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Contributors

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Buglawton Urban District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1920

R. B. DAVIDSON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P.,

L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

Kingston Urban District Council

REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December 1920

R. B. THORNTON

1921

Printed by the Council

1921

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To the Chairman and Members of the Buglawton Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

During 1920 you have been largely occupied in considering the question of unfit houses, and the provision of new houses. Most of the preliminary stages have been passed, and there seems to be a prospect of building commencing early in 1921.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population (Census 1911) ...	...	...	1439
Population (estimated 1920)	...	...	1425
Acreage ...	...	...	2911

Buglawton is an extensive District, sparsely populated, being chiefly of a Rural character, with an Urban portion adjacent to the neighbouring Borough of Congleton.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—Agriculture, Towel Weaving, Bleaching and Dyeing, Velvet Cutting, Branches of Paper Trade, and Shirt Making. Most of these occupations are healthy, but at the Bleach and Dye Works there are a certain number of cases of Dermatitis, though I have not noticed any other impairment of health among the employees that can be put down to industrial causes. A small Cotton Factory and a Foundry were started during the year, but trade in general has been very slack during the latter part of 1920.

The lowest lying part of the Urban portion is only 280 feet above sea level, whilst Cloud End reaches at one point 1000 feet above sea level.

The subsoil of the District is clay drift, overlying red marl, beneath this being red and yellow sandstone. Cloud Hill consists of millstone grit outcropping through the subsoil; beneath this are strata of crowstone and mountain limestone. Here and there pockets of sand are found throughout the District.

There is a spring in the parish, formerly used for scorbutic cases, and partaking of the properties of the Harrogate sulphur springs.

There is no Hospital in Buglawton, cases going to Congleton Cottage Hospital, and Hospitals at Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester.

Six men, thirteen women, and four children received Poor Law Relief in 1920.

Vital Statistics.

Births 32—Males 17. Females 15.

1920 Birth-rate 18·8. 1919 Birth-rate 18·2.

1920 Birth-rate for England and Wales 25·4.

Illegitimate Births 2. Illegitimate Birth-rate 6·2 per cent. of births.

Deaths 19—Males 14. Females 5.

1920 Death-rate 11·1. 1919 Death-rate 14·6.

1920 Death-rate for England and Wales 12·4.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age 5.

1920 Infantile Mortality-rate 156·2 per 1000 births.

1919 Infantile Mortality-rate 64·5 per 1000 births.

1920 Infantile Mortality-rate for England and Wales 80 per 1000 births.

Number of Deaths from Zymotic Disease 0.

1920 Zymotic Death-rate 0. 1919 Zymotic Death-rate 0.

Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis 0.

1920 Tuberculosis-rate 0. 1919 Tuberculosis-rate ·6

Number of Marriages in 1920—11.

The Registrar General gives a population of 1698 for calculating both the Birth-rate and the Death-rate.

The causes of death were :—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	..	...	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6

The causes of death of children under one year of age were :—
Congenital Debility, etc., 3, and Pneumonia 2. None of the children who died under one year of age were illegitimate.

Two Coroner's Inquests were held during 1920.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.—The Water is obtained from upland springs on Cloud Side; no trace of metallic contamination has been found, but being a very soft water, the possibility of a plumbo-solvent action cannot be ignored. The supply is constant and has been found sufficient for the parts of the District supplied, but will not allow of further extensions until other springs have been taken in, and further storage provided. A scheme is now being designed in connection with springs on the Cloud Side that the Council propose to acquire. The water supply to the Havannah Lane Farm has not yet been satisfactorily protected from

contamination. There is no proper supply to the Havannah Village, in the Buglawton portion of which three houses are occupied.

Rivers and Streams.—The Daneinshaw Brook and the Timbersbrook are both slightly polluted by effluent treated before discharged from factories where chemicals are used in the manufacturing processes. Any action required is taken by the Rivers' Pollution Committee of the County Council.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Only the Urban portion is sewered; there is very little trade sewage, and the sewage is treated at the Congleton Sewage Works, the final effluent from which has been invariably satisfactory. In the Rural portions no general scheme is practicable.

Closet Accommodation.—Water-closets 92, Pail-closets 224, Privy-middens 101.

CONVERSIONS OF CLOSETS.

Year.	Pail-closets to Water-closets.	Privy-middens to Pail-closets.
1920	14	32
1919	5	27
1918	0	35
1917	0	26
1916	0	30

Scavenging.—Pail-closets are emptied weekly; house refuse is collected weekly, being removed to tips in outlying parts of the District. There are no earth-closets in the District; the privy-middens are emptied on notice being given, and after being emptied are deodorized with Sanitas; there are also 12 cesspools.

