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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

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**INTERIM REPORT**

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Borough**

FOR THE

**Year ended 31st December, 1945.**

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**Medical Officer of Health**—John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Joined H.M. Forces—April 17th, 1943).

**Acting Medical Officer of Health**—R. Baring Davidson, J.P., M.B., Ch B., D.P.H., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., Barrister-at-Law, Member Royal Sanitary Institute.

**Sanitary Inspector**—H. Street, Cert. R.S.I.

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

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year 1945 is still issued in the curtailed form as laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Street, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, is still working single handed and has much of his time taken up with Meat Inspecting, I trust that during 1946 an Additional Sanitary Inspector will be obtained, so that more time may be devoted to matters connected with Housing.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the help which I have received from the Council and Officials during the past year.

#### SECTION A.

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

The customary notes on social conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

*Extracts from Vital Statistics.*

Estimated population ... 13,890

**Births**

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate ...	211	103	108
		Illegitimate ...	22	12	10
Still births	{	Legitimate ...	6	4	2
		Illegitimate ...	0	0	0

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1945 16.7

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population 16.1

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 25.1

Still birth rate per 1,000 of total population 0.43

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total population 0.46

**Infantile Mortality.**

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	10	4	6
Illegitimate	...	...	3	2	1

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 55.7 per 1,000 live births.

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 46.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 47.3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 136.3

**Deaths**

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages	...	...	201	92	109

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 14.4

Death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population, 11.4

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	0	1
Scarlet fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	7	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	2	0
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	2	1	1
Measles	1	0	1
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis	1	1	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and œsoph (M) uterus (F)	4	3	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	9	7	2
Cancer of breast	2	0	2
Cancer of all other sites	11	4	7
Diabetes	0	0	0
Intracranial vascular lesions	22	8	14
Heart disease	56	21	35
Other diseases of circulatory system	0	0	0
Bronchitis	15	7	8
Pneumonia	6	4	2
Other respiratory diseases	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	2	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases	7	4	3
Nephritis	7	4	3
Puerperal & post-abortion Sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	2	0	2
Premature birth	7	3	4
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	4	2	2
Suicide	2	0	2
Road traffic accidents	1	1	0
Other violent causes	3	0	3
All other causes	24	10	14
Totals	201	92	109



## Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	2
		—
Total	...	2
		—

The Maternal Mortality is 8.3 per 1,000 live and still births.

The birth rate is satisfactory though the total number of births was considerably less than in 1944.

The death rate is higher than usual, but included a large proportion of very old people, the number of old people being probably above the average in Congleton, there being 78 deaths of persons over 70 years of age. There does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was above the normal for an area of this type, but was mainly due to premature birth and congenital malformation.

## SECTION B.

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

No change took place in these services during the past year. The facilities at present available appear to be adequate.

## SECTION C.

### *Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.*

**Water.**—There have been no new sources of public water supply during the period under review.

The Hug Bridge Augmentation Scheme has advanced to further preliminary borings and two boreholes have been completed and a third commenced. Test pumping has been carried out with satisfactory results to date and the Council's Consultants (Messrs. G. H. Hill & Sons) have from time to time reported upon the present position, details of which will be submitted to the Ministry of Health, to obtain the necessary sanction for future operations.



Increased daily demands on the existing supplies by industrial and general post-war needs, are constantly having to be met and it is extremely difficult to meet such needs in dry periods.

In times of drought, curtailment of supplies is inevitable and on occasions the daily demand and excessive consumption exceeds the yield to such an extent as to cause the service reservoirs to empty during the night.

The water from the Forge and College Grounds is chlorinated and the Buglawton Borehole Supply is treated for correcting plumbo-solvent action of the raw water by the addition of Soda Ash. Three samples were examined for plumbo-solvency with satisfactory results.

Fifteen samples of water taken from the Town's supply in various parts of the Borough were forwarded to the Analysts (Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Manchester) for examination and the results indicated show the water to be of sound and wholesome chemical and bacteriological quality.

There have been no main extensions carried out during the year.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population for 1941 was 15,160, and the number of inhabited houses then in the Borough was 4,505; on these figures it was estimated that 14,350 of the population received water from the public supply, a number of houses already scheduled for further action are supplied by means of stand-pipes. A number of scattered houses in the rural part of the area have their own water supply, there being no main in their near vicinity.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The scheme to deal with the drainage and sewage disposal of West Heath and Astbury Village in the Congleton Rural area is still in abeyance and it is hoped to deal with this matter in the Council's immediate post-war development schemes. Similarly, there has not been the necessity to carry out any sewer extensions owing to lack of building throughout the year.

The Sewage Disposal Works is operating to capacity and although increased daily flows are continually experienced, due to increased loads from industrial sources, such as dairies and other factories operating under post-war conditions, the Works are maintained and operated in as efficient a manner as possible.

Samples of the 'Final Effluent' at the Works have been taken periodically for analysis by the County Authorities and the results have always proved to be satisfactory.

**Public Cleansing.**—There has been no deviation from the existing practice in the method of Public Cleansing, Collection and Disposal of House Refuse. A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained to meet the wishes of the Council.

Trade refuse is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority by arrangement, and under Government War Measures all Butchers' Offal and Diseased Meat is collected and disposed of outside this area under the instructions and supervision of the Ministry of Food.

