

[Report 1923] / Medical Officer of Health, Aspull U.D.C.

Contributors

Aspull (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1923

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/g3f9a22h>

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



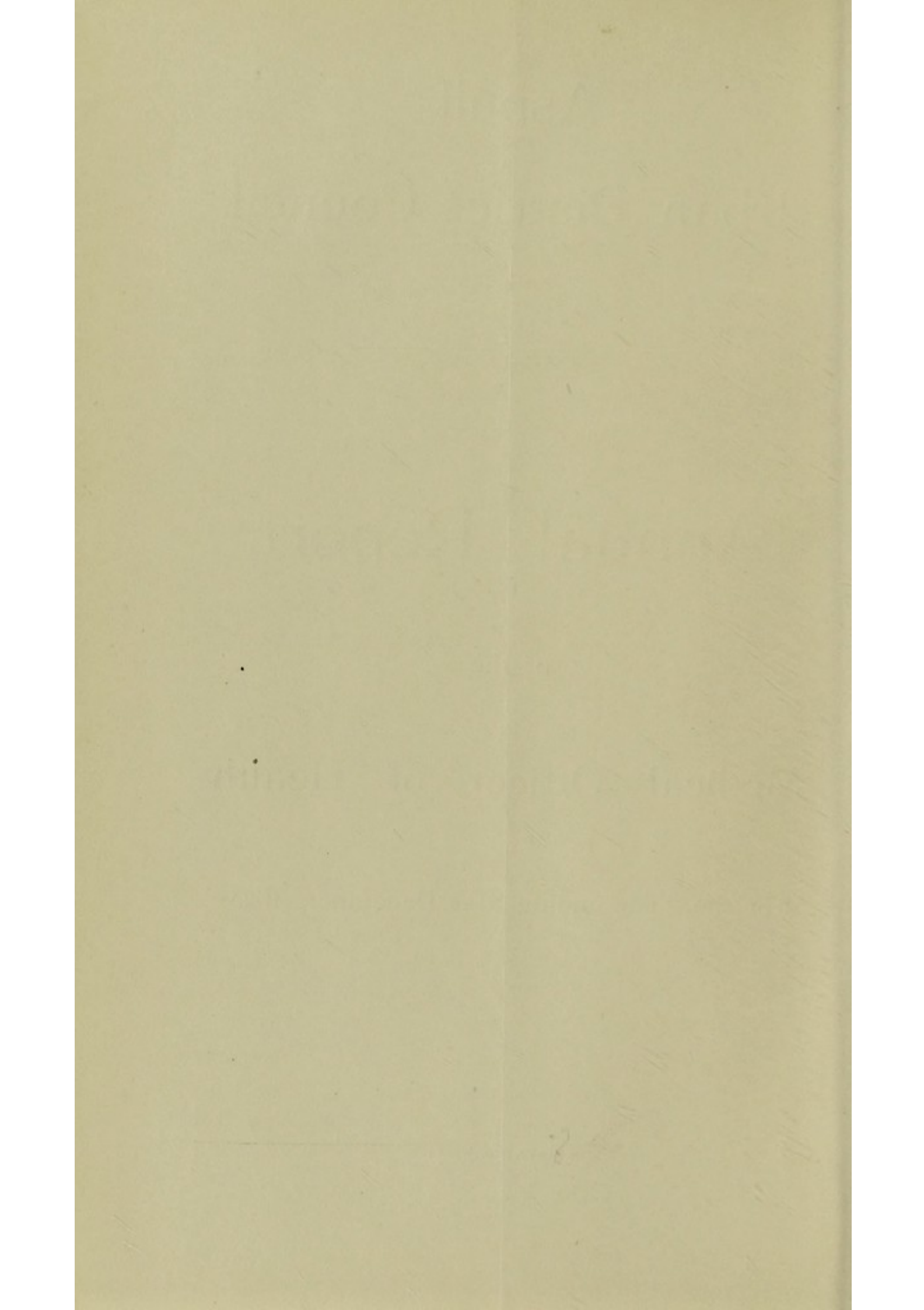
Aspull
Urban District Council.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending 31st December, 1923.



