

**[Report 1901] / Medical Officer of Health, Aspull D.C.**

**Contributors**

Aspull (England). District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1901

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wrzcug49>

**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>

ASPULL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1901.

THOS. WALL AND SONS LTD., PRINTERS, WIGAN.

Taking a general review of the past year, we find that it commenced with a prevalence of Scarlet Fever, in consequence of which I advised, in January, the closing of St. Elizabeth's Schools, Bolton Road. This action seemed to have a good effect on the continuance of the outbreak, at any rate it was followed by a rapid decline in the number of notifications in that locality. The disease, however, was scattered over the greater part of the township during the first four months. In July, August, and September there was, with the exception of a few cases of Diphtheria, very little Zymotic disease reported.

I have already mentioned that Diphtheria has been unusually prevalent, and by far the greater number of cases occurred in the New Springs district, particularly in Top Lock, Fairbrother's Yard, and Longfield Street. Some few, but only a small minority, were reported in houses where the sanitary arrangements were fairly good; the majority were found in crowded areas, the surroundings of which were more than suspicious. This was especially noticeable in Fairbrother's Yard and some parts of Leeds Street. Diphtheria, like Typhoid Fever, will always flourish where the surrounding premises are unpaved and badly drained.

In October four cases of Diphtheria were reported in Pennington Green amongst people of the most cleanly habits and in good sanitary property. I made a careful inspection, and reported to you the probable cause, which has since been remedied.

Measles was prevalent in the New Springs district in April and May, causing two deaths. The cases were numerous, but were not of such a severe type as on former occasions. The closing of the schools in that district was contemplated, but the outbreak subsiding such action was not necessary. As it is not a notifiable disease it often becomes widely distributed before its presence becomes officially recognised.

The Medical Officer for the County, in table C, desires to know if any disease other than those mentioned in the Notification Act have been made notifiable. There is no doubt that the notification of all infectious diseases would be most desirable. I would, however, suggest that your Council might seriously consider some means of including Measles and Phthisis.

During the year I submitted to your Council several reports respecting insanitary property, one in reference to houses numbered 6 to 13, Ratcliffe Road. The recommendations therein have been carried into effect as far as it is possible with old property.

In another, I drew your attention to the condition of a farmhouse situate in Haigh Road. I had about that time several interviews with the representatives of the owner, and made various suggestions, which, I regret to say, have not as yet been carried out.

I would like to urge on your Council the importance of paving the back streets and yards in the Top Lock district without delay. Should the climatic conditions be favourable during the coming summer for the development of Zymotic disease, we shall be liable to a repetition or even to a more severe visitation than we have experienced during the past year.

The Zymotic rate of 6.6 per 1,000 is unusually high. It would be perhaps advisable to explain that certain diseases such as Gastritis, Enteritis, &c., &c., are now included, which was not the case in previous years, but apart from the inclusion of these, the Zymotic rate is much too high, and those steps likely to bring it at least to its normal level should be undertaken in the early spring.

Frequent inspections of the various parts of the township have been made by myself and Nuisance Inspector, and many small matters have received attention to which it was not necessary to draw your attention. The water supply may be said to be good and plentiful, with the exception that complaints have been made by people residing in the higher parts of the district to the effect that they are frequently unable to obtain a supply between the hours of 8 and 12 a.m. This may be due to want of pressure, but an irregular supply is not conducive to the health of the consumers.


Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Dairies, and Cowsheds have been subject to inspection. It has not been necessary to draw your attention to any want or defective sanitation in connection with these occupations. The Nuisance Inspector has issued 155 notices for abatements; 66 houses have been fumigated and cleaned down; 40 new closets built; 12 cases of overcrowding have received attention.

No offensive trades have been carried on, and it has not been necessary to condemn any articles of food exposed for sale.

I am, Gentlemen, obediently yours,

L. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28813492>

February 14th, 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1901, also the various lists required by the Local Government Board and County Council.

The past year has been in many respects a remarkable one; certain diseases have been prevalent which for many years have been conspicuous by their absence, I refer chiefly to diphtheria. The long-continued drought and excessively hot weather was no doubt responsible to a large extent for their presence. No less than 62 cases were reported of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, causing 19 deaths. It is fortunate the number of Typhoids reported were below the average; only 8 came under notice, resulting in 2 deaths.

The number of Births registered was 310—Males 163, Females 147—giving a birth-rate of 36.9 per 1,000 per annum, slightly in excess of the average of the past 10 years, which was 36.8. The deaths numbered 187—Males 95, Females 92—equal to a death-rate of 22.3. This is unfortunately in excess of the past 10 years' average, which was 18.9.

It is somewhat surprising that whereas the general death-rate exceeds the average for the past 10 years, the rate of infants under 1 year is much below. Forty-seven deaths were recorded of children under 1 year, giving a rate of 151.6 per 1,000 births. Last year it was 184.1, in 1899 204.4, and the average for the past 10 years 167.1. The following tables will no doubt be interesting:—

Under 1 year	47	deaths	were	registered.
Between 1 and 5 years	44	"	"	"
"    5    15	14	"	"	"
"    15   25	9	"	"	"
"    25   65	47	"	"	"
65 years and over	26	"	"	"
	<hr/>			
Total	187			

	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and over.
Measles.....	4	2	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	4	2	2	...	..	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	19	1	13	5	...	...	...
Croup .....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever.....	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea .....	14	8	3	2	...	...	1
Enteritis .....	13	6	6	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas .....	3	1	...	...	...	2	...
Phthisis .....	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	6	3	2	...	...	1	...
Cancer .....	4	...	...	...	1	...	3
Bronchitis .....	16	4	3	...	...	4	5
Pneumonia .....	20	4	7	2	1	5	1
Premature Birth.....	8	8	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	4	...	...	..	1	3	...
Heart Diseases .....	12	...	...	2	...	8	2
Accidents... ..	9	...	2	...	2	5	...
Suicides .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes .....	43	7	3	1	2	16	14
	<hr/>						
	187	47	44	14	9	47	26