There are a number of movable ashbins, but only a limited number have proper coverings.

Sanitary Inspection of District.—This will be found in Table B at the end of the Report. The Sanitary Inspector reports that he has made 415 inspections, served 8 statutory, and 15 informal notices, 20 of which were complied with, and 3 still remain in hand.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, houses let in lodgings, nor offensive trades in the District.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

(1). *Factories and Workshops.*—There are 9 Workshops, including one Workshop-bakehouse; all were inspected and found satisfactory. Of the 11 Factories, 9 were inspected and found to be in satisfactory sanitary condition.

(2). *Rag Flock Act.*—There are no premises coming under this Act.

(3). *Schools.*—There is one Public Elementary School, opened in 1913; there are water-closets, and water for hand-basins in the school; the lighting, heating, and ventilation are good, and the School is admirable in every respect.

Food.

(a). *Milk Supply.*—Was wholesome and sufficient in amount, and was all produced in the District.

There are 43 Dairies and 63 Cowsheds in the District, and all have been inspected.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.—Is administered by the County Council.

(b). There is no Slaughter-house nor Butcher's Shop in the District.

(c). There is only one Bakehouse, which was in a satisfactory condition.

(d). There were no cases of food poisoning in 1920.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

During 1920, 21 cases were notified :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	6

During 1920, I think that as full advantage has been taken of bacteriological aids to diagnosis, as occasion required.

Notification of Tuberculosis has been prompt during the year.

Diphtheria Antitoxin and at present Influenzal Vaccine is supplied free of charge for prophylaxis and treatment.

No (a) Primary Vaccinations nor (b) Re-Vaccinations were performed by me under the Public Health (Small-pox) Regulations, 1917.

There are no special facilities available for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons nor their belongings, and no demand has arisen for such facilities during 1920.

Lists of cases of infectious or suspected infectious disease from the Headmaster of the Elementary School are of great use when there is any epidemic disease in the District, and the cases given are carefully enquired into.

Measles.—One case of a mild type was notified under The Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Temporary Regulations 1919. This disease ceased to be notifiable in this District at the end of March.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—This case received early medical treatment, and recovered without any permanent injury to either eye.

Erysipelas.—This case was visited by me, and advised with regard to spread of infection.

Pneumonia.—These cases were visited, advice given with regard to spread of infection, and disinfectants supplied.

Tuberculosis.—All these cases were visited, leaflets of advice and disinfectants supplied, and in cases leaving the District to go to Sanatoria or otherwise disinfection was carried out.

Scarlet Fever.—Three of the cases occurred in one house, and the source of infection could not be traced. There is good reason to believe that two cases were infected from sources outside the District. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Fever Hospital, the others being satisfactorily isolated at home.

Influenza.—There were no deaths from this disease. Only a very few severe cases occurred, to one of which Vaccine was supplied and used, with good results.

Chicken-pox.—A few cases occurred in the first quarter of the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Measles, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and Chicken-pox are dealt with under the last section. I visit all cases of Ophthalmia

Neonatorum and of Measles when notified. There were no other epidemic infantile diseases during the year. There were no cases of Puerperal Fever, nor were there any deaths among parturient women.

A Certified Midwife has now settled in the District.

Sanitary Administration.

1. *Staff.*—Medical Officer of Health, who generally supervises and directs the work of the department.

Sanitary Inspector, who also carries out duties under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, Factory and Workshops Act, and Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

The Surveyor is responsible for the Scavenging, Sewering, and for the Town's Water.

An Analyst examines samples of Water for the Council.

All the Officials hold part-time appointments only.

2. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever, and Cerebro-spinal Meningitis if beds are available, are treated at the West Heath Sanatorium, Congleton, which is administered by the Congleton and District Joint Hospital Board, and the accommodation is adequate. Only two cases of Scarlet Fever have been sent from this District during 1920. Small-pox cases can be admitted to the Small-pox Hospital at Arclid in Congleton Rural District.

3. *Local Acts, Special Local Orders, or General Adoptive Acts in force in the District.*

Buglawton Enclosure Act, 1813.

Congleton and District Joint Hospital Board Order.

4. Specimens from suspected cases of Diphtheria and Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, and blood specimens from suspected Typhoid cases are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester University, and sputum from suspected cases of Tuberculosis at the County Laboratory, Chester.

Suspected Disease.	Number of Specimens Examined.	Positive Results.
Diphtheria	... 1 ...	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6 ...	0

Housing.