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

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Township for the year ending December 31st, 1923, together with the various tables prescribed by the Ministry of Health and the Lancashire County Council.

It will afford you much pleasure and gratification to know that this is the most satisfactory Annual Report, on the Health of the Township, I have ever been able to submit to you.

Notwithstanding the fact that considerable progress has been made in general sanitation, I should like to say that the remarkable decrease in the death-rate could not be wholly attributed to this influence.

Not only is the general death-rate, 10.3 per 1,000, much lower than the average, 16.1 per 1,000 for the past ten years, but it is lower than the rate returned for England and Wales, 11.6 per 1,000.

The Infantile death-rate is even more satisfactory, for whilst the birth-rate shows only a slight decrease over the average of the past 10 years, 26.6 per 1,000, the death-rate 58 per 1,000 births, is very much lower than that of the preceding 10 years, 122 per 1,000 births, and that of England and Wales 69 per 1,000 births.

The conclusion I have arrived at is that we are not indebted to any particular cause, but rather to a combination of favourable factors. It is therefore desirable to endeavour to find out, if possible, these favourable contributory conditions.

During the past year there has been a good deal of general sickness and Influenza, but the complications often attending the latter have not been of a Pneumonic, or severe, kind. There has been an almost complete absence of those infectious diseases which affect adult life, which may be due to improved sanitation.

Infant life is always of primary importance, and the conditions bearing on this side of the general health should be carefully considered and enumerated in detail.

1st. Sanitary improvements not only benefit the general health but remove some of the primary causes of those diseases which affect chiefly infant life, such as Infantile Diarrhœa, Diphtheria, etc.

2nd. Welfare Centres and the greater attention to infant feeding and hygiene.

3rd. The reduced employment of expectant mothers in industrial occupations. This has a strong bearing, not only on the health of the mother, but on the infant on its first inception to life, or in other words, it has a good start in life, so that however unfortunate and costly the continued female unemployment may have been, it is quite possible it may have been one of the favourable factors mentioned in influencing the infantile death-rate.

4th. The Inter Epidemic Period. Most infectious diseases like Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, seem to move in cycles, or visitations, every few years, and 1923 appears to have been the fortunate Inter Epidemic Period.

5th. The careful inspection and exclusion from school of children at the early commencement of any infectious outbreak.

During the year 12 cases of Diphtheria were reported, and in November there was an outbreak in the Infant Department of St. Elizabeth's School, on which I made a special report. Only 3 cases were notified, but I thought it advisable to submit all

contacts for bacteriological examination. Swabs were taken from the throats of 54 children, and 14 were found to contain the Diphtheria Bacillus, and were consequently capable of transmitting the disease. The sanitary condition of these schools was found to be most unsatisfactory, and they were closed for a period of 32 days.

During the year 20 privy middens have been converted to water carriage. This is not a large number, and I would urge on your Council the desirability of further increasing this conversion, and also that the sanitary arrangements attached to schools be kept in a strictly efficient condition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

L. COOKE, M.O.H.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the Township is 1,906 acres.

Its population in 1922 was 8,136.

The estimated population for 1923 is 8,217.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,670, containing 6,627 rooms.

Number of families or separate occupiers 1,806.

Rateable value of the Township is £23,733 10s. 0d., and a penny rate represents the sum of £78.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.—The total number of births occurring in the district was 188, giving a birth-rate of 22.8 per 1,000 of the population. Last year's figure was 22.4, and the average for the past ten years was 26.6, so that the present figures shows a decline in the birth-rate.

Of these births 96 were males, 92 females, 11 were illegitimate, 6 males and 5 females.

(b) DEATHS.—The total number of deaths belonging to the district was 85. Of these 43 were males and 42 were females.

Details of these deaths are as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	—	1
Influenza	4	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	1	—
Other Tuberculosis diseases	—	1
Cancer, malignant disease	4	3
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	3	2
Heart Disease	2	5
Arterio-Sclerosis	2	—
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	6
Other Respiratory diseases	—	2

Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and paturition	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Prema- ture Birth	6	2
Other Deaths from Violence	1	2
Other defined diseases	5	9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year:		
Total	8	3
Illegitimate	—	—
Total Births	96	92
Legitimate	90	87
Illegitimate	6	5

Population 8,217.

This gives a death-rate of 10.3. Last year it was 12.9 and the mean for the past ten years was 16.1 (these figures are per 1,000 population).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year number 11. This gives an infantile death-rate of 58 per 1,000 births.

The mean for the past ten years is 122 per 1,000 births, and last year's figure was 131.

Council Offices, Aspull,

April, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban Sanitary
Authority of Aspull.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in submitting for your perusal my Second Annual Report of the work carried out by me in connection with the duties of Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

As will be noticed I have commenced the house-to-house inspection of the district, but owing to my numerous duties have not been able to do as many as I anticipated. The repairs asked for in these cases were considerable, which accounts for the number remaining unabated at the end of the year.

It will be seen that much steady sanitary work has been accomplished, but some considerable time must elapse before any appreciable change can be seen, as an enormous amount of work still remains to be done. In particular renewed and persistent efforts are urgently needed in connection with:—

- (1) The removal of insanitary conditions which exist in many parts of the district;
- (2) The more speedy conversion of all privy middens to the water carriage system;
- (3) The paving of all back yards;
- (4) The abolition of all common yards, and the provision where possible of a private yard to each house.

The various duties have been carried out with such tact as to cause very little friction, in one case only has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings.

Conversions have been carried out at the following properties (from privy middens to water closets):—

Nos. 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 and 60, Wigan Road,
6 privies to 6 W.C.'s.

Nos. 125 and 127, Wigan Road, 2 privies to 2 W.C.'s.

Nos. 6, 8, 10 and 12, Kirkless Street, 2 privies to 2 W.C.'s.

Nos. 129, 131 and 133, Wigan Road

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Seddon's Yard, 2 privies to 3 W.C.'s.

Nos. 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70, Withington Lane, 2 privies to 6
W.C.'s.

Nos. 590, 592, 594 and 596, Bolton Road, 2 privies to 2 W.C.'s.

Nos. 70, 72, 74 and 76, Scot Lane, 2 privies to 3 W.C.'s.

Nos. 15 and 16, Scot Lane, 1 privy and 1 W.C.

No. 35, Haigh Road, 1 privy to 1 W.C.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to tender my sincere thanks to you, also the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of the Council, for the courteous help and consideration extended to me at all times.

I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES OCCLESHAW, A.R. San. I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

The following is a summary of the visits paid to dwelling-houses during the year:—

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected	283
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations) 1910	106
Notices issued <i>re</i> Nuisances (Informal)	275
Notices issued <i>re</i> Nuisances (Formal)	19
Number of Nuisances Abated	191
Number of Nuisances remaining on books 31st Dec., 1923 ...	64

NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective Dwelling-house Roofs	101
Defective Dwelling-house Floors	57
Defective Dwelling-house Doors	12
House with Damp and Defective Walls	22
Houses with Defective Window Frames and Cords	59
Houses with Defective and Dangerous Stairs	5
Houses which required Decorating	64
Defective Eave and Down Spouts	54
Want of Eave and Down Spouts	2
Defective and Dangerous Walls and Brickwork	34
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	35
Absence of Sink Waste Pipes	5
Defective Slopstones	1
Defective Yard Pavements	4
Absence of Water Supply	4

DRAINS.

Choked Yard and Water Closet Drains	40
Defective and Foul Gullies	1
Defective areas around Yard Gullies	3
Gullies requiring Grids	3

ASHPITS AND CLOSETS.

