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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

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REPORT

ON THE

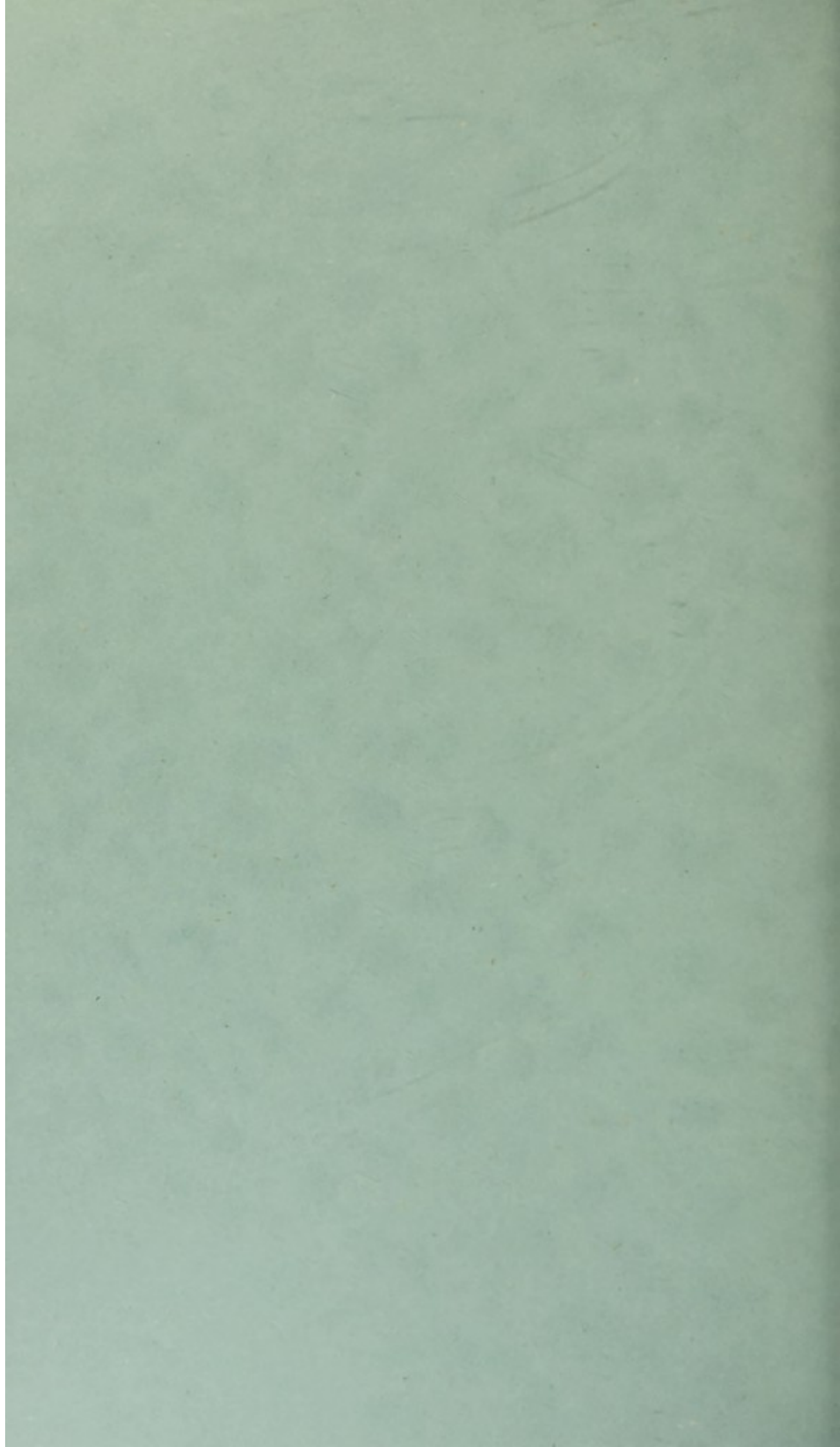
Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Borough

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1953.

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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

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# REPORT

ON THE


**Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Borough**

FOR THE

*Year ended 31st December, 1953.*

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*Medical Officer of Health*—L. Rich, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*—R. G. Whiston, M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector*—W. P. S. Rae, M.S.I.A.

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

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Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1953 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

There have been no significant changes in the vital statistics during the year, and once again, I am pleased to report that there has been no death of a mother in child birth.

