

**[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Congleton Borough.**

**Contributors**

Congleton (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1937

**Persistent URL**

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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

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# REPORT

ON THE


HEALTH OF CONGLETON

*For the Year 1937*

BY

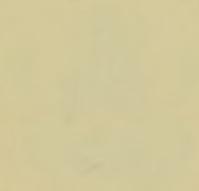
**R. Baring Davidson, J.P.,**

M.B., Ch. B., Univ. Edin., D.P.H., Edin. and Glasg.  
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Of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law,  
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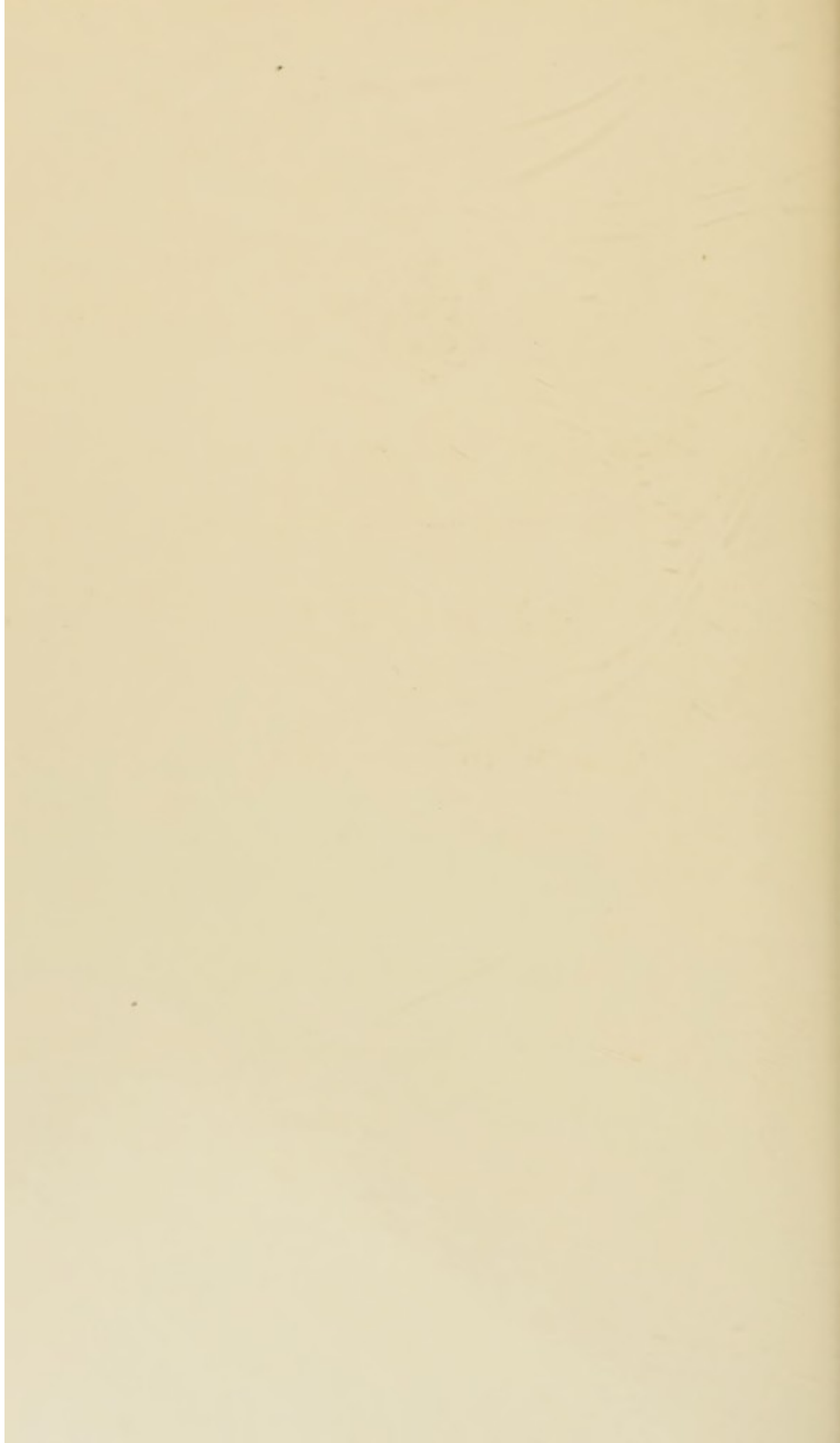


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## REPORT





**BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.**

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# **REPORT**

ON THE

**HEALTH OF CONGLETON**

*For the Year 1937*

BY

**R. Baring Davidson, J.P.,**

M.B., Ch. B., Univ. Edin., D.P.H., Edin. and Glasg.  
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Of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law,  
Member Royal Sanitary Institute,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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J. T. Dishley, Printer, Congleton.



**Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

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**(a) Medical.**

**Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**—R. Baring Davidson, M.B., Ch.B., Edinburgh University, D.P.H. Edinburgh and Glasgow, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Edinburgh, L.R.F.P.S., Glasgow, of Gray's Inn, Barrister at Law, Member Royal Sanitary Institute; part-time officer; salary contribution received under the Local Government Act, 1933; is also a District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator of the Cheshire County Council.

**Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer.**—E. V. Greeves, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., Belfast University; is a part-time officer.

**School Dental Officer.**—J. H. Maywhort, L.D.S., R.F.P.S., Glasgow; is a part-time officer.

**School Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon.**—E. H. Richards, M.B., B.S., University London, F.R.C.S. Edinburgh; is a part-time officer; is also Hon. Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon, North Staffs. Royal Infirmary.

**School Oculist.**—T. Aubrey Jones, B.Sc., London University, B.A., Cambridge University, M.R.C.S., England, L.R.C.P., London, D.O., Oxford University; is a part-time officer; is also Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon, Haywood and Tunstall Hospital, Congleton War Memorial Hospital and Assistant Hon. Surgeon, North Staffs. Royal Infirmary.

**Surgeon in Charge of Orthopædic Clinic.**—W. Mitchell Smith, M.D., C.M., Aberdeen University; is a part-time officer; is also Hon. Surgeon, North Staffs. Orthopædic Hospital and Surgical Tuberculosis Officer, City of Stoke-on-Trent.

**Medical Superintendent of West Heath Sanatorium** (the Borough of Congleton being one of the five authorities constituting the Joint Hospital Board).—J. P. Lowe, M.A., Oxford University, M.B., Ch.B., Victoria University; is a part-time officer.

**Medical Officer, Arclid Smallpox Hospital** (the Borough of Congleton being one of the authorities constituting the Joint Hospital Board).—A. Bennett, L.R.C.P. London, M.R.C.S. England; part-time officer; is also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Congleton.

(b) *Others.*

**The Borough Surveyor.**—Mr. J. Hood, A.I.S.E., A.I.A.S., who is also Sewage and Water Engineer.

**Sanitary Inspector.**—Mr. W. J. Eversett, who also carries out the duties under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Order, Factory and Workshop Act, Rag Flock Act, Housing Acts and Regulations, Canal Boats Acts, and Food and Meat Inspection. Holds the Nuisance Inspector's and Meat Inspector's Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and is a full time officer; a contribution to his salary is received under the Local Government Act, 1933.

**Additional Sanitary Inspector.**—Mr. H. Street, who carries out duties in connection with the Housing Acts. Holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board as a Sanitary Inspector, and is a full time officer; a contribution to his salary is received under the Local Government Act, 1933.

**The Chief Constable.**—Mr. Robert W. James is Inspector of Common Lodging Houses, and undertakes the duties under the Food and Drugs Acts, and Merchandise Marks Act. He is a whole time officer.

**Veterinary Inspector.**—Mr. A. J. Wright, M.R.C.V.S., is a part-time officer; he is also Veterinary Inspector for the Borough of Macclesfield.

