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Contributors

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Borough of Congleton.

. REPORT .

ON THE

HEALTH OF CONGLETON

FOR THE YEAR 1918,


BY

R. B. Davidson,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

DISHLEY, PRINTER, CONGLETON.



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Report on the Health of Congleton for 1918.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

197 births were registered in 1918, and 199 deaths occurred of inhabitants of the Borough.

Of the births, 97 were males and 100 females, giving a Birth Rate of 16.9 compared with 18.0 last year.

There were 11 illegitimate births, giving a rate of .9.

Of the deaths, 92 were males and 107 females, giving a Death Rate of 19.2 compared with 14.9 last year.

The causes of death were :—

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Measles | 5 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 |
| Influenza | 44 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 10 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 1 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | 1 |
| Cancer | 15 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | 1 |
| Heart Disease | 10 |
| Bronchitis | 25 |

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Pneumonia | 19 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 1 |
| Appendicitis | 2 |
| Nephritis & Bright's disease | 4 |
| Congenital debility, etc. | 6 |
| Violence, apart from suicide | 2 |
| Other defined diseases | 52 |

There were 6 deaths from Zymotic Disease, giving a Zymotic death rate of .5 compared with .6 last year. 87 deaths were of persons over 60 years of age. 15 deaths of children took place under 1 year of age, the Infantile Mortality Rate being 76 per 1000 births, compared with 95 last year.

The causes of death were :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Premature Birth | 5 |
| Chicken Pox | 1 |
| Marasmus | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 2 |
| Convulsions | 1 |
| Influenza | 1 |
| Asphyxia due to want of proper attention at birth | 1 |

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted by the County Council at 11, West Street, and this I hope will help to reduce Infantile Mortality.

300 cases of Infectious Disease were notified :—

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Diphtheria | 4 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 3 |
| Erysipelas | 7 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis | 1 |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | 1 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 16 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 1 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 13 |
| Measles and German Measles | 253 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 |

3 of the cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Fever Hospital, and all the 4 cases notified made good recoveries.

The only case of Scarlet Fever notified was a nurse at the Fever Hospital.

The case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis occurred at Lower Heath and was fatal. Naso-pharyngeal Swabs from the patient and immediate contacts were examined with negative results, so that the diagnosis was not bacteriologically confirmed. Isolation and disinfection was most strictly carried out in this case, and the immediate contacts kept under observation. The source of infection could not be discovered, but no other cases occurred. No provision has been made for the hospital treatment of these cases, and I strongly advise you to see whether some arrangement cannot be come to with the Joint Hospital Committee with regard to any future cases, as a real epidemic of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis is a very serious matter.

The case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis has made a partial recovery, and no other cases have occurred.

Measles became epidemic early in May, the number of cases falling off considerably towards the end of June and increasing again in severity from October until the end of the year. There were 5 deaths due to Measles. All the Schools except Mossley were closed by two members of the Sanitary Committee acting on my advice under Article 57 of the Code, from 27th May to 17th June.

A number of cases of Whooping Cough and a few cases of Mumps occurred in December.

St. Stephen's Mixed and Infant Schools and Mossley School were closed from 12th to the 22nd July, and Brook Street School from the 17th to the 22nd July, on account of Influenza and general sickness amongst Teachers and Scholars.

10 deaths took place from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 2 from other forms of Tuberculosis giving a rate of 1.1, compared with 1.4 last year. Several patients received Sanatorium treatment with benefit in some of the cases.

38 bacteriological examinations were made by Professor Delèpine :—

| Suspected Disease | Number of Examinations | Positive Results |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Diphtheria | 12 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis | 21 | 4 |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis | 5 | 0 |

INFLUENZA

Epidemic Influenza visited Congleton in July and again in October, the total number of deaths in which Influenza was given as the primary cause was 44, giving a rate of 4.2.

