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BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1938

BY
ROBERT W. MACPHERSON,
M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

1939.

THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD., PRINTERS.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
STAFF	3
STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA	7—11
Population; Birth Rate; Death Rate; Unemployment Figures; Deaths in Age Groups; Causes of Death over 65 years; Infantile Mortality.	
GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA	11—13
Laboratory Facilities; Clinics and Treat- ment Centres.	
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	13—18
Consultant Services; Medical Examina- tion of Expectant Women; Dental Treat- ment; Institutional Treatment; Health Visitors; Notification of Births Act, 1907; Orthopaedic Treatment.	
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	18—24
Water Supply and Analysis; Drainage and Sewerage; Closet Accommodation; Public Cleansing; Swimming Baths; Schools.	
HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING	24—27
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	27—32
Milk Supply; Animals Slaughtered; Shellfish.	
PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES	32—39
Case Rates; Diseases; Ellerbeck Hos- pital; Cancer; Tuberculosis; Sanatorium Treatment.	
CAUSES OF DEATH	39—40
FACTORIES ACT	41
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA	42—48
Inspections; Works Executed; Factories; Clubs; Shops; Dairies and Cowsheds; Food Inspection; Verminous Premises.	

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health. School Medical Officer.
WILLIAM EADIE, M.D. ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health. (part-time).
§ *RICHARD JAMES	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Housing and Meat Inspector.
§ *KENNETH KETLEY	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
† PERCY L. LYNN	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. (part-time).
JOHN ASKEW	Dental Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare (part-time).
NURSE PRESCOTT	Health Visitor.
NURSE MORGAN	Health Visitor.
NURSE PURDY	Municipal Midwife.
MRS. CAVE	Municipal Midwife.
MRS. WILLIAMS	Municipal Midwife. (Commenced duty 1/1/38).
NURSE RICHMOND	Municipal Midwife. (Commenced duty 1/1/38).
MISS ROBNETT	Matron—Ellerbeck Hospital.
*SENHOUSE M. CASSON (Resigned in November) Succeeded by	} Chief Clerk.
GEORGE ELLIOTT	
DONALD MUIR	Junior Clerk (Appointed 23/10/38).
MISS M. PARKER	Clerk—Maternity and Child Welfare (Appointed 23/2/38).

DR. J. A. ROSS Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon,
Carlisle, for Maternity and Child
Welfare.

- * Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.
§ Certificate of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.)
† Certificate of R.S.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

1937-38.

ALDERMAN L. CASSON (Chairman).

THE MAYOR (Alderman J. Poole).

COUNCILLOR CAPE.

„	MRS. CAIN.
„	CLUCAS.
„	Goss.
„	NEEDHAM.
„	NILSSON.
„	O'HAGAN.
„	MRS. SKELTON.
„	S. WALKER.
„	WRIGHT.

MRS. C. A. VALENTINE	} <i>Co-opted Members Maternity and Child Welfare.</i>
MRS. HEYWOOD	
MRS. JOHNSTONE	
MRS. E. APPLEBY, C.C.	} <i>Co-opted Members from Cumberland County Council.</i>
MR. J. J. ADAMS, J.P., C.A.	

MR. THOMAS JACKSON, *Town Clerk.*

TOWN HALL,
WORKINGTON,

June, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MATERNITY AND
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938.

Progress has been well maintained in the different branches of the Health Services notwithstanding the additional duties which have been placed on the Staff of the Health Department in connection with arrangements for Civilian Defence.

The vital statistics for the year make satisfactory reading.

Infectious Diseases have given little trouble and the Borough has been free from epidemics.

The requirements stated in the Midwives Act, 1936, were put into operation in January, 1938, and the agreed number of Midwives necessary for the Borough have been found sufficient.

Housing matters have received a great deal of attention and a further number of unfit houses were the subject of representations during the year.

Byelaws—During the year the Ministry of Health confirmed the Council's application to adopt Byelaws relative to offensive trades and the trade or business of Fish Frying; and also with respect to Houses-let-in-Lodgings. These Byelaws will fill a much needed want and benefit will ultimately accrue.

I express my appreciation to the Staff of the Health Department for their helpful assistance and the efficient manner they have carried out their duties during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H., CH.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.



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Section A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY FOR THE YEAR 1938.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.
England and Wales	15.1	11.6	53.0
126 Great Towns	15.0	11.7	57.0
148 Smaller Towns	15.4	11.0	53.0
London	13.4	11.4	57.0
Cumberland	15.9	13.0	60.0
Urban Districts of Cumberland	16.8	13.6	54.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland	15.2	12.4	64.0
WORKINGTON	17.05	13.48	55.6

Area (in acres)	5,641
Population (R.G.'s Estimate)	27,380

The Registrar-General's figure for the population of 27,380 is the same as for the previous year.

Number of Inhabited Houses	7,147
Rateable Value	£118,935
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate	£453

Social Conditions and the Extent of Unemployment.

