[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Port of London].

Contributors

London (England). Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

[1946]

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jmb8gq9h

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. 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.





101.

PORT OF LONDON HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OFTHE

.. EDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(MONTAGU TRAVERS MORGAN, M.C., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1945.



SETTIMBOD RELASED NOGROL RO TEGS

TROPES LAUKEA

WALL TO

HELLAIN WO REPUTE TO LADIGE WALLEY (NORTHON)

THE CALL MERINDER THE OT

1

PORT OF LONDON HEALTH AUTHORITY

5 CHURCH PASSAGE, GUILDHALL, E.C.2.

LIMITS OF THE PORT OF LONDON

THE LIMITS OF THE PORT OF LONDON AS AT PRESENT DEFINED COMMENCE AT HIGH-WATER MARK IN THE RIVER THAMES AT TEDDINGTON LOCK, IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY, AND E TEND DOWN BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER THAMES TO AN IMAGINARY STRAIGHT LINE DRAWN FROM THE PILOT MARK AT THE ENTRANCE OF HAVENGORE CREEK, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, TO THE LAND'S END AT WARDEN POINT, IN THE ISLE OF SHEPPEY, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, SUCH POINT BEING THE NORTH-WESTERN LIMIT OF THE PORT OF FAVERSHAM, AND EXTEND UP AND INCLUDE BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER MEDWAY TO AN IMAGINARY STRAIGHT LINE DRAWN FROM THE SOUTH-EAST POINT OF LAND WESTWARD OF COALMOUTH CREEK, THENCE ACROSS THE SAID RIVER MEDWAY TO THE WESTERNMOST POINT OF THE PIECE OF LAND WHICH FORMS THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE STANGATE CREEK, OR, IN OTHER WORDS THE NORTH-WEST POINT OF FLEET MARSH, AND FROM THENCE IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TO IWADE CHURCH, IN THE SAID COUNTY OF KENT, AND THENCE IN A NORTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION TO ELMLEY CHAPEL IN THE SAID ISLE OF SHEPPEY, A SUPPOSED DIRECT LINE FROM ELMLEY CHAPEL TO IWADE CHURCH, BEING THE WESTERN LIMIT OF THE PORT OF FAVERSHAM, AND THE SAID PORT OF LONDON INCLUDES THE ISLANDS OF HAVENGORE CREEK AFORESAID, CALLED POTTON AND RUSHLEY ISLANDS, AND SO MUCH OF THE SAID CREEK AND WATERCOURSE AS EXTENDS FROM IT TO THE TOWN OF ROCHFORD, AND ALSO INCLUDES ALL OTHER ISLANDS, RIVERS, STREAMS, CREEKS, WATERS, WATERCOURSES, CHANNELS, HARBOURS, DOCKS AND PLACES WITHIN THE BEFORE-MENTIONED LIMITS CONTAINED.

STAFF.

List of Officers forming the Staff of the Port of London Health Authority, 31st December, 1945.

Office	Name of Officer	Date of entering the service.
MEDICAL	Tanony)	ACELL LIFE
Medical Officer of Health	M.T.Morgan, M.C., M.D.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.	September 1938.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer in Charge, Denton Hospital	+H.M.Willoughby, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.& H., R.N.V.R.	May 1929.
Assistant Port Health Officer, Gravesend.	+ J.A.Jones, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	April 1935.
- do -	J.R.Davies, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H.	January 1939.
- do -	+ G.N.M.Wishart, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	August 1939.

STAFF - Continued

Office a diameter	Name of Officer	Date of ent	
MEDICAL (Continued)			
Assistant Port Health Officer, Gravesend (Tempy).	J.M. Horan, J. R. C. P. & S. I., L. M.	Harch	19
Assistant Port Health Officer, Gravesend (Tempy).	S. Vidot, M.C., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	August	19
Sheerness Boarding Station (Tempy.Part-time)	H.A. Madwar, L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S.	December	19
CLERICAL			
3rd " " + 3rd " " +	W.C.Barham J.A.Gillis A.W.Moore W.L.McLorg R.C.Ratliff E.V.Smith D.W.Steib Miss K.E.Pyman Miss B.H.Muspratt T. Lloyd	March March January February March October February February October September	191 191 191 191 191 191 194 194
SANITARY INSPECTORS			
Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Heat and other Foods """""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""	W.Gray R.Clifford P.W.Coombe E.H.Johnson T.G.Edwards D.E.Madeley G.E.Wright J.S.Beattie L.A.R.Hundy	September July December August June September July May January	190 190 190 190 190 190 190 190
resident Dane of onter	T.L. Mackie, M. B. E., A. M. I. N. A.	November	198
" " " " Student Sanitary Inspector	G.Dring (Vacant) (Vacant) (Vacant) W.I. Blakely	February	198
RODENT OFFICERS	iii I i Dadiio I j	10014413	
100 N.B., April 1935.	C.F.Woodrow C.W.Moody E.C.Watkins S.A.Croft C.Stockton D.J.Davis	November February June June June August	198 198 198 198 198 194
RODENT CONTROL SCHEME	S.Bouttell L.L.Goodsall F.D.Cartman G.Lamont H.A.Baxter (Vacant)	July August January March June	194 194 194 194 194