I have in previous reports, commented on the slowness of the Council House building programme, particularly so, if this is compared with the large number of people waiting for new homes and the very unsatisfactory conditions that exist in the Borough. It is all the more satisfactory therefore to have to report that during the year, 167 houses and 10 bungalows were completed and occupied, as compared with only 73 houses in 1952. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that housing is the greatest health problem that the Council has to face and requires from all concerned the maximum effort and concentration.

In the field of Public Health, prevention of disease, rather than the curing of illnesses is the fundamental objective. Although the provision of good housing, adequate and clean water and satisfactory drainage remain the basic requirements, in the last resort, prevention of disease depends on the personal effort of each responsible individual. The energy required for this effort can only spring from a sound knowledge of all the facts. The fundamental question in Public Health to-day is at what point and where should this knowledge be acquired. It is my belief

that the only satisfactory place where health education can be given is in the schools. This should be begun from the moment the child enters school until it finally leaves. At all stages, knowledge should be imparted on the fundamentals of hygiene, personal and general, appropriate for the child's age.

Hygiene as a science and art should be made a compulsory subject in all schools. It is only when each one of us has a thorough understanding of the working of our own bodies and has a knowledge of the fundamentals in the causation and transmission of disease and illness, will we be in a position to take those necessary simple steps to maintain ourselves in a healthy state and prevent disease.

Once again, I wish to record my sincere thanks to the Clerk and his staff for their help and guidance in enabling me to carry out my duties. I wish to thank too, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. G. Whiston, and his staff, without whose co-operation, no medical officer can adequately carry out his duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1952.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population ... 15540 (15430)

### Births

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	Legitimate ...	224 (189)	113 (101)	111 (88)*
	Illegitimate ...	8 (11)	3 (9)	5 (2)
Still births	Legitimate ...	6 (7)	3 (2)	3 (5)
	Illegitimate ...	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid. 1953 14.4 (12.6)

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 15.5 (15.3)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 29.2 (33.8)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population .45 (.45)

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 total population .35 (.35)

### Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ...	7 (4)	4 (2)	3 (2)
Illegitimate ...	- (1)	- (1)	- (-)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births 30.1 (25)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 26.8 (27.6)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 30.1 (21.2)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 0 (90.9)

### Deaths

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages ...	186 (173)	103 (83)	83 (90)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 12 (11.3)

Death rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 11.4 (11.3)



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

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	1	1
Tuberculosis, other ...	2	1	1
Syphilitic disease ...	2	1	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	11	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	1	—	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	13	8	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	2	2	—
Diabetes ...	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	32	13	19
Coronary disease, angina ...	22	16	6
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	—	1
Other heart diseases ...	39	24	15
Other circulatory disease ...	5	—	5
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	2	2
Bronchitis ...	8	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	4	3	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	18	11	7
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—
All other accidents ...	5	2	3
Suicide ...	1	1	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
Total ...	186	103	83

## Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

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

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 0 (0)

**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.**

***Care of Mothers and Young Children.***

The popularity of the Infant Welfare Centre continues to be maintained at a high level. Mothers and children are seen here who are quite healthy and it is our object by imparting advice on diets and personal hygiene to keep them so. Much of the credit for the remarkably low infant mortality rate in this country is due to the work carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and visits by Health Visitors to the homes of mothers with babies and young children. Constant supervision, advice, warning and demonstration does infinitely more good than the treating of medical diseases that have arisen through ignorance or neglect.

For some time past, Congleton was without an Ante-Natal Clinic. The mothers of this town had recourse to travel to Macclesfield for specialist opinion and advice. As can well be imagined, this proved a great inconvenience to mothers in that particular condition, as well as being an expensive item of transport. Arrangements were therefore made with the Hospital Management Committee and the General Practitioners of the town to establish an Ante-Natal Clinic once more in Congleton. The Local Health Authority provides the accommodation and the attendant nursing staff and pays for the weekly visit of the Specialist.



*Statistics.**Mothers' Clinics*

		New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held
Ante-natal	...	2 (9)	3 (36)	3 (23)
Post-natal	...	0 (3)	0 (33)	0 (11)
Dental :—				
Pre-natal		6 (1)	9 (1)	
Nursing mothers		11 (9)	25 (30)	
Dentures supplied		2 (7)		

*Infant Welfare*

New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
148	1	2	1588	257	257	48	925	19.3
(108)		(12)	(1611)		(764)	(49)	(927)	(18.9)

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per Clinic
<i>Ophthalmic Clinic</i>	5 (6)	10 (11)	12 (13)	.8 (.8)
<i>E.N.T. Clinic</i>	3 (0)	3 (0)	7 (4)	.4 (0)

*Day Nurseries.*

A very high average attendance continues to be maintained at the Nursery. Even with the holiday period and two or three weeks during the winter months when sickness is rife included in the figures, the average attendance is over 100%.

There is no doubt that the Day Nursery in Congleton is very much appreciated by the parents and is very well used. As has been pointed out on several occasions, Congleton is a town whose industries employ a large number of women in its factories. If the Health Authority were not to provide these facilities, it is more than likely that many young children unable to fend for themselves would be in grave danger as the mothers would still go out to work. Apart from this aspect, the Day

Nursery should be looked upon as a place where in addition to care and attention the child is also receiving education.

Every effort is made by all concerned to run the Nursery economically and efficiently.

#### *Statistics.*

	Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
0-2 years	11 (8)	2676 (2136)
2-5 years	29 (30)	7224 (7407)

#### *Midwifery.*

Two midwives employed by the Cheshire County Council practise within the Borough.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
D. H. Wright	Ewanrigg, Giantswood Lane, Congleton	Congleton 240
M. Williams	23, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 690

A high proportion of Congleton mothers must of necessity through lack of accommodation in the town, go into Hospital to have their babies. It is necessary in certain instances on medical grounds or where the home conditions are unsatisfactory for these women to have their confinements in hospital. On the other hand, many mothers could quite safely and satisfactorily have their babies at home.

The official policy on this matter is that provision should be made for 50% home and hospital confinement.

There is no doubt in my view that a good case exists for establishing more maternity bed accommodation in Congleton. Not only would this relieve the mothers of an uncomfortable journey at a difficult time but would relieve the transport service of considerable expense.

#### *Home Nursing.*

Two District Nurses are resident in Congleton Borough. They both occupy Council Houses, one of which is furnished and maintained through the Divisional Medical Office.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
M. S. Bowman	4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 444
R. Ward	20, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 2104



The value of our Home Nurses cannot be over estimated. They work under the general guidance of the family doctor and make it possible for treatment to be carried out at home which would otherwise necessitate removal to hospital.

Nurse Bowman as well as being a Home Nurse also acts as a District Midwife.

### *Vaccination and Immunisation.*

There has been a satisfactory increase in the number of children who are being immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. There is no doubt that Diphtheria Immunisation has been an outstanding success. In 1952, for example, in England and Wales, there were only 376 cases and 32 deaths from Diphtheria, whereas, before 1941 there were on an average nearly 60,000 cases and 3,000 deaths each year from this dreadful disease.

There is no doubt too, that if we fail to maintain a high percentage of children adequately immunised against Diphtheria, we will get again epidemics and deaths from this disease.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is still in its early stages, but already sufficient evidence has been accumulated to show that here too, the incidence of another crippling and dangerous disease is being reduced both in its frequency and severity. The practice now-a-days is to combine the immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and so reduce the number of injections required.

I am pleased to report an increase in the number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out against Smallpox. Although this disease is a rarity in this country, we do from time to time get outbreaks from accidental or unrecognized importation from abroad

Parents do not realise that the safest and best time to have a child vaccinated is when it is three months old. If vaccination has to be done in older children or in adults, it can produce severe reactions which it rarely does in young infants.

*Statistics.**Diphtheria Immunisation.*

Pre-school children	...	...	90	(82)
School children	...	...	2	(9)
			<hr/> 92	<hr/> (91)
Reinforcing Injections		...	73	(28)

*Whooping Cough Immunisation.*

Pre-school children	...	...	16	(20)
School children	...	...	12	(21)
			<hr/> 28	<hr/> (41)

*Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough).*

Pre-school children	...	...	120	(38)
School children	...	...	7	(1)
			<hr/> 127	<hr/> (39)

*Primary Vaccination.*

Pre-school children	...	...	95	(40)
School children	...	...	11	(2)
Adults	...	...	26	(12)
			<hr/> 132	<hr/> (54)

*Re-Vaccination.*

Pre-school children	...	...	-	(-)
School children	...	...	2	(1)
Adults	...	...	45	(19)
			<hr/> 47	<hr/> (20)

*Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport.*

Since the inception of the service in 1948, the mileage figures for all forms of transport have continued to rise steadily. There has been an increase of 4499 miles for Ambulance Transport and 13652 miles for Sitting-case journeys during the year for the whole division.