The chief industries of the district remain the same but it is hoped through the activities of the Cumberland Development Council that new industries will at an early date be established in the district. The following table (for which I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange) shows the number of unemployed persons in the Borough:—

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.
WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED.

1938.	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
January	1,191	59	172	42	1,464
February	1,126	59	180	40	1,405
March	1,107	52	165	45	1,369
April	1,076	40	139	36	1,291
May	1,028	42	88	21	1,179
June	991	34	68	14	1,107
July	977	26	65	8	1,076
August	994	34	68	10	1,106
September	1,080	46	76	26	1,228
October	1,277	50	134	34	1,495
November	1,291	56	170	47	1,564
December	1,318	43	161	33	1,555

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births	467	239	228
Legitimate	445	227	218
Illegitimate	22	12	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population = 17.05.

Year.	No. of Births.			Birth-rate per 1000,	No. of Illegitimate Births.		
	Males.	Females	Total		Males.	Females	Total
1934	209	249	458	16.9 per 1,000	18	14	32
1935	238	241	479	17.2 "	8	14	22
1936	215	206	421	15.2 "	14	5	19
1937	250	217	467	17.05 "	8	11	19
1938	239	228	467	17.05 "	12	10	22

Still Births.

	Total	Males.	Females.
Still Births—Legitimate	15	7	8
—Illegitimate	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
Total ...	15	—	—

Rate per 1,000 Total (live or still) Births = 31.12.

Deaths.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	345	187	158
Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population			
(As corrected by Comparability Factor) = 13.48			

The number of deaths from Influenza was 4 compared with 17 in the previous year.

DEATHS OF RESIDENTS IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 Year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Males	15	3	3	8	9	63	86	187
Females	11	9	4	4	15	38	77	158
Total	26	12	7	12	24	101	163	345

CAUSES OF DEATH OVER 65 YEARS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-85	85-90	90 and over	Total
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	6	6	...	...	...	19
Heart Disease ...	17	15	10	2	...	2	46
Cancer ...	4	5	2	2	...	...	13
Bronchitis ...	3	5	...	1	...	...	9
Pneumonia ...	3	1	2	...	...	...	6
Senility ...	1	5	17	12	11	2	48
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Violence ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis ...	3	4	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases ...	4	2	3	3	...	...	12
TOTAL ...	43	43	41	21	11	4	163

Deaths over 65 was 47.2% of the total deaths for the year.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 (live and still births).
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	2	4.14
	—	—
Total ...	2	4.14
	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	55.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000	
Legitimate Live Births	55.17
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000	
Illegitimate Live Births	90.9

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rates for the last 5 years :—

Year.	No. of deaths of Infants under one year.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
1934	22	48.0
1935	30	62.0
1936	29	68.8
1937	26	55.6
1938	26	55.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	38 .
Measles (all ages)	3
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

DETAILS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATHS OF
INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Laryngitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pneumonia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Diarrhœa ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Suffocation, overlaying Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	2	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Birth	7	2	3	..	12	..	..	..	..	12
Other Causes	1	2	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4
TOTALS ...	10	5	3	..	18	2	3	3	..	26

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The facilities for the Laboratory examinations remain the same.

The number of specimens examined during the year was as follows:—

(a) *Municipal Laboratory.*

	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Sputa	8	34	42
Swabs	7	116	123
<hr/>			
Total ...	15	150	165
<hr/>			

(b) *Cumberland Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory, Carlisle.*

Blood for Typhoid	4
Faeces for Typhoid	7
Blood for Wasserman Test	1
Faeces for Dysentery	1
Sputa for Tuberculosis	1
Pus for Tuberculosis	1
Swabs for Diphtheria	9
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	3
Cervical smear	1
Vaginal smear	1
<hr/>	
Total ...	29
<hr/>	

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Child Welfare Clinic on Tuesday and Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary on Monday and Friday at 2 p.m.

Cripple Clinic on Friday at 10 a.m.
(Once a fortnight).

Dental Clinic for Expectant Mothers, Saturday at 9-30 a.m.

Birth Control Clinic (sessions held according to cases).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Consultant Services.

Following the appointment of a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology by the Cumberland County Council, which took place towards the end of the year, the Workington Borough Council made application for the part-time use of his services. As the result of conferences on this matter it was agreed that the Workington Council engage the services (part-time) of the Consultant, to conduct Consultative Ante-Natal Clinics for the following cases:—

- (a) Expectant mothers who have booked a midwife.
- (b) Public Assistance cases.
- (c) Certain emergencies not falling on either of the above groups.

It was arranged that the Consultative Clinics be held at 11 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month and commence on Tuesday, 10th January, 1939.

Midwives Act, 1936.