In the Buglawton outlying area, the closet pails and refuse is collected weekly and deposited on the tip in the country area.

During the year 2,756 tons of Refuse was collected and disposed of at the Refuse Tip, which is an increase of 7% on last year's figures.

The local Salvage Scheme is in constant active operation in accordance with instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Supply. The total of salvage materials collected and disposed of during the year is as follows:—

					Value		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	112	7	1	—	720	19	11
Rags	3	17	3	—	54	19	9
Kitchen Waste	272	14	2	—	431	14	6
Bones	5	11	1	26	29	5	4
Iron	3	11	1	1	9	16	5
Bottles	—	—	—	28			6
Total	398	2	1	27	£1,246	16	5

**Closet Accommodation:—**

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1945	...	...	...	...	4
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1945	...	...	...	...	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas	...	...	...	...	205



**Sanitary Inspection.**—16 statutory notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector and 11 were complied with during the year. 438 informal notices were served, of which 413 were complied with.

***Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943 :—***

Acting in conjunction with the County Scheme of administration, a Rodent Operative was appointed to carry out treatment of infested premises. This work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year under review the Corporation received a "Direction" from the Ministry of Food (Infestation Branch) to carry out the treatment of sewers in the Borough. This work was carried out in co-operation with the Borough Surveyor's Department with very satisfactory results.

Number of infestations discovered and treated	...	57
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	...	8,970
Number of annual contracts	...	31
Number of clearance contracts	...	7

**SECTION D.**

***Housing.***

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Largely owing to the restrictions on Housing activities imposed on the outbreak of hostilities, the Housing position in the Borough of Congleton is very serious and constitutes the main problem facing the Corporation at the present time.

The figures on overcrowding, based on the 1936 survey and given in previous reports are obviously now incorrect. Many additional cases must be added from a large number of insanitary houses already scheduled for future action and also from houses otherwise satisfactory, where, owing to war conditions overcrowding obtains. It is hoped that the Sanitary Inspector's Department will be in a position to carry out a further survey of overcrowding in the near future.



## SECTION E

*Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**Milk Supply:—*

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	...	...	41
Number of visits paid to dairies...	...	...	42
Number of producers of "Accredited" Milk 8 of whom are retailers.		...	30
Number of producers of Tuberculin-tested milk		...	2
Number of licenses issued by the Corporation to distributors of Pasteurised milk	...	...	1

Out of 14 mixed milk samples examined for tubercle bacilli, none were found to be positive.

During the year 1945, 433 samples of milk were taken from Producer Retailers and submitted to the "Resazurin" Test. From the point of view of clean milk production, the results have been of great assistance to all concerned in this important branch of Public Health work. The sampling and testing is carried out in co-operation with the Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath, and forms part of the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

15 informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds and 16 with respect to dairies; all the notices in connection with dairies and 10 notices regarding cowsheds, were complied with.

*Meat and other Foods.—*

Total amount of meat destroyed was 108,908 lbs.

Approximately 49% of this meat was taken from casualty animals and the total weight destroyed also includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

## SECTION F.

*Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.*

There was a considerable fall in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with the previous year, 39 notifications were received, 36 cases were treated in hospital and the remainder satisfactorily isolated at home. The cases were distributed throughout the year and were mainly mild in type.

173 notifications of Measles were received, the continuation of an epidemic commencing in November, 1944, the complaint was also epidemic during the first quarter of 1945. One death was due to Measles and a rather severer type of the disease occurred than during the previous year.

50 cases of Whooping Cough were notified; the cases were mainly without complications and no deaths were due to this disease.

26 notifications of all types of Pneumonia were received, six deaths being due to this cause.

In addition to the cases given in the Table of Notifiable Diseases, 1 non-civilian was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever, 2 from Measles, 1 from Dysentery and 1 from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. All of these cases were removed to hospital by the Military Authorities.

***Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1945***

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	39	36	0
Diphtheria	...	...	8	8	0
Measles	...	...	173	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	50	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	26	0	6
Erysipelas	...	...	11	1	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	4	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	0	0



*Age Distribution of Infectious Diseases.*

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	0	2	1	2	2	19	6	3	4	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0
Measles ...	13	22	21	30	24	56	4	1	2	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	4	6	7	4	8	20	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	5	1	0	3	0	3	1	0	1	2	5	5
Erysipelas ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0

*Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.*

There were eight cases of Diphtheria, all were removed to hospital and recovered. One of the cases had been immunised.

A Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign was carried out during April, this comprised of a film show (which was not very well attended), slides exhibited at the local cinemas through the courtesy of the proprietors, press advertisements, posters exhibited and leaflets distributed.

The following table shows the extent to which the immunisation scheme has been used during the year :—

Number of children immunised, under school age...	...	144
Number of children immunised, of school age ...	...	74
Total number of children immunised since inception of the scheme in 1939 ...	...	2,670



*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1945.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr. ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5-15 ...	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
15-25 ...	3	3	1	0	0	2	0	0
25-35 ...	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45 ...	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
45-55 ...	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
55-65 ...	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and upwards ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	12	4	4	4	7	2	2	0

*Factories Act, 1937.*

No Certificates have been granted during 1945 in respect of Fire Escapes under the Factories Act, 1937.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. BARING DAVIDSON,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.



