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ASPULL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 1938




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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Ashfield House,

Aspull, Wigan,

July, 1939.

The Chairman and Members
of the ASPULL Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health
of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

As you will see from the appended statistics the health of
the district continues to be satisfactory.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938. England and Wales—London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still-births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	Small pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).
England and Wales	15.1	0.90	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	53	5.5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	15.0	0.95	11.7	0.00	—	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	57	7.8
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000- to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	51	3.6
London Administrative County	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	57	13.1

NOTIFICATIONS.

	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
England and Wales	0.00	2.41	1.58	0.03	0.40	1.10
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0.00	2.60	1.85	0.03	0.45	1.28
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000- to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	0.00	2.58	1.53	0.04	0.30	0.98
London Administrative County	—	2.05	1.90	0.05	0.45	0.98

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows.— per 1,000 Live Births ... Total
 Do. do. do. Puerperal Sepsis Others. 3.08
 do. do. do. Live and Still ... 2.97
 do. do. do. 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London. 148 Smaller Towns London County.

NOTIFICATIONS {
 Puerperal Fever ... }
 Puerperal Pyrexia }

12.51 15.46

TOTAL DEATHS, 1938. S.D. 30.

Causes of Death in Aspull U.D., 1938 :—

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	44	43
Measles.....	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Diphtheria	1	0
Except Lethargica		
Influenza	0	0
Ac: and Chronic Nephritis	1	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2
Other Tuberculosis	0	1
Cancer	3	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	5
Heart Disease	9	13
Other Liver Diseases	0	1
Bronchitis	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	3
Congenital causes, etc.	2	2
Senility	3	1
Other Violence	3	0
Other Defined Causes	0	4
Ill defined or N.K.	0	0
Diabetes	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	1	0
Appendicitis	1	0

Live Births:

Total	58	64
Legitimate	57	63
Illegitimate	1	1

Stillbirths:

Total	7	4
Legitimate	7	4
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Total	4	5
Legitimate	4	5
Illegitimate	—	—

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified :

Scarlet Fever..... 4	Diphtheria..... 9
Pneumonia41	Erysipelas 4

Resident Population : 6,577.

Comparability factor : 1.21.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	120	57	63
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Total	122	58	64

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18·5.

Still Births	11	7	4
--------------------	----	---	---

Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births 82.

Deaths	87	44	43
--------------	----	----	----

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
*13·2.

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	0
Total	0

Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	73
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	75
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

* 1938 adjusted death rate (comparability factor, 1·21) = 15·9 per 1000.

Population, 6,577.

Year—	PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.				Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 <i>Live</i> Births	Per 1000 <i>Total</i> (Live and Still) Births	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
Mean of 5 Years 1933—1937	17.0	13.4	0.55	1.23	1.65	1.56	96
1937...	...	16.5	0.15	1.20	Nil	Nil	81
1938...	...	18.5	0.76	1.52	Nil	Nil	73
Increase or decrease in 1938 on—							
5 years' average, 1933-1937	... +1.5	-0.2	+0.21	+0.29	-1.65	-1.56	-23
Previous Year	... +2.0	-0.3	+0.61	+0.32	Nil	Nil	-8

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.21) = 15.9 per 1,000.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

SUMMARY of the particulars required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1728, dated the 25th October, 1938, to be included in the

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres 1,906.

Population—Census, 1931, 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938—6,577

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 1,636.

End of 1938 according to Rate Books, 1,841.

Rateable value, £17,391.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £62.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area:—

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class. There is now only one small cotton mill working in the district.

Extent of unemployment:—

Wholly unemployed 573. Temporarily unemployed 141.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health—None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment—None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year—None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health—None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults—None.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: R. A. Cooke.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1938, £110

Is he a whole or part-time official of the local authority: Part.

Any other public appointments held by him: Public Vaccinator.

Is he in private practice: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector: Randolph Fairclough.

Remuneration (including bonus, if any) as Sanitary Inspector at 31/12/38: £180.

Whole or Part Time: Part.

Other appointments held (if any): Highway Surveyor.

Any other Specialised Inspectors(s) (e.g., Food Inspector)?
None.

Other Public Health Officers, such as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Health Visitors, Special Nurses, Dental Surgeon, etc.: None.

Ambulance facilities for:—

(a) Infectious cases: Provided by respective hospitals:
Motor.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases: Wigan Corporation;
Motor.

(c) Maternity patients: Chorley Hospital; Motor.

Comment briefly on adequacy of ambulance service or services in the area, and on the arrangements made for their co-ordination: Adequate.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

Nature of arrangements made by the local authority in the district for—

(a) General nursing: None.