**Borough Analyst.**—Mr. S. E. Melling, F.I.C., F.C.S., is a part-time officer; is also the County Analyst.

**School Nurse.**—Mrs. M. Wells is a whole time officer.

**Clerk in Public Health Department.**—Mr. Eric Holden.

The following Medical Officials are employed by the Cheshire County Council within the Borough of Congleton:—

**District Tuberculosis Officer** under the County Tuberculosis Scheme:—L. I. Henzell, M.D., B.S., Univ. London, B.Sc., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., London; is a whole time officer paid by the Cheshire County Council, Congleton being only part of his district.

**Poor Law Medical Out-Relief, District Medical Officer.**—A. J. Pirie, M.B., Ch.B., Univ. Aberdeen, is a part-time officer, is also Police Surgeon for the Borough of Congleton and Medical Referee Ministry of Pensions.

**Public Vaccinator.**—W. I. Fern, J.P., L.R.C.P. and L.M., Ireland, L.R.C.S., Edinburgh.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1937.*

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.*

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Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health of the Borough of Congleton for the year 1937.

The Borough has been remarkably free from epidemic disease during the year.

Good progress has been made with inspections and representations of unfit houses under the Housing Act, 1936, though rehousing is as yet not progressing as rapidly as I should like; only 24 houses have been completed by you during 1937, though 154 houses are in process of being erected on the Bromley Farm Estate. I trust however that now there is less difficulty about land on which to erect your houses still greater progress will be made during 1938, and that during next year the first instalment of houses to relieve overcrowding will be erected, as this important problem cannot otherwise be seriously tackled. I should also like to see housing sites developed in other parts of the town in addition to the Bromley Farm site. If your Astbury Marsh Sewage Scheme is pressed forward you will have more land in the West End of the Borough available for building both Council houses and for private enterprise.

During the last few months the health problem which has chiefly focussed public attention is the necessity for a pure water supply. In the Borough of Congleton we have long recognized this; in 1933 after the Borough Analyst had reported the presence of *Bacillus Coli* in our public water supply, I requested you to and you immediately installed a Chlorination Plant capable of dealing with the water supply in the original Borough; since then the analyses have been excellent. The Buglawton supply has not up to the present been chlorinated, but it will

be carefully watched; this water is very soft and is treated to prevent a plumbo-solvent action. Samples from the public water supply are analysed quarterly; 14 analyses were made during 1937.

On 13th September I reported to you that the water supply at Holly Bush Farm, Congleton Edge, which had been analysed, was found to be unfit for dietetic purposes; you resolved that the Town Clerk write to the owner and occupier of the premises requesting them to make an effort to improve the supply, and warning the occupier that the supply must not be used for human consumption. At the October Health Committee the Town Clerk submitted a letter from the solicitor to the owner stating that he had on instructions from the owner requested the tenant to clean the pipes. You instructed me to take further samples, and at your December meeting I reported that the analyst had again reported that the water was not fit for dietetic purposes. You resolved that the occupier of the premises be given notice under Articles 1 (1) and 13 (1) of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, that the premises are not provided with a supply of water suitable and sufficient for the requirements of the Order.

#### ***General Statistics and Social Conditions.***

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	5,565
Population (1937, estimated by the Registrar General)	14,990				
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	12,885
Number of inhabited houses (1937)	...	...	...	...	4,469
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	2,810
Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	£65,854
Product of a penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	£238

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are:—Silk Spinning, Towel Weaving, Bleaching and Dyeing, Calico Printing, Agriculture, Velvet Cutting and the manufacture of Artificial Silk, Cigars, Skirts, Shirts, Blouses, Hosiery, Smallware, Jacquard Cards and Paper Bags. Most of these occupations are healthy, though occasionally cases of Dermatitis occur at the Dyeing Works. Unfortunately these trades mainly employ female labour, a large proportion of the employed males have found work outside the Borough.



*Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.*

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	205	102	103	Live Birth Rate (1937) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.4
	Illegitimate ...	11	4	7	
Stillbirths	Legitimate ...	9	4	5	Stillbirth Rate (1937) per 1,000 total (live and still) births 44.2 Stillbirth Rate (1937) per 1,000 total population .66
	Illegitimate ...	1	1	0	
Deaths	...	178	85	93	Crude Death Rate (1937) 11.8

Comparability Factor 1.01.

Adjusted Death Rate (1937) 11.9.

1936 Live Birth Rate 14.5.

1936 Stillbirth Rate 73.5.  
(per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)1936 Stillbirth Rate 1.15.  
(per 1,000 total population)

1936 Crude Death Rate 10.7.

1936 Adjusted Death Rate 10.8.

1937 Live Birth Rate for England and Wales 14.9.

1937 Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales (per 1,000 total  
population) 0.60.

1937 Death Rate for England and Wales 12.4.

Deaths from puerperal causes :—			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	0
Other puerperal causes	...	...	0	0
Total	...	...	0	0

## Causes of Death :—

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	5
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	29
Diabetes	...	...	...	4

Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	8
Heart disease	...	...	...	41
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	3
Gastric Ulcer	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1
Diseases of Gall Bladder	...	...	...	2
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	5
Nephritis	...	...	...	3
Congenital causes, etc.	...	...	...	10
Senility	...	...	...	11
Suicide	...	...	...	3
Other violence	...	...	...	5
Other defined causes	...	...	...	14
Deaths of infants under } one year of age }	Legitimate 13	Illegitimate 1	Total 14	

Causes of infants' deaths under one year of age :—

Premature birth	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Cerebral compression	...	...	...	1
Hydrocephalus and Spina Befida	...	...	...	1
Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 64.8.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 63.4.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 90.9.

1936 Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 42.

1937 Infantile Mortality Rate for England & Wales per 1,000 live births 58.



1937 Zymotic Disease Rate .2.	1936 Zymotic Disease Rate .06.
1937 Tuberculosis Rate .66.	1936 Tuberculosis Rate .4.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	...	...	1

***General Provision of Health Services for the Area.***

***Laboratory Facilities:—***

Sputum from suspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is examined at the County Laboratory, Chester.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Manchester University Public Health Laboratory, of specimens from patients suspected of suffering from Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, and the necessary outfits can be obtained from me. Satisfactory use has been made of these facilities during 1937. Mixed milk samples are also examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Examination of fæces and urine in cases of suspected Typhoid and fæces in cases of suspected Dysentery may be carried out if the permission of the Medical Officer of Health be first obtained.

***Bacteriological Reports, 1937.***

Suspected Disease.	Number of Specimens Examined.	Positive Results.
Diphtheria ...	98	19
Typhoid Fever ...	1	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	18	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	66	13
Bovine Tuberculosis (Milk) ...	32	1

Samples of water and sewage are examined by Mr. S. E. Melling, F.I.C., F.C.S., County and Borough Analyst, who also makes chemical examinations of food when required.

***Ambulance facilities:—***

(a) The Fever Hospital has a modern Motor Ambulance, one compartment of which is for the patient and nurse, and the other is a zinc lined compartment for removing infected fomites.

The Smallpox Hospital has a horse drawn vehicle.

(b) There is a most comfortable motor ambulance belonging to the Corporation, in charge of the Borough Police, for non-infectious and accident cases. The ambulance has been called out on 150 occasions during the year.

***Professional Nursing in the Home:—***

(a) ***General.***—The Congleton District Nurse Society is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and there is no financial arrangement or scheme of co-ordination between it and the Local Authority. The Society employs a fully trained district nurse, and also an untrained nurse who obtained hospital experience during the late war.

The Buglawton District Nurse, who is a certified midwife, is supported by voluntary contributions and by the County Nursing Association, to whom the County Council is a large subscriber. The Nurse visits cases of general non-infectious illness in addition to maternity cases.

***Midwives.***—There were 6 Midwives practising in the Borough, but 2 of these resided outside the town. During the year, the County Council appointed 3 of these midwives to be whole time Municipal Maternity Nurses, the others were the Buglawton and Astbury District Nurses and one independent midwife residing just outside the Borough boundary. There were also 4 certified midwives at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital, where maternity cases are admitted to the private wards.