There is no doubt from the reports I have received from the ambulance drivers that they consider many cases they have to handle as not being in need of transport. Whilst agreeing that it is dangerous to draw hard and fast conclusions from the opinions of non-medical personnel, it still remains a fact that many people are being provided with transport who could well manage without. The demands and requests for the provision of transport for these cases are not originated by your Medical Officer. I am merely an agent in this matter and act on the requests of General Practitioners and Hospital Doctors. In my view, the only way to control this expenditure and keep it within reasonable limits is for the Local Health Authority to submit bills to the Hospital Management Committees and the Local Executive Councils for the journeys requested by their officers.

Every effort is made in this office in conjunction with the Ambulance drivers to combine journeys and run the scheme as economically as possible.

*Ambulance Figures—1953.*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mileages	3247 (2685)	2961 (3191)	2743 (2950)	2974 (3043)	3728 (2872)	3866 (2918)	2459 (2974)	2338 (1861)	3016 (2105)	2686 (2719)	2095 (1964)	3541 (3060)
Journeys	112 (117)	115 (120)	101 (105)	117 (112)	118 (113)	128 (101)	103 (115)	103 (73)	124 (118)	115 (114)	103 (88)	128 (96)
Patients	329 (344)	269 (346)	291 (293)	351 (442)	325 (468)	378 (331)	206 (310)	273 (136)	332 (249)	298 (248)	215 (196)	368 (238)

*Domestic Help Service.*

The demands being made on this service are increasing and in the nature of things, are likely to go on increasing. This is a service largely employed in the care of old people in their own homes and as such is to be given every encouragement. We can never hope to deal with the problem of the aged sick entirely in hospitals and institutions, as our economic resources are not great enough to build the large number of places which are to-day necessary and which will increase as the years go on.

We do not experience serious difficulties in providing home helps and we can meet most of our demands adequately.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Congleton during 1953 are as follows :—

Home Helps employed during 1953

Full Time	...	1	(1)
Temporary	...	22	(27)
Casual	...	9	(10)
		<u>32</u>	<u>(38)</u>

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1953

Full Time	...	-	(-)
Temporary	...	14	(9)
Casual	...	-	(7)
		<u>14</u>	<u>(16)</u>

Applications received during 1953

Confinement	...	8	(15)
Sickness	...	14	(17)
Tuberculosis	...	-	(3)
Aged and Infirm	...	24	(22)
		<u>46</u>	<u>(57)</u>

Cases attended during 1953

Confinement	...	5	(12)
Sickness	...	17	(15)
Tuberculosis	...	2	(3)
Aged and Infirm	...	53	(42)
		<u>77</u>	<u>(72)</u>



## *SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.*

I am indebted to Mr. C. Brown, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information.

### *Water.*

The official opening of the Hug Bridge Pumping Station took place on May 5th, 1953. From that date the Hug Bridge borehole water became the main source of supply to the Borough, the existing source from Forge being utilised merely to augment when occasions arose.

An agreement was entered into between the Corporation and the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, to provide portions of their area with a supply of water from the Hug Bridge source. Initially, a minimum of 50,000 gallons per day was supplied, which later was increased to 100,000 gallons per day, and has now reached the figure of 120,000 gallons per day. This additional demand upon the Hug Bridge water has necessitated continuous partial operation of the Forge plant, and the average daily pumping from this source has approximated 250,000 gallons per day, leaving 200,000 gallons per day running to waste from the Forge Wells.

The waters from Hug Bridge to Forge continue to be mixed in the Low and High Level Towers, whilst the Buglawton area of the Borough continues to be fed by the Timbersbrook borehole.

During the year, the old Cloud Supply was abandoned, and the 4 inch delivery main from the Old Reservoir has been severed and connected direct to the new 12 inch delivery main of the Hug Bridge supply, the increased demand from Hug Bridge being approximately 7,000 gallons per day.

Chlorination is affected at both Forge Works and the Hug Bridge Pumping Station. At the latter Sodium Hexameta-Phosphate (Calgon) is admitted, whilst iron is removed by aeration and rapid gravity filtration.