(b) Nursing of infectious diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.: None.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations: Haigh and Aspull Nursing Association £25.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

Is there in your district:—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and treatment): Yes.

Provided by Lancashire County Council.

Give day and time open: Wednesday 1-30 to 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Clinic: No.

Day Nursery: No.

School Clinic: No.

Orthopædic Clinic: No.

Artificial Light Clinic: No.

Hospitals in the district:—

Public: None.

Voluntary: None.

Is there any institutional provision in your area for:

Unmarried mothers? No.

Illegitimate infants? No.

Homeless children? No.

Health Education:—

Any action taken by the local authority during the year in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease and the importance of early treatment? (e.g., health week, special lectures, etc.): None.

Give a brief description of special efforts made locally in connection with National Health Campaign to secure a wider use of the health services: Notices posted throughout the district,

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authority: Bolton Corporation, Blackrod U.D.C., Liverpool Corporation.

Source: Rivington and Belmont. Nature: Moorland.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.

Is supply satisfactory? (a) in quality: Yes. (b) In quantity: Yes.

Constant or intermittent: Constant

Approximate number of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private)? (a) Direct from mains, 1,840. (b) By stand pipe): None.

Possibilities of contamination: None.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: None.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action? None. Pipes lined with tin.

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year? No.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.: One.

Have these waters been examined during the year? No.

Any insufficiency, and where: One isolated cottage cannot be supplied from mains.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: For housing site only.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage disposal works, method of treatment: Taken by Wigan and treated.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system: None.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system, and reason therefor: Isolated farms and cottages only.

Action taken—Drain testing, flushing, etc.: Carried out periodically.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken to check the pollution of streams: None.

Sources and nature of pollution: None.

Have any new works been established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river pollution? No.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1938:—

(In this connection note last year's figures). Last year's figures in parenthesis.

Privy middens:—Number of middens 28 (30).

Number of closets attached to these middens 66 (69).

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres: No.

Number of pail closets 28 (28).

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) 2 (2).

Number of movable ashbins 1,771, (1669).

Number of houses on water carriage system 1,727 (1,627).

Number of fresh water closets 1667, (1,562)

Number of waste water closets 1 (1).

Conversions—

Number of privy closets	1938.	5 years, 1933-37
To fresh w.c.'s	5	233
To waste w.c.'s	—	—
To pails, etc.	—	4
Number of pail closets		
To fresh w.c.'s	—	—
To waste w.c.'s	—	—
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s		—
Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	5	249

Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets: Yes.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion: Yes.

If so, how much: Lays drains to w.c. basin.

Public Cleansing—

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse: Collected weekly by motor, with special refuse van type of body.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies: Collected by motor vehicle.

(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse: Buried.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies: Buried.

(e) The methods of cleansing cesspools: Contents taken by cart and buried.

(f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents: Buried.

If a destructor provided, state situation: None.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses: Sanitary Authority

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements: None.

Are motor vehicles used? Yes.

If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night: Day.

Does the Sanitary Inspector supervise the scavenging: Yes.

Sanitary Inspections during 1938—

Number of premises visited: 235.

Defects or nuisances. Number discovered 753. Number abated 541.

Number of notices served. Informal 208. Statutory 13.

Legal proceedings. Number: 1. Result. Orders for abatement with costs.

Shops—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to:

(a) Ventilation of Shops. None.

(b) Temperature of Shops: None.

(c) Sanitary Conveniences: None.

Camping Sites—

Number of sites in the area: None.

Smoke Abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement. None.

Number of factory and works chimneys in the district: 1.

Number of observations: None.

Number of legal proceedings taken and result: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour: 5 minutes per hour.

Swimming Baths and Pools—None.

Eradication of bed bugs—

No. of houses infested:

(a) Council houses: None. Other houses: 6.

No. of houses disinfested:

(b) Council houses: None. Other houses: None.

Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs: None

Method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to council houses: Furniture treated with H.C.N. Bedding steam disinfected.

Is this work carried out by local authority or contractor: Contractor.

Measures taken to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing: No straw mattresses allowed in council houses.

Schools—

(a) Sanitary condition: Satisfactory.

(b) Water supply: Taken from Council's mains.

Satisfactory: Yes.

Offensive Trades—

Number: None.

Action taken or needed: None.

Workshops and Workplaces—

Number on register: 17.

What is their condition: Good.

Common Lodging-houses—

Number on register: None.

Houses let in Lodgings—

Number on register: None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.: Action taken: None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms: Any need for regulations? No.