Dilapidated Privy Middens	9
Defective condition of Closets (roof, walls, doors and floors)	5
Absence of Ashpit Doors	8
Defective W.C. Cisterns	6
Defective W.C. Cones	2
Defective W.C. Soil Pipes	1
Absence of Water Supply for Flushing W.C.'s	4
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	12
Insufficient Ventilation to inside W.C.	1
Absence of Ashbins	9
Ashpits without Proper Doors and Coverings	3
Defective Ventilation Shaft	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Filthy condition of Dwelling-house Yards (Tenants warned)	25
Accumulation of Manure	1
Depositing Refuse on Moorland	1
Dirty condition of Stable	1

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 2 Registered Slaughter-Houses in the district, and these, together with the shops where food is prepared, have been visited regularly. Every attention has been given to the Slaughter-houses to enforce compliance with the Bye-laws, and there has been no occasion to take legal proceedings.

Number of Slaughter-houses on Register	2
Number of Visits	45

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the present time there are 17 cowsheds in the district. The majority of these require considerable structural alterations, and when the new Bye-laws with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, etc., are adopted, it is my intention to take the necessary steps to secure the carrying out of these very necessary improvements.

Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk on Register	23
Number of Producers of Milk on Register	17
Number of Visits	43

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

The workshops have been regularly and systematically visited, the regulations as to limewashing, cleanliness, etc., having been enforced. The bakehouses have also been regularly visited, any nuisance arising being promptly dealt with.

Number of Workshops on Register	12
Number of Bakehouses on Register	4
Number of Visits to Workshops	39
Number of defects dealt with	7
Want of Cleaning	7
Number of Intimations (verbal)	7

Trades for which Registered Workshops are used:—

Boot Repairing	Wheelwright	Plumbing
Horse Shoeing	Confectionery	Joinery
	Dressmaking	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Every case of infectious disease was visited and re-visited, and the inspection of the sanitary arrangements of each house carefully made. These premises were in all cases disinfected with Formaldehyde, and where necessary the limewashing of the walls and ceilings followed.

Number of Cases Notified	85
Number of Houses Disinfected	22
Number of Schools Disinfected	1
Number of Premises Cleansed and Limewashed after Infectious Disease	8

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the closet accommodation in the district in December, 1923:—

Privy Middens	366	Fresh Water Closets	503
Privy Closets attached ...	676	Waste Water Closets	1
Dry Ashpits	39	Pail Closets	7
Ashbins	500		

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Case (1). Public Health Act, 1875, Section 91.

Premises (dwelling-houses) in such a state as to be a nuisance and injurious to health. Order for abatement of nuisance made, the defendant, who was the owner of the property, having to pay all costs.

TABLE A.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1922.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) 1,906.

Population (estimated 1923) 8,217.

†Number of inhabited houses (1921) 1,670.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)
1,806.

Rateable value, £23,733 10s. 0d.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £78.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE
YEAR 1923:—

BIRTHS.

Legitimate	Total	177	Male	90	Female	87
Illegitimate	Total	11	Male	6	Female	5
Deaths	Total	85	Male	43	Female	42
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—						
From Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—
From other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

Total 11.	Legitimate 11.	Illegitimate 0.
Deaths from Measles (all ages) —
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 1

	Birth- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Death- Respiratory rate System	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
Mean of 10 years,			
1913-1922	26.6	16.1	0.76 122
1922	22.4	12.9	0.36 131
1923	22.8	10.3	0.12 58
Increase or Decrease			
in 1923 on—			
Ten Years' Average	—3.8	—5.8	—0.64 —64
Previous Year	+0.4	—2.6	—0.24 —73

TABLE B.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1923.

