

**[Report 1905] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashton-upon-Mersey U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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

**Publication/Creation**

1905

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nha3bjh8>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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>

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT For 1905.

### HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

The annual report of Dr. C. J. Renshaw, the medical officer of health, stated that the population at the census in April, 1901, was 5,563; in the middle of 1905 it was estimated at 5,900. The area in acres was 1,622; the death-rate per 1,000 living was 8.8; and the death-rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases 0.3. Twelve deaths in the year were under twelve months. The report proceeded:

The health for 1905 has been very good. There have been 58 deaths in a population of nearly 6,000, that gives a death-rate of 8.8, the lowest death-rate since the authority had been constituted. During the last four years the improvement is very marked, showing the satisfactory working of this authority after time has been given for the fruition of their work.

The birth-rate is only 24; the general birth-rate of England is 28, so we are below that. Unfortunately since 1876 the birth-rate of the United Kingdom has dropped from 34.8 to 28, the lessening is general through the European countries: England and Wales, 36.3 to 28.5; Germany, 46.9 to 35.7; Prussia, 40.7 to 36.6; Sweden, 30.8 to 26.8; Switzerland, 33.0 to 29.1; France, 26.6 to 22.0. In time at the present rate of decrease our population will cease altogether. The Asiatic races are rapidly increasing.

During the past year we have had no epidemic to deal with and no infectious cases have been reported since September.

The number of cases of infection dealt with has been:—

Diphtheria .....	6 cases
Scarlet fever .....	9 „
Measles .....	14 „
Whooping cough .....	19 „
Enteric fever .....	2 „
Puerperal .....	1 „
Erysipelas .....	3 „

Three ventilating shafts have been connected to the sewers in suitable positions, these carry any foul air 40 feet upwards, being a great improvement upon the otherwise necessarily open manholes.

The cages placed for waste papers are of great advantage, and will have a tendency to prevent nuisance and lessen the spread of infection.

The flies were much less numerous during the

warm weather than usual, no doubt caused by the greater cleanliness of the neighbourhood.

There are 1,478 houses in the district, of which 102 are empty.

Thirty-five plans have been approved by the Council for the following:

85 houses, one chapel; and two building estates.

Of the 85 houses 23 have been completed and certified for habitation, but the total number of houses certified during the year is 59. Of the remaining number 24 are nearing completion.

The following is a list of sanitary improvements to houses carried out during the year:—

Privies converted into w.c.'s.....	7
New privies, including repairs .....	6
Houses re-drained .....	10
Stopped-up drains attended to .....	6

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901: All premises under this Act have been inspected and found to be in good condition with the exception of three, in which cases notices have been served to remedy certain defects and cleanse workshops.

The slaughter-houses in the district are in good order.

The cowsheds are also in good condition.

The following figures show the increase in the scavenging of privies, ashpits, &c.

	Year 1900	Year 1905
Double and single ashpits.....	2,550	3,508
Ashbins, &c. ....	74	2,516

It will be seen from this that the ashbins are becoming a general thing, particularly in small property, and I think they are to be encouraged, as being emptied in the majority of cases once a fortnight they are far better from a sanitary point of view.

Some of the old cottage property in the district has been receiving attention, and negotiations are proceeding towards certain cottages being closed or altered as at present unfit for habitation and for general repairs being carried out to put the remainder into decent condition. All other property of a like kind will be inspected at an early date and any sanitary alterations required will be brought to your notice.

The North Cheshire Water Company supplies very good water.

The milk supply is both good in quantity and in quality.

*Charles J. Renshaw*  
A.D.

Annual Report of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For 1908

[The remainder of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely the body of the medical officer's report.]