Canal Boats—

Number inspected: None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928—

State whether there are in the district any premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

Number of inspections: None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1938—Clearance areas prepared consisting of 89 houses, and 4 houses taken under Section 11 of the 1936 Housing Act. Schemes for the erection of 120 council houses, 112 completed.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of district—Provision of further houses to replace existing unfit property.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the Year:-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under
(b)) 127.

(i) By the Local Authority	112
(ii) By other Local Authorities	None
(iii) By other bodies or persons	15

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-

(i) By the Local Authority	112
(ii) By other bodies or persons	None

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	235
---	-----

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	373
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	93
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	186
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	93
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	97
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	132
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—	
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	None
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	None

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 13
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners 9
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...None

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were madeNone
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fitNone

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part 4.)—Overcrowding:

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year—73.

Number of families dwelling therein—73.

Number of persons dwelling therein—512.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year—None.

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year—12.

Number of persons concerned in such cases—78.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General Observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding:—

The majority of the dwellings are cottages. The average age is about 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness, effects of wear and tear.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district: 22.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses.

(a) Extent of shortage (if any): None.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated; Second scheme of 70 houses in the completion stage.

(c) Information as to any important change in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future:—

We anticipate migration.

- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: Yes. Chiefly due to mineral rights.

3. Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1938.—None.
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved during the course of slum clearance operations.—Eight.
- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.—None.
- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, *e.g.*, causes—how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.—Majority of cases are due to inability to pay rents.

4. Fitness of houses.

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts.—None.
- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: One.
- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation: 37.

5. Action taken during the year regarding: Clearance Areas—

No. of areas represented: 15; comprising 89 houses.

No. of areas cleared: 6; comprising 41 houses.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: 62.

Improvement Areas—

No. of areas represented: None.

No. of houses demolished: None.

No. of tenants displaced: None.

No. of new houses built to rehouse displaced tenants: None.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. —Periodical inspection of cowsheds and dairies.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1938 in respect of—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” milk—

(i) Bottling: None. (ii) Distribution: None.

“ Accredited ” milk—

(i) Bottling: None. (ii) Distribution: None.

Number of licences issued in respect of “ Pasteurised ” milk—

Pasteurising plants: None.

Retail distributors: 3.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes.

How often?—2 or 3 times a year.

What is their condition?—Good.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds?—(Give brief particulars).—None.

Any information as to the cost of the work, actual or estimated: None.

Farms.—

Number of dairy farms: 17.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 200.

Cowkeepers—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 14

Number of inspections during the year: 20.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers).—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 22.

Action taken by local authority as to—

Tuberculous Milk.

Number of samples submitted for biological test:

12 samples of milk as supplied to schools.

Result.—Positive 1. Negative 11.

2. Meat and other Foods.—Observations on—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: All premises and vehicles inspected regularly.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Inspection of meat—

Animal	Total number of killings	Number of carcases inspected	Number of Condemnations. Parts of carcases or organs.	
			For tuberculosis	For diseases other than tuberculosis
Cattle (other than cows)	4	4	1	—
Cows	63	63	48	1
Calves...	2	2	—	—
Sheep	31	31	—	—
Lambs...				
Pigs	44	44	1	2

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis: Cows 0.63%; Pigs 0.88%.

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis: Cattle (excluding Cows) 25%; Cows 30.24%; Pigs 0.44%.

(c) Has a public slaughter-house been provided?—No.

Private slaughter-houses—

Number registered: None.

Number licensed: 2.

Are they conducted satisfactorily? Yes.

(d) If a meat marketing scheme under Part 3 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force, give particulars with regard to action taken thereunder: None.

(e) Food poisoning (including suspected cases):—Action taken (if any): None.

(f) Bakehouses—

Number: 5. Condition: Good.

3. Adulteration, etc.—

If the local authority is a Food and Drugs Authority, state action taken in respect of—

(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.:—

Samples taken by Lancashire Constabulary.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations.— None.

4. Chemical and bacteriological examination of food (excluding milk): None.

No. and nature of analyses during the year, and the laboratories to which specimens were sent: None.

5. Nutrition—

Dissemination of knowledge—Any action? None.

6. Shell-fish (Molluscan): None. Shell-fish bought out of district.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available:—

For smallpox: Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

No. of Beds: No definite number.

Where situate: Bury.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?
Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid? Yes.

If so what sum? £35 per annum.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?
No.

For other infectious diseases: Horwich. Blackrod and West-
houghton Hospital Committee. No. of beds: 5 guaranteed.

Where situate: Horwich.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?
Agreement.

Are any retaining fees paid? Yes.

