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**Contributors**

Aspull (England). Urban District Council.

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ASPULL, near WIGAN,

5th February, 1906.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1905, together with the lists and tables required by the Local Government Board and County Council.

During the year 154 deaths were registered, Males 81, Females 73, which shows a slight increase when compared with 151 of the preceding year, but is satisfactory when considering the average of the previous ten years was 166.

The births numbered 291, Male 149, Female 142; this shows a falling off of 36 when compared with 1904.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified was 72, and 71 in the preceding year.

The Death rate for the year was 18.3 per 1000.

The Birth rate do. do. 34.6 „

The following table of Births and Deaths may be worth consideration.

	BIRTHS.				DEATHS.		
	NORTH WARD.						
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
January .....	4	5	9	...	2	5	7
February .....	2	2	4	...	1	1	2
March .....	5	0	5	...	3	1	4
April .....	1	5	6	...	1	0	1
May .....	4	5	9	...	2	2	4
June .....	5	0	5	...	2	0	2
July .....	4	1	5	...	4	1	5
August .....	8	4	12	...	2	3	5
September .....	0	3	3	...	6	2	8
October .....	2	4	6	...	2	5	7
November .....	5	2	7	...	1	4	5
December .....	3	8	11	...	2	1	3
	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
Total...	43	39	82	...	28	25	53
	—	—	—	...	—	—	—

## BIRTHS.

## DEATHS.

## EAST WARD.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.
January .....	2	6	8	...	1	2	3
February .....	5	1	6	...	5	2	7
March .....	5	5	10	...	0	3	3
April .....	5	4	9	...	1	2	3
May .....	6	4	10	...	2	1	3
June .....	3	7	10	...	3	2	5
July .....	2	7	9	...	2	1	3
August .....	5	5	10	...	2	2	4
September .....	5	4	9	...	1	4	5
October .....	2	3	5	...	0	2	2
November .....	2	2	4	...	1	2	3
December .....	3	3	6	...	2	0	2
Total ...	45	51	96	...	20	23	43

## NEW SPRINGS WARD.

January .....	6	6	12	...	3	3	6
February .....	5	1	6	...	0	0	0
March .....	7	7	14	...	5	2	7
April .....	4	6	10	...	4	1	5
May .....	4	2	6	...	0	2	2
June .....	6	2	8	...	6	2	8
July .....	4	6	10	...	3	2	5
August .....	7	5	12	...	6	2	8
September .....	6	3	9	...	1	4	5
October .....	5	1	6	...	2	1	3
November .....	4	8	12	...	1	2	3
December .....	3	5	8	...	2	4	6
Total ...	61	52	113	...	33	25	58

The following Table shows the ages and causes of death during the year:

	All Ages.	Under 1.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-65 yrs.	65 upws.
Measles ...	4	3	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	5	3	2	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1
Influenza ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa ...	17	15	2	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis ...	4	...	1	...	1	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	12	6	3	2	1	...	...
Cancer ...	7	...	...	...	...	5	2
Bronchitis ...	13	4	1	...	...	3	5
Pneumonia ...	13	4	1	...	...	7	1
Premature Birth ...	8	8	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease ...	6	...	...	...	...	5	1
Accidents ...	6	...	4	...	...	2	...
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other Causes ...	50	18	3	...	3	11	15
Total	154	61	21	2	6	38	26



The deaths due to the principal Zymotic Diseases were:

Measles	.....4	equal to a death rate of	·477	per 1000	per annum.
Scarlet Fever	.....1	"	"	"	"
Whooping Cough	5	"	"	"	"
Typhoid Fever	...2	"	"	"	"
Diarrhoea	.....17	"	"	"	"
Puerperal Fever	...1	"	"	"	"
Diphtheria	.....2	"	"	"	"

32

Total Zymotic Rate being 3·835 per 1,000 per annum.

The deaths due to the most prevalent diseases were:—

Pneumonia	.....13	equal to a death rate of	1·55	per 1,000	per annum.
Bronchitis	.....13	"	"	"	"
Heart Disease	.....6	"	"	"	"
Accidents	.....6	"	"	"	"

The average death rate for the past ten years was 18.9 per 1000 per annum.

The average birth rate for the past ten years was 35.5 per 1000 per annum.

The average death rate under 1 year for every 1000 births was 174.4, during the past 10 years.

61 deaths were recorded amongst children under 1 year, equal to a rate of 209.6 per 1000 births. This is an unusually high mortality, and was due to a large extent to diseases of the digestive organs; 15 were ascribed to Diarrhoea in the months of July, August, and September.