The outbreak in July lasted about three weeks, there were a considerable number of cases chiefly of the Gastric type, 5 deaths occurred but compared with the second epidemic the outbreak was mild, and there is nothing specially noteworthy to record. St. Stephen's, Mossley and Brook Street Schools were closed for short

periods in July owing to Influenza and general sickness. In the latter half of October Influenza again visited the town, becoming epidemic at the beginning of November, the district being practically clear of the disease in epidemic form by the end of the year. A very large number of persons were infected with the complaint, the complications being chiefly associated with the organs of respiration, a very considerable number of cases of Pneumonia occurring, but compared with many neighbouring districts the number of deaths seem to show that we did not have the most virulent type of the disease. The infectivity of the disease may be gauged by the large number of cases occurring in infected houses, and in some of the factories.

The death rate I think has been largely increased by persons getting up too soon after apparently mild attack, taking cold, and developing Pneumonia. The number of deaths occurring in which Influenza was given as one of the causes, I give under each week:—

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Week ending January 26th | 1 death |
| „ „ July 13th | 2 deaths |
| „ „ July 20th | 1 death |
| „ „ August 3rd | 2 deaths |
| „ „ October 26th | 1 death |
| „ „ November 2nd | 1 death |
| „ „ November 9th | 1 death |
| „ „ November 16th | 5 deaths |
| „ „ November 23rd | 7 deaths |
| „ „ November 30th | 10 deaths |
| „ „ December 7th | *8 deaths |
| „ „ December 14th | 5 deaths |
| „ „ December 21st | 1 death |

*One of these cases of Influenza is not included in the table on the front page of this report, as it was not the primary cause of death.

Table of age and sex incidence.

| Under 1 year | 1-10 years | 10-20 years | 20-30 years | 30-40 years | 40-50 years | 50-60 years | Over 60 years | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------|
| 1 | 4* | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | Males |
| | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | Females |

*See note above table.

Acting on my advice you issued 3000 notices of precautionary advice to the public on 29th October. St. Mary's School was closed from 5th November until after the Xmas Holidays, January 6th, 1919, and all the other Schools in the Borough from 18th November until after the Xmas Holidays, on account of Epidemic Influenza. Those responsible for Sunday Schools and Evening Continuation Classes, kept them closed during the same period.

Children of School age were excluded from the Picture Palace during the period of School closure, under the provisions of the Public Health (Influenza) Regulations (No. 2). The Directors of the Picture Palace are always anxious to carry out the instructions and suggestions of the Local Authority, and they disinfected by spraying twice daily with a 30% solution of Formalin. As large concourses of persons are liable to spread infection and possibly cause recurrences of the epidemic, it was unfortunate that an election took place at the time.

Those promoting social gatherings and other meetings were urged to abandon or postpone them and in most instances did so.

The Chief Constable acts as Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act and reports that 32 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, as follows:—18 milk, 2 baking powder, 1 coffee, 1 ground rice, 1 pepper, 1 self-raising flour, 1 ginger, 1 oatmeal and 6 drugs. 3 samples of milk were certified to be below the standard:—one sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 9%, a further sample was purchased from the same vendor, taken direct from the cows, and this sample was found deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%, and under the circumstances the vendor was cautioned. Another sample of milk was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 13.3%, in this case a further sample was purchased from the same vendor taken direct from the cows, this sample was certified by the Analyst to be pure. Proceedings were taken and the vendor was fined £5.

The Chief Constable also reports that there are 4 registered common Lodging Houses in the Borough, with a total accommodation for 84 lodgers nightly. These have been visited daily, and found to be properly conducted. During the year 9,759 persons have been lodged, being an increase of 506 compared with 1917.

No Veterinary Report can be included this year owing to the regretted death of the Inspector, Mr. Alfred Holborn, M.R.C.V.S.

Under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1 Dairy 4 Cowsheds, and 2 Milkshops were inspected, 2 informal notices were served, and one has already been complied with.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 42 premises were inspected, 6 formal notices were served, all of which have been complied with.