Reference was made in the Annual Report of the previous year that four midwives had been appointed to carry out duties under the Midwives Act, 1936. These midwives have now completed a full year's work and the arrangements so far have worked smoothly. The following table shows the cases attended during the year:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Midwifery Cases ...	27	19	37	20	34	29	22	33	32	25	31	19
Nursing Visits	349	67	558	351	556	550	357	535	348	450	753	365
Ante-Natal Visits	115	465	392	257	176	240	211	363	311	321	407	309

Total No. of Cases	328
Total No. of Nursing Visits	5,239
Total No. of Ante-Natal Visits	3,567

Medical Examination of Expectant Women.

All uninsured expectant women are medically examined at least once during the expectant period.

	Place of Examination.				Total
	At Home	Dr's Surgery	Clinic	Infirmmary	
1st Examination	82	132	159	17	396
2nd Examination	17	5	27	1	50
3rd Examination	2	...	5	1	8
4th Examination	...	1	...	...	1
	107	138	291	19	455

Findings at Examinations.

Normal Cases	210
Abnormal Cases	186
	<hr/> 396 <hr/>

Recommended for Hospital.

(a) On account of home conditions	29
(b) On account of patient's condition	21
Recommended to have a Doctor at confinement	10
Recommended to have Specialist's opinion	7
Recommended to have extra nourishment	5
Recommended to have dental treatment	128

*Summary of Abnormalities found during
Ante-Natal Examinations.*

Varicose Veins	17
Heart Conditions	6

Contracted Pelvis	30
Albuminuria and Oedemia	89
Vaginal Discharge	12
Anæmia	5
Malpresentation	17
Hæmorrhage	5
Other Conditions	5
	<hr/>
	186
	<hr/>

Dental Treatment for Expectant Women.

The number of expectant women who were recommended to have dental treatment was 128, 55 of whom actually received treatment. The fifty-five women who received treatment made 64 attendances at the clinic. The treatment was as follows:—

Extractions	236
Fillings	3
Other Operations	14

Institutional Treatment for Mothers or Children.

The Maternity Ward of the Workington Infirmary admits cases from the Borough.

The particulars of the total admissions for 1938 are as follows:—

No. of cases admitted	214
No. of cases delivered by:—	
(a) Midwives	150
(b) Doctors	45
(c) Caesarean Section	3
Average duration of stay in hospital	10days
Medical help sought by Midwives	49
No. of children not entirely breast-fed whilst in the Maternity Ward	4
No. of Maternal Deaths	3

No. of infants dying within 10 days of birth	5
No. of cases notified as:—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3

There was an increase of 24 admissions to the Maternity Ward compared with the previous year.

One hundred and one women were admitted to the Maternity Ward under the scheme of reduced charge and the contributions made were as follows:—

Admitted Free	18
5/- per week	35
7/6 „ „	5
10/- „ „	24
12/6 „ „	1
15/- „ „	16
20/- „ „	1
42/- „ „	1
	<hr/>
	101
	<hr/>

Health Visitors.

The following were the home visits paid by the two Health Visitors:—

A.—Visits paid to Infants under 1 year:—

First Visits	474
Total Visits	3,416

B.—Visits paid to Children between

1-5 years	3,446
-----------------	-------

C.—Expectant Mothers:—

First Visits	67
Total Visits	98

The following shows the amount of dried milk issued under the Classified Milk Scheme:—

	Dried Milk. (No. of Packets). Malt Foods).		Total.
Free Issues	6,345	906	7,251
Sales	2,287	123	2,410
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	8,632	1,029	9,661
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

As an alternative to dried milk, liquid milk is given to mothers who cannot take dried milk. The amount of liquid milk for which vouchers were issued was 24 gallons.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

There has been no delay in carrying out the provisions of the above Act and notifications have been received within the prescribed time.

No. of Live Births notified	536
No. of Still Births notified	14
	<hr/>
Total ...	550
	<hr/>

Births notified by :—

(a) Midwives	485
(b) Doctors	15
(c) Doctors and Midwives	50
	<hr/>
	550
	<hr/>

Orthopædic Treatment.

The scheme for the treatment of infant cripples continues to give results. Medical Practitioners are always ready to make use of this scheme by referring cases for treatment.

No. of cases on register 1st January, 1938 16

No. of cases removed from register :—

(a) Deformity corrected 4

(b) Transferred to School List	5
(c) Fatal	1

—
10

No. of new cases ascertained	15
No. of cases on register 31st December, 1938	21

Of the 21 cases on the register the causes of crippling conditions were due to:—

Infantile Paralysis	1
Injury at Birth	2
Rickets	5
Congenital Defects	12
Arthritis	1

—
21
—

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There are two water supplies for the Borough:—

- (a) Crummock.
- (b) Owsen Fell (Harrington and Distington Joint Water Committee).

These two supplies have been described in previous reports and the quality of the water is controlled by Chemical and Bacteriological examinations which take place twice each year.

Crummock Water.

