

3.3. Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, Permanent Disablement Registers, 1920-1969.

Note: Permanent relief or provident funds were established in various coalfields in the second half of the nineteenth century and were intended to provide benefits to the widows and 'orphans' of miners killed in their work, disablement benefits for miners who suffered injuries or occupational disease, and, in some cases, payments to old and infirm miners no longer able to work. These were 'permanent funds' because, unlike friendly societies or other agencies, they paid benefits indefinitely. Varying proportions of the mining workforce in different coalfields joined these funds and, in some cases, membership involved 'contracting out' of the statutory benefits provided by the Employers' Liability and Workmen's Compensation Acts.

Sample of the Number of Miners' Nystagmus Cases within the Northumberland and Durham Miners Permanent Relief Fund Permanent Disablement Registers, 1920-1936

Year(s)	Number of Miners' Nystagmus Cases	Total Number of Permanent Disablement Cases (all causes)
1920/25	68	270
1930/31	143	300
1935/36	100	300

Source: Tyne and Wear Archives, CH.MPR/15/4-6, Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, Permanent Disablement Registers, 1920-69.