(b) ***For Infectious Diseases.***—There is no provision for the home nursing of infectious cases.



*Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

Type of Centre	Name & Situation	Accommodation	Provided by
Tuberculosis ...	Chapel Street Dispensary, Congleton (Friday mornings)	Out Patients	Cheshire County Council
Child Welfare ...	12, West Street, Congleton (Monday afternoons)	Out Patients	Cheshire County Council
Maternity (Ante-natal) ...	12, West Street, Congleton (2nd & 4th Thurs., in each month at 2-30 p.m.)	Out Patients	Cheshire County Council
Day Nurseries ...	None		
School Clinics:—			
(a) Minor Ailments	Park Street, Congleton (Mon., Wed., Thurs and Fri., 9-30 a.m. to 12-30.)	Out Patients	Congleton Borough Education Committee
(b) Eye	(4 or 5 times a year)		
(c) Dental	Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday mornings, and alternate Wed. afternoons		
(d) Orthopædic	12, West Street, Congleton Tuesdays & Fridays 9-30 a.m.		
Venereal Diseases ...	Hospitals at Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent	In and Out Patients	Cheshire County Council

The Minor Ailments Clinic in Park Street is open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m., the School Nurse is present on each of these mornings, a Medical Officer also attending on Fridays. During 1937, 643 individual children attended for 1,218 complaints, the total number of attendances being 3,575.

The School Dental Clinic in Park Street is held every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning, and also on alternate Wednesday afternoons, 1123 children who made 2057 attendances were treated during 1937; multiple extractions being carried out at War Memorial Hospital every second week if required, a Medical Officer anæsthetising.

The Eye Clinic is held by the School Oculist when there are sufficient cases to warrant it, about 4 or 5 times a year; during the year he examined 72 children.

The School Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon comes down periodically and operates at the War Memorial Hospital, performing 17 operations during 1937, local practitioners anæsthetising their own patients.

The Orthopædic Clinic is held at 12, West Street, in conjunction with the County Council on the basis of user and the payment of a small weekly rent. 54 Congleton children were treated at the clinic for crippling defects, apart from cases due to Tuberculosis, the total number of attendances being 641.

Mr. Mitchell Smith, the Orthopædic Surgeon, attends at the Clinic on the third Tuesday in every month, a Masseuse attends on Tuesday and Friday, two sessions each day, and a specially trained nurse attends for two sessions on one day each week.

Cases requiring operative treatment are admitted to the North Staffordshire Cripples Hospital under Mr. Mitchell Smith, one case was admitted during 1937.

The Congleton Borough Education Committee appointed during the year a part-time male and also a part-time female Physical Training organiser, and I trust that their work in time will relieve the Orthopædic Clinic of the treatment in any event of some of the postural defects.

### **Hospitals :—**

Congleton depends mainly for General, Maternity, Ophthalmic, and Children's Hospitals on voluntary institutions, such as Congleton War Memorial Hospital, Macclesfield General Infirmary, the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary and Hospitals in Manchester.

There is now an X-Ray Department at the Congleton War Memorial Hospital in charge of a Consulting Radiologist, who attends each Thursday morning; there is also an out-patient Clinic for eye cases held on the second Monday in each month by a Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon. The War Memorial Hospital admits both medical and surgical cases to its public wards, which contain 16 beds, with two more in observation wards; there are also 4 private wards, where medical, surgical, and maternity cases are treated. The hospitals available proved ample for the needs of the inhabitants of the Borough during 1937.



**Fever.**—West Heath Sanatorium, situated within the Borough, is supported by the Town Council as one of the five Authorities constituting the Congleton and District Joint Hospital Board.

The hospital serves a population, which at the last census was 45,269. There are 50 beds and 4 cots, 28 of the beds and 2 of the cots being for Scarlet Fever, 12 beds and 2 cots for Diphtheria, 8 beds for Typhoid Fever and 2 beds for Puerperal Septicæmia. Cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Erysipelas and Pneumonia are also admitted if beds are available.

During 1937, the following cases were admitted from Congleton:—Scarlet Fever 35, Diphtheria 10, Erysipelas 3, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis 4.

**Smallpox.**—There is ample accommodation at this Hospital, supported by the Town Council in the same way as the Fever Hospital. It is situated at Arclid,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Borough boundary. There are 10 beds, 5 for each sex. Fortunately no use had to be made of this hospital during the year.

**Maternity.**—In exceptional cases the County Council provide accommodation. Puerperal Fever and suitable cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted to West Heath Sanatorium. The County Council have made arrangements with a number of consultants, who are available in cases of difficult labour, Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia, the fee however will be recoverable in part or in whole if the circumstances of the patient permit; their services were required on 4 occasions during 1937. The County Council also provide for bacteriological examination of lochia, and also nursing facilities in suitable cases. Maternity cases are admitted to the County Institution Infirmary, at Arclid, by the orders of the Public Assistance officials. During 1937, two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were admitted to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary on the advice of Consultants, and another case was treated in the War Memorial Hospital.

***Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health, in force in the Borough, with date of adoption:—***

Congleton Inclosure Act, 1795.

Buglawton Enclosure Act, 1813.

Borough of Congleton (West Road) Housing Confirmation Order, 1920.



Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Parts II, III, and Section 95, comprised in Part X of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (adopted 20th January, 1914).

Public Health Act Amendments Act, 1890 (adopted 4th February, 1891).

Public Health Act, 1925, parts 2, 3, 4, excepting Sections 21, 22, and 44 (adopted April 1st, 1926).

Public Health Act, 1925, Sections 21, 22, and 44, and Part V (adopted by order of Ministry of Health on April 26th, 1926).

In so far as they are not repealed by the Public Health Act, 1936.

Congleton and District Joint Hospital Order, 1904.

Congleton Order of 1904, being a provisional order for altering the Congleton Gas and Improvement Act, 1866.

Congleton Inclosure Act Amendment Act, 1849.

Congleton Gas (Temporary Increase of Charges) Order 1919.

Borough of Taunton, etc. (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1920.

Byelaws with regard to New Streets and Building, 1926.

Byelaws with regard to Slaughterhouses, Cleansing of Pavements, Nuisances, Hackney Carriages, and Common Lodging Houses, 1889.

Byelaws with regard to Pleasure Grounds, 1890.

Isolation Hospital Acts, 1893 and 1901 (in 1924, the County Council made an Order applying the provisions of these Acts to Encephalitis Lethargica).

Byelaws with regard to posts, wires, tubes, and other apparatus stretched or placed over, along or across any street, 1924.

Byelaws made under the Advertisement Regulation Acts, 1907 and 1925, made 26th July, 1929.

Congleton Electricity Order, 27th November, 1929.

Byelaws with respect to Houses intended or used for occupation by the working classes and let in lodgings, or occupied by members of more than one family, made 30th December, 1931.

Congleton (Canal Street Areas) Housing Confirmation Order, 1933 (7th October, 1933).

Byelaws as to Petroleum Filling Stations made under Section 11 of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928 (21st September, 1933).



Congleton Borough (Broadhurst's Yard) Housing Confirmation Order, 1934.

Congleton Borough (The Rocks) Housing Confirmation Order, 1934.

Congleton (Canal Street No. 4) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Cole Hill Bank) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Kelsall Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Kelsall Street No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Off Dane Street) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Primrose Vale No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Primrose Vale No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Dane Street) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Boundary Lane) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Mill Lane, Dane-in-Shaw) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Reades Lane) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Congleton (Borough Road) Housing Confirmation Order, 1935.

Byelaws relating to School Attendance, made under Part IV of the Education Act, 1921, made 16th September, 1935.

Congleton (Priesty Fields) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (St. Helen's Square No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Victoria Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Princess Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Princess Street No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Mill Green No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Mill Green No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Canal Street No. 5) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Canal Street No. 6) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Congleton (Canal Street No. 7) Housing Confirmation Order, 1936.

Byelaws under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, for the purpose of regulating the employment of children in the Borough, made 27th April, 1936.

Congleton (Blake Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (John Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (Milk Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (Milk Street No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (Mill Green No. 3) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (Mill Lane, Dane-in-Shaw No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.

Congleton (Boundary Lane No. 3) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.



Congleton (Bromley Road No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (St. Helen's Square No. 2) Housing Confirmation Order,  
 1937.

Congleton (Canal Street No. 8) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (Barlow Street) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (Wagg Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (Spindle Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (Princess Street No. 3) Housing Confirmation Order, 1937.  
 Congleton (Brunswick Street No. 1) Housing Confirmation Order,  
 1937.

Congleton (Queen Street, Buglawton No. 1) Housing Confirmation  
 Order, 1937.

Congleton (King Street, Buglawton No. 1) Housing Confirmation  
 Order, 1937.

Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922,  
 adopted 20th December, 1937, to come into force on 1st April, 1938.

### *Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.*

**Water.**—The general conditions of water supply have been satisfactory during the year, although it was again necessary to curtail the supply in certain areas at night time to prevent excessive consumption for garden, hose pipe and similar purposes, during summer drought periods.

Attention has been given to the Spring Intakes at the forge supply and various pipe lines cleaned so as to maintain a constant yield from this source.

Complaints of lack of pressure at the high level parts of Waggs Road have been brought to the notice of the Council, and to remedy the difficulties due to elevation of properties in this area in relation to the service reservoir, it is proposed to instal as early as possible a suitable booster plant to increase the pressure from approximately 12lbs. to 40lbs. per square inch.

In the Buglawton area, complaints were received of lack of pressure at Buglawton Hall and the immediate surrounding area, conditions which were said to prevail when under the control of the Buglawton Urban District Council, and after a great deal of investigation and continued search, a defect on the supply main in the Village was located



which, after repairs had been carried out, resulted in very much improved conditions to the high level parts and this gave every satisfaction to the consumers.

The question of considerably augmenting the Water Supply to meet the increasing demands for industrial and domestic use is still receiving the Council's consideration, and, after much deliberation with the Experts appointed, it has now been decided to apply to the Ministry of Health for sanction to sink a trial bore hole near to Hug Farm, Bosley, which the expert Geologist anticipates will yield approximately 500,000 gallons per day.

The following samples were forwarded to the County Analyst for his examination during the year :—

Low Level Supply 4  
 High Level Supply 4  
 Buglawton Old Supply 2  
 Buglawton Bore Hole Supply 4

and all samples were found to be of sound bacteriological condition and of a high degree of organic purity.

The supplies from Forge still continue to be chlorinated purely as a precautionary measure, and the Buglawton Bore Hole supply is being treated for correcting the plumbo solvency action of the raw water by the addition of Soda Ash.

To meet the requirements of private enterprise as well as Corporation Housing Estate developments, the following water main extensions have been carried out during the year :—

3" Off Waggs Road (Banky Fields)  
 3" Off Waggs Road (east side by Moreton Meadows Farm)  
 3" Padgbury Lane  
 3" Giantswood Lane  
 3" & 4" Bromley Farm Housing Estate (part only).

**Rivers and Streams.**—This is under the control of the Rivers Pollution Committee of the Cheshire County Council, whose Inspectors visit the Corporation Sewage Disposal Works periodically during the year for the purpose of inspecting conditions generally, and samples of the final effluent taken before entering the River have proved to be satisfactory.

**Public Cleansing.**—House Refuse is collected weekly, except in isolated parts of the area, where it is attended to periodically as required.

The refuse is removed to the Corporation Tip, situated on the boundary of the Borough, adjoining the Sewage Works, and is disposed of by the method of organised tipping, the bulk of combustible refuse, as well as all butchers offals and diseased meat being destroyed in a small brick incinerator on the tip.

In the Buglawton area, the pail closets and house refuse, is collected weekly by means of galvanised containers and deposited on Tips in the outlying parts of the district. Privies and dry ashpits are emptied on request and the contents are removed to the tip. An old disused quarry situate at Leek Road (beyond Timbersbrook) is used as a tip for dumping refuse, being a considerable distance away from any dwelling house.

During the year 2927 tons of refuse have been removed to the Sewage Works Tip, which does not include the Buglawton area, and this quantity is a slight decrease on last year's figure.

The rats destroyed on the tip during the period under review was 570. Constant attention all the year round is given to keep the tip as free as possible of these pests and results generally have been satisfactory and the department free from complaints.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**—The general system of Sewerage has been satisfactorily maintained during the year, and constant attention is given particularly to the storm overflows on the main sewers in the low lying parts which are inspected and cleansed regularly so as to prevent any possible nuisance or pollution of the river taking place.

The Sewage Disposal Works continues to be heavily taxed with increased daily flows due to the building expansion on private and municipal housing estates, in addition to the conversion of Pail Closets to W.C's and increased trade effluents. Further provision is being made for increased sludge drying beds, and all the under drainage is now conveyed back to the settling tanks for retreatment.

During the year samples of the Final Effluent were taken both by the Corporation and the Cheshire County Council Inspectors for analysis, and the results have shewn that a good class and satisfactory effluent is being discharged into the River.



The Sewage Pumping Plant at the West Heath and Dane-in-Shaw Pumping Stations are operating efficiently and daily attention is given to ensure proper working conditions.

Sewer extensions to meet the demands of private and municipal housing estate developments have been carried out during the year in the following districts:—

Giantswood Lane  
Cross Lane (off Boundary Lane)  
Off Waggs Road (towards Moreton Meadows)  
Bromley Farm Housing Estate (portion)

**Astbury Marsh and West Heath Area.**—The Council has from time to time considered the question of dealing with the sewerage of this whole area, in addition to making provision for dealing with sewerage and sewage disposal for the village of Astbury on behalf of the Congleton Rural District Council. In view of the large amount of schemes in hand and contemplated to be carried out by the Borough Surveyor's department, also to expedite matters, it is now proposed to obtain the services of a Consulting Sewage Engineer to prepare a scheme embodying the whole requirements of this area. It is hoped that it will be dealt with early in the new year to admit of progressing with the actual work in the next financial year.

**Open-Air Swimming Bath.**—The Park Road Open-Air Swimming Bath and Paddling Pool were opened to the public on the 8th May and officially closed on 18th September during which period 21,217 bathers (including school children) and 3,615 spectators passed through the turnstiles, this being an increase on last year's figures for bathers, and a large decrease for spectators. Every attention was given to the operation of the Filtration and Chlorination Plant, with a result that samples of the Bath Water analysed at different periods shewed a perfectly safe and sterile water. It is the Council's intention to heat the Bath Water and to instal the plant in time for the coming season.

**Closet Accommodation:—**

Number of each type of closet, and also of Dry Ashpits at the end of 1937:—

Slop Closets	...	11
Water Closets	...	4645, an increase of 134
Pail Closets	...	797, a decrease of 82
Privy Middens	...	67, a decrease of 7
Dry Ashpits	...	6, in outlying districts

**Conversions of Closets :—**

Pails to Water Closets	...	71
Privies to Water Closets	...	3
Privies to Pail Closets	...	4
Slop Closets to Water Closets	...	0

**Common Lodging Houses.** There are two Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, with a total accommodation for 70 lodgers nightly. These have been visited daily, also occasionally at night time and found to be properly conducted. During the year 8,711 persons have been lodged, being a decrease of 2,077 persons compared with 1936.

**Smoke Abatement.** One nuisance from smoke was reported during the year, an observation was taken and the owners of the factory took immediate steps to abate it.

**Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.** The only Byelaws in force in the Borough for control of premises and occupations are the Common Lodging House Byelaws, Slaughterhouses Byelaws, the General Nuisances Byelaws and Byelaws for Houses let in Lodgings.

There were 3 houses let in lodgings, one of which ceased to be occupied as such during the year, another was officially represented for Demolition under the Housing Act of 1936, a Demolition Order was made and became operative during the year, but the tenants are not yet rehoused. The third is now under consideration for action under the same Act and will be dealt with during 1938.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough.

