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**Contributors**

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for 1913

ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

*For the year ending December 31st, 1913.*

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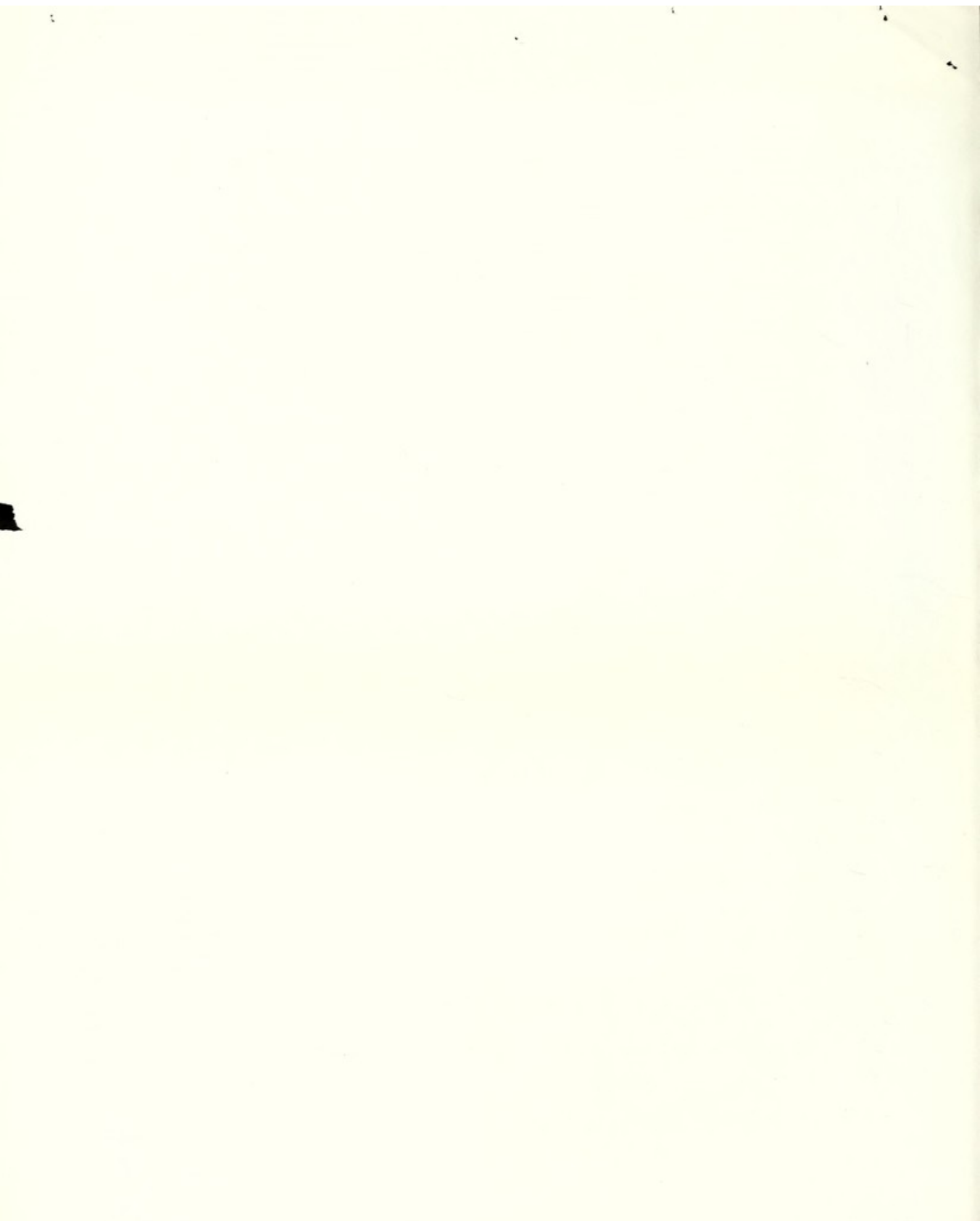
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*With*

CHARLES J. RENSHAW, *MD.*, *Comptroller*

*January 13th, 1914.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

# Ashton-upon-Mersey Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report for the year 1913:—

POPULATION.—Census, 1911, 7,234.

POPULATION (estimated), 7,750, there being 1,931 houses of which only 53 are empty.

Area in acres, 1,611. Persons to the acre, 4·8. Death rate per 1,000 living persons, 10. Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births—rate 75. Birth rate, 22·6.

THE HEALTH of Ashton-upon-Mersey during 1913 has been good.

In February there was an epidemic of Measles, which necessitated the closing of St. Martin's School.

In March, All Saints' School had to be closed for an attack of Mumps, ~~and Barker's Lane School in April.~~

During the year there have been 183 infectious cases reported:—Measles, 129; Whooping Cough, 32; German Measles, 12; Scarlet Fever, 5; Erysipelas, 4; Enteric, 1. Of these, 150 have been visited by me.

Of Tuberculosis cases there have been 26; the houses of all these have been inspected.

The River Mersey has been fairly full of water this year, so that from it there has been very little smell; the same may be said of the few brooks there are in Ashton-upon-Mersey.

There have been several complaints of bad smells from the north-east district. This has been the subject of enquiry by the Local Government Board.

The Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works of the Authority are satisfactory,

The population of Ashton-upon-Mersey is mixed—chiefly agricultural. Some work in Manchester and its surroundings, and reside in the country.

The poor relief is small.



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The water is supplied by the North Cheshire Water Company, which gets its water from the Corporation of Manchester, chiefly from Woodhead; but in case of emergency the supply comes from Thirlmere. It is sufficient in quantity and good in quality.

The soil is earth, gravel and river detritus; clay is found at some depth.

The schools are well built and well supplied with water.

The milk supply is good; no tuberculous milk has been reported. The cows inspected are healthy, clean and well nourished.

The food in the neighbourhood of Ashton-upon-Mersey is good, and kept in sanitary buildings. No prosecution of anyone for bad food has taken place.

Chemical or bacteriological requirements have been few, as the health of the locality has been good, and the bacillus of tuberculosis has been searched for at the various tuberculous hospitals or sanatoria where the patients were treated, few having been treated in their own homes.

Infectious cases, when they occurred in connection with the schools, have been notified by the School Authorities.

There were only 13 deaths of children under one year, in a population of 7,750, the mothers carefully looking after them.

During the past year a plot of land of about 11 acres has been laid out as a recreation ground, chiefly for the children, making a perpetual lung, as it will never be built upon.

HOUSING.—I am still of the opinion that there is a sufficiency of good houses for the working classes in the district, and no case for the Council to proceed under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

CLOSING ORDERS.—11 closing orders have been made by the Council on my representation, and in most cases it is anticipated that satisfactory alterations will be carried out by the owners to enable the Council to determine the Orders.

INSPECTION.—Under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910, 92 houses have been inspected during the year, making 385 in all. The general character of the matters requiring attention were as follows:—

Insanitary Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	147
Defective Gullies and Drains	...	...	...	...	42
No Free Circulation of Air	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness of Walls	...	...	...	...	17
Insanitary Yards	...	...	...	...	59
Defective Rain Water Pipes	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	23
To Cleanse Houses	...	...	...	...	19
Repairing Ashpits	...	...	...	...	10



40 Statutory Notices have been served for the remedying of the above defects, and in all cases but seven they have been complied with; these are now in hand.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Good progress has been made during the year with the Privy Conversion Work under the 1907 Act. The number of privy middens at the beginning of the year was 533. Since then 152 conversions have been made, 147 under the Act of 1907. Total number of privy middens is now 381.

Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	1,426
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	16

COWSHEDS.—In no case has it been found necessary to make complaint, everything being satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—I have no complaint to make against these, being quite satisfied with the condition of the same.

WORKSHOPS.—These have again been inspected under the Act of 1901, and everything was found in good order and condition.

During the year 226 inspections have been made by the inspector, particulars of which are appended to this Report. In most cases a formal notice sufficed, but all the matters have been satisfactorily attended to. The following is a list of the sanitary improvements carried out to property during the year :—

Privy Middens converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	152
Houses Re-drained	...	...	...	...	16
Stopped-up Drains attended to	...	...	...	...	9
Repairs to Ashpits	...	...	...	...	10
Various complaints attended to	...	...	...	...	15
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	...	13

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed), CHAS. J. RENSHAW,

January 13th, 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.



