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ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1945





ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL




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ASHFIELD HOUSE,  
ASPULL,  
WIGAN.

The Chairman and Members of the  
ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on  
the Health of the District for the year ending  
December 31st, 1945.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

1945. S.D. 30. A.

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 ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Resident Population : 6050.

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Live Births :—	M.	F.
Total .....	61	45
Legitimate.....	59	44
Illegitimate.....	2	1
Still Births .—		
Total .....	0	2
Legitimate .....	0	2
Illegitimate.....	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
Total .....	4	1
Legitimate.....	4	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0

**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1945.** 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.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
													Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).
England and Wales . . . . .	16.14	0.46†	11.47	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.00	0.02	46†	5.6		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.00	0.02	54	7.8		
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000- to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.00	0.02	43	4.5		
London Administrative County	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.01	53	7.6		

† Rates per 1,000 Total population. † Per 1,000 related births.

**NOTIFICATIONS.** Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Measles	Pneumonia
England and Wales . . . . .	0.01	0.01	0.05	1.89	1.64	0.46	0.25	0.00	11.67	0.87
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0.01	0.00	0.05	2.02	1.65	0.52	0.28	0.00	10.89	1.03
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000- to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	0.01	0.01	0.05	2.03	1.47	0.56	0.24	0.00	11.19	0.72
London Administrative County	0.01	0.00	0.06	1.57	1.25	0.31	0.31	0.00	9.03	0.78

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

NOTIFICATIONS { Puerperal Fever ... }  
 { Puerperal Pyrexia }

England & Wales. 9.93  
 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London. 12.65  
 143 Smaller Towns 8.81  
 London County. 3.60  
 \* 15.87

Maternal Mortality—England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis: 0.25, No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis: 0.08, No. 147 Puerperal Infections: 0.24, Nos. 142-6, 148-150 Other: 1.22.  
 Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45—Eng<sup>1</sup>-and and Wales ... No. 140 With Sepsis: 18 No. 141 Without Sepsis: 6.



ASPULL U.D.C.

Population—  
 For birth-rate } 6,050  
 For death-rates }

Year—	PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
Mean of 5 Years 1940—1944	18.0	11.4	0.29	1.49	7.35	6.92	67
1944...	17.8	11.4	0.49	1.66	18.69	17.54	28
1945...	17.5	* 12.3	0.33	1.48	Nil	Nil	47

Increase or decrease in 1945 on—

5 years' average, 1940-1944	...	-0.5	+0.9	+0.04	-0.01	-7.35	-6.92	-20
Previous Year	...	-0.3	+0.9	-0.16	-0.18	-18.69	-17.54	+19

\* 1945 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor ) = . per 1,000.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1945.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .....	103	59	44
Illegitimate .....	3	2	1
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Total .....	106	61	45
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1945, 17·5			
Still Births .....	2	0	2
Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births, 18.			
Deaths .....	75	42	33
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 12·3.			
Deaths from Puerperal causes—			
Puerperal and post-abortive causes ...		0	
Other maternal causes .....		0	
		<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
Total .....		0	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births .....			47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....			48
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....			9
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....			0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....			0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....			0

## 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, mid-1945, 6001.

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

End of 1945 according to Rate Books, 1,804.

Rateable value, £17,526.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £64.

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

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class. There are one small cotton mill, a machine bakery, and an engineering works working in the district.

## 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.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : R. A. Cooke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Special diplomas or certificates of qualification : None.

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

Any other public appointments held by him: Public Vaccinator and District Medical Officer.

Is he in private practice: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector: H. Geoffrey Barnes, M.Inst.R.A., M.Inst.B.E. M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector's Cert., S.I.B. & R.S.I.; Meat and Food Inspector's Cert.

Whole or Part-Time: Part.

Other appointments held (if any): Highway and Building Surveyor, Water and Sewage Works Manager, Food and Petroleum Inspector, Rodent Officer.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: No developments or changes.

Ambulance facilities: Services shared with adjoining Authorities.

- (a) Infectious cases—Motor, provided by Horwich U.D.C.
- (b) Non-infectious and accident cases—Motor, provided by Wigan County Borough.
- (c) Maternity cases—Motor, provided by Wigan County Borough.

Comment briefly on adequacy of ambulance service or services in the area, and on the arrangements made for their co-ordination, indicating any changes or developments made owing to the war (excluding A.R.P.): No changes, present services are adequate.

Nursing in the Home: Carried on by Aspull and Haigh Nursing Association.

Total amount of financial assistance given by local authority to voluntary associations: £15.

Treatment Centres and Clinics (including Clinics solely for diagnosis and consultation): Under Lancs. C.C.

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.

## 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

## Water Supply :—

Particulars of any new sources of public supply : None.

Water supply from public mains :

(a) direct to houses ... No. of dwelling-houses, 1,635.  
No. of population, 7,189.

(b) by means of pumps... No. of dwelling-houses, 1.  
No. of population, 4.

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

If piped supply, examinations made during the year of the raw water : Bacteriological examination.—No. 2 ; results satisfactory.

Chemical analyses.—No. 2 ; results satisfactory.

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

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action : No.

If so, give facts as to contamination by lead and the precautions taken, including number and results of analyses : No. 1 ; results satisfactory.

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

## Drainage and Sewerage :—

(a) Any important extension of sewage : None.

(b) Progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area : Two private sewerage disposal plants with Septic Tanks and Filters have been installed at "Gorse's Farm" and "Toddington Farm and Cottages."

## Rivers and Streams :—

Sources and nature of pollution : None.

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams : None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1945. (Last year's figures in parenthesis).

Privy middens—Number of middens : 9 (10).

Number of closets attached to these middens : 11 (12).  
 Number of pail closets : 24 (23).  
 Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) : None.  
 Number of movable ashbins : 1,752 (1,745).  
 Number of houses on water carriage system : 1,766 (1,762).  
 Number of fresh water closets : 1,714 (1,709).  
 Number of waste water closets : None.

Conversions during 1945 :—

Number of privy closets

To fresh w.c.'s .....	2
To waste w.c.'s .....	—
To pails, etc. ....	1

Number of pail closets

To fresh w.c.'s .....	3
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	7
--	---

Public Cleansing :—

Present methods satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections during 1945 :—  
(including Housing)

Number of premises visited : 250.

Defects or nuisances—Number discovered, 170. Number abated, 100.

Number of notices served—Informal, 42. Statutory, 10.

Legal proceedings—None.

Shops and Offices :—

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 (other than Military) : None.

Smoke Abatement :—

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

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry : None.

Swimming Baths and Pools—Brief particulars of any :—

(a) Public Swimming Baths or Pools : None.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the  
public : None.

Any action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the  
water : None.

Disinfestation.—

Particulars of action taken during 1945 :

No. of houses found to be infested : Council houses, None.  
Other houses, 1.

No. of houses disinfested : Council houses, None.  
Other houses, 1.

Methods employed for disinfestation of houses : Fumigation.

State fumigant employed and/or insecticide used, and effi-  
ency thereof : Thermatox Fumigators—Results satisfactory.

Is work of disinfestation carried out by local authority or by  
a contractor : By a Contractor.

Schools :—

(a) Sanitary condition : Good.

(b) Water supply : Council's Main supply.  
Is it satisfactory? : Yes.

Offensive Trades :—Number : None.

Factories' Act, 1937 :—

Observations on the administration of the Act :

All factories regularly inspected. Sanitary arrangements  
found satisfactory.

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.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1945 : Some Privvy-Middens abolished—Conversion to Pail and Water Carriage Systems. Two private Septic Tanks installed on isolated farms.

#### 4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS :—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—None.

With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—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)—70.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—150.

(2) 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—70.

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 authorities or their officers—50.

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—2.



(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners—2.

(b) By local authority in default of owners—0.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—68.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners—10.

(b) By local authority in default of owners—None

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—None.

(d) Proceeding under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—None.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding—None.