If so, what sum? £25 per annum.

Or, if a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority?
No.

Are patients required to contribute towards cost of treat-
ment? No.

Cost of hospital treatment for infectious disease:—

Cost per patient, Year ended 31st December, 1938, £16 19-0.

Has any action been taken or advised with the object of
securing that the hospital accommodation available is utilised to
the best advantage?—No.

Has action been taken to shorten the period of stay of
uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever?—No.

Or to replace hospital treatment in suitable instances by nursing and supervision at home?—No.

Have any new methods been adopted for the selection of individual cases for which admission to hospital is most imperative?—No.

Or any new decision as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or whooping cough?—No.

Infectious diseases generally:—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1938, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection: The number of cases of infectious disease notified was small.

Give the clinical type and diffusion of:—

- (a) Diphtheria: In all cases the infection was in the fauces.
- (b) Cerebro-spinal fever: Nil.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of:—

- (a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Supply is adequate, it is promptly used.

Are supplies readily available? Yes.

If so, where kept? Council Offices.

- (b) Anti-meningococcus serum: Cases would be treated in Hospital.

Are supplies readily available? Yes.

If so, where kept? At hospital.

Are any other Vaccines or Sera supplied free to Medical Practitioners?—No.

Any observed relation between various forms of streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, sore throat occurring without rash, and puerperal fever): None.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics: None.

Pneumonia, malaria, and dysentery.—Experience in regard to these diseases: None.

Other diseases which have received special attention, e.g., locally contracted anthrax, epidemic jaundice, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, glandular fever, or psittacosis? None.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period :—

Measles : No. Whooping cough : No. Diarrhœa (under 2 years) : No. Chicken-pox : Yes (6 months).

Any others : No. Observations : None.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation ? None.

The extent to which school intimations of disease are utilised : None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.--At which laboratory are specimens examined?—Wigan Infirmary.

Number and nature of specimens examined in 1938—

Diphtheria, 40 ; Scarlet fever, Nil ; Enteric fever, Nil ; Miscellaneous, Nil.

Number of times School Closure adopted during 1938 for—

Scarlet Fever : None. Whooping Cough : None. Diphtheria : None. Chicken-pox : None. Measles : None. Influenza : None.

Any other diseases (specify same) : None.

Number of reports made during 1938 under Article 17 (7) of Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935 : None.

Subjects of reports : None.

Immunisation.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation.

(1) Diphtheria —

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools : None.

(b) At special clinics or day schools : None.

(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b) : None.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Total Deaths 65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital from the district.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria including Membranous Croup ...	10	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	3	—	—	1	10	1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia {	44	5	5	4	2	3	4	3	—	9	5	3	1	9	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia }															
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Chicken Pox ...	8	—	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	70	5	5	5	4	3	11	10	2	13	6	3	3	10	3

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? Yes. (on application).

No. of children immunised during the year: None.

(2) Scarlet fever—

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools: None.

(b) At special clinics or day schools: None.

(c) Otherwise than (a) or (b): None.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? No.

No. of children immunised during the year: None.

Disinfection after infectious disease—

Number of houses disinfected during 1938: 13.

Method (state disinfectant used): Formalin.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis: Yes. (b) Measles?—No.

† Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise)—Steam, when necessary.

Number of articles disinfected: 88.

Where is apparatus situated: Wigan.

† If apparatus at hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., of patients *not* removed to the hospital? —Yes.

Disinfestation.—

What arrangements exist for the disinfestation of verminous, etc., persons? None.

The prevalence of any animal or insect pests such as rats, bugs, fleas, mosquitoes, etc., should be referred to and particulars given of the measures taken for their suppression: None.

Cancer.—Any observations as to the prevalence of Cancer? None. Particulars of any action taken to impart to the public information regarding cancer (i.e. facilities available, etc.): None.

Particulars of any alteration, improvements or developments in the availability of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the area which have been effected during the year (whether by local authority or voluntary hospitals): None.

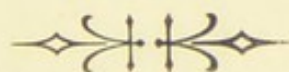
Are the present facilities adequate? Yes.

Is any use made of facilities provided by National Radium Centres? Yes.

Any local investigation or action undertaken on the lines suggested in the series of Ministry's circulars on cancer? No.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Action taken (if any) under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.—None.



TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods		NEW CASES		DEATHS ‡ (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General.)			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years							
0-1	...						1
1-5	...						
5-10	...			1			
10-15	...						
15-20	...						
20-25	...						
25-35	...					1	
35-45	...					1	
45-55	...	1				1	
55-65	...					2	
65 and upwards	...						
Totals	...	1	1	1	1	3	2
		2		2		5	
						†	†
							1

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?