The hardness of the Hug Bridge water is tending to decrease somewhat, and at present is no more than 20 parts per 100,000. The hardness of the Forge water varies very little, 25/26 parts per 100,000. As the

consumer receives a mixture of the two waters, little improvement of the hardness of the water has been noticeable. Timbersbrook borehole water is still acidic, with a P.H. value of 5.2, and continues to be corrected by the addition of soda ash.

Samples of Hug Bridge water have been analysed from time to time, by both the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratories, Stafford, and in all cases chemical and bacteriological examinations proved to be quite satisfactory.

### ***Drainage and Sewerage.***

On the Bromley Farm Estate, the sewerage system has now been completed on the 'separate' system of drainage. Preparatory work has been commenced upon the draining of the new 110 acre Buglawton Housing Estate, which will also be dealt with on the 'separate' system, the whole of the surface water being drained direct into the River Dane, at two main outfalls, whilst the main foul sewer will connect, for the time being, to the existing sewer in Havannah Street. As housing development progresses, however, a new 12 inch sewer, taking the whole of the foul sewage, will be laid on the Northerly side of the River Dane, crossing the River twice by hanging and syphoning, and thence connecting to the Town's sewerage system at a point near Congleton Park.

The schemes for the sewerage of the West Heath area of the Borough together with the scheme for the extension of the Outfall Works, submitted to the Minister in June, 1950, are still held in abeyance.

The inadequacy of the humus tanks together with the overloading of the whole works, is producing an effluent which at times falls below the standards laid down by the Royal Commission.

### ***Public Cleansing.***

A total of 3,200 tons of house refuse has been collected and disposed of during the year.



*Salvage.*

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	56	19	1	409	19	9
Kitchen Waste	...	60	4	0	226	11	6
Rags	...		2	0	2	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		117	5	1	£638	11	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Housing.*

Number of Council Houses completed in 1953

Houses	...	167	(73)
Bungalows	...	10	(-)

Number of Applicants on the Waiting List at 31st

December, 1953 ... 547

(excluding applications for aged persons bungalows)

Number of Visits re Housing Applications

Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector	...	32
Sanitary Inspector	...	0

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

The number of cases of Measles notified in 1953 is less than half that notified in the previous year. The year was characterised by a severe epidemic of Whooping Cough. 155 cases being notified as opposed to only 28 in 1952. As pointed out previously in this report, we have it within our power to reduce the incidence of this severe disease considerably by means of immunisation. Of well over 100 patients immunised by me against Whooping Cough, I have only two reported back as having contracted the disease and then it was only in a mild form.

Scarlet Fever also continues to be fairly prevalent, but fortunately, in a mild form giving rise to no complications.

*Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year, 1953.*

Disease.	Age Distribution.											Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 yr.	1- 2-	2- 3-	3- 4-	4- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 20-	20- 35-	35- 45-	45 and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	—	4	2	7	16	10	2	1	—	—	42	35	—
Whooping Cough	10	10	23	22	29	55	3	1	—	1	1	155	1	—
Measles	3	16	25	24	27	101	3	2	3	—	—	204	3	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	3	6	8	28	9	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	1	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	4	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—



*Tuberculosis.*

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1952 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1944.

*Notifications—1944 to 1953.*

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 yr.						I														
1 - 5		I		I		I							I		I					I
5 - 15		I		I			3		2		2		I	I	I		I			4
15 - 25	2		3	I	I		I					I		I	I					I
25 - 35	2		3				I	2		3		3		I		I		I		
35 - 45	2		2	I	I		2	I		2	I	2					I			
45 - 55	I		2		2	I	I			I		2				I				
55 - 65			I				2			I		I		2		2				
65 & over			I		I		2								I	I		2	I	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 yr.	I						I		I											
1 - 5							2		I					I						
5 - 15		2		4		I		I		2			I							2
15 - 25		I	3		4		I	I	I		I	5	5		2		I			
25 - 35			I		2			3				4	I		2	I	2			
35 - 45	I				I			I			I		I				I			
45 - 55		I								I		I								
55 - 65							I		I		I									I
65 & over																				
TOTAL	9	6	16	8	12	4	9	8	10	4	10	7	20	3	13	4	9	4	6	10

