

**[Report 1904] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashton-upon-Mersey U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Ashton-upon-Mersey (Cheshire, England). Urban District Council.

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

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ASHTON-upon-MERSEY URBAN DISTRICT.  
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Year 1904.

Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Charles J. Renshaw.

Population Census April 1901 5,563

Estimated population Middle 1904 5,650

Area in acres 1,622

Death rate per 1,000 living 12.9

Death rate from seven principal Zymotic diseases 1.2

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births. 90.1

The health for the past year, 1904, has been very satisfactory; there being only 73 deaths in a population of close on 5,700 persons, the death rate being 12.9 whilst the birth rate is 25.4

At the early part of the year there was an epidemic of measles, with only a fatality of three cases.

In October there were three distinct cases of small pox, two being treated at home, and one being sent to the Small pox Hospital at Baguley, - none were fatal.

In November there were six cases of enteric fever, two of which were sent to Baguley Sanatorium, in all, three cases were fatal, the fever probably arose from the misfortune





of having so little rainfall during the summer, any bacillus of typhoid getting into the drain was not washed away, but probably spread by means of the sewage in which it would grow, there were no cases reported after the frost at the end of November.

There have been during the past year -

3 Cases of Diphtheria

13	"	Whooping cough
9	"	Scarlet fever
64	"	Measles
3	"	Smallpox
6	"	Enteric fever
3	"	Erysipelas

The water supply from the North Cheshire Water Works is good in quality, it has been too scanty in quantity during part of the year.

We have had to use the Baguley Sanatorium for infectious diseases several times during the year.

The Bacteriological examination of specimens sent to Owens College has been of much value in assisting in the speedy diagnosis of infectious disease.

Taking the whole year, and the very little rain there was, the dust has been kept down considerably better than might have been expected. The dust is a dangerous matter inasmuch as





it carries the poison of infection with it besides tainting food and drink with which it can come in contact.

Some material used on the high road acted as a preventative to the blowing about of the dust, that or some other application in the summer time is greatly to be desired as it is much more efficacious than simple water.

There appears to have been much more care amongst the inhabitants in keeping vegetable matter out of the ashpits than formerly. I would also point out that the destruction of flies in the summer season is greatly to be desired, as they are carriers of infectious disease in many cases, chiefly to the food upon which they alight, this being swallowed may have serious results.

23 Plans have been approved by the Plans Committee during the year for the following:-

53 Houses

4 Stables.

1 New Street.

3 Alterations and Additions.

NOTE: Only eight of the above houses have been certified as fit for habitation, but seventeen others are about ready for inspection.

Drains have been taken up and relaid to 13 houses during the year, this number includes certain cases of stopped-up drains.





Drains have been taken from under Cellar floors to four houses and new gullies fixed in outside areas.

The provisions of The Factory and Workshops Act 1901 have again been put in force, and after an inspection, several Notices were served upon occupiers to thoroughly cleanse the Workrooms as required by the Act. - taking the Workshops generally, they are in very good condition.

The Slaughter houses have again been inspected and nothing was found to complain of.

The Cowsheds are always kept under supervision and are in good condition.

#### VENTILATION OF SEWERS.

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With respect to the Ventilation of the Main Sewers, this is a subject which is constantly being argued by Public Health Authorities, in our case a trial is to be given to the upright shaft, and three Columns 40 feet high are to be erected at the following places - One at the top end of Harboro Road, one in Ashton Lane near Bennett's Farm, and the third in Glebelands Road opposite Doveston Road, and it is hoped that this will in some way minimise the difficulty of ventilating the sewers.



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### FLUSHING OF SEWERS.

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As to the regular flushing of the Sewers, the provision of several Flushing Tanks to hold say 3,000 gallons in various parts of the district would be very beneficial, and of more use than the flushing by means of the Water cart, which only holds 350 gallons.

The Willow Beds are working at their maximum.

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