A large proportion of the 61 deaths amongst children under 1 year was due to preventible diseases amongst those brought up on the bottle, and so long as the present method continues of using feeding bottles with long rubber tubes, the high mortality from such diseases as Enteritis and Diarrhoea will continue. Of the total number of 17 deaths certified during the year as resulting from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 15 occurred in infants under 1 year of age. Eight others were certified due to Marasmus or wasting disease, probably in a large measure the result of improper feeding. The following Table will elucidate my remarks:

	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	6-7 months	7-8 months	8-9 months	9-10 months	10-11 months	11-12 months	Total under 1 year
All Causes—Certified	12	1	1	...	14	5	7	9	1	5	...	4	4	3	1	5	58
Uncertified	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diarrhoea & Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	2	15
Premature Birth	8	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Congenital defects	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Debility and Marasmus	1	1	1	...	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Tubercular Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	6
Convulsions	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Suffocation and Overlaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	13	1	1	...	15	6	7	9	1	5	1	4	4	3	1	5	61

Seventy-two cases were notified under the Notification Act, as compared with 71 of the previous year.

	Typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Membr. Croup	Erysipelas	Continued Fever	Puerperal Fever	Total
January .....	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
February .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March .....	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	7
April .....	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	6
May .....	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
June .....	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
July .....	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
August .....	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
September .....	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
October .....	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	9
November .....	2	8	1	1	3	0	0	15
December .....	3	4	1	0	1	0	0	9
Total	22	21	7	3	18	0	1	72

In the early part of the year (January and February), the district was almost free from Infectious Disease, only two cases being reported, one of Membranous Croup and one of Erysipelas; very few were notified until July, when six cases of Typhoid Fever came under notice, five being in one house. I submitted to you a special Report respecting this outbreak, the result being that the house mentioned was at once closed; and it has since been demolished; the other cases were scattered over the district, Wigan Road, Ratcliffe Road, Duke's Row, Liverpool Street, Pennington Green, Leeds Street, Scot Lane, Sumner Street, Stanley Road, making a total for the year of 22, and resulting in two deaths. With the exception of the five in one house, the other sporadic cases could not be attributed to any particular sanitary defect—the premises in each instance received every attention by the Sanitary Officer.

Twenty-one cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, seventeen occurring in the last three months, and were mostly in Ratcliffe Road and Bolton Road; one death was due to this disease.

In the early part of November an outbreak of Measles occurred in the Higher part of Bolton Road. This outbreak was clearly traced to children attending the Aspall New Schools. I advised that these Schools should be closed, which was at once carried into effect. This action had a marked influence, and the disease in that locality rapidly abated. The Schools were limewashed and cleaned down, and every possible precaution taken to prevent a recurrence. A large number of cases of Measles have come under notice in various parts of the district during the year, and four deaths were ascribed to it and the Bronchitis or Pneumonia which often accompany this disease.

In April I drew your attention to an insanitary state behind some property in Withington Lane, caused by the refuse and water from some piggeries; these have now been removed, and the other sanitary defects mentioned at the same time have been remedied.

On the whole the township is undergoing a steady process of sanitary improvement, most noticeable perhaps in the Top Lock District, where the streets, back streets and roads leading thereto, are now in very good order; with respect to the old fashioned privies and ashpits, whilst these in a large number of instances are being replaced by more modern erections, I would like to suggest that in suitable cases, encouragement might be given to the adoption of the water carriage system; this is especially desirable where the back streets are narrow and the population dense.



The arrangements made with owners of property whereby minor nuisances are at once attended to under the supervision of your officials, has worked well, and during the visits by myself and Inspector to the various parts of the district, one could not be anything but favourably impressed by the absence of such small matters as stopped gullies, drains, &c.

It has not been necessary to draw your attention to any of the Workshops; most of them are small, and are almost invariably kept clean.

Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected, and are satisfactory.

The drainage is good and Sewage efficiently dealt with by the Wigan Sanitary Authorities. Cow-sheds and Dairies have been visited, and are generally in good order.

Perhaps the most important matter to which I have to ask your attention is the insufficient water supply to the higher parts of the district, viz., Scot Lane and Ratcliffe Road. I am quite aware that your Council has had the matter frequently under consideration, and that you have had several consultations with those responsible for the supply, but the fact remains that there has been no improvement since my last annual Report. This irregular supply not only entails much waste, but is a source of constant danger; it is quite usual to see children dipping cups or tins into buckets or other utensils filled with the store water, and often these cups or tins are not put down in the cleanest of places, and are used again and again by other members of the family. Should an outbreak of Diphtheria or Typhoid occur in any of these localities the result might be deplorable.

The Sanitary Officer has made regular inspections of the township, and reports as follows:

Legal Notices served for overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective drains, wet and foul ashpits, and other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	48
Houses fumigated and cleaned down	...	...	...	...	...	36
New Privies	...	...	...	...	...	32
New Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	5
Old Privies re-modelled	...	...	...	...	...	23

The notices respecting overcrowding houses and nuisances have been complied with in every instance, Legal Proceedings not being necessary.

HENRY GIBSON,  
Sanitary Inspector.

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,  
M.O.H.

ASPULL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

*Year ending December 31st, 1905.*

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R. PLATT, LTD., PRINTERS, WIGAN.