

**[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Congleton Borough.**

**Contributors**

Congleton (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1946

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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.



**INTERIM REPORT**

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Borough**

FOR THE

**Year ended 31st December, 1946.**



**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.

**Senior Sanitary Inspector**—Harold Street, Cert. R.S.I.

**Additional Sanitary Inspector**—Leslie G. Hopes, Cert. R.S.I.  
(Commencing February 11th, 1946)

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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 1946 is still issued in the curtailed form as laid down by the Ministry of Health.

I am pleased to say during 1946 an Additional Sanitary Inspector has been appointed and a Clerk in the Sanitary Department has returned from Service with H.M. Forces, so that more time can now be devoted to matters connected with Housing.

Congleton's greatest needs are a considerable number of new houses and an ample water supply.

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, 1946.

*Extracts from Vital Statistics.*

Estimated population ... 14,620

**Births**

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate ...	250	128	122
		Illegitimate ...	23	12	11
Still births	{	Legitimate ...	7	6	1
		Illegitimate ...	2	1	1

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1946 18.6

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population 19.1

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 32.

Still birth rate per 1,000 of total population 0.61

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total population 0.53

**Infantile Mortality.**

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	8	6	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	0

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 33. per 1,000 live births.

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 43.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 32.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 43.5

**Deaths**

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages	...	...	186	77	109
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population					12.7
Death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population,					11.5

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	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	8	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	6	2	4
Measles	0	0	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and œsoph (M) uterus (F)	4	1	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	1
Cancer of breast	6	0	6
Cancer of all other sites	14	6	8
Diabetes	1	0	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	29	7	22
Heart disease	45	18	27
Other diseases of circulatory system	5	2	3
Bronchitis	11	8	3
Pneumonia	8	4	4
Other respiratory diseases	1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	1	1	0
Other digestive diseases	2	1	1
Nephritis	4	1	3
Puerperal & post-abortion Sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	1	0	1
Premature birth	1	1	0
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis.	5	5	0
Suicide	0	0	0
Road traffic accidents	0	0	0
Other violent causes	6	2	4
All other causes	24	8	16
Totals	186	77	109

## Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
Other Maternal causes	...	1
		—
Total	...	1
		—

The Maternal Mortality is 3.5 per 1,000 live and still births.

The statistics for the year are satisfactory and there does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

*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.

*QUALITY*—Chlorination of the Forge Supply (supplying 400,000 gallons per day) continues to be necessary as a precautionary measure; whilst the plumbo-solvency of the Buglawton Bore-Hole water has to be corrected by the addition of Soda Ash. The Forge Supply, with a total hardness of 25 degrees, is NOT subjected to any softening treatment.

*QUANTITY*—During the year, erection of additional houses and further industrial development has so increased the consumption, that the total yield from all sources is barely sufficient to maintain a 24 hour supply. During periods of drought when the yield is diminished and periods of severe frosts when leakage due to bursts is excessive, the supply to most areas of the town has been curtailed throughout the night.

The Scheme being prepared by the Council's Consultants for delivering one million gallons per day from the Hug Bridge Bore-holes

is now in an advanced stage of preparation, whilst negotiations regarding land for new service reservoir and wayleaves in connection with pumping and delivery mains are also reaching settlement. Final approval to the scheme by the Ministry and an actual commencement of work thereon, is anticipated during the current year.

**ANALYSIS**—Samples have been forwarded to the County Analyst for his examination during the year, as follows:—

High Level Supply	...	2
Low Level Supply	...	2
Corda Well Supply	...	2
Buglawton Old Supply	...	2
Buglawton Bore-hole Supply	.	2

and all samples were found to be of sound bacteriological condition and of satisfactory organic purity.

**PLUMBO-SOLVENCY**—To the Buglawton Bore-hole supply (80,000 gallons per day) soda-ash is added to increase the pH value from 5.2 to 7.0.

No contamination was noted 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 vicinity.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—Extensions to the existing sewerage system have been carried out during the year to meet the demands of housing estate development at:—

Bromley Farm Estate	30 houses
Bulls Lane, Buglawton	8 „
Tall Ash Avenue, Buglawton	10 „
Jubilee Road	10 „
Rood Hill Estate	96 „ (in course of laying)
Astbury Street	50 Tarran bungalows.

A scheme to deal with the sewerage and sewage disposal of the West Heath area of the town (which would accommodate over 1,000 additional houses), in addition to the Astbury Village and Black Firs district on behalf of the Congleton Rural District Council, is being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, at an estimated cost of approximately £59,000.



At the Sewage Disposal Works, samples of the "Final Effluent" periodically analysed by the County Authorities, have proved satisfactory despite the Works operating to full capacity and the daily flow still on the increase.

**Public Cleansing.**—During the past year, the Council have resolved to effect various improvements in the organisation of the Refuse Collection Service, as follows —

- (a) The adoption of the "Bradford" or controlled tipping system of refuse disposal.
- (b) The separation of the refuse and salvage collection work from that of the Highways Department and the provision of a separate Depot.
- (c) The provision of an additional refuse vehicle.
- (d) The adoption of an organised system of trade refuse collection and the institution of a Scale of Charges.

These improvements are to be effected during the year 1947.