DISEASE	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Total Deaths	Hospital Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to Hospital to district.
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over		
Diphtheria and															
Membranous Group...	12	—	—	2	1	—	6	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	—
Erysipelas ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	—	—	2	1	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
†Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	3													
Acute Primary Pneumonia	28	3	5	2	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	—	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia													12		
*Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	1	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	—
Chicken Pox	25	3	4	—	3	4	11								
Totals	102	9	9	6	9	8	26	6	7	7	10	5	—	15	4

*†† see next page.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable
in your district state for what period:—
Chicken-pox, November 5th, 1923, for six months.

TABLE B—continued.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS <small>[The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General]</small>	
	Pulmonary,		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years						
1-5						1
5-10		1	1			
10-15	1					
15-20	1		1	2		
20-25	2			1		
25-35			1		1	
35-45	1	1				
Totals	5	2	3	3	1	1
	7		6		1	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?—One or two deaths not notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Number Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
3	3	0	3	0	0	0

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—Specify any causes of sickness and invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the district during the year. (This should include information obtained from local general practitioners).

Number of times School Closure adopted for—Scarlet Fever nil, Whooping Cough nil, Diphtheria once (32 days), Chicken-pox nil, Measles nil, Influenza nil.

Any other diseases (specify same), none.

†Number of Reports made under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Order, 1922: One.

Subjects of Reports: Diphtheria, Infant Department, St. Elizabeth's School, 7th November, 1923.

Signed,

L. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1924.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—Arrangements in the district for—(a) General Nursing. District Nurse. (b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.: At Sanatorium, Wigan.

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the *Local Authority*?—No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31st December, 1923: Number on Register 4. Number actually practising 4.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service? Good.

What action has been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work? Under County Council.

Has a local Child Welfare Centre been established?—Yes.

If so, where?—New Springs.

Give days and time open: Wednesday afternoon.

Have any of the following been provided in your district.—Day Nursery: No.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children: No.

School Clinic: Under County Council.

Tuberculosis Clinic: Under County Council.

Venereal Diseases Clinic: Under County Council.

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—No.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?—Yes. How many District Nurses employed?—One.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.

Does the Association undertake—(a) *Midwifery Cases?—No. (b) Monthly Nursing?—No.

(*Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner.)

Hospital Accommodation provided or available: For Smallpox: Wigan. For other Infectious Diseases: Wigan. †Joint or otherwise: Otherwise.

†If you have the joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority, state nature of "Agreement," or "Arrangement." Is any Retaining Fee paid?

Number of Beds available *for your District*: For Smallpox: No definite number. For other Infectious Diseases: No definite number.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—(a) Maternity Cases: No. (b) Children: No. (c) Tuberculosis: No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary or other Public Institution in District: None.

Disinfection.—Number of houses disinfected?—22. Method (state disinfectant used)?—Formaldehyde.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis?—Yes. (b) Measles. No.

*Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Formalin Vapour.

Number of Articles disinfected: 165.

Where is Apparatus situated?—Council Offices.

*If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital?—No.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, etc. in these cases is carried out: Formalin.

Ambulance facilities:—(a) For Infectious Cases?—Arrangement with Wigan (motor).

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases?—Wigan Police (motor) and Wigan Coal and Iron Co., Ltd. (horse).

(State in each case whether horse or motor.)

6. LABORATORY WORK.—Bacteriological Examinations. Number of Specimens examined: Blood 3, Sputum 3, Throat Swabs 122, Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept *within* the district?—Yes. If so, where?—Council Offices.

Amount used during 1923?—192,000 units.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—Summary of the work of the Sanitary Department:

Source of Water Supply—Bolton Corporation.

What is its condition?—Good.

Possibilities of contamination?—None.

Any insufficiency, and where?—No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?—None.

Are Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?—Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used?—No.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Day.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Buried.

Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sewage Disposal Works—

Method of Treatment?—Taken by Wigan.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?—Separate system.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—Hindley Mill Cottages (4 houses).

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, etc.—Periodically attended to.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?—Nil.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected?—Nil.

