

I should like to take this opportunity of wishing him well in his fresh sphere of influence, and to thank him for a kindly and helpful personal interest whilst at Vigton Rural.

#### HOUSING

#### Slum Clearance

Two Compulsory Purchase Orders and one Clearance Order were confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Twelve Demolition Orders were sealed and five formal Undertakings accepted.

In addition an owner gave an undertaking to demolish ten houses in an area in response to informal action. The Council re-housed the tenants, as they would have been obliged to do had recourse to formal action been taken. Arrangements such as this save much administrative procedure and red tape, and achieve the same purpose in the end, the clearance of obsolescent housing.

#### Selection of Tenants

Dissatisfaction with the method of house letting gave rise to a request from some members of the Council for a 'points system' and a report was prepared and debated, but the procedure remains unchanged. The need for a points system is perhaps less evident today than it was some years ago, but I am still convinced of the need for some modification in the present 'free-for-all' in the important task of selecting tenants. It is too easy for cases of lesser merit to succeed at the expense of those with more important claims.

Seven hundred and eightyfour visits were made in connection with the selection of tenants, involving a considerable mileage in a rural district such as this. Ninetyseven families were rehoused by the Council and there were 623 applicants for rehousing at the close of the year, the record figure of 301 applications having been added to the list during the period. I believe this stimulus to be attributable mainly to two factors, the erection of 85 houses and 20 bungalows at Wigton and 26 houses and 10 bungalows at Aspatria. When house building gets well under way in the larger parishes the prospect encourages applications. Also the ever increasing popularity of our well planned bungalows is a strong attraction to many older people living in houses which are proving too big for them. Quite a number of these applicants reside in Council property and their rehousing will free useful family houses for reletting.

#### Domestic Heating Appliances

An incident which gave me cause for satisfaction during the course of the year was a decision to install gas warm air heating as an experiment in 10 bungalows to be built for old people at Aspatria. The bungalows are to be erected alongside and partly in conjunction with a County Council Home for the elderly infirm and the tenants will no doubt be selected largely on medical grounds.

No one really likes the chore of cleaning a dirty grate every morning, and this can be a burden to the elderly. They are well rid of it, thanks to the enterprise and foresight of the members of this Council who have the interests of the old folks in the district very much at heart.

As a public health inspector I cannot refrain from noting the clean air aspect of such a decision.

# GENERAL HOUSING STATISTICS

		1961	1962	1963	1964
1.	Occupied dwellings in the area	7,100	7,206	7,300	7,247
2.	Council houses built during year	58	48	77	61
3.	Private houses built during year	45	24	21	49
4.	Total number of occupied houses subject to Demolition Orders, Closing Orders or Undertakings	22	11	14	31
5.	Houses demolished or closed during year	39	31	50	24
6.	Total number of houses known to be overcrowded	6	6	6	9
7.	New cases of overcrowding recorded during year	L <sub>+</sub>	5	5	6
8.	Cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2	5	5	3
9.	Total applicants for Council houses	430	454	496	623
10.	Applications for Council houses received during year	180	190	252	301
11.	Families rehoused by Council during year	106	80	122	97
12.	Houses made fit	4	17	19	19
13.	Improvement grants carried out	47	100	60	61

#### UNFIT HOUSES

Fortysix houses were represented during 1964. Action regarding 14 houses represented in previous years was finalised.

No.	. of houses
Compulsory Purchase Orders	
Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17, Church Street; Nos. 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 Church Street; Nos. 1 and 2, Victoria Square; Nos. 4, 10, 12, 16, 16a, 18 and 20, Water Street; Nos. 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37, Water Street, Wigton	10 1370
Clearance Order	
Nos. 43, 45, 47, 49, 51 and 53, King Street, Aspatria	6 6
Demolition Orders	
# East Cottage, Waverton  # Primrose Cottages, Newton Arlosh  # Meadow Cottage, Kirkbride  # Cottages at Whitrigglees  # Cross Keys Cottages, Greenspot	2 1 3 1 2 2 1 1 12
Undertakings	
# High Row, Haltcliffe	1 1 1 2 5
Carried forward	
Work End Cattons Oulton	1
## West End Cottage, Oulton	1 3
36 68 6,237 3,080 2,716	5761
	60
Represented during 1964	
** Represented during 1963.	