**Offensive Trades.**—The only offensive trade carried on in the Borough is Tripe-boiling. There are 3 premises at which this is done and all were found to be satisfactory at each visit. There are no byelaws or regulations in force relating to them.

**Ice Cream Dealers.**—There are several persons in the Borough who make and sell Ice Cream, but there are no byelaws or regulations in force to control them. The premises were satisfactory when inspected.

**Fish Frying.**—There are several premises in the Borough where this business is carried on. They are carried on in a satisfactory manner, but there are no byelaws in force with regard to them.



**Schools.** The Congleton Senior Boys' Council School was opened in November, 1937. The lighting of the classrooms is excellent, whilst the heating, ventilation and sanitary arrangements are as good as modern science and skill can devise. Excellent cloakrooms have been provided with heated rails for airing clothes and drying in wet weather.

The Congleton Council School in New Street is at present in process of extension and adaptation as a Senior Girls' School and an Infants' School; the sanitation is excellent. There have been no other changes in the schools.

The drainage of all the schools is connected to the public sewer and each school is supplied with the Town's water.

There is still urgent need for the provision of suitable school playing fields.

#### ***School Closures during 1937.***

School	Period	Cause
St. James' Infants' School	27th January to 8th February, 1937	Influenza & Mumps
Mossley Church of England School	27th January to 8th February, 1937	Influenza

Disinfection was carried out in each instance before the schools were re-opened.

**Rag Flock Act.**—The Sanitary Inspector reports that only one firm deals in rag flock, this being bought from the manufacturers with a warranty as to cleanliness and freedom from infection. 2 special inspections were made.

**Factories and Workshops.**—231 inspections of Factories and 80 of Workshops were made; 11 notices were served and all were complied with.

**Coroner's Inquests.**—14 were held during the year, at which the following verdicts were returned:—

Accidental causes	...	...	...	6
Natural causes	...	...	...	4
Misadventure	...	...	...	2
Suicide while of unsound mind	...	...	...	1
Open verdict	...	...	...	1

**Public Mortuary.**—The mortuary, which is well equipped and in every way satisfactory, was used 8 times during 1937.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—This will be found in tabular form at the end of this report. The Sanitary Inspector made 3,878 inspections, issued 4 statutory and 805 informal notices, 787 of which were complied with during the year; he also instituted 1 prosecution. 730 inspections of common lodging houses were also made by the Borough Police.

**Shops.**—No action was taken during the year relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—In March the tenants of The Rocks and Broadhurst's Yard Clearance Areas were re-housed in new houses provided for them on the Bromley Farm Estate. There was no sign of bugs in either of the houses included in the Broadhurst's Yard Area but most of the houses in The Rocks Area were found to be infested. The Council therefore decided to disinfest the whole of the 23 houses in this area to which decision the tenants agreed. Disinfestation was carried out before the tenants were allowed to move into the new houses provided for them. The method employed was the "Cimex" process and this method will be adopted with regard to future houses found to be infested in Clearance Areas or in houses subject to Demolition or Closing Orders. The houses were treated as follows:—All skirting boards, door casings, window casings, &c., were removed and the houses generally prepared the day before disinfestation took place. On the day of disinfestation the houses were temporarily vacated by the occupants, all furniture, clothing, &c., were left in the houses, all openings were sealed except the door which was left as an exit. Cimex blocks were then lit in all the rooms, the exit door was then sealed and the houses left for a period of 6 hours, after which the houses were opened up and allowed to ventilate thoroughly, the occupants were then allowed to move into the new houses. The work was done by a contractor with the aid of Corporation employees and a member of the Health Department was present.

In all cases where individual houses other than those contained in Clearance Areas or which are the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders are found to be infested in any degree, instructions are given to the occupants as to the best way of dealing with them, sprays are lent to them and germicide supplied.



**Housing.**

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) By Private Enterprise	...	...	44
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	24

NOTE.—The 24 houses erected by the Corporation were to rehouse the occupants of the Broadhurst's Yard and The Rocks Clearance Areas.

**Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.****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)	...	...	...	...	892
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...					2432
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...					150
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...					1361
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...		125
(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	...				514

**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	...	...	...	147
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—**

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—			
(a) By owners	...	...	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners...			0

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 2  |
| (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  | 0  |

\*10 of the Notices relating to the above dwelling-houses were served during 1935-36.

## 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      ...      ...       | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders      ...      ...      ... | 0 |

## 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      ...  | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit      ... | 0 |

*Part IV Housing Act, 1936.**Overcrowding.*—

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year   | 152  |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein      ...      ...   | 152  |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein      ...      ...   | 1037 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | 0    |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | 2    |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases      ...      ...   | 14   |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.—No such steps have yet been taken.   |      |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.—The appointed day for the Borough has been fixed as January 1st, 1938. The above figures are taken from the survey sent to the Ministry of Health in June, 1936, since then no further survey has been made, but two of the overcrowded families were living in houses in The Rocks Clearance Area and were moved into |      |



suitable new houses built for them on the Bromley Farm Estate, thereby reducing the number of overcrowded houses to 152. The Council are considering the preparation of plans and specifications for building 30 houses next year as a first instalment towards alleviating the overcrowding in the Borough.

***Unfit Dwelling-houses, Housing Act, 1936.***

During 1937, a large number of inspections of working class houses were made by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Additional Sanitary Inspector and by myself, a large proportion of our time being given up to this work. This is a very old town with narrow streets and houses that have been huddled together, as if land had been difficult to obtain, but probably they were built in this manner owing to the persistence of old traditions, when houses were built in this manner and surrounded by a town wall for protection. We have long completed our five years' programme, but continue to find many houses which we have regretfully to represent to you, as in many cases this entails considerable hardships on owners dependent on them for their income, and I am afraid that we have not yet got to the end of our task.

You made Clearance Orders with regard to the following areas:—

- 1—St. Helen's Square (No. 2) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 2—Canal Street (No. 8) Area, consisting of 5 dwelling-houses.
- 3—Barlow Street Area, consisting of 4 dwelling-houses.
- 4—Wagg Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 5—Spindle Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 20 dwelling-houses.
- 6—Brunswick Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 7—Princess Street (No. 3) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 8—Havannah Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 9—Queen Street, Buglawton (No. 1) Area, consisting of 10 dwelling-houses.
- 10—King Street, Buglawton (No. 1) Area, consisting of 6 dwelling houses.
- 11—Queen Street, Buglawton (No. 2) Area, consisting of 15 dwelling-houses.
- 12—West Road (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 13—Spring Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 14—Silk Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 12 dwelling-houses.
- 15—Park Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 16—Bromley Road (No. 3) Area, consisting of 4 dwelling-houses.
- 17—Elizabeth Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 6 dwelling-houses.



- 18—Dane Side Area, consisting of 10 dwelling-houses.
- 19—Moody Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 20—Astbury Marsh (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 21—Astbury Marsh (No. 2) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 22—Astbury Marsh (No. 3) Area, consisting of 5 dwelling-houses.

Areas No. 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 were represented to you during 1936. A local public Inquiry was held at the Town Hall on 6th January, 1937, by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health for the purpose of considering objections to Clearance Orders relating to Mill Lane, Dane-in-Shaw (No. 2) Area and John Street (No. 1) Area. No objections were received with regard to Blake Street (No. 1) Area, Milk Street (No. 1) Area, Milk Street (No. 2) Area, Mill Green (No. 3) Area, or Boundary Lane (No. 2) Area, which were also represented during 1936. The Ministry of Health confirmed the Clearance Orders relating to these Areas subject to the modification that the wood lock-up store adjoining Reference No. 3 in Boundary Lane (No. 2) Order, which is not appurtenant to the houses in the Area, was excluded from the Order and from the Clearance Area. The Minister of Health also directed with regard to the house Reference No. 1 in the Boundary Lane (No. 2) Order, that a payment should be made to the owner under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1936, as a well maintained house.