Number of Infringements of Acts?—Nil.

Bakehouses: Number 4. What is their condition? Good.

Slaughter-houses: What is their condition? Good.

Number Registered 2. Number Licensed 2. Has a Public Abattoir been provided? No.

Common Lodging-houses: Number none.

Workshops and Workplaces: What is their condition? Good.

Schools: Sanitary condition good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—Fair.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.?—Yes. Are they enforced?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—
(a) Where cows are habitually grazed?—600 cubic feet. (b) where cows are *not* habitually grazed?—800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total number of Cowkeepers?—17. Number on Register?—17. Number of Inspections during year?—43.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).—Total number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors?—6. Number on Register?—6.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Give particulars.—None.

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk?—None.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.—Number of Dealers' licences issued in respect of: "Certified" Milk?—Nil. "Grade A" Milk?—Nil. "Grad A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk?—Nil.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk:—Pasteurising Plants?—None. Retail Distributors?—None.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and Milk and Cream Regulations—Action taken by Local Authority (if any)?—Under County Council.

Inspection of Food.—Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared?—Nil. Any food poisoning? Action taken?—Nil.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts?—(a) None. (b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than (a) above)?—None. (c) Other foodstuffs?—(c) None.

Number of Legal Proceedings and result?—None.

Notices served—Nuisances.—Number of Notices served?—Informal 275. Statutory 19. Number of Nuisances abated 191. Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—One. Order for nuisance to be abated.

Closets and Ashpits.—Privy Middens: Number of Middens 366. Number of Closets attached to these Middens 676. Number of Pail Closets 7. Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) 38. Number of Fresh Water Closets 503. Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse 500. Number of Waste Water Closets 1. Number of Privy Closets converted during 1923: To Fresh W.C.'s 20 to 26 W.C.'s. To Waste W.C.'s nil. To Pails, etc., nil. Number of Pail Closets converted to Fresh W.C.'s nil. Waste W.C.'s nil. Number of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s nil.

Is any special effort being made at the present time to abolish privy middens and pail closets in areas where adequate sewers are available?—Special efforts are being made in this direction.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes. If so, how much?—Drains to sewer.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?—W.C.'s.

Smoke Nuisance.—Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement?—None. Number of observations 25. Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result nil. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—5 minutes.

Has the Authority adopted—"The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890"?—No. "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907"?—Parts III. and IV. "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"?—No. Any other adoptive Act?—No.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.—Medical Officer of Health: L. Cooke.

Salary (including Bonus) as Medical Officer of Health, 31st December, 1923, £110 per annum.

Is he a whole-time Officer?—No.

Sanitary Inspector(s), James Occleshaw.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector, 31st December, 1923, £122 1s. 6d. per annum.

Is he a whole-time Officer?—No. If not, what other appointments does he hold?—Road Surveyor.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector(s)?—None.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses; if any, give names, salaries, qualifications, and offices held?—Bacteriologist. W. E. Cooke, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.

9.—HOUSING.—Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	1
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts of 1919 or 1923:—

(i.) By the Local Authority	—
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

(ii.) By other bodies or persons	—
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme	—
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing
Accommodation:—

Have any advances been made during 1923—

(a) by loans? Nil. (b) By subsidy? Nil.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected
for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing
Acts) 283

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under
the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 106

Have particulars of these inspections been fully re-
corded as specified in the Regulations? Yes

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so
dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for
human habitation —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred
to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably
fit for human habitation 275

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in conse-
quence of informal action by the Local Authority or
their Officers 190

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town
Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered
fit:—

(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close				...	—
B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied					19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	19
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				...	—
C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.					
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	—
D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	—

* Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects.

Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Administration.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1923:—20 privies converted to 20 W.C.'s with 6 additional W.C.'s.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District:—Conversion of privy middens to W.C.'s, paving of yards, cleaning and repairs to property.

Signed,

L. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

April 14th, 1924.