#### TABLE SHOWING POSITION REGARDING DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	Formal	Cases	Visits		Application	ons finalised	
Year	applic- ations	invest- igated	for all purposes	Owner- occupied	Tenanted	Approved expenditure	Grant paid
505	rad to a					£	£
1950	1	1	1	-	- 000	ono eserá-ma	vros.[6-
1951	2	6	10	1	-	340	170
1952	2	8	25	2		400	200
1953	7	20	77	3	1	2,402	1,201
1954	26	65	269	5	7	6,399	3,177
1955	40	104	297	21	10	19,435	8,643
1956	24	76	257	25	18	28,909	12,263
1957	34	98	288	17	12	18,461	8,119
1958	28	69	351	13	9	14,152	5,659
1959	30	91	282	15	8	20,761	7,093
1960	31	73	293	22	11	24,567	10,280
1961	34	108	346	9	10	14,417	6,249
1962	26	62	280	21	11	26,478	10,595
1963	25	73	235	13	13	24,343	8,789
1964	25	40	204	12	12	25,285	8,681
Cotals	335	894	3,215	179	122	£226,349	£91,119

#### TABLE SHOWING POSITION REGARDING STANDARD GRANTS

	d daring year	Applications finalised					
Year ations approved		1 TOTAL		Maximum grant payable	Grant paid		
er nie			£	£	£		
1959	104	4	938	385	314		
1960	37	108	5,034	2,460	2,145		
1961	72	28	6,905	3,423	2,959		
1962	36	68	6,237	3,080	2,716		
1963	40	34	9,121	4,735	4,225		
1964	28	37	9,779	5,160	4,393		
Totals	317	279	£38,014	£19,243	£16,752		

#### SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

#### (a) by way of discretionary grants

Conversions to water carriage system	13
New drains laid	18
Water closets provided	23
Washbasins and sinks provided	24
New ranges and grates provided	16
Hot water laid on	16
Electricity installations	5
Additional bedrooms provided	8
Kitchens provided	8
Kitchens improved	15
Bathrooms built	11
Bathrooms converted from other accommodation	13
New floors laid	33
Windows enlarged	38
Food stores provided	23
Rooms heightened	15
Dampness remedied	21
(b) by way of standard grants	
Baths provided	35
Washbasins provided	33
Hot water laid on	36
Water closets provided	28
Food stores provided	30

#### APPLICANTS REHOUSED

	From priva		Exchanges an	
13	New Houses	Existing Houses	New Houses	Existing Houses
Abbeytown	- (-)	4 (3)	- (-)	- (4)
Allonby	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Aspatria Houses	- (-)	6 (6)	- (-)	- (2)
do. Bungalows	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Blencogo	- (4)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Blennerhasset	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Fletchertown	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Glasson	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (1)
Kirkbride	6 (-)	1 (2)	- (-)	- (1)
Newton Arlosh	4 (-)	- (2)	- (-)	- (-)
Silloth Houses	- (14)	6 (22)	- (1)	4 (8)
do. Bungalows	- (18)	- (1)	- (2)	- (-)
Thursby Houses	3 (22)	2 (2)	- (6)	- (-)
do. Bungalows	- (7)	- (-)	- (3)	- (-)
Torpenhow	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Uldale	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Waverton	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Wigton Houses	25 (-)	15 (11)	3 (-)	2 (7)
do. Bungalows	19 (-)	- (2)	1 (-)	- (3)
do. Partial Dependency Bungalows.	- (-)	3 (2)	- (-)	- (-)
Totals	57 (65)	40 (57)	4 (12)	7 (26)

<sup>1963</sup> figures shown in brackets.

#### RODENT CONTROL

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 the Council continues to carry out certain control and treatment measures. The services of one workman for 32 per cent of his time or an average of 131 hours per week were devoted to this type of work. Sewerage systems and refuse tips are given regular attention.

Sewers at 24 places were test baited during the year and in two instances infestation was indicated and followed up. In both cases the infestation proved to be of a minor nature and was cleared up by the use of Warfarin poisoned baits. It is recommended that 10 per cent of manholes be test baited but in view of the numerous small sewerage schemes in this area considerably more manholes receive attention.

Domestic premises are treated free on request, but a charge is made for any work undertaken at business premises. An income of £28.0s.6d. was received last year in respect of four treatments carried out at business premises.

A 1956 Austin 5 cwt. van is used on this service. thousand seven hundred and fortythree miles were covered during the year giving a petrol consumption of 38.76 miles per gallon.

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#### FOOD AND DRUGS

#### Meat Inspection

September saw the opening of the new public abattoir and lairage in Wigton, which caters for 10 butchers on a regular basis. What a contrast with the old centralised slaughterhouse which operated during the war and afterwards, and with the various back street private premises which served the purpose before that:

Two private slaughterhouses were in use immediately prior to the opening of the new premises. One of them was closed as unsuitable for modernisation and this has meant an end to many years of regular Sunday meat inspection. The other was enlarged and greatly improved to an acceptable modern standard, and is a credit to the owner.