The final effluent from the Sewerage Disposal Works was satisfactory, 12 samples being analysed. The Town water supply is sufficient and of good quality, and the samples analysed were found

satisfactory. Only a few outlying districts are still not supplied. The water of one well, on analysis was found to be polluted, and this is now being remedied.

17 privy middens have been converted to pail closets during the year, and there are now in the Borough:—

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Water Closets | 955 |
| Waste Water Closets | 24 |
| Pail Closets | 2,598 |
| Privy Middens | 206 |
| Dry Ashpits | 119 |

A tabular summary of Sanitary work is appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. DAVIDSON,

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

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances December 13th, 1910.)

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1918.

J. H. WALTERS, M.R.S.I., Acting Sanitary Inspector.

| Number and Nature of Inspections Made. | Number | No. of Notices served | | Result of Service of Notices | | | |
|--|--------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Statut'y | Informal | Notice com- plied with | Remaining in hand | Prosecu- tions | |
| | | | | | | Inst- it'd | Pen- ding |
| Dwelling Houses (general inspections) | 162 | | 38 | 34 | 4 | | |
| Back-to-back Houses | 2 | | | | | | |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds &c. | 10 | | | | | | |
| Courts, Yards, Passages | 6 | | | | | | |
| Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets | 30 | | 18 | 14 | 4 | | |
| Cesspools | 2 | | | | | | |
| House Drainage | 103 | | 61 | 56 | 5 | | |
| Ditches, Watercourses, &c. | 3 | | | | | | |
| Offensive Accumulations | 146 | 11 | 40 | 48 | 3 | | |
| The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3)) | 11 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Offensive Trades | 2 | | | | | | |
| Slaughterhouses (Private) | 5 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Piggeries | 2 | | | | | | |
| Dairies | 1 | | | | | | |
| Cowsheds | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Milkshops | 2 | | | | | | |
| Factories | 30 | | 6 | 6 | | | |
| Workshops | 2 | | | | | | |
| Outworkers' Premises | 10 | | | | | | |
| Bakehouses (Overground) | 4 | | | | | | |
| Common Lodging Houses | 208 | | | | | | |
| Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits | 124 | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 41 | | 8 | 5 | 3 | | |
| Totals | 910 | 11 | 177 | 166 | 22 | | |

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work during 1918.

Name of District—Congleton Borough.

I. Water Supply.

- 1.—Have any extensions been carried out during 1918? If so, please append brief note.—No.
- 2.—Number of Samples analysed during 1918—chemically—8 of Town's water and 1 from Wells.
bacteriologically—None
- 3.—Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water?—Out-lying districts.

II. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

- 1.—Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1918—None.
- 2.—Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers?—Yes, Astbury Marsh, West Heath, and Dane-in-Shaw.
- 3.—Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1918 as to the disposal works?—No.
- 4.—Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1918?—No.

III. Housing.

- 1.—Number of new houses built during 1918—None.
- 2.—Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909—31
- 3.—Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation—1
- 4.—Number of representations made to Local Authority—1
- 5.—Number of closing orders made by Local Authority—1
- 6.—Number of houses where defects remedied without closing orders being made—None
- 7.—Number of houses where defects remedied after closing orders made—1

- 8.—Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909—2534.
- 9.—Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1918—38
- 10.—Number of such houses closed after notice—None
- 11.—Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c.—None
- 12.—Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district—2
- 13.—Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district—None
- 14.—Has the question of erecting dwelling-houses for the working classes been considered by your Council, and if so, what decision has been reached?—Yes, the Council have decided to erect 50 Houses as soon as the price of materials will allow them to be erected at a reasonable figure.

IV. *Town Planning.*

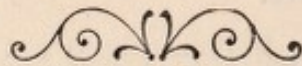
Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1918 for your District or any part thereof?—None.

V. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

1.—Has a Health Visitor been appointed?—Yes, by County Council.

(Signed) R. B. DAVIDSON.

31st March, 1919.



DISHLEY, PRINTER, CONGLETON.