The following are the results of the Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses:—

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF WATER FROM TAP
AT TOWN HALL.

1st April, 1938.

Agar Plate	0.1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.
Count.	colonies.	colonies.	colonies.
At 22° C	2	23	268
At 37° C	Nil	2	25

Coli-aerogenes count.—3 organisms per 100 c.c. and faecal
in origin, *i.e.*, Methyl Red;
Voges Proskauer, negative.

	Parts per
pH — 8.2.	100,000
Free and saline ammonia	0.0010
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0056
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in	
15 minutes at 27° C.	0.024
do. 4 hours at 27° C. ...	0.040
Total solids	2.8
Suspended matter	0.2
Hardness—total	1.9
—permanent	1.3
—temporary	0.6
Chlorine present as chlorides	0.79
Heavy metals	Nil

The water is coloured and shows a very distinct turbidity. It is odourless.

The water is satisfactory for domestic purposes.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,
Pathologist.
(Cumberland Pathological Laboratory).

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF WATER FROM TAP AT
TOWN HALL, WORKINGTON.

14th October, 1938.

Agar Plate	0.1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.
Count.	colonies.	colonies.	colonies.
At 22° C	4	33	375
At 37° C	Nil	4	43

Coli-aerogenes count.—Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms present per 100 c.c. of original water is:—5 and faecal in origin, *i.e.*, Methyl Red, positive; Voges Proskauer, negative.

	Parts per
pH — 6.7.	100,000
Free from saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0064
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C.	
in 15 minutes	0.026
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C.	
in 4 hours	0.054
Total solids	3.0
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—total	1.7
—permanent	1.3
—temporary	0.4
Chlorine present as chloride	0.77
Heavy metals	Nil

The water is somewhat turbid.

This water is reasonably free from contamination and is suitable for domestic supply.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,
Pathologist.

(Cumberland Pathological Laboratory).

Owsen Fell Supply.

This supply serves the Harrington district of the Borough. It will be noticed that this water has shown by

analysis to be plumbo-solvent. Attention to this has been placed before the Harrington and Distington Joint Water Committee, which Authority has this matter under consideration as to what is the best method of treatment.

The following are the results of the Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses:—

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF WATER FROM TAP IN
COUNCIL OFFICES, HARRINGTON.

2nd April, 1938.

Agar Plate	0.1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.
Count.	colonies.	colonies.	colonies.
At 22° C	4	67	750
At 37° C	Nil	Nil	9
<i>Coli-aerogenes</i> count.—Nil per 100 c.c.			
			Parts per
pH — 6.5.			100,000
Free and saline ammonia			0.0002
Albuminoid ammonia			0.0024
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in			
15 minutes at 27° C.			Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in			
4 hours at 27° C.			0.010
Total solids			4.1
Suspended matter			Nil
Hardness—total			2.3
—permanent			1.5
—temporary			0.8
Chlorine present as chlorides			1.00
Heavy metals (lead)			0.025

The water is colourless and odourless showing only a trace of turbidity.

A very pure water but apparently somewhat plumbo-solvent.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,
Pathologist.
(Cumberland Pathological Laboratory).

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE OF WATER FROM TAP AT
COUNCIL OFFICES, HARRINGTON.

14th October, 1938.

Agar Plate	0.1 c.c.	1 c.c.	10 c.c.
Count.	colonies.	colonies.	colonies.
At 22° C.	3	31	342
At 37° C.	Nil	3	38

Coli-aerogenes count.—Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms present per 100 c.c. of original water is:—5 and faecal in origin, *i.e.*, Methyl Red, positive; Voges Proskauer, negative.

	Parts per
pH — 6.4.	100,000
Free and saline ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0021
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C.	
15 minutes	0.016
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27° C.	
in 4 hours	0.028
Total solids	2.9
Suspended matter	Nil
Hardness—total	1.6
—permanent	1.3
—temporary	0.3
Chlorine present as chloride	0.99
Heavy metals (lead)	0.056

The water is clear and almost colourless.

This water is reasonably free from contamination but the amount of lead present is in excess of that allowable in a drinking water. The water is probably plumbo-solvent on account of its acidity and softness.

J. STEVEN FAULDS,
Pathologist.

(Cumberland Pathological Laboratory).

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following extensions to the sewerage system were carried out during the year :—

Sewers—

160 lineal yards 9in. sewer—Westfield Housing Estate.

276 $\frac{1}{3}$ lineal yards 6in. sewer—Shore Road, Salterbeck.

183 lineal yards 9in. sewer—Laverock Hall Housing Estate.

Gullies—

Fifty-five new gullies have been fixed and twenty-six were taken out and replaced by the modern type of street gully.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 35 earth closets in the Stainburn Area have been removed and pedestal water closets substituted, the drainage being connected to the new sewer.

There now remains only 10 earth closets in the outlying districts of the Borough.

Following long negotiations with the L.M.S. Railway Company regarding the unsatisfactory slop closet system at 26 houses in Findlay Place belonging to the Company, the following works were carried out during the year :—the existing sewers in back lanes and the whole of the house drains were renewed; new pedestal water closets, cisterns, etc., fixed; back lanes and yards relaid; ashpits abolished; all rain water downpipes disconnected from yard drains and made to discharge over trapped gullies; new water service pipes laid to each house, and the supply taken off the Crummock mains instead of the River Derwent supply. The estimated cost of the works was £1,500, but it is a most satisfactory conclusion to long negotiations.

Public Cleansing.

There has been no change in the arrangements for

public cleansing during the year. The existing practice of "putting out" house refuse in pails, boxes, etc., is most unsatisfactory.

Shops and Offices.

Particulars of the action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, is included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary.

Swimming Baths.

Routine analyses of the Bath water to test the efficiency of chlorination have been made and found satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs is given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Summary.

Schools.

The water supply to the Elementary Schools is satisfactory and many of the Schools are now provided with drinking fountains.

There was no epidemic of infectious diseases and therefor it was not necessary to recommend School closure.

Section D.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 705 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1472 |

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	89
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	237
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	21
(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 ..	684
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 ..	602
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :		
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	61
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners ..	55
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners .	6
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	21
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	

(a)	By Owners	21
(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	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7
(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	6
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :	
(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	92
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	114
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	716
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	95
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	635
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded again after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Two new cases of overcrowding were reported during the year, but as these were direct contraventions of Sec-

tion 59, Housing Act, 1936, notices were served upon the responsible occupiers and owners to abate the overcrowding within fourteen days. This was carried out in each case.

Ninety-five cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year by various methods—assistance from House Agents and Housing Committee, Slum Clearance, adults left home (marriages, working away), etc.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There were at the end of the year within the Borough, 65 purveyors on the register, and also 27 producers of milk.

Generally speaking producers and retailers of milk have carried out the Regulations in a satisfactory manner. Frequent inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the farms within the Borough, and advice given where necessary to ensure a pure supply of milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year 113 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Bacteriologist for complete Bacteriological examination.

The following are the results of the examinations:—

MILK PRODUCED IN THE BOROUGH.

Number of samples taken	54
Satisfactory	20 or 37.1%
Unsatisfactory	34 or 62.9%

MILK PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE BOROUGH.

Number of samples taken	59
-------------------------------	----

Satisfactory	23 or 38.9%
Unsatisfactory	36 or 61.1%

The following table shows the number of samples which have been clean, unclean, unclean, and T.B. positive during the last 5 years:—

Year	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	T.B Positive	Percentage Satisfactory
1934	60	40	2	60.0
1935	62	39	4	61.0
1936	80	25	...	78.1
1937	81	89	5	47.6
1938	43	70	1	38.0

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923 and 1936.

There is one purveyor of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and five producers of Accredited Milk, of which three retail. There are also two purveyors of Pasteurised Milk.

With respect of the above Orders five samples of milk were sent for examination. All samples were satisfactory.

Meat.

The Meat Regulations have been well complied with, and the shops, stalls and vehicles where meat is exposed for sale have been frequently inspected.

The site for the new Slaughterhouse has been the subject of a Ministry of Health Enquiry, but this matter has been postponed for a few months on account of the urgent duties in connection with Civil Defence.

The following table gives the details of carcasses inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1522	141	123	7938	3057
Number inspected	1522	141	123	7938	3057
All diseases except Tuberculosis, whole carcasses condemned	1	—	4	8	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	86	9	—	6	51
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.71	6.38	3.25	0.17	1.79
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses con- demned	3	3	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	18	—	—	178
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.761	14.89	—	—	5.98

Shellfish.

During the year samples of Mussels were procured and submitted for Bacteriological Examination to the Fishmongers' Company, London, and to Dr. J. S. Faulds, Pathologist, Carlisle. The results received indicated that the Mussels were not up to the standard for marketing for human consumption. The Medical Officer in whose District the Mussel beds were situated was notified, and the Local Vendors were acquainted and advised not to obtain further supplies from this source.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The chief points of interest in regard to notifiable and non-notifiable diseases during the year were:—

Small number of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

One case of Typhoid Fever and one case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Mild epidemic of Influenza.

No epidemic of Measles or Whooping Cough.

CASE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.			Case Rate for Workington per 1,000 of population.	Case Rate per 1,000 living in England and Wales.
Smallpox	...	...	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0·91	2·41
Diphtheria	...	...	0·36	1·58
Enteric Fever	...	...	0·04	0·03
Puerperal Fever	...	}	6·22*	14·42*
Puerperal Pyrexia	...			
Erysipelas	...	...	0·51	0·40

* Rates per 1,000 Births (live and still).

Diphtheria.