(I.) *General Housing Conditions in the District:*—

(1). General Housing Conditions.—Will be fairly satisfactory when new houses are erected.

(2). (a). Extent of Shortage of Houses—34 houses.

(b). Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—Contemplated erection of 34 houses of a better type.

(3). There have been no important changes in the population in 1920, but if the Havannah Village is made habitable, there would be a considerable increase.

(II). *Overcrowding*:—

(1). Extent—20 houses.

(2). Causes.—In 14 instances, due to large families, and in 6 instances to two or more families occupying one house.

(3). Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.—Contemplated erection of new houses of a better type.

(4). Principal cases of overcrowding during the year, and action taken.—None, owing to no alternative accommodation being available in the District.

(III). *Fitness of Houses*:—

(1). (a). General standard of housing in the District.—A moderate standard, but practically no modern houses; water-carriage system only in a very few houses.

(b). General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.—Ground dampness, defective lighting and ventilation, lack of yard space, lack of back doors, bedrooms deficient in number and size, defective pointing and spouting, unsuitable position and defective structure of closets.

(c). How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners.—To a very considerable extent.

(2). General action taken as regards unfit houses under—

(a). The Public Health Acts.—5 statutory and 10 informal notices served for defects, all of which were complied with.

(b). The Housing Acts.—45 houses, which were scheduled under 1919 survey, were again inspected; 44 were represented to the Council, who make closing orders, which however were not served until 1921; 2 of these houses have been put into habitable condition, with exception of damp courses, suitable sanitary conveniences, and convenient water supply.

(3). Difficulties in remedying unfitness, special measures taken, or suggested, including, for example, any special action taken to secure improved management of property by owners; the gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements; or any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—Lack of alternative

accommodation ; and owners hampered by Rent Restrictions Act and high cost of building.

(4). Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.—Water supply has been found sufficient under present conservancy system, but if water-carriage system was generally introduced into the Urban portion of the District, and many new houses were erected, other springs would require to be added to the present supply ; this difficulty, however, could be overcome. There is no difficulty about removing refuse to tips, but naturally in a small District there is no Refuse Destructor. No special action taken during 1920.

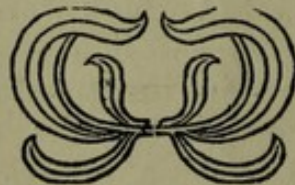
(IV.) *Unhealthy Areas* :—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken in regard to unhealthy areas, under Part I. or Part II. of the Housing Act of 1890.—Representations made with regard to Havannah Village (survey 1919).—Closing orders made, but held over pending receipt of reconstruction scheme from lessee.

(V.) *Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.* :—

(1). As to working of existing bye-laws.—No Bye-laws.

(2). As to need for new bye-laws or revision of existing bye-laws.—Bye-laws required.



APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—General.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	1425
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	11.1
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	..	...	...	0
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	156.2
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	417
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	377
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	0

2.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	248
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	..	...	64
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	44
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	15

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	2
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	...	...	none
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—(a) by owners	...	...	...	none
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners...	...	...	...	none

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... none

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 15
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—
- (a) by owners ... 15
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners... 0

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... 44
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 44
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... 2
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 0
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 0

3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

- (1) Name of Area ... Havannah Village
- (2) Acreage ... 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
- (3) Number of working-class houses in area ... 44
- (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced ... 3

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ... 0

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer—

Medical Officer of Health	}	General inspection, supervision, and advice.
Sanitary Inspector		
Surveyor		
All part-time Officials		

H.M. Office of Works expect to start building early in 1921.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. DAVIDSON,

M.B., ChB., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.,
Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

Cheshire County Council.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended
December 31st, 1920.

The Urban District of Buglawton.

Nature of Inspections Made.	A Number	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statu- tory.	Inform- al.	Notices compli- ed with.	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions.	
						Instituted.	Pend- ing.
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ...	248	5	10	15	...	...	...
2. Cellar Dwellings ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Back-to-Back Houses ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Courts, Yards, Passages ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Cesspools ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. House Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Offensive Accumulations ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. The keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3)) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Private) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Piggeries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. (a) Dairies ...	43	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Cowsheds ...	60	3	5	5	3	...	...
(c) Milkshops ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. (a) Factories ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Workshops ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Workplaces ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(d) Outworkers' Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17. Bakehouses (Overground) ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Underground) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Houses let in Lodgings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Smoke Observations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Re-visits ...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	415	8	15	20	3	...	...

(Signed) C. B. SKELLERN,

Sanitary Inspector, Quarry Bank, Buglawton.