The requirement that animals be examined within six hours of slaughter entails two visits to the public abattoir on most days. Regular overtime is necessary every Tuesday, market day, on account of late slaughtering due to the arrival of livestock during the day from the local auction mart.

#### Food Sampling

Samples of ice cream and milk were taken to check the degree of cleanliness of these products. The results in no way indicate shortcomings in food values. Fourteen ice creams and 38 milks proved satisfactory and one ice cream and four milks failed to attain the desired standard.

#### Brucellosis

All samples of raw milk taken during the year were examined for the presence of brucella abortus.

The organism was isolated from a routine sample obtained from a local distributor who received milk from three different suppliers. Further sampling at the dairy reduced the source of infection to one farm but samples direct from the cows in the herd failed to isolate the organism. It was thought that an intermittent excretor may have been the cause. Repeat samples taken from the herd during the year failed to reveal the organism.

Sampling of milk from individual cows at four other farms was carried out following notifications to the Council of three cases of undulant fever, and results were obtained as shown below:-

Farm A	 17 cows	 7 animals affected
Farm B	 14 cows	 2 animals affected
Farm C	 38 cows	 5 animals affected
Farm D	 46 cows	 No animals affected.

Orders were placed on farms A and B restricting the sale of the milk unless subjected to heat treatment, and in the case of Farm C it was found possible to include the affected milk with that which was consigned daily to a milk factory for heat treatment.

Repeat samples were taken from all the affected or suspected herds throughout the year.

In all a total of 293 samples of raw milk were examined, 193 of which were samples from individual cows. Thirtythree samples proved positive but some of these were as a result of repeat sampling.

## CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED, AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Constant of these cases of a linear case of a linear cases of a linear case of a linear cases of a lin	Cattle exclud- ing Cows:	Cows:	Calves:	Sheep and Lambs:	Pigs:
Number killed (a) Number killed (b)	1062 265	45	1 1	3388 458	1713
Total	1327	45	10 000	3846	1718
Number inspected (a)  Number inspected (b)	1062 <b>2</b> 65	45 -	1 -	3388 458	1713 5
Total	1327	45	1	3846	1718
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned. Percentage	n was to	enique la-lu	1 100.0	24 0.62	1 0.06
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	234 17.63	18 40.0	-	96 2.49	66 3.84
TUBERCULOSIS	Ford Spr	148			
Whole carcases condemned. Percentage	623	-	10 - 1000	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1 0.08	-	-	-	<b>7</b> 0 4 <b>.</b> 07
CYSTICERCOSIS	Brussill				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23 1.73	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	xoutum un thin	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE (a) work carried out at the Public Abattoir.

<sup>(</sup>b) work carried out at Private Slaughterhouses.

PRINCIPAL GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION OF CARCASES AND OFFAL AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR AND PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

711	Bovine	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Disease	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Abscess	1189	-	5 <del>1</del>	38
Actinomycosis	70	-	-	10
Ascaris Lumbricoides.	-	-	-	110
Badly Bled	-	-	105	Boos -
Injury and Bruising .	50	-	168	Sazo
Cirrhosis	256	-	602500	11
Cysticercus Bovis	464	-	enthant :	Section
Distomatosis	2038		1851	-
Fatty Degeneration	29		3	3
Fevered	-	-	296	-
Hepatitis			-	5
Hydrated Cyst	-	-	3	13
Inflamation	28	A	4	-
Mastitis	21		-	-
Moribund	120910020	********	-	50
Nephritis				1
Oedema			459	- 15 La - 2
Parasitic	-	-	95	103
Pericarditis	3		-	of Dam Ba
Peritonitis	28	-	10	-
Pleurisy	18	-	16	6
Pneumonia	41	-	117	12
Septicaemia	-	56	-	-
Talengiectasis	130	-	-	10
Tuberculosis	28	-	-	1179
Totals	4393	56	1467	1551

# PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AT PLACES OTHER THAN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Canned Fruit  " Vegetables	1,015 243 361	11
" Vegetables	361	
	a Prong	"
" Meat	TOO BE	
" Fish	20	11
" Soup	39	"
" Sago Pudding	1	1b.
" Rice Pudding	43	lbs.
" Sponge Pudding	7	"
" Macaroni cheese	10	11
" Fruit juice	20	"
Bacon	68	"
Liver	15	"
Cooked meat	7	"
Lamb	234	"
Pork	94	"
Beef	116	"
Sausage	12	"
Black Pudding	6	"
Dressed Fat	1	lb.
Canned milk	24	galls.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act is concerned with the health and welfare of employees in offices, shops and railway premises and came into force on the 1st May, 1964. After that date, all premises to which the Act applies were required to be registered with the Local Authority or H.M.Factory Inspectorate as in the case of factory offices, and premises occupied by Local Authorities.

The main provisions of the Act, relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities came into force on 1st August, 1964 and it is the duty of the public health department to inspect all registered premises to see whether they comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations made thereunder.

The Act is written into 69 pages, there are 13 circulars totalling 131 pages, 13 supplements to these circulars comprising 49 pages, 14 statutory instruments amounting to 51 pages, and eight appendices to the Act and statutory instruments making a further 32 pages. Three hundred and thirty two pages in all.

One hundred and twentyfour premises were registered by the end of the year comprising 36 offices, 73 shops, eight warehouses and seven catering establishments.

Principal exemptions to registration are :-

- (a) Places where only self-employed people work;
- (b) Businesses where the only persons employed are close relatives of the employer;
- (c) Outworkers' dwellings;
- (d) Premises where the sum of hours normally worked each week by all employees is not more than 21.

#### REFUSE REMOVAL

The changing nature of household refuse, with a reduction in solid matter and a great increase in light, bulky material, makes the need apparent for a new vehicle of greater carrying capacity based on Wigton. In order to avoid a very large tipping body I shall recommend the purchase of a vehicle with an average size container on a compact wheel base, but fitted with some form of compression device.

By this means it may be possible to undertake a half day's collection in one load, which would be a great advantage.

Particulars of refuse vehicles in service are given below.

Date of Purchase	Registration Letters	Туре	Miles covered in year	Miles per gallon	Fuel
7.3.58.	* VAO	Karrier Bantam 7½ cubic yard side loader.	2,885	15.07	Diesel
7.9.59.	YRM	Karrier Bantam 12 cubic yard rear loader.	11,091	13.63	Diesel
10.3.61	DRM	Karrier Gamecock 18 cubic yard rear loader.	7,506	9.64	Diesel
10.7.61.	FAO	Karrier Gamecock 18 cubic yard rear loader.	9,097	11.17	Diesel
30.9.63.	LRM	Karrier Gamecock 12 cubic yard side loader	8,980	15.84	Diesel

<sup>#</sup> Used as spare as from 1st October, 1963.

#### COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT OF WASTE PAPER SALVAGED

Year	Tons	Cwts.
1942	158	10
1943	131	12
1944	131	17
1945	80	3
1946	104	6
1947	77	7
1948	105	3
1949	117	13
1950	91	10
1951	102	14
1952	71	9
1953	42	6
1954	44	0
1955	37	5
1956	49	19
1957	28	8
1958	32	17
1959	30	10
1960	29	11
1961	40	8
1962	58	2
1963	38	4
1964	57	11
	oide testi	
Total	1,661	5

The income from the 1964 yield amounted to £374.3s.3d.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

#### Trade Premises

A simple remark taken from the Council minutes of April, 1964 states that planning permission was authorised for the erection of a chimney for high level dispersal of trade gases at factory premises at Station Road, Wigton.

Much has been written about the poisoning of the air in and around Wigton by the discharge to atmosphere of hydrogen sulphide and carbon bisulphide from our most important factory. There have been those in the past who have advocated the closure of the premises on public health grounds, but common sense has always prevailed and the factory has gone from strength to strength until today it is one of the largest in the county.

It is regrettable that science has not yet found the complete answer to this form of atmosphere pollution although there are costly palliative measures in operation at other similar chemical plants in various parts of this country and overseas.

The method of alleviating this long standing nuisance for a long suffering populace at Wigton is to be the erection of a chimney 325 feet high at a cost of £70,000 designed to disperse the offending gases at an altitude where they are less likely to cause annoyance. The construction is to be of aluminium because of the harmful action of the gaseous discharge on other likely materials, and double skinned as the high humidity conditions to be encountered give rise to a risk of freezing in winter. With a diameter of eight feet throughout, the chimney is to be cradled in a lattice work steel tower tapering from 40 feet square to 15 feet. Piles to support this new landmark have been driven 30 feet into the earth.

Not really a cure as far as atmospheric pollution is concerned but an expensive gesture on the part of the firm to the people who live on their doorstep, many of them their own work people and their families who have suffered in silence for bread and butter reasons. One can only hope and trust as far as both firm and public are concerned that the extent of the alleviation will be appreciable, and not something which only an instrument could measure.

I have heard it said that during the black-out in the last war the porter at Wigton did not bother to call out the name of the station, he simply opened the carriage doors. It is to be hoped that in the event of another war the porter will be obliged to call the name.

#### Air Pollution Apparatus

In May, 1964 an apparatus capable of measuring air pollution was installed at Thursby. This forms a part of the national survey of air pollution being carried out by many Local Authorities throughout the United Kingdom in collaboration with the Warren Springs Laboratory at Stevenage.

The apparatus measures the amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air, the presence of which is indicative of pollution.

The instrument works for seven days without attention, after which period it has to be visited and the samples collected. The samples are brought back to the office and the results tabulated and sent monthly to the Warren Springs Laboratory where they are analysed by computer.

The findings show that air pollution at Thursby is negligible, which was to be expected, but they are helping the laboratory to give an overall picture of air pollution over most of the United Kingdom.

#### The Domestic Chimney

Under the heading of housing I made reference to a decision to install gas warm air heating in proposed bungalows at Aspatria.

Residents in rural areas appear to have little regard for atmospheric pollution, a problem which has been forced upon the city dweller. Nevertheless the habit of heating our homes by the wasteful means of burning bituminous fuels in open grates is a foolish practice, and one which I believe is about to be out-moded despite shocking prejudice. The long, long reign of the fire worshipper is coming to an end, though very slowly.

If one stands in the vicinity of a large housing estate on a still frosty evening and views the roof lines one may see hundreds of chimneys puffing and belching filth into the atmosphere, and the stokers within just couldn't care less.

A condition of discretionary improvement grants is that obsolete firegrates replaced by modern types with grant aid shall be approved appliances. In other words they must be capable of burning smokeless fuels. I am afraid this point is wasted on the recipients and their builders, who mostly refer to such grates as 'all-night burners'.

Again a sad reflection on the complete lack of interest on the part of most people in the solution of this important national problem of atmospheric pollution by means of the domestic chimney.

#### FACTORY ACT, 1961 Part I of the Act

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:

eres especial egalage near	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sect- ions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by	So smarm Adsolini	end) ser sk nolds	to endeavir	edr, the
Local Authorities  (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the	3	2	caty of cd City uniques Lanabiga	and the bolt.  and the bolt.  and the constraint th
Local Authority  (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced	79	9	2 sud , and	onti edi ont edi
by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	COM 20VO	soldullog :	- 0110
Totals	87	11	2	-

#### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

- Describence of	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which pro-		
Interact one was seen as	Found	Reme-	TO H.M.	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF	secutions were in-	
Want of cleanliness  Overcrowding  Unreasonable temperature  Inadequate ventilation  Ineffective drainage	od egus	E A 20	ng relge ye c vicinity the good	aple gros r	edutios, end, ibbug If one s osty eventa	
of floors	inegul, e inegulari	achdzi	order of the first of the control of	the application of the co.	a ban pairi	
defective	2	3	ards they a point in the care and a care and	e real e al and blocks are places	olianoca, els, I sm ildore, who	
the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	1 3	- 3	edit up an manual or panas vd	1 2	n sleght form to tu brodemonse	

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing Act, 1957		110
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, as amended by the Housing Acts 1961/64		396
Rent Lct, 1957		4
Public Health Act, 1936/61		173
Housing defects	49 124	
Water sampling		6
Drains examined and/or tested		50
Building Byelaws		8
Housing applications		784
Food and Drugs Act, 1955		1064
Food preparation rooms Distributors of milk Food shops Dairies Milk and ice cream sampling Public abattoir Private slaughterhouses Knackers' Yards Unsound food in shops Unsound food in houses Licensed premises Outworkers - shrimp picking  Factories Act, 1961	9 28 46 5 81 483 219 7 175 2 16 15	11
Noise Abatement Act, 1960		22
Refuse removal		44
Refuse tips	43	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949		360
Sewers	23 337	
Camping sites and moveable dwellings		29
Infectious diseases		9
Land Charges Searches		30
Air pollution apparatus		28
Unclassified		94

#### SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

#### Informal

		Complied with
Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961	38	65
Housing Act, 1957	9	9
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	antig	33
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	and Southern	xo and 1 c
Factories Act, 1961		
Water Act, 1945	pplication Drugs Act	1
	erageig 50	off
		112

#### Statutory

in boused in the season of the	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936	6	3
Public Health Act, 1961	12	10

ROBT. C. BLACKBURN

Chief Public Health Inspector.