STAFF - Continued

Office	Name of Officer	Date of ente	
DENTON HOSPITAL	mix till gode	,	
Medical Officer in Char	ge + H.W.Willoughby	Мау	1929
Matron	(Vacant)	-	2000
Staff Nurse	"	-	
Senior Asst. Nurse	. "	name United	
Assistant Nurse	"	- 9	
Cook of the family of	educe of the moderate or and a	-	
Wardmaid	out the sand !! with the six limits it	STATE AND STATE OF THE STATE OF	
Do.		-	
Housemaid Do.	Non T T Andanan	0-1-1	1045
Laundress	Mrs.L.E. Anderson Mrs.A.R. Robinson	October	1945
Handyman	J.A. Anderson	October	1945
Gardener	W.H.James	January	1931
Assistant Gardener	T. W. Day	October	1945
	Trinibay	00 00 001	7540
LAUNCHES AND HULKS			
"HOWARD DEIGHTON"			
Master	P.J.Wilkins	November	1928
Hate	J.R.Steen	March	1926
Do.	H.J. Debnam	April	1931
Chief Engineer	(Vacant)	Ton -	
Engineer	S.J. Crutchley	June	1939
Do.	A.Cook	July	1938
Deckhand	A. F. Rough	October	1914
Do.	A.R.L.Potter	July	1945
Do.	+ C.R.Simons W.G.A.King (Acting	August September	1938
minute universe se bodroge	Driver of "Frederick	pebremper	7909
	.Whittingham"		
Deckboy	R.A.Mantripp	March	1945
Do.	L.J. Nicholls	September	
Do.	C. Bowen	December	1945
"ALFRED ROBERTSON"			
Navigator	W.S.Stimson	March :	1944
Engineer	J.C.Row	December	1926
Deckhand	W.Simmons	July	1945
Deckboy	J.Franklin	June	1945
"FREDERICK WHITTINGHAM"	CHARLES OF STREET, SHIPLE OF S		-
Driver	+ W.J.Reader	April	1931
Dilver	(W.G.King acting)	White	1001
Deckboy	(Vacant)		
COUNTY PRODUCTION OF THE PARTY	(14004110)		
HULK "HYGEIA"	W A 03	Maria	1010
Shipkeeper	H.A.Clarkson	May	1912
Do.	A. R. Burge	August	1945
BARGE "UPLEES"	Date of the second second second		
Watchman	E.W.S.Edmonds	September	
Do.	C.R.Allerton	February	1945
Steward (part-time)	J.F.Smeed	July	1927
13 11 15 10 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	O. F. Olliced	ouly	TOOL

⁺ Absent on National Service.

E. C. 2.

To

THE WORSHIPFUL, THE PORT OF LONDON HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Port of London.

Circular 60/46 of the Ministry of Health dated 20th March, 1946, directs as follows :-

"I am directed by the Minister of Health to say that he has had under consideration the scope of the Annual Reports to be made by Medical Officers of Health of Port Health and Riparian Authorities for the year 1945. The Minister desires that the Report for that year should be prepared on the lines of memo. 204/S.A., so far as the information is available, to omissions given in Circular 1937 of 11th January, to omissions given in Circular 1937 of 11th January, far as the information is available, and the advice as 1940, should be regarded as no longer applicable. is appreciated, however, that the available records may not be sufficient to give full particulars under all heads for 1945; Where this is the case, the Authority should take such steps to re-institute the normal records for 1946 and future years".

One hundred and fifty-two cases of communicable diseases (including malaria) were reported as having occurred on vessels during the voyage of which 74 were landed in the Port.

Sixty-eight cases, of which particulars are given in Appendix II (b), were admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Although Denton Hospital was de-requisitioned by the Admiralty in October the arrangements for the reception of communicable diseases by Hospitals in the vicinity of the River was continued throughout the year.

The Disinfector, however, was still at the disposal of the Authority and continued to be used for the disinfection of cases arriving at Gravesend, their clothing, bedding and effects

No cases of human plague occurred during the year on vessel bound for London.

Of the 1,030 rats examined bacteriologically, 791 were from vessels and 239 from shore premises. No rat was reported be infected with Plague.

Two hundred and fifteen vessels were fumigated for rodent destruction and the issue of International Certificates, under the supervision of your Inspectors. Five were fumigated sulphur dioxide resulting in the destruction of 265 rats and 21 by hydrogen cyanide accounting for 6,896 rats and 991 mice.

A total of 10,752 rats were destroyed during the coun of the year, 7,52% in ships and 3,210 on shore premises in the In addition 1,973 mice were destroyed, 874 in ships and 1,099 on shore premises.

The Rodent Control scheme carried out by this Authority in the docks and premises of the Port of London Authority, on behalf of that Authority, and in the premises of the tenants of the Authority on behalf of the occupiers, continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

The work carried out under the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930, still in operation, is reported on page 9.

Water Barges for the supply of drinking water to vessels, though few in number, were still required to be inspected as to their fitness for the carriage of drinking water and their registration was made conditional on the Report of your officers.

The policy of salving damaged foodstuffs and the reconditioning where possible to render them fit either for human or for animal consumption or for industrial purposes, remained an urgent necessity and was continued throughout the year. Details of the uses to which the foodstuffs have been put are given on page 10.

An outstanding example of the valuable co-operation between the Officers of the Ministry of Food, the Port of London Authority, certain of the Riparian Authorities and your Officers in maintaining a highly efficient service of food salvage, is clearly illustrated by the joint action taken in the disposal of a large consignment of dates and which is reported in some detail on page 10.

The total amount of foodstuffs seized and condemned for human consumption and either reconditioned or disposed of for animal consumption or for industrial purposes under guarantee or destroyed was 720 tons as compared with 1,238 tons during the previous year.

Your Medical Officer would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Officers of His Majesty's Customs, Port of London Authority, the Pilots and the members of the staffs of the Shipping Companies and Merchants for their collaboration and assistance in every aspect of the work of the Port Health Authority throughout the year.

A number of your outdoor staff of Inspectors and launch crews returned from the fighting services during the later part of the year and have taken up their duties in the Docks and on the River. I have pleasure in reporting that all members of your staff have carried out their duties both willingly and efficiently.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

M. T. MORGAN.

TABLE C.

CