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BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1953

BY

**J. L. HUNTER**

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

**Medical Officer of Health**





**BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.**



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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

JAMES L. HUNTER,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.

R. E. FLETCHER,  
M.B., Ch.B. Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

§\*RICHARD JAMES ... Chief Sanitary Inspector.

§\*PATRICK J. ELTON ... Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

\*CHARLES E. PEARSON ... Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Miss E. D. NICHOLSON ... Chief Clerk.

Miss E. I. PRICE ... Junior Clerk.

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\* Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

§ Certificate of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

---

*Chairman:*

ALDERMAN S. WALKER.

THE MAYOR (Councillor J. R. Davis)

Councillor J. ASKEW.

„ E. BARRACLOUGH.

„ E. GRAHAM.

„ Mrs. B. O. McKEATING.

„ H. H. McMANUS.

„ J. McD. MOORE.

„ T. MITCHELL.

„ Mrs. M. A. SMITH.

„ Mrs. A. B. THOMAS.

„ D. VICKERS.

„ A. YOUNG.

TOWN HALL,  
WORKINGTON.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,  
THE ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE  
BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The general layout and information, statistical and other, follow closely on previous years.

Measles was the only disease which assumed epidemic proportions during the year, 843 cases being notified. There were no deaths from this disease. Three cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) were notified and three cases of Food-Poisoning.

The vital statistics for the year showed little significant variation from the year before. The total population went up in number by 20 to 28,800 (Registrar's Mid-Year Estimate for 1953). Live Births totalled 477 and the Birth Rate was the same as for 1952 at the figure of 16.6. There were eighteen Illegitimate Births in the total of 477. Still Births numbered 10, giving a Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 20.9. Deaths from Tuberculosis again decreased—from 10 in 1952 to 9 in 1953, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Population of 0.31, which, although improving, compares unfavourably with the figure of 0.20 for England and Wales. There was one Maternal Death during the year.

The number of children who received injections against Diphtheria was fairly satisfactory but the emphasis was still on the older groups, that is from entrance to school onwards. It is again pointed out that the best age for inoculation is 9—12 months: thereafter, a child should receive a "booster" dose certainly at 5 years of age and preferably again at about 10 years. Combined protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough by a course of three injections is still under trial in different parts of the country but has not yet come into general use in the Clinics in Cumberland. Many parents enquire about such double protection and it is felt that the facility would add considerably to the numbers protected against Diphtheria and give some protection at least against Whooping Cough.

The number of new houses built by the Authority in 1953 was 155: by private enterprise 95 were built. This is



a substantial increase over the years since the end of the war but a target of a much greater figure is needed to deal with the unfortunates who are required to live-in with relatives and friends and to cover ordinary replacements of outworn houses and houses needed for special cases such as families in which there is a case of notified Tuberculosis.

The problem of the provision of dustbins to householders was solved during the year by the Council's decision to make this a charge on the General Rate Fund. The supply to householders by districts was going well by the end of the year.

One aged person was dealt with during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. An order for the removal to institutional care was obtained from the Magistrates.

I should again like to give my best thanks to my own Staff and to the Staffs of other Departments who have helped me during the year. The interest and support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee has been also greatly appreciated.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. HUNTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

#### 1.—*General.*

Area in Acres .....	5,644
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate of Residents—mid-year, 1953) .....	28,800
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at the end of 1953 .....	8,513
Rateable Value .....	£154,719
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£577

The main industries of the town continue and are as given in the Annual Report for 1950, except that a Tannery has ceased work.

2.—*Vital Statistics.*

Population ..... 28,800

This figure has increased by 20 over 1952.

*Births.**Live Births:—*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .....	229	230	459
Illegitimate .....	10	8	18
Total ...	239	238	477

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ..... 16.6

*Still Births:—*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .....	2	7	9
Illegitimate .....	1	—	1
Total ...	3	7	10

Rate per 1,000 Total Births ..... 20.9

*Deaths.*

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Deaths (all ages) .....	181	150	331
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population .....			11.5
Adjusted Death Rate .....			12.4
Deaths from Tuberculosis .....			10
Deaths from Cancer .....			44
Maternal Deaths .....			1
Deaths from Measles .....			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough .....			Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year .....			14
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—			
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births .....			29.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000			
legitimate live births .....			28.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births .....			55.5

The maternal death occurred outside the district and was due to a cause secondary to an operation.



3.—*Notes and Comparisons on Vital Statistics.**Births.*

## Live Birth Rate:—

Workington .....	16.6
County of Cumberland .....	16.7
Urban Districts of Cumberland .....	17.5
Rural Districts of Cumberland .....	16.2
160 Small Towns (25,000 to 50,000 Population) .....	15.7
England and Wales .....	15.5

The figure of 16.6 (adjusted figure actually 17.1) is 1.1 higher than for England and Wales and 0.9 higher than for the average of 160 Towns in England and Wales of size comparable to Workington.

*Deaths.*

The Crude Death Rates in Cumberland and the Death Rates for 160 Smaller Towns and for England and Wales were as follows:—

Workington .....	11.5
County of Cumberland .....	11.9
Urban Districts of Cumberland .....	11.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland .....	11.9
160 Smaller Towns .....	11.3
England and Wales .....	11.4

The total number of deaths at all ages in Workington in 1953 was 331—a decrease of 17 on the number for 1952. The death rate was also lower than for the previous year.

The chief causes of death were:—Diseases of the Heart and Circulation, 169; Cancer, 44; Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 24. Deaths from Tuberculosis were 9 as compared to 10 in 1952. There were 14 Infantile Deaths and no deaths in children between one and two years. Of the six deaths between the ages of 2 years and 25 years two were accidental. There were three motor-vehicle accidents and ten others during the year.

The two tables which follow show the age at death of all cases and the cause of death:—



Age Groups	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Over 75	Total
Males	7		1			2		1	1	4	5	19	44	48	49	181
Females	7							1		4	9	6	30	41	52	150
Total	14		1			2		2	1	8	14	25	74	89	101	331

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE OF DEATHS IN WORKINGTON  
BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR 1953.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	5	4	9
Tuberculosis, other forms .....	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .....	—	1	1
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach .....	4	2	6
do. lung, bronchus .....	6	1	7
do. breast .....	—	5	5
do. uterus .....	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	14	10	24
Leukaemia .....	—	2	2
Diabetes .....	—	4	4
Vascular diseases of nervous system .....	26	36	62
Coronary disease, angina .....	36	17	53
Hypertension with Heart Diseases .....	—	—	—
Other Heart Diseases .....	22	25	47
Other circulatory disease .....	5	2	7
Influenza .....	2	4	6
Pneumonia .....	8	3	11
Bronchitis .....	8	5	13
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	3	2	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—	1
Congenital malformations .....	3	3	6

Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	19	24	43
Motor vehicle accidents .....	3	—	3
All other accidents .....	8	2	10
Suicide .....	3	2	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
All Causes ...	181	150	331
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

### *Infantile Deaths.*

#### Infantile Mortality Rate:—

Workington .....	29.3
County of Cumberland .....	27.0
Urban Districts of Cumberland .....	30.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland .....	24.0
160 Smaller Towns of England and Wales ...	24.3
England and Wales .....	26.8

Three more deaths in the year under review make a big difference in rate in a small town. Last year with eleven deaths the record figure was 23.0: this year the figure is 29.3. All but one of the deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life and the main cause of death was prematurity.

The two tables below give (a) figures of Infantile Mortality in Workington in quinquennial average periods from 1911 to 1950 and yearly thereafter and (b) the distribution of deaths by cause and age:—

#### (a) AVERAGE ANNUAL INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Period.</i>	<i>Workington M.B.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1911—1915	135	110
1916—1920	113	90
1921—1925	102	76
1926—1930	76	68
1931—1935	70	62
1936—1940	63	55
1941—1945	52	50
1946—1950	41	36
1951	31.7	29.6
1952	23.0	27.6
1953	29.3	26.8



(b) INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY AGES AND  
CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks				Age in Months						Total Deaths
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	Under 1 Month	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Premature Birth	4	1	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malformation Debility	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bronchitis and Pnuemonia	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	3
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	6	4	2	1	13	1	—	—	—	—	14

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) The Public Health Committee and the Staff of the Public Health Department are listed at the beginning of this report. There were no changes in Staff during the year.

#### LABORATORY SERVICES

(b) The examination of Pathological specimens and the examination of water and other samples is undertaken by the Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, under the direction of Dr. J. Steven Faulds.

#### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

(c) The Ambulance, Nursing, Home Help and the School and Child Welfare Services are the responsibility of the Cumberland County Council. Clinical sessions are held as follows:—



Child Welfare—Tuesday and Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

School Clinics—Daily at 9-30 a.m.

Orthopaedic sessions—arranged by appointment.

(d) Chest Clinics (the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board) are held at the Workington Infirmary.

(e) Specialists' sessions for children in Eye and Ear, Nose and Throat conditions are held both in Workington and Whitehaven. Attendance is by appointment.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A detailed report of Sanitary matters is given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. James, in an appendix to this report. Mr. Handel Kay, Borough Surveyor, has been kind in giving me certain facts and figures in relation to houses, water supply, etc.

#### 1.—*Housing.*

The completion of large sewerage works has been this year reflected in the completion of a number of houses much greater than in recent years. During the year 155 houses were completed by the Local Authority and 95 by private enterprise. It is hoped that greater impetus can now be given to the special needs of such areas as Low Harrington.

#### 2.—*Water.*

No major works were undertaken during the year. The Winscales Reservoir and the new Chlorination and De-incrustation Plant have been in service for over a year. Some 3,000 lineal yards of new mains were laid on new housing estates.

From the chemical and bacteriological points of view the water supply to the town has been generally of a high standard of purity. A typical report on the main Crummock supply is here reproduced:—

Probable number of coli-aerogenes	
present in 100 ml. ....	Nil
Appearance in a 2ft. tube	
Clear and colourless with a little	
suspended matter.	
pH. 8.4.	<i>parts per million</i>
Ammoniacal nitrogen .....	0.088
Albuminoid nitrogen .....	0.086

Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 15 mins. at 27 degrees C. ....	0.024
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 4 hours at 27 degrees C. ....	0.240
Dissolved solids dried for 1 hour at 180 degrees C.	55
Hardness—Total .....	20
—Carbonate .....	1
—Non-carbonate .....	19
Chlorine present as chlorides .....	9.0
Heavy metals .....	0.0
Opinion:—"Bacteriologically and chemically a satisfactory water."	

### 3.—*Drainage and Sewerage.*

No major works were in hand during the year. Seven hundred and eighty-four lineal yards of new sewers were laid on new housing estates. Eighty-five modern gullies were installed.

### 4.—*Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

As indicated in the introduction to this report the main new item of note was the decision of the Council to adopt responsibility for the general issue of dustbins by a charge on the General Rate Fund. In order to achieve as much uniformity as possible throughout the town in the number of collections per week it was decided to issue bins to householders district by district. It was also reckoned that, by the issue of some thirteen hundred bins a year, (or more, if the sum allocated allowed), as first issues and as replacements, it would be possible to cover all premises in five to seven years. Thereafter, it would be a matter of gradual replacement as bins of the primary issues became outworn. The scheme came into operation on the first day of April, 1953, and by the end of the year the following issues had been made:—

#### ISSUES OF DUSTBINS

A. Issues by district "scheme" .....	1123
B. Replacements to non-council houses	29
C. Replacements to council houses .....	72
D. Issues to new non-council houses ...	13
E. Issues to new council houses .....	0
<hr/>	
Total ...	1239
<hr/>	



The issue of the first year was therefore well in hand: by April, 1954, the target had in fact been reached. A simplification in routes and number of collection followed the issue of bins in the Harrington area.

No changes in transport were made during the year but a mechanical shovel was acquired, with detachable plate, for use in loading covering material and levelling the old tipping area. Except by spending a disproportionately large time on hand-sorting at the tip face or by using very large quantities of covering material it is difficult to tip so that no heaps and hollows appear during the general settling of the deposits.

No new tips were acquired. A large volume of very old tipped material was used during the year for covering freshly tipped refuse. This old material is quite innocuous after the passage of some years and apart from broken glass which still remains unchanged, forms very useful cover when ashes are difficult to get or man-power is short.

Illness and other causes did indeed cause shortage of labour during the year and made it very difficult to maintain a steady service to the public.

A total of approximately 9,096 tons of household refuse was dealt with during the year an amount which is equivalent to 17.3 cwt. per 1,000 population per day. The Minister of Housing and Local Government re-introduced a system of costing returns for Public Cleansing—to include Refuse Collection and Disposal and Street Cleansing. This latter function is carried out by the Department of the Borough Surveyor. In the Section relating to Non-County Boroughs in the report in respect of Refuse Collection and Disposal the figures for Workington and the average figures for 169 Non-County Boroughs were:—

<i>Net Cost per Ton.</i>			
	<i>Collection.</i>	<i>Disposal.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Workington .....	23s. 5d.	4s. 11d.	28s. 4d.
169 Boroughs ...	27s. 6d.	4s. 6d.	32s. 0d.

The figures for Workington are therefore satisfactory in view of the fact that controlled tipping is operated in the town while crude tipping is still the main means of disposal in many Boroughs.

#### 4. *Welfare of Old People—National Assistance Acts, S. 47.*

One aged person living in insanitary conditions and unable to look after herself was removed to institutional care on a Magistrate's order.



## SECTION D.

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) .....	505
	(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	1729
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	15
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation .....	490
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 other officers .....	464
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 .....	14
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By Owners .....	14
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	12
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By Owners .....	12
	(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 .....	15
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	15
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or underground room having been rendered fit .....	Nil

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year nearly 2,000 inspections were made to premises where food is stored, prepared or sold. The traders, generally, have been co-operative and improvements to premises continue to be carried out.

There appears to be a much higher standard of cleanliness in food preparing rooms, but one habit which must be stamped out is cigarette and pipe smoking whilst handling food. The use of newspapers for wrapping foodstuffs should also be discontinued.

Unfortunately it is impossible for the Sanitary Inspectors to devote their whole time to this most important subject, but the public could do a great service by refusing to purchase from insanitary shops.

There are 17 milk producers in the Borough, 9 of which produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and 1 Accredited Milk. Fourteen samples of ungraded milk were examined for tubercle bacilli and found negative.

The number of milk retailers is 29, and approximately 95% of the milk sold is bottled on registered premises. The sale of heat treated milk continues to increase.

Ice cream continues to prove a popular commodity. There are 5 manufacturers and 77 retailers in the Borough. Twelve samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and proved Grade I quality.

Attention was also given to the manufacture of ice lollipops, a popular article among children. Fifteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and proved satisfactory. There is no legal standard for ice lollipops, but they should be of a standard of purity at least equal to that of the water supply used in their production.

## SECTION F.

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

#### *Infectious Diseases.*

There was a mild epidemic of Measles in 1953, showing its maximum incidence during the fourth quarter of the year and producing a total of 843 cases notified. There were no deaths from this cause and only one case was admitted to hospital.

#### *Scarlet Fever.*

The forty-one cases (ten less than in 1952) were widely distributed in the towns and over the year. Many of these cases were mild and, apart from the presence of a rash, could well have escaped notification. This disease, which some years ago appeared to present a specific and characteristic set of signs and symptoms, gradually merges as time passes into the indiscriminate group of Acute Tonsillitis with a varying degree or even absence of skin manifestation.

#### *Measles.*

Eight hundred and forty-one cases were notified.

#### *Whooping Cough.*

There was an increase of twenty-eight in the number of notifications as compared to 1952. Protection against this disease by Immunisation is not yet a procedure carried out in the Child Welfare Clinics.

#### *Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.*

No case of Diphtheria was notified within the Borough during the year.

The number of children Inoculated by family Doctors and the Clinics was 241 in children aged 0—5 and 232 in children aged 5—15 years. The number of "booster" or re-



inforcement doses given totalled 466—a considerable drop from 600 in 1952, but related to shortages in School Medical Staff.

The percentage number of children inoculated in the two main age-blocks, 0—5 years and 5—15 years, is given below:—

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION STATE

#### BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON

Percentage inoculated calculated on figures of Child Population supplied by the Registrar-General:	Children aged 0—5 years.	Children aged 5—15 years.
1947	26	64
1948	32	65
1949	37	81
1950	37	82
1951	40	84
Calculated on local estimate of Child Population:		
1952	39	85
1953	40	91

A circular from the Ministry of Health draws attention to the need to take cognisance of the fact that re-inforcement doses are necessary to keep up the degree of Immunisation. Protection wears off slowly after inoculation and it is recommended that "booster" doses be given 3-4 years after a previous one. The Ministry present the view that a child cannot be considered adequately protected if five years have elapsed since the last infection. On this basis, of the Workington children between 0—15 years who have been inoculated, some 87% can still be considered to be adequately protected, and 13% only partly protected.

#### *Anterior Poliomyelitis.*

Three cases were notified including one case of Acute Polio-Encephalitis in a child. In the later case there was slight residual paralysis but the other two cases were completely non-paralytic.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*

Twenty-three cases occurred during the year with no deaths. The one maternal death followed, not infection, but an operative procedure in connection with the birth of the child.

*Food-Poisoning.*

One case due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium* occurred in an old person who was already much debilitated by other conditions and in whom death resulted mainly from these prior causes. The case was not a normal resident of the town.

The remaining two cases occurred in one family. These were both mild and were caused by the contamination of food in the house by the organisms *Staphylococcus* and/or *Bacillus Proteus*.

No other notified diseases require special note. The table following gives a summary of all cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year and the number of cases admitted to Hospital (where known):—



## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1953.

Disease	Total Number of cases	Age Groups						Admitted to Hospital	Died
		Under 1 year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24		
							25 and over		
Scarlet Fever	41	1	10	5	17	6	2	11	
Whooping Cough	108	10	27	35	33	1	1	1	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	3		1			1	1	3	
Measles	813	33	197	242	362	3	3	1	
Diphtheria									
		Under 5 years							
		5-14							
		15-44							
		45-64							
		65 and over							
Acute Pneumonia	19	7	2	5	5			Fig. not known	11 all forms
Dysentery									
Erysipelas	18		1	2	11	4			
Meningococcal Infections	1	1						1	
Food Poisoning	3			2		1			
Puerperal pyrexia	23								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Chickenpox	272								

*Cancer.*

There were 44 deaths from this disease—24 in males and 20 in females, as compared to a total of 57 in 1952. The Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population was 1.5 as compared to 1.9 in 1952. The range of age at death was 36 to 84 years in males and 16 to 86 in females with an average age at death in males of 63.5 years and in females of 61.3 years.

The distribution of cases by location of the disease in the body and by sex was as follows:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Stomach .....	4	2	6
Lung .....	6	1	7
Breast .....	—	5	5
Uterus .....	—	2	2
Other Sites .....	14	10	24
	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 44

*Tuberculosis.*

A total of 68 cases were notified during the year, three more than in 1952. Respiratory cases numbered 62 and there were 6 cases in which the infection was in parts other than the Lungs. No figures are available as to how many cases were discovered, diagnosis by means of Mass Miniature Radiography. By this procedure some 4,359 person were X-rayed in 1953 in Workington, but, not necessarily all cases were actually in residence in the town.

There were nine deaths—5 males and 4 females—from Respiratory Tuberculosis and none from Non-respiratory. The Death Rate per 1,000 Population was 0.31 as compared to 0.20 for England and Wales and 0.35 for Workington in 1952.

The following table gives by age-group the number of cases notified during the year and the number of deaths, male and female;—



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	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—10	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	4	11	...	1	1	1	...	...
35—45	8	3	1	...	1	1	...	...
45—55	6	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
55—65	6	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
65 & over.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	34	28	2	4	5	4	...	...

### TREATMENT IN HOSPITAL

Forty-eight cases of Respiratory (or Pulmonary) Tuberculosis were admitted to Hospital or Sanatoria during the year. This is an increase in such treatment compared to 29 cases in 1952.