*Deaths—1944 to 1953.*

MALE	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Up to 1 yr.																				
1 - 5		1		1					1				1							
5 - 15							1													
15 - 25									1						1					
25 - 35	1						1				1				1				1	
35 - 45	1		1	1	1		1				1		1							
45 - 55			3		4				1				1				2			
55 - 65	1		2		2		1						1		1					
65 & over	1		1		1		3									1				1

## FEMALE

Up to 1 yr.								1												
1 - 5																1				
5 - 15																				
15 - 25			1	2					1		1									
25 - 35	3				1														1	
35 - 45											1									
45 - 55																				
55 - 65	1																			1
65 & over									1											
TOTAL	8	2	9	2	9	-	6	2	3	2	4	-	3	1	3	2	2	-	2	2



The notification rate in Congleton of all forms of Tuberculosis per thousand of the population is 1.03 as compared with .84 the previous year and the death rate is .19 as compared with .13 for 1952.

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1953, were as follows:—

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	1	1	10	15	9	5	8	49
Female Pulmonary	—	—	1	7	17	10	11	6	1	53
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	1	9	10	3	6	—	1	—	30
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	5	2	2	2	2	2	1	16

The prevalence of Tuberculosis, both pulmonary and non-pulmonary, remains fairly stationary. This, however, should not lead to any degree of complacency. Tuberculosis is a serious and crippling disease which in its pulmonary form effects young adults and produces a degree of incapacity and length of stay in hospital far in excess of most other medical conditions. The social effect of this and the upheaval in the home is often quite devastating and Tuberculosis is a disease which should be viewed most seriously. All contacts of cases of Tuberculosis are carefully supervised, both at the Chest Clinic and by the Health Visitors under the general guidance of the Medical Officer of Health. Vaccination with B.C.G. against susceptible contacts is carried out as a routine.

Evidence is beginning to accumulate that B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis is one of the most important Public Health measures discovered in recent years. So much so, that a scheme is being prepared and will shortly be put into effect for the routine vaccination against Tuberculosis of all school children between the ages of 13 and 14. As the years go on, we hope to build up a population who are immune to Tuberculosis.

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. R. G. Whiston the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

**SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.**

Number  
of Visits.

**General.**

Water supply	...	...	...	136
Drainage	...	...	...	455
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	25
Tents, Van and Sheds	...	...	...	6
Factories	...	...	...	168
Rats & Mice	...	...	...	42
Schools	...	...	...	6
Shops Acts	...	...	...	65
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	156
Building Licences	...	...	...	5
Interviewing & Appointments	...	...	...	296
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	8
Smoke observations	...	...	...	9
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	1
Pail Conversions	...	...	...	182
Hairdressers, Chiropodists	...	...	...	25
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	1
Cinemas	...	...	...	1

**HOUSING.**

**Under Public Health Acts.**

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	272
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	...	603

**Under Housing Acts.**

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	12
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	...	96

**Overcrowding.**

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	6
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**Verminous Premises.**

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	68
Found verminous and disinfested	...	...	9
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	238



			Number of Visits
<b><i>Infectious Diseases.</i></b>			
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	55
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	25
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	25

***Food Premises and Food Inspection.***

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	430
Butchers	...	...	23
Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	...	14
Grocers	...	...	101
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	...	10
Dairies & Milkshops	...	...	31
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	29
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	70
Bakehouses	...	...	42
Market Stalls	...	...	3
Restaurants	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	4
Factory Canteens	...	...	19
Total			3780

***Summary of Notices Served.***

Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	249
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	276
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	15
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	13

***Complaints.***

During the year 244 complaints were received and investigated; 22 of these were unfounded.

47 were found to be relating to dangerous structures, gas and water leakages and other matters and were referred to the Departments concerned.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.**

### ***Nuisances.***

Following complaints and as a result of routine survey, 272 houses were inspected, a total of 350 nuisances were found and 156 informal notices were issued. In 15 cases statutory notices were served. 603 visits were made to houses previously inspected and 451 nuisances were found to be abated. 216 informal and 13 statutory notices were complied with.

### ***Drainage.***

Installation of new drainage at all premises, except Corporation owned properties, and repair of defective drainage was supervised and the necessary testing carried out. 455 visits were made in connection with this work and the tracing of existing drainage at various properties.