(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 and other results of wear and tear.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district—10.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses :

(a) Extent of shortage, stating minimum number and type of houses required—150 non-parlour 3 bedroomed houses.

(b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated—The Council contemplate building 54 houses in their first post-war scheme.

(c) Information as to **any** important changes in population during the **period under review** or anticipated in the future—None.

(d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses—No.

3. Overcrowding : None.

4. Fitness of houses :

(a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts—Shortage of labour and materials due to war conditions have impeded compliance with the Local Authority's notices.

(b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply—None.

(c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation—8.

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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

The administration of The Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations—All cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and in several cases conditions have improved.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1943—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1945 in respect of :

“ Tuberculin Tested ” milk—

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

“ Accredited ” milk—

(i) Bottling : None.      (ii) Distribution : 2.

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

Pasteurising plants : None.      Retail distributors : None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—This is under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected? : Yes.

How often? : Every six weeks.

What is their condition? : Satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds? : No.

Farms :—

Number of dairy farms . 15.

Approximate number of cows in the district : 254.

Cowkeepers :—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) : 20

Number of inspections during the year : 100.

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

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) : 7.

Action taken by local authority as to Tuberculous Milk :—

Number of samples submitted for biological test : None.

Bacteriological examinations :

No. of samples—6. No. satisfactory—6.

Sediment tests : No. of samples 6. No. satisfactory 6.

2. Meat and other Foods.—

(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 : These were inspected at frequent intervals. 4 tins of meat were surrendered voluntarily during the year which were unfit for human consumption. 6 pigs were slaughtered by private owners under licences.

Number of legal proceedings and result : None.

(b) Has a public slaughter-house been provided? : No.

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

## 3. Adulteration, etc. :—

Action taken by local authority (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—

- (i) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—This is administered by the Lancashire County Council.
- (ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations : None.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out—  
Wigan Infirmary.

## 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.

For other infectious diseases : Aspull, Blackrod, Horwich.  
No. of beds : 5 guaranteed.

Where situate : Horwich.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority? :  
Yes.

Infectious diseases generally :—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1945, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection. (Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases should also be reported upon so far as available information enables this to be done) : There were 89 cases of measles notified during the year. They occurred in the spring and early summer.

Give particulars of the clinical type and spread of diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever : Both cases notified were of Faucical type.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation? : No.

Particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera :  
At Wigan Infirmary.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of :—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin : Adequate and used promptly.

Are supplies readily available : Yes.

If so, where kept : Council Offices.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum : None.

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

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1945, and, if so, state for what period :—

Diarrhoea (under 2 years) : Yes.      Chicken-pox : No.

Any others : No.

Observations : None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations. Number of specimens examined in 1945 :—

(a) Diphtheria : 32.

(b) Scarlet Fever : None.

(c) Enteric Fever : 1.

(d) Miscellaneous (state nature) : Water 2.

Immunisation :—

(1) *Diphtheria*. Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :—

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools : Nil.

(b) At special clinics or day schools : A special Clinic is held every month.

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

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? : Yes.

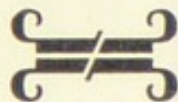
No. of children immunised during the year :—

- (i) Pre-school children, 104. Prophylactics used, A.P.T.
- (ii) School children, 24. " "
- (iii) Adults, None.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken : No.

(2) *Scarlet Fever.*

Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation (including children immunised during the year) : None.



URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL,  
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Hospital				
	Under 1	1 and over	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging from the to district
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	—	—	1	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup ...)	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	Nil	Nil
Measles (excluding rubella) ...	89	4	6	15	15	14	33	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	13	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals ...	117	5	8	15	18	15	39	5	—	—	—	1	5	6	2	2	Nil





Disinfection after infectious diseases :—

Number of houses disinfected during 1945 : 11.

Method (state disinfectant used) : Fumigation.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise) : Steam.

Where is apparatus situated : Wigan.

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? : All the deaths from Tuberculosis had been previously notified.

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 Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade? : None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936? : No.

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Signed,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

14/6/1946.