Two of the deaths from Tuberculosis had not been previously 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to Tuberculous employees in the milk trade—None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: None.

Child Life Protection (under Part I of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).
Action taken: None.

Signed.

R. A. COOKE.

23rd March, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices, Aspull,

July, 1939.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report in connection with my duties as Sanitary Inspector for the year ending the 31st December, 1938.

The progress made in connection with the Slum Clearance Programme has been exceptionally good, 15 Clearance Areas comprising 89 houses were dealt with during the year.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to you, for the courteous help and consideration extended to me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. FAIRCLOUGH,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR 1938.

Number of premises visited (dwelling-houses)	235
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	753
Number of defects abated	541
Number of notices served (Informal)	208
Number of notices served (Formal)	13

DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Houses with defective roofs	66
Houses with dampness in walls	38
Houses with defective brickwork	35
Houses with damp and defective floors	36
Houses with defective eave or down spouting	26
Houses with defective windows	29
Houses with defective doors or door frames	18
Houses with defective ceilings	17
Houses with damp or decayed plaster on walls	23
Houses with defective or smoky chimney stacks	4
Houses with defective or dangerous fireplaces	14
Houses with defective staircases	7
Houses with defective sink waste pipes	6
Houses with defective and foul slopstones	14
Defective drains	16
Defective areas around sink waste gullies	3
Choked drains	21
Insufficiency of closet accommodation	1
Defective closets, ashpits or ashplaces	7
Defective water closet flushing cisterns	53
Defective ashbins	32
Absence of water supply to water closets	0
Defective water closet basins	1
Defective yard surfaces	4
Houses with defective washboilers	13
Miscellaneous	48

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The usual routine inspection of the cowsheds and dairies in the district has been carried out.

FARMS.

Number of dairy farms	17
Approximate number of cows in district	200

COWKEEPERS.

Number of cowkeepers (including dairy farms)	14
Number on register	14
Number of inspections during the year	20

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK.

Number of dairymen or purveyors of milk	22
Number on register	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Cases of infectious disease are visited and in every instance the premises sprayed with Formalin at the termination of the case. Re-decoration of the rooms was carried out where it was considered necessary. In cases of tuberculosis a similar procedure is carried out.

Number of houses disinfected	13
Number of rooms	31
Number of articles	88

Number of Notices (Informal) served with respect to cleansing	2
Number of Notices (Formal) served with respect to cleansing	0
Number of premises cleansed	2

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. No complaints have been received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories who visits the factories.

Number of workshops on register (domestic included)	12
Number of bakehouses on register	5
Visits to workshops and bakehouses	17
Visits to factories	0

The following defects were dealt with:—

Requiring limewashing and cleansing	0
Defective sanitary accommodation	0
Number of defects remedied	0
Written Notices	0

Trades for which Registered Workshops (domestic included) are used for:—

Boot Repairing	Plumbing	Horse Shoeing and
Wheelwright	Joinery	General Smiths

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT SHOPS, ETC.

There are two licensed slaughter-houses in the district. All animals slaughtered are examined at the time of slaughter, and shops, vans and other premises are inspected frequently.

Number of slaughter-houses on register	2
Number of visits to slaughter-houses	88

The following animals were inspected as to their fitness for sale at the time of slaughter:—

	Total Number of Killings	No. of Carcases Inspected	No. of Carcases free from Disease	Weight of Tuberculosis Parts and Offal Condemmed	Weight of Parts and Offal other than Tuberculosis Condemmed
Beasts	67	67	13	650 lbs.	34 lbs.
Calves	2	2	2	—	—
Sheep	31	31	31	—	—
Pigs	44	44	41	8lbs.	10 lbs.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

Tuberculous carcasses and parts	658 lbs.
Diseased, unsound and unwholesome meat other than above	44 lbs.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shews the closet accommodation in the district in December, 1938 :—

Privy middens	28
Privy closets attached	66
Dry Ashpits	2
Ashbins	1771
Fresh water closets	1667
Waste water closets	1
Pail closets	28

LIST OF FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES TAKEN IN
THE TOWNSHIP OF ASPULL DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Milk	23
Jam	3
Cornflour	1
Rice	2
Pepper	1
Lard	2
Butter	1
Margarine	2
Custard Powder.....	1
Tapioca	1
Tea	1
Cocoa	1
Egg Substitute	1
<hr/>	
Total	40
<hr/>	

All the above samples were genuine, with the exception of *two samples of milk in respect of which no proceedings were instituted.*