### ***Water Supply.***

Routine samples were taken monthly from each of the town's systems of supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, for Bacteriological examination. The Timbersbrook "Old Supply" was found to have become polluted, its use was discontinued and the consumers were transferred to the Hug Bridge Supply. In all other cases the reports on samples submitted showed satisfactory results.

A series of three samples were taken from each of 14 houses in the Cloudside area and at 4 houses the water was found to be heavily polluted, at one frequently polluted, sometimes heavily, at one polluted from time to time and at eight to be satisfactory. The Health Committee recommended to the Water Committee that water from the Hug Bridge Supply be made available to those premises where necessary.

### ***Disinfestation.***

D.D.T. and Gammexane compounds in liquid and powder form are used for this purpose, and successful results have been obtained.

The houses and household effects of new tenants for Council Houses are inspected and where necessary disinfestation is undertaken before removal. For this and other reasons, 68 inspections have been carried out and 9 premises treated.



### ***Conversions of Pails.***

The Council's scheme for compulsory conversion was continued, and a further 49 conversions were carried out during the year. A total of 61 has now been completed at a cost £1130 - 6 - 2, an average of £23 - 1 - 4 each, the Council bearing half the cost, namely £565 - 3 - 1.

### ***Offensive Trades.***

One premises is registered for tripe boiling, and is constructed on modern hygienic lines. No complaints were received in connection with the trade. 8 inspections were carried out during the year.

### ***Infectious Disease and Disinfection.***

Enquiries have been made into 55 cases of infectious disease. Disinfection of premises following these, and removals and deaths of T.B. cases, has been carried out and where necessary infected bedding has been taken to the Isolation Hospital, Macclesfield, for disinfection by steam.

Infected library books are treated with gaseous fumigant before return for circulation.

### ***Tents, Vans and Sheds.***

6 visits have been made in connection with the control of moveable dwellings.

1 licence to station and use a caravan has been renewed.

### ***Public Mortuary.***

This service is under the charge of the Department and during the year there have been 8 admissions.



### *HOUSING ACTS, 1936-49.*

12 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and 96 revisits were made to houses previously inspected.

6 condemned houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished and the sites cleared. The demolition of 1 Clearance Area has been completed.

4 individual unfit houses were demolished.

Official representation was made to the Council in respect of 5 houses, 4 demolition orders were made under the provisions of Sec. 11 and one Closing Order under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

*Table showing the position of Condemned Houses.*

			1951.	1952.	1953.
Number of occupied houses in confirmed clearance areas	...	...	24	20	17
Number of occupied houses in areas represented but not confirmed	...	...	44	44	44
Number of vacant houses in confirmed clearance areas	...	...	39	27	23
Number of vacant houses in areas represented but not confirmed	...	...	1	1	1
Number of individual unfit houses occupied	...	...	4	6	3
Number of individual unfit houses vacant	...	...	3	4	5

### *Improvement Grants.*

No applications were received during the year.

**FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.*****Food Premises.***

Number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:—

Butchers	...	...	25
Canteens	...	...	23
Dairies	...	...	7
Milkshops	...	...	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	10
Grocers and Confectioners	...	...	109
Restaurants and Cafe	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	8

674 inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food were carried out. 68 contraventions were found and 24 informal notices issued. On re-inspection 162 contraventions had been abated, and 31 notices complied with.

***Ice Cream.***

There are 9 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. 8 of these use the "cold mix" method and the remaining one has the necessary plant for heat treatment in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

44 premises are registered for the sale only of ice cream.

29 inspections have been made and 16 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford for Bacteriological examination by the Methylene blue test. Results showed 9 samples Grade 1, 1 Grade 2, 2 Grade 3, and 4 Grade 4.

***Preserved Food.***

25 premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food (sausages, potted and pressed meats, etc.) and 70 inspections of these premises carried out.

### ***Milk & Dairies Regulations.***

Registered are 9 Dairies and 49 Distributors.

Under the Special Designation Regulations, 20 licences have been issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 12 for Pasteurised Milk and 35 for Sterilized Milk.

31 visits have been made in connection with registration and licensing.

### ***Slaughterhouses.***

There are 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. All slaughtering is carried out at two of these, which are under the control of the Ministry of Food.

430 visits were made in connection with meat inspection and renewals of licences.

### ***Disposal of Condemned Food.***

All condemned meat is disposed of by the Ministry of Food from their Slaughterhouse. Other foods condemned are disposed of by incineration at the Gas Works.