Existing arrangements will continue as regards the collection and disposal of Butchers Offals and diseased meat; whilst in the outlying Buglawton area, pails and house refuse will continue to be collected weekly.

During the year, 3,032 tons of Refuse have been collected and disposed of, this being the highest figure ever recorded.

The Local Salvage Scheme continues in 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:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	Value		
					£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	119	2	3	0	758	18	7
Rags	2	5	2	0	31	8	9
Kitchen Waste	133	5	3	0	222	17	0
Bones	4	2	0	12	21	9	3
Iron (Scrap)	1	12	3	0	5	0	8
Jars	1	17	0	0	4	10	6
Bottles	949 dozen				72	1	6
Total	262	5	3	12	£1,116	6	3

**Closet Accommodation :—**

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1946 ...	3
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1946 ... ..	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas ... ..	202

**Sanitary Inspection.**—27 statutory notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector and 19 were complied with during the year. 888 informal notices were served and 459 were complied with during the year.

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

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

Number of infestations discovered and treated ...	60
Estimated number of rats killed during the year ...	3,800
Number of annual contracts ... ..	42
Number of clearance contracts ... ..	2
Number of private dwellings treated ... ..	16

The treatment of sewers and water courses was carried out with the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

Estimated number of rats killed ... ..	1,165
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**SECTION D.****Housing.**

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

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 still constitutes the main problem facing the Corporation during 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.

115 houses scheduled for immediate action under the Housing Act, 1936, when the restrictions are removed, were inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936, in order to ascertain the minimum repairs necessary to make the houses temporarily habitable. In each case Notices were served on the owners and the necessary work carried out.

500 visits were paid to premises in connection with the issuing of Licences under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A.

## SECTION E

### *Inspection and Supervision of Foods.*

#### *Milk Supply:—*

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	... ..	63
Number of visits paid to dairies...	... ..	65
Number producing "Accredited" Milk, 8 of whom are retailers	... ..	30
Number producing Tuberculin tested milk	... ..	3
Number of licences issued to distributors of Pasteurised milk	... ..	1
Number of licences issued to dealers in respect of Tuberculin tested milk	... ..	2

During the year 1946, 514 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 again proved 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.

8 informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds and 5 with respect to dairies. All these notices were complied with.

**Ice Cream.**—During the season 9 samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted to Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Manchester, for Bacterial Count. Unfortunately, owing to the fact that the analysts were inundated with samples of ice cream it was impossible for us to submit a larger number of samples. The results were as follows:—

Manufacturer.	Sample No. 1. B.Coli - Aerogenes	Bacterial Count.
Number 1	Very good	Very good
Number 2	Good	Good
Number 3	Good	Good
Number 4	Fair	Good
Number 5	Fair	Bad
Number 6	Bad	Bad
Number 7	Very bad	Very bad

Repeat samples were taken from manufacturers 5 and 6 and the results showed an improvement as regards cleanliness. Regarding manufacturer 7, the Chief Sanitary Inspector advised him to discontinue the manufacture of Ice Cream and a written undertaking was submitted to this effect. 6 informal notices were served on owners of premises, all of which were complied with. Advice was given to the manufacturers regarding methods of production and sterilization of equipment.

Number of visits to Ice Cream premises ... .. 40

**Meat and other Foods.**—

Total amount of meat destroyed ... 93,802 lbs.

Approximately 46% 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.

17 informal notices were served with respect to Fried Fish shops and 7 were complied with.

## SECTION F.

*Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.*

There was again a welcome reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with the previous year. 24 notifications were received, 21 cases were treated in hospital and the remainder satisfactorily isolated at home. The cases were distributed throughout the year.

2 cases of Diphtheria were notified, which compares very favourably with last year, both cases were adults, and were removed to hospital.

The epidemic of Measles has abated, there being only 6 cases notified during the year.

27 notifications of all types of Pneumonia were received, eight deaths being due to this cause.

In addition to the cases given in the Table of Notifiable Diseases, 2 non-civilians were notified as suffering from Diphtheria. Both cases were removed to hospital.

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths from each of these diseases:—

*Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1946*

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	21	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Whooping Cough	40	0	0
Measles	6	0	0
Pneumonia	27	3	8
Erysipelas	5	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	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	1	1	3	0	9	7	1	2	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	4	8	9	7	10	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	3	2	2	6	6
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation.*

A Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign was carried out in March and April, 1946, this comprised of a film show, slides at the local cinemas through the courtesy of the proprietors, press advertisements and posters exhibited.

The attendance of the general public at the film show, which was an exceptionally interesting one, was again disappointing, though I am pleased to say a number of members of the Town Council, officials, nurses and school teachers attended.

Notwithstanding the campaign, there was a falling off in the number of children of school age who were immunised.

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

Number of children immunised, under school age...	...	162
Number of children immunised, of school age ...	...	36
Number of children given a reinforcing injection	...	2
Total number of children immunised since inception of the scheme in 1939	...	2,868

*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1946.*

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	1	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15-25 ...	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35 ...	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-45 ...	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-55 ...	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
55-65 ...	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and upwards ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ...	5	7	3	1	8	1	0	0

*Factories Act, 1937.*

Two Certificates have been granted during 1946 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of 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.