On 25th February, 1937, an Inquiry was held to consider objections to a Clearance Order relating to Bromley Road (No. 1) Area. The Minister of Health confirmed this Clearance Order.

On 20th April, an Inquiry was held to consider an objection to a Clearance Order relating to Canal Street (No. 8) Clearance Area. The Minister of Health confirmed the Clearance Order relating to this Area, and also the Barlow Street and St. Helen's Square (No. 2) Clearance Orders; no objections were made by the owners of these last named areas.

The Minister of Health, on 8th September, 1937, issued Confirmation Orders in respect of the Spindle Street (No. 1), Brunswick Street (No. 1), Princess Street (No. 3) and Wagg Street (No. 1) Clearance Orders, to which no objection had been raised.

An Inquiry was held on 22nd June, 1937, to consider an objection to a Clearance Order relating to Havannah Street (No. 1) Clearance Area. The Minister of Health decided not to confirm this Order, and you resolved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to again report to the Council on the property.



An Inquiry was held on 10th August, 1937, to hear objections to Clearance Orders relating to Queen Street, Buglawton (No. 1) Area and King Street, Buglawton (No. 1) Area. The Minister of Health confirmed these Clearance Orders.

On 26th October, 1937, an Inquiry was held to consider objections to Clearance Orders relating to Queen Street, Buglawton (No. 2), West Road (No. 1), Spring Street (No. 1), Silk Street (No. 1), Park Street (No. 1), Bromley Road (No. 3) and Elizabeth Street (No. 1) Clearance Areas. The decision of the Minister of Health had not been received before the end of the year.

On 14th December, 1937, an Inquiry was held to consider objections to the confirmation of the Dane Side and Astbury Marsh (No. 1) Clearance Orders; the Inspector also inspected the properties comprised in the Moody Street (No. 1), Astbury Marsh (No. 2) and Astbury Marsh (No. 3) Clearance Orders, to the confirmation of which Orders no objection had been received. The Minister's decision with respect to these Orders had not been received by the end of December.

You submitted undertakings to the Ministry of Health to rehouse the occupiers of the above Clearance Areas in houses to be erected by you, viz.:—

Four bedroomed type houses	...	14
Three bedroomed type houses	...	24
Two bedroomed type houses	...	85

You also declared Clearance Areas within the meaning of the Housing Acts in respect of the following Areas:—

Havannah Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.

Harding's Bank (No. 1) Area, consisting of 4 dwelling-houses.

It will be noticed that I represented Havannah Street (No. 1) Area twice during the year.

You submitted an undertaking to the Ministry of Health to rehouse the occupiers and propose to erect the following houses to do so:—

Four bedroomed type houses	...	1
Two bedroomed type houses	...	5

During 1937, I represented 24 Clearance Areas to you:—

1—Wagg Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.

2—Spindle Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 20 dwelling-houses.



- 3—Brunswick Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 4—Princess Street (No. 3) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 5—Havannah Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 6—Bromley Road (No. 2) Area, consisting of 7 dwelling-houses.
- 7—Queen Street, Buglawton (No. 2) Area, consisting of 15 dwelling-houses.
- 8—West Road (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 9—Spring Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 10—Silk Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 12 dwelling-houses.
- 11—Park Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 12—Bromley Road (No. 3) Area, consisting of 7 dwelling-houses.
- 13—Elizabeth Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 6 dwelling-houses.
- 14—Dane Side Area, consisting of 10 dwelling-houses.
- 15—Moody Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 16—Astbury Marsh (No. 1) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 17—Astbury Marsh (No. 2) Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 18—Astbury Marsh (No. 3) Area, consisting of 5 dwelling-houses.
- 19—Havannah Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 2 dwelling-houses.
- 20—Harding's Bank (No. 1) Area, consisting of 4 dwelling-houses.
- 21—Loachbrook Area, consisting of 3 dwelling-houses.
- 22—Burslam Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 6 dwelling-houses.
- 23—Mill Street, Buglawton (No. 1) Area, consisting of 7 dwelling-houses.
- 24—Brook Street (No. 1) Area, consisting of 7 dwelling-houses.

I represented Havannah Street (No. 1) Area twice during 1937. Bromley Road (No. 2) Area requires special mention, it consists of 7 dwelling-houses, Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14, Bromley Road, which I represented to you on 8th February, 1937, as a Clearance Area under the Housing Act, 1936. You did not agree with this representation and requested the owners of this property to inform you whether they had any proposals to submit for carrying out of work to render these properties fit for human habitation. At the April meeting of the Sanitary Committee the owners of Nos. 2, 4 and 6 submitted specifications, the owner of No. 8 stated that she was not prepared to voluntarily carry out any works, and the owners of Nos. 10, 12 and 14 were prepared to comply with all requirements of the Corporation. At the May meeting of the Health Committee it was resolved that the Council accept the undertakings submitted by the owners of Nos. 2, 4, 6, 10, 12 and 14, Bromley Road, and that the Sanitary Inspector report further as to No. 8, Bromley



Road, this resolution was confirmed by the Council on 24th May. At the end of the year the work had been completed so far as No. 6 was concerned; the work at Nos. 2 and 4 would be carried out it was stated, as soon as possible, but the tenants refuse to allow the owners or their appointed workmen to enter the houses for the purpose of carrying out the repairs and that in consequence thereof application was to be made to the local Court of summary jurisdiction for an order requiring the occupiers to permit the execution of the work; with regard to Nos. 10, 12 and 14, the owners stated that the work had been commenced but that delay had been caused owing to the severe weather and the owners undertook to proceed as soon as the weather was favourable. In fact, No. 6 has been put in good order and some new windows have been put in No. 10, apart from these any repairs that may have been done are very trivial, while the six months allowed for carrying out the work has expired, so that the whole state of affairs is very unsatisfactory.

I recommended you to make Demolition Orders with respect to the following individual unfit houses under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936:—

- 1—No. 31, Astbury Street.
- 2—No. 2, Silk Street.
- 3—Coronation Cottage, Cloudside, Buglawton.
- 4—No. 22, Harding's Bank, Buglawton.

You made Demolition Orders in respect of No. 31, Astbury Street, No. 2, Silk Street and Coronation Cottage, and also in respect of No. 41, Union Street, which I represented to you during 1936.

I also recommended you to consider making a Closing Order under Section 20, Housing Act, 1936, in respect of a dwelling-house, No. 3, Cosy Corner, Buglawton, being part of a building. You postponed the consideration of this dwelling-house until a later meeting at the request of the solicitors, who were acting for the owner.

Two dwelling-houses, No. 13, Canal Street and No. 39, Union Street, which I had represented to you prior to 1937, and in respect of which premises you had accepted the undertakings of the owners to make them fit for human habitation, were remedied during the year.

The owner of Nos. 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, and 44, Dane Street, who had carried out works of improvement at those premises, made application for certificates to be issued that the houses are fit for



human habitation and will, with reasonable care and maintenance, remain so fit for a period of ten years, was granted such certificates by you in accordance with the provisions of Section 51, Sub-section (3) of the Housing Act, 1936.

The erection of 24 houses in Greenwood Avenue was completed and the tenants from the Rocks and Broadhurst's Yard Clearance Areas were re-housed on this site in February to March, 1937.

Under the Housing Act 1936, a building contract was commenced on the 23rd June at the Bromley Farm Estate for the erection of:—

- 90—2 Bedroom type houses
- 34—3 Bedroom type houses
- 30—4 Bedroom type houses

being the third contract to provide houses to re-house displaced tenants under the various slum clearance schemes, and this contract terminates on the 30th September, 1938.

Further schemes are under consideration to deal with the slum clearance problem and the acquisition of further sites in different parts of the Borough is now being dealt with.

#### ***Public Health Acts.***

During 1936 you instituted proceedings against the owner of Nos. 5 to 15, Priestly Fields for failure to comply with a statutory notice to remedy a number of defects; these were adjourned owing to the inability of defendant's solicitor to be present, and before the date fixed for hearing the case the work was in hand; during 1937 the Sanitary Inspector reported that the work had not been completed, and you gave instructions to re-open the case in the Borough Police Court. The Justices on two occasions adjourned the case, and finally the Sanitary Inspector reported that the work had been completed.