## MEAT &amp; OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

*Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.*

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1951	13	107	818	390	399	3022	177	4926
1952	8	56	791	296	1070	4250	687	7158
1953	5	99	822	228	333	4261	741	6489

*Condemnations.*

		Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	...	332	822	333	4612	741
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole Carcases condemned	...	—	7	67	36	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	111	317	4	1343	113
Percentage affected with diseases, other than Tuberculosis	1951	27.84	39.48	19.29	21.11	45.76
	1952	23.33	35.90	10.10	23.48	17.61
	1953	33.43	39.29	21.02	32.36	17.81
Tuberculosis						
Whole Carcases condemned	...	2	19	2	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	54	266	—	—	42
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	1951	14.31	40.83	2	—	11.29
	1952	20.84	35.27	.75	—	11.21
	1953	16.87	34.67	.6	—	6.86

*Weight of Meat Condemned.*

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	10	5	3	21
Mutton	...		16	2	17
Veal	...	1	6	2	12
Pork	...	1	6	2	26
Offal	...	9	19	-	13
Total	...	23	16	-	5

*Particulars of Casualty Animals from Farm Premises and Ungraded  
Cattle from the Cattle Market, Slaughtered at Owners Risk  
(included in above Total)*

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1951	7	2	112	23	158	46	109	457
1952	1	2	65	7	283	72	191	621
1953	3	—	54	7	112	102	110	388

*Weight of Meat Condemned* (included in above Totals)

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	4	4	2	11
Mutton	...		12	2	2
Veal	...		19	2	3
Pork	...	1	1	2	21
Offal	...	2	-	1	19
Total	...	8	17	3	-

*Other Foods Condemned.*

		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Canned Goods	...	8	2	18
Provisions (Butter, Luncheon Meat, Sausages)	...		2	2
Other Foods	...	1	2	7
Total	...	10	2	27

***Tuberculosis Order, 1938.***

17 Cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the above Order, 9 were found to be affected with advanced Tuberculosis and the whole carcasses and organs were condemned, 8 were found to be affected with non-advanced Tuberculosis and the affected parts and organs were condemned.

***Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves.***

During the year, the carcasses of 2 calves under 3 weeks old were found to be affected with congenital tuberculosis, and these cases were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (Animal Health Division) for follow up enquiries respecting their dams. As a result of these enquiries one cow was slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

***Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.***

The stunning of all animals in the Borough is carried out by means of captive bolt pistols.

32 Slaughtermen's Licences were renewed during the year.

***Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.***

The Council has one full time operative whose duties are concerned with the destruction of rats and mice.

42 visits have been made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with complaints and general supervision.

All work at business premises was carried out after written or verbal informal intimation had been given and no statutory notices have been served.

A summary of the incidence and treatment carried out is appended.



*Prevalence of Rats and Mice.*

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	37	4666	126	889	5718
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification or ...	4	129	9	37	179
(b) otherwise ...	23	74	10	53	160
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 26	125	19	48	218
Number of properties found to be infested by mice...	1	64	—	37	102
Number of infested properties treated ...	25	176	12	85	298

*Maintenance Treatment for Rats in Sewers.*

It is estimated that there are 425 man-holes in the Borough, a test bait of 10% of these was undertaken and two treatments carried out during the year.

At the first treatment 35 man-holes were pre-baited, 8 showed "Takes" and were poisoned; at the second, 36 man-holes were pre-baited and 26 poisoned.

***Shops Act, 1950.***

65 Inspections have been carried out under the provisions of the Act, 14 contraventions were noted and as a result 5 informal notices were served. 6 notices were complied with and 6 contraventions were remedied.

***Factory Act, 1937.***

168 inspections have been made and a summary of visits, contraventions and notices is as follows :—

***Inspections.***

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	7	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	135	161	27	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	142	168	27	—

*Cases in which Defects were found.*

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) insufficient ...	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	41	43
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Total ...	42	44

1 Certificate has been granted during 1953 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

*Outworkers.*

A total of 10 outworkers are shown as employed by Factories in the area in the lists submitted in accordance with Section 110 of the Act. All are engaged on the making, altering or repairing of wearing apparel.

*Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A.*

5 visits were made in connection with the issue of licences and permits for materials.

1 licence for £540 was issued by this Department.



*[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