The number of notifications of cases of Diphtheria was thirteen, seventeen less than in the previous year. The cases were scattered throughout the Borough and were all removed to the Isolation Hospital with exception of two. Unfortunately two cases proved fatal—one an infant aged 1 year 3 months and the other a child 4 years old.

Immunisation against diphtheria has not been carried out as a general procedure as only a small percentage of parents will give their consent to have their children immunised.

Each year a number of children from 10-13 years of age are immunised against diphtheria before going to the holiday camp at Drigg. During the year the number of children immunised for this purpose was 190. The same arrangements hold good as in previous years by providing antitoxin free for the use of General Medical Practitioners.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of notifications of cases of scarlet fever was 25, being 15 less than in the previous year. The cases were general and were not confined to any particular school or district in the town. All the cases were isolated in hospital and there were no fatal cases.

Typhoid Fever.

One case of typhoid fever was notified and the diagnosis was confirmed by a blood test which was positive to B. Typhosus.

The case was a man aged 30 years and was isolated in hospital. The disease was of mild character and ran a normal course and after about three weeks' stay in hospital was discharged.

In spite of extensive enquiries there was no definite information as to the origin of infection.

Erysipelas.

There were fourteen cases of erysipelas notified and there were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were three notifications of puerperal pyrexia. One of the cases was nursed in the Isolation Hospital and two were treated by their medical attendants at home.

Influenza.

There was a mild epidemic of influenza in the early part of the year. The cases were in the nature of influenzal colds which did not call for any special action such as school closure, etc.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Isolated cases of measles and whooping cough occurred but at no time during the year did the cases arise in epidemic form. There was no reason at any time to consider the question of school closure.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

One case of cerebro-spinal fever was notified. The patient was a female aged 20 years who commenced her illness with symptoms of headache, sickness and fever over a period of two days, then suddenly became unconscious. The Medical Attendant at the time suspected diabetes and the patient was removed to the Infirmary. Urine examination proved negative and a lumbar puncture was done which was positive. The case was then isolated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Further lumbar punctures were carried out with the administration of serum into the spinal canal. The type of illness was severe and it was questionable whether the patient would recover. After a period of three weeks the cerebro-spinal symptoms gradually subsided and the case was discharged from hospital after a period of six weeks.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. All the cases responded to treatment and no case resulted in blindness.

	Notified.	Cases Treated.		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
		At Home.	At Hosp.				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	Nil.	3	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS AND WARDS during the year.

DISEASE.	AGE PERIODS.										WARDS.						Total Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.				
	Under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 and over	St. John's North	St. John's South	St. Michael's West	St. Michael's East				Seaton Ward	South Ward	Harrington Ward	
Smallpox ...	—	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4	2	4	13	—	2
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	4	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	9	3	25	11	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	8	2	3	—	1	1	2	4	—	4	9	—	21	—	15
Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	5	1	2	5	—	—	13	—	5
Non-pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	12	14	13	19	29	111	14	2	—	—	—	—	34	26	50	40	34	16	14	214	—	—	—
Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	5	4	—	3	3	2	1	4	1	14	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	—	1	1	3	1	1	2	—	—	9	—	15
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE SHOWING CASES, PATIENT DAYS AND DURATION
OF STAY IN HOSPITAL.

Disease	Cases from Work-ington	Cases ad-mitted from out-side dist's	Total	Patient days in Hospital all cases	Average duration of Stay
Scarlet Fever	25	17	42	1384	32.9
Diphtheria	9	10	19	505	26.6
Diphtheria "Carrier"	2	—	2	34	17.0
Typhoid Fever	1	—	1	15	15.0
Typhoid "Observation"	—	1	1	22	22.0
Para Typhoid	—	2	2	58	29.0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	1	15	15.0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	—	1	46	46.0
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	1	1	1.0
Total	40	30	70	2080	29.7

CANCER.

The following table shows the number of deaths from Cancer according to age and sex distribution:—

Age Group.	Males.	Females.	Total.
20—30 years.	—	—	—
30—40 „	—	2	2
40—50 „	—	1	1
50—60 „	2	9	11
60—70 „	5	6	11
70—80 „	5	4	9
80—90 „	3	1	4
	—	—	—
Total ...	15	23	38
	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

There was no necessity to take action in regard to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was nine less than in the previous year.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY FROM
TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
1—5	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	1
5—10	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	1
10—15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	2	4	...	3	2	1	...	...
20—25	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...
25—35	3	4	2	2	...	6	1	...
35—45	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	1
45—55	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
55—65	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 & over.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	13	17	4	10	6	9	2	3

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE
VARIOUS WARDS.

	St. John's North	St. John's South	St. Michael's West	St. Michael's East	South Ward	Seaton Ward	Harrington Ward	TOTAL
All Causes	41	61	65	70	57	18	33	345
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	4	4	3	2	—	15
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	5

The following table shows the number of Tuberculosis cases on the Register on December 31st, 1938:—

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			Total Cases on Register.
Males.	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
53	63	116	34	38	72	188

The total number of cases on the Register is ten more than in the previous year.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.

	In Insti- tutions 1st. Jan. 1938.	Admit- ted.	Dis- charged	Died	In Insti- tutions 31st Dec. 1938.
Pulmonary Cases—					
Adult Males ...	3	6	2	1	6
Adult Females ...	2	6	5	...	3
Children ...	2	1	2	...	1
Non-Pulmonary Cases					
Adult Males ...	...	...	...	...	...
Adult Females ...	...	2	2	...	...
Children ...	2	...	2	...	...
TOTAL ...	9	15	13	1	10

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WORKINGTON DURING THE YEAR 1938.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
All Causes	187	158
1. Typhoid Fever	—	—
2. Measles	—	3

3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	1
6. Influenza	3	1
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	6	9
10. Other form of Tuberculosis	2	3
11. Syphilis	—	—
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	—	—
13. Cancer	15	23
14. Diabetes	2	3
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	7
16. Heart Disease	51	36
17. Aneurysm	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	16	3
19. Bronchitis	5	8
20. Pneumonia	9	6
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	6	2
22. Peptic Ulcer	4	—
23. Diarrhoea (under two years)	1	—
24. Appendicitis	2	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	2	3
26. Other Liver Diseases	1	3
27. Other Digestive Diseases	5	5
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Diseases	—	2
31. Congenital Causes	10	10
32. Senility	9	12
33. Suicide	—	—
34. Other Violence	7	6
35. Other Defined Diseases	9	8
36. Ill-defined Causes	6	2
Special Causes (included in No. 35)	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ..	201	14	...
Factories without mechanical power ..	293	23	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises ...)	7	...	...
Total ...	501	37	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	14	14	...	...
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	2	2	...	...
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7):—				
insufficient ...	5	5	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	12	12	...	...
not separate for sexes ...	2	2	...	...
Other offences ...	2	2	...	...
Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Total ...	37	37	...	...

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1938.

*To R. W. Macpherson, Esq., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.*

Sir,

I herewith submit the following statement showing the number and nature of inspections, etc., during the year 1938; also the number of notices served and the various items dealt with:—

General Inspections	3,211
Inquiries re Infectious Diseases, Disinfection of Premises, etc.	83
Testing Drains	546
Cinemas	20
Social Clubs	87
Schools	22
Factories	339
Bakehouses	162
Offensive Trades	115
Stables	15
Rat Infested Premises	24
Verminous Premises	178
Lodging Houses	60
Houses Let in Lodgings	52
Fish and Chip Shops	124
Shops Visited re Shops Act	251
Shops Visited re Meat and Other Foods	472
Markets, Stalls, Carts	158
Ice Cream Shops and Carts	70
Cowsheds and Dairies	291
Slaughterhouses	1,096
Caravans	70
Housing Inspections	737
Overcrowding	268

A.R.P.	183
Interviews with Owners, Tradesmen, etc.	444
Revisits	1,881
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination	113
Samples of Graded Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination	5

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices	617
Statutory Notices	82

At the end of the year 47 Informal Notices and Statutory Notices remained to be dealt with.

The attention of the Borough Surveyor has been called to the following defects:—

Choked Gullies or Sewers	32
Apparently dangerous Structures	2
Waste or Poor Pressure of Water	15
Defective Stop Taps and Covers	3

SUMMARY OF WORKS EXECUTED.

DRAINAGE, ETC.:—

Drains relaid	35
Cleansed or repaired	102
New gullies fixed	37
Soil-vent pipes renewed	2
Cleared by vacuum pump free of cost to owner	69
New sinks fixed	44
Waste pipes renewed or repaired	14

WATER CLOSETS:—

Repaired or cleansed	55
Cisterns repaired or renewed	86
Service pipes repaired	21
New basins fixed	39
New traps fixed	5

Flush pipes renewed	5
Leaking joints repaired	48
Doors repaired or renewed	9
Seats repaired or renewed	26
Roofs repaired or renewed	24
Floors repaired or renewed	2
Cleansed or limewashed	6
HOUSES :—	
Roofs repaired	120
Chimneys repaired	14
Spouts cleansed or renewed	116
Window frames repaired or renewed	111
Sashcords renewed	45
Ceilings repaired or renewed	34
Exterior walls repaired or repointed	41
Interior walls remedied of dampness	113
Wallplaster remedied	68
Proper ventilated food stores provided	36
Staircases repaired	7
Kitchen ranges repaired	41
Fireplaces repaired	6
Doors repaired or renewed	31
Insufficient water supply	44
Setpots repaired or renewed	23
Cleansed or redecorated	71
Floors repaired or renewed	96
Yard surfaces repaired or renewed	41
Yards cleansed	21
Accumulations removed	7
Nuisance from animals	3
Miscellaneous	35

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

This Act came into operation on the 1st July and repealed the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901 and 1907.