You instructed the Sanitary Inspector to take proceedings against the owner-occupier of No. 6, Chapel Street, under Section 51 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of his failure to cause the flushing apparatus of the water closet to be kept supplied with water sufficient for flushing, and on 30th December the Congleton Borough Magistrates inflicted a fine of 10/-.

#### ***Inspection and Supervision of Foods.***

(a) ***Milk Supply.***—All farms and dairies are inspected as often as possible by the Sanitary Inspector. The methods of producing and distributing milk continue to improve. During the year 1 statutory and



2 informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds, and 7 informal notices with respect to dairies; all these were complied with except the statutory notice which was served towards the end of the year, and will not expire until 18 months from service. Only 2 licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, both as distributors of Pasteurised Milk.

There are 19 producers of accredited milk in the Borough, 6 of these being retailers.

2 new cowsheds were constructed during the year on modern lines.

Thirty-two mixed milk samples were taken from herds of cattle in the Borough; one of these was reported to contain Tubercle Bacilli; this sample was taken from a cattle dealer's herd and the affected cow could not be detected. Evidently it had been sold during the period between the taking of the sample and the result of the bacteriological examination being received.

(b) *Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Cattle (including cows)	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Number Inspected ...	382	Unknown	1116	1025
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</i>				
Whole Carcases				
Condemned ...	3	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was Condemned ...	3	-	6	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis ...	1.6	-	.7	-
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>				
Whole Carcases				
Condemned ...	5	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	-	-	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5	-	-	2.5

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*—The Chief Constable acts as Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts, and he reported that all samples taken were submitted to the Public Analyst.

The Public Analyst reported that during the year ended 31st December, 1937, the following samples had been analysed under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928:—

Article of Food, etc.	Number Analysed	Number Adulterated	Percentage of Adulteration
Milk	24	3	12.5
Condensed Milk	4		
Coffee and Chickory Extract	3		
Sausage, Polony, etc.	3		
Tea	2		
Ground Ginger	2		
Meat, etc.—Pastes	2		
Cream	1		
Cocoa	1		
Apples	1		
Cheshire Cheese	1		
Sauce	1		
Tinned Fruit	1		
Miscellaneous Groceries	6		
	—	—	—
	52	3	5.7
	—	—	—

Some details are given below of the three samples which the Analyst classified above as adulterated. The Public Analyst did not advise action being taken in any of these cases.

Two samples of milk were found to be deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 3.0 and 4.2 per cent. In the first case the freezing-point of the sample was  $0.550^{\circ}\text{C}.$ , which result, taken in conjunction with other analytical data proved the sample to be free from the addition of water. Similarly the second sample was of abnormal (but otherwise genuine) quality although, owing to the slight "souring" of the milk between collection and analysis, it was not possible to obtain a reliable freezing-point. Another sample was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 8 per cent. The Chief Constable, after discussing the case with an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and also with the Medical Officer of Health, stated that it had been agreed that the case did not call for any special action.



(d) *Chemical Examination of Food.*—Is carried out in his laboratories in Manchester by Mr. S. E. Melling, who is analyst both for the Borough and for the County; to see whether the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, etc., are complied with.

*Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—Is carried out when required at Manchester University Public Health Laboratory. 32 mixed milk samples were analysed during 1937 for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, with a positive result in one instance.

(e) *Nutrition.*—Special attention continued to be paid to the detection of cases of malnutrition and supervision of those already found. 207 children suffering from some degree of malnutrition attended the Elementary Schools, compared with 204 in 1936 and 246 in 1935, which cannot be considered unsatisfactory as an increasingly strict watch has been kept for cases of faulty nutrition, and also during 1937 we have dealt with the school population of the enlarged Borough for a full year as compared with 1937, when during the first three months the Buglawton Council School was not within the Borough. Every child found to be suffering from malnutrition was placed on the free milk list, except where the parents had satisfactory incomes, in which cases they were asked to allow their children to have school milk or to provide extra milk for them at home. No child is removed from the free milk list unless it is thought that it can be done without fear of relapse. Very few bad cases of malnutrition were found; for example, out of 106 cases found at routine examinations only 9 were classified as bad. Half a pint of certified Tuberculin Tested Milk is supplied in sealed bottles to each child on the free milk list in the morning and in the afternoon. I consider that the results have been satisfactory, and have advised the continuance of the scheme. Children attending school, but not suffering from malnutrition, can obtain one-third pint of milk in a sealed bottle on payment of one-halfpenny. 172 individual children received free milk during 1937, the total number of free milk meals provided were 55,603 at a cost of £521 5s. 9d. The total number of one-third pints of milk provided on payment was 177,527, this scheme being run and organised by the Head Teachers. Poverty is not by any means the sole cause of malnutrition, it is found in homes with satisfactory incomes where both parents are working, as a great deal of tinned and preserved foods are used in these households. If more work could be found for the male population, a great improvement could be expected, as at present a very large proportion



of the married women work in factories. I have advocated the establishment of cookery classes for women and I do not see why they could not also be provided for male members of the community who are apparently permanently out of work.

(f) *Shell-fish (Molluscan).*—There are no layings within the Borough.

***Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.***

***Scarlet Fever.***—48 cases were notified, 35 of whom were removed to the West Heath Sanatorium and 1 to Macclesfield Isolation Hospital in December as there was no accommodation at the first named hospital, owing to the prevalence of the disease in some of the other areas that constitute the Congleton Joint Hospital District. One notification was that of a child from another area, who was already in the West Heath Sanatorium suffering from Diphtheria. 10 of the cases occurred during January, representing the end of the rather extensive epidemic of 1936; 20 cases occurred during the last quarter of the year, though nothing in the nature of an epidemic occurred. 11 cases were satisfactorily isolated, the reasons for sending cases to hospital during the year were, unsatisfactory isolation at home, severity of the disease, and in one instance where three children all under 5 years of age developed Scarlet Fever on the same day, it was considered doubtful whether the mother could efficiently nurse all three. One child removed to hospital developed Mumps, while two children who had Chickenpox at the same time as Scarlet Fever were isolated at home, for fear of introducing a mixed infection into the hospital.

***Diphtheria.***—Out of 19 cases notified, 10 were removed to West Heath Sanatorium, 6 others were already in hospital having been admitted there while suffering from Scarlet Fever, 5 of these patients came from other districts. No sanitary defects were found at any of the houses where Diphtheria was notified.

***Erysipelas.***—9 cases occurred, 3 of whom were removed to West Heath Sanatorium. A nurse at this institution also contracted the complaint.

***Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.***—4 cases were reported and all were promptly removed to hospital. A child aged 21 months was notified in February and admitted to West Heath Sanatorium, where she died the next day, the disease being of a very virulent type, the diagnosis was



bacteriologically confirmed; all the contacts had naso-pharyngeal swabs examined with negative results. A case of Scarlet Fever was notified on the same day in the same house as the one of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis and was carefully isolated in hospital, but fortunately did not develop the latter disease. In May another Cerebro Spinal Meningitis patient was notified and removed to hospital, the patient in this instance was a boy aged twelve, who was dangerously ill for a long period but eventually recovered. In this case also the diagnosis was bacteriologically confirmed, but swabs from the immediate contacts proved negative on examination. In December a child aged three months was found to be suffering from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis and promptly removed to hospital, where the diagnosis was bacteriologically confirmed, swabs were taken from all the other members of the family, the one taken from the father proved positive and he was found to be suffering from a mild form of the disease and isolated in hospital. The child suffered from a very severe type of the disease and died immediately after the end of the year. In all the above cases, the greatest precautions were taken with the immediate contacts, the children being excluded from school for three weeks.