The following table gives the position at the end of 1952 and 1953, and the number of admissions and discharges and deaths in Sanatoria during the year:—

	In Sanatoria 1st. Jan. 1953.	Admitted 1953	Dis- charged	Died	In Sanatoria 31st Dec. 1953.
<b>Pulmonary Cases—</b>					
Adult Males ...	10	26	20	2	14
Adult Females ...	7	22	10	...	19
Children ...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Non-Pulmonary Cases</b>					
Adult Males ...	1	...	...	...	1
Adult Females ...	...	...	...	...	...
Children ...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Observation Cases—</b>					
Adult Males ...	...	...	...	...	...
Adult Females ...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	18	48	30	2	34

As on the 31st December, 1953, the total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was 271, as follows:—

<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		
<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
106	90	196	34	41	75

#### APPENDIX

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To J. L. Hunter, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., 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 1953, also the number of notices served and various items dealt with:—



Total number of inspections	...	...	...	...	7984
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	162
Caravans	...	...	...	...	17
Cinemas, Theatres, Clubs, Hotels	...	...	...	...	43
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	957
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	96
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	233
Dwellinghouses:—					
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2086
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	73
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	961
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	75
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	167
Factories	...	...	...	...	642
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	521
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	645
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	87
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	56
Markets, Stalls, Carts	...	...	...	...	52
Offensive Trades, etc.:—					
Fish Frying	...	...	...	...	211
Tripe Boiling	...	...	...	...	21
Tanning	...	...	...	...	5
Rag and Bone Merchants	...	...	...	...	45
Knacker Yard	...	...	...	...	54
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	543
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	210
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	22

(In addition 632 visits were made in connection with matters relating to refuse collection and disposal).

#### NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	490
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	35

At the end of the year 87 Informal Notices remained to be dealt with.

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

Dangerous premises	...	...	...	...	2
Choked sewers or street gullies	...	...	...	...	31
Waste or poor pressure of water, defective stop taps, etc.	...	...	...	...	23
Street Sweeping	...	...	...	...	7
Repairs to Corporation Property	...	...	...	...	20
Defective paving	...	...	...	...	2

## DRAINAGE:—

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	19
Drains cleansed from obstruction	...	...	...	...	105
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	...	10
Gullies renewed	...	...	...	...	37
Drains connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	3

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES:—

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	32
W.C. basins renewed	...	...	...	...	28
New taps fixed	...	...	...	...	6
Cone joints repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Additional W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	5
Seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Floors renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Soilpipes renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Light and Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	1
Walls repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	5
Flushpipe renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	29

## YARD AND OUTBUILDINGS:—

Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	11
Yard surfaces relaid	...	...	...	...	5
Coalhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Yards to Clean	...	...	...	...	12
Yard doors to repair or renew	...	...	...	...	11

## EXTERIOR OF HOUSES:—

Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	24
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	122
Spoutings cleansed or renewed	...	...	...	...	49
Pointing and rendering	...	...	...	...	14

## INTERIOR OF HOUSES:—

Chimney flue repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	24
Fireplaces or oven repaired	...	...	...	...	41
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Wallplaster renewed	...	...	...	...	48



Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	...	51
Sashcords provided	...	...	...	30
Sinks provided	...	...	...	17
Wastepipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	22
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	11
Waterpipes renewed	...	...	...	12
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	67
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	...	32

#### MISCELLANEOUS:—

Animals removed	...	...	...	8
Poultry removed	...	...	...	13
Caravans removed	...	...	...	9

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES

Owing to the presence of vermin 167 houses were disinfected by this Department. The number of Council houses found infested by bugs was 3; other houses 9.

Eighteen houses were treated for fleas, 31 for cockroaches, 3 for silverfish, 1 for earwigs, 99 for ants, and 3 for woodworm.

All fluids and powders used for disinfestation work have D.D.T. and Pyrethum incorporated, for ant extermination 0.25 per cent. Thallium Sulphate is included.

#### RATS AND MICE

No serious infestation occurred during the year. Five hundred and forty-three visits were made to premises regarding complaints of rats and mice, and all proved of a minor character.

In addition to traps, prebaited are sausage rusk and bread mash and poisons used are zinc phosphide and red squill.

The sewers in the Borough were test baited twice during the year.

The Cloffocks and Harrington refuse tips have received regular weekly visits. At both Tips minor infestations were dealt with. The system of controlled tipping, covering and narrowing of tipping faces has eliminated breeding areas.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number in register	...	...	...	265
Inspections made	...	...	...	642
Notices served	...	...	...	34
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil
Outworkers	...	...	...	2

## Classification of defects:—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	16
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	6
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	19
Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	2
Other offences against the Act	...	...	...	...	3
Fire escape certificates issued	...	...	...	...	5

The following is a list of Classified Trades carried on in the Borough:—

Tanning	...	...	...	...	...	1
Aerated Waters	...	...	...	...	...	3
Paint Making, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Enamelling	...	...	...	...	...	1
Corn Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rayon Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gas Undertaking	...	...	...	...	...	2
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brewery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Quarrying	...	...	...	...	...	2
Weaving	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Building Trades	...	...	...	...	...	23
Wood Cutting and Working	...	...	...	...	...	27
Leather Working, Shoe Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	24
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	...	2
Magnesite Production	...	...	...	...	...	1
Collieries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fur Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailoring, Cutting, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Food Preserving Premises	...	...	...	...	...	60
Light Engineering—including Motor Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	22
Heavy Engineering	...	...	...	...	...	7
Electrical Undertaking	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers, Gasfitters, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Scale Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	2

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## INSPECTION OF PREMISES

All premises where food is prepared or sold have been regularly inspected. The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption:—



*Tinned and Bottled Goods:—*

Pork (22 tins).	Raspberries (6 tins).
Tongue (40 tins).	Peaches (64 tins).
Beef (115 tins).	Pears (72 tins).
Veal (14 tins).	Plums (147 tins).
Ham (54 tins).	Grapes (5 tins).
Luncheon Meat (25 tins).	Apricots (12 tins).
Veal and Ham (4 tins).	Strawberries (20 tins).
Mutton (1 tin).	Pineapples (17 tins).
Steak (94 tins).	Blackcurrants (12 tins).
Crawfish (3 tins).	Bananas (7 tins).
Salmon (4 tins).	Oranges (2 tins).
Crabmeat (15 tins).	Gooseberries (11 tins).
Sardines (7 tins).	Greengages (12 tins).
Lobster (1 tin).	Pickles (8 bottles).
Sild (16 tins).	Mincemeat (1 tin).
Peas (170 tins).	Mixed Vegetables (3 tins).
Beans (57 tins).	Soup (52 tins).
Tomatoes (102 tins).	Fruit Salad (53 tins).
Carrots (40 tins).	Barley (6 packets).
Cherries (30 tins).	Jam (141 tins).
Prunes (30 tins).	Milk (210 tins).
Bilberries (3 tins).	Steamed Puddings (7 tins).
Grapefruit (5 tins).	Spaghetti (2 tins).
<i>Other Foods:—</i>	
Bacon (89 lbs.).	Hake (2 stones).
Turkeys (13 stones).	Halibut (3 stones).
Sausages (29 lbs.).	Herrings (1 stone).
Rabbits (86 lbs.).	Cheese (21 lbs.).
Cod (16 stones).	Cake (190 lbs.).
Fish Cakes (7 lbs.).	Biscuits (92 lbs.).
Lemon Soles (3 stones).	Oatmeal (2 cwts.).
Haddocks (2 stones).	Ice Cream (56 lbs.).
Fillets (15½ stones).	Coconut (16 stones).
Skate (13 stones).	Sweets (75 lbs.).

The approximate weight of the foodstuffs condemned was 2 tons.

In all cases Certificates were issued under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to all respective vendors, and as far as possible Ministry of Food Circular M.F. 3/48 has been followed regarding salvage of unsound foods.

(Signed) RICHARD JAMES,  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,  
Workington.





THE WORKINGTON STAR