During the year 501 visits were made to factories (including bakehouses), and 37 notices were served regarding defects, alterations, etc.

Notice was received under Section 110 of the Act regarding one outworker. The premises were inspected and found satisfactory.

CINEMAS, SOCIAL CLUBS, LICENSED VICTUALLERS' PREMISES, ETC.

Periodical inspections have been made, and generally the premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition. Minor defects brought to the notice of the various Managements have been speedily rectified.

Two licensed premises have been extensively altered during the year, and the sanitary arrangements at several others have been improved. The majority of urinals are now fitted with automatic flushing arrangements.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Two hundred and fifty-one visits have been paid regarding the provisions of the Act relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, and on the whole the premises have been satisfactory.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The number of Milk Producers in the Borough is 27, and the number of Purveyors on the Register is 65.

During the year 192 visits were paid to Dairies, and 99 visits to Farms. The latter are usually visited at milking times. Various improvements have been carried out during the year, including the provision of mechanical milking machines at two farms.

A great deal of time has been spent interviewing Milk Producers within and outside the Borough regarding unsatisfactory samples of milk, the number of which has been unfortunately high. Naturally they are all anxious to rectify the adverse results, and are grateful for our assistance. They also well appreciate the earnest endeavours of the Committee to tolerate nothing but a pure supply of milk for Workington.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 934 day visits and 162 evening visits were paid to the two Slaughterhouses in the Borough, and the meat of all animals killed was examined prior to removal.

The number of licensed slaughtermen is 42, and all animals are stunned by "Cash" Captive Bolt Pistols.

The majority of the Butchers use the Harrington Road Slaughterhouse which, as the Committee know, is very unsuitable.

The number of animals slaughtered within the Borough during the year was 12,781, made up as follows:—

Bulls	41
Bullocks	399
Cows	141
Heifers	1,082
Calves	123
Sheep	7,938
Pigs	3,057

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

BEEF—Whole Carcases.	Emaciation	1
	Generalised Tuberculosis .	6
Part Carcases/Organs.	Localised Tuberculosis	35
	Abscesses	28
	Parasitic and Other	
	Conditions	53
	Actinomycosis	1
	Bruised	5
	Fatty Infiltration	2
	Mastitis	1
	Congestion	5
PORK—Whole Carcases.	Generalised Tuberculosis .	5
	Pneumonia	1
	Fevered	1
	Jaundice	1
	Moribund	1

Part Carcasses/Organs.	Localised Tuberculosis	178
	Cirrhosis	10
	Parasitic	16
	Bruised	4
	Congestion	20
MUTTON—		
Whole Carcasses.	Rat Tainted	1
	Moribund	4
	Pneumonia	2
	Fevered	1
	Oedema	1
Part Carcasses/Organs.	Cysts	1
	Abscesses	1
	Congestion	1
	Bruised	2
	Cirrhosis	1
VEAL—Whole Carcasses.		
	Immature	2
	Umbilical Pyaemia	1
	Decomposition	1
FROZEN BEEF.	Bone Taint	22 lbs.
JELLIED VEAL.	Decomposition	6 lbs.
CHEESE.	Unsound	18 lbs.
CORNER BEEF.	Decomposition	6 lbs.
CORNER PORK.	Decomposition	6 lbs.
FISH.	Decomposition	18 lbs.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Numerous complaints were received during the year of houses infested with vermin (bugs, fleas, etc.) Each complaint was investigated and advice given as to the most effective method of destruction.

In 69 instances it was necessary for this Department to carry out disinfestation work. The methods employed are by spraying with an efficient insecticide, "Pyagra" or "Zaldicide," or by fumigation with "Cimex" or "Fumoids" (Sulphur Dioxide base). Architraves, picture mouldings, skirtings, etc., are loosened or removed, wallpaper stripped, fireplaces, windows, etc., sealed. Following disinfestation, tenants are instructed to wash bedding, scrub floors, etc., bedsteads to be taken to pieces

and scrubbed with boiling water and paraffin. Repapering of walls is discouraged, and the houses as far as possible are made bug proof—wooden picture rails abolished, skirting boards replaced with cement, and woodwork reduced to a minimum. In four instances owing to insufficient means tenants were unable to replace extensively infested articles (such as mattresses) that had to be destroyed, but the co-operation of the Unemployment Assistance Board or Public Assistance Committee remedied this.

The number of Council houses found infested with bed bugs was 8, other houses, 33, and all were disinfested.

All furniture, etc., of persons rehoused from Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit Houses is carefully examined before removal, and suspected articles (especially straw mattresses) are destroyed. Every possible assistance and advice is given to householders to prevent reinfestation, particularly on not acquiring second-hand bedsteads and wire mattresses. Second-hand furniture has been found to be the main source of carrying bugs from house to house.

(Signed) RICHARD JAMES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.