***Puerperal Pyrexia.***—6 cases were notified, in four instances a Consultant was called in under the County Maternity Scheme and privately in another case. Two patients were removed to the North Staffordshire Infirmary and one to the Congleton War Memorial Hospital, another patient had already been confined in that institution, the pyrexia in this instance being due to Acute Rheumatism. One of the patients, notified as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia, died.

***Ophthalmia Neonatorum.***—2 cases were notified and made satisfactory progress. This disease should now be notified directly to the County Medical Officer.

***Pneumonia and Influenza.***—18 cases of Primary and 9 of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified; three cases of the former and one of the latter were treated in hospital. During February a large number of cases of Influenza occurred, but nothing to compare with the epidemic of 4 years ago, either as regards severity or number of cases. One school was closed for a short period on account of this disease, an infant school was also closed owing to the prevalence of Influenza and Mumps.



**Mumps.**—A considerable number of cases were reported during January and February, St. James' Infants' Church of England School was closed for a short period partly on account of this complaint.

**Measles and German Measles.**—11 cases of the former and 9 of the latter disease were notified, occurring sporadically between January and the beginning of September, only one case was notified after that time, the child affected having been to a large town, where the disease was prevalent, to see Father Christmas. Two cases of Measles and one of German Measles occurred at West Heath Sanatorium, where they were being treated for Scarlet Fever. The cases were mainly of a mild type.

**Chicken-pox.**—This disease appeared in very mild form during September and continued to occur in the Borough throughout the remainder of the year; no special steps such as school closure were required.

With the exception of one case of Scarlet Fever that required to be sent to Macclesfield Isolation Hospital at the end of December, the hospital accommodation for infectious diseases has been sufficient during the year for the needs of the Borough. I consider, however, that a cubicle block for the rarer types of infectious disease is an urgent necessity; they would also be useful in cases of cross infection, 7 of these being notified to me during the year, also 3 cases of mixed infection.

**Disinfection.**—Of houses and of schools is carried out under the directions of the Sanitary Inspector by means of a formalin spray. When required bedding is removed to the Fever Hospital in a proper zinc lined closed van, and is there disinfected in a Washington-Lyons Steam Apparatus. The van is also disinfected. Schools are disinfected when the Medical Officer of Health thinks this desirable. The bags and dresses of Midwives are disinfected after all cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

All cases of infectious disease were promptly visited by me on notification, and if not removed to hospital were efficiently isolated at home, where necessary the other children were excluded from School and Sunday School, and disinfection was thoroughly carried out.

**Disinfestation.**—No special arrangements are made for disinfestation, except when required in connection with the demolition of houses comprised in clearance areas.



**Artificial Immunization.**—You arranged during 1935 to supply Diphtheria Toxoid-Antitoxin for the inoculation of necessitous children between the ages of one year and fourteen years, free of charge, the parents being responsible for the fees for the actual inoculating. 33 children were inoculated during the year, no severe reactions were experienced and no child refused to have the full three injections.

No local action was taken in regard to the use of Measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

So far as I can ascertain no use was made of either the Schick or the Dick tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever respectively, nor were any vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

**Diphtheria Antitoxin.**—Was promptly used when necessary during 1937; a supply is kept by the Medical Officer of Health and is available for the treatment of all the inhabitants of the Borough.

**Tetanus Antitoxic Serum.**—A small quantity is stocked. This is kept at the War Memorial Hospital.

**Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Anti-Meningococcic Serum.**—The Medical Officer of Health is allowed to obtain this serum for any case that cannot be immediately admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but it is not stocked. None was supplied during the year, as the cases were very promptly notified and immediately removed to hospital.

**Acute Poliomyelitis, Human Convalescent Serum.**—Medical Officer of Health is authorised to obtain this serum if required and available.

Notification of infectious disease was on the whole very prompt; in two instances where the notification of Pneumonia was unduly delayed I called the attention of the medical men concerned to the matter.

School intimations of diseases are utilised when received and promptly investigated; only a few lists in connection with Mumps and Influenza were received during the year, two schools being closed for short periods.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the  
Year 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	48	36	0
Diphtheria ...	19	10	1
Erysipelas ...	9	3	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	4	4	1
Primary Pneumonia ...	18	3	5
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	9	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	3	1
Measles ...	11	0	0
German Measles ...	9	0	0

The admissions to hospital do not include 7 cases of cross infection, 6 of whom were already in hospital with Scarlet Fever prior to being notified as suffering from Diphtheria and one who was in hospital with Diphtheria and later notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever, nor that of a Nurse at the Isolation Hospital who contracted Erysipelas.

**Age Analysis of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)  
during 1937.**

Ages	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Cases ...	10	3	13	13	8	35	20	5	5	6	13	4
Deaths	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	1

**Prevention of Blindness.**

No action was taken nor required under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



*Tuberculosis.*

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...								
1	...	...				2				
5	...	...			5					
10	...	...			3					
15	...	...				2				
20	...	...	1	1						
25	...	...	2	4	1		1	1		
35	...	...	2	3		2		1		1
45	...	...		1			3			
55	...	...	3				2			
65 and upward	...	...			1				1	
Totals	...	...	8	9	10	6	6	2	1	1

There were no non-notified Tuberculosis deaths and notification was efficient.

Included in the above table is one female pulmonary case who was restored to the Register, one male pulmonary case who is an inmate of the County Mental Hospital, and two non-pulmonary cases who were later removed from the Register as non-tuberculous.

The Cheshire County Council treated 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from Congleton in their Sanatoria or at Chest Hospitals, and one non-pulmonary case at an orthopædic hospital; 6 non-pulmonary cases were treated at Congleton War Memorial Hospital, and two cases received treatment by ultra violet rays at Macclesfield Infirmary.

No action was taken, nor required, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. BARING DAVIDSON.

## *Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

### *1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ..	231	8	0
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ..	80	3	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ..	0	0	0
Total ..	311	11	0

### *2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts: *</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. ..	2	2		
Want of ventilation .. ..				
Overcrowding .. ..				
Want of draining of floors ..				
Other nuisances .. ..	5	5		
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient .. ..	3	3		
{ unsuitable or defective ..	1	1		
{ not separate for sexes ..				
<i>Offences under the Factory &amp; Workshop Acts:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse .. (s. 101)				
Other offences .. ..				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total .. ..	11	11		

\*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

### OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

There are no Outworkers of this description in the Borough.



## Tabular Statement of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.	Number	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notices complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions	
						Instituted	Pending
1 Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ..	1116	1	497	482	16		
2 Cellar Dwellings .. ..							
3 Back-to-Back Houses .. ..							
4 Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. ..	30						
5 Courts, Yards, Passages .. ..	77		42	37	5		
6 Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ..	375		81	81			
7 Cesspools .. ..	3						
8 House Drainage .. ..	519		132	132			
9 Ditches, Watercourses, etc. .. ..	4		2	2			
10 Offensive Accumulations .. ..	10		3	3			
11 Offensive Trades .. ..	33						
12 The Keeping of Animals (P H A 1875 S 91(3))	3		3	3			
13 (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) .. ..							
" (Private) .. ..	399						
(b) Other places where Food is produced or sold	380						
14 Piggeries .. ..	105		1	1			
15 (a) Dairies .. ..	70		7	7			
(b) Cowsheds .. ..	67	1	2	2	1		
(c) Milkshops .. ..							
16 (a) Factories .. ..	231	1	7	8			
(b) Workshops .. ..	80		3	3			
(c) Workplaces .. ..							
(d) Outworkers Premises .. ..							
17 Bakehouses (Overground) .. ..	28						
" (Underground) .. ..							
18 *Common Lodging Houses .. ..	734						
19 Houses let in Lodgings .. ..	10						
20 Smoke Observations .. ..	2		1	1			
21 Canal Boats .. ..							
22 Infectious Disease Inquiries and Re-visits ..	229						
23 Miscellaneous .. ..	103	1	24	25		1	
Totals .. ..	4608	4	805	787	22	1	

W. J. EVERSETT,

Sanitary Inspector.

\*730 Inspections made by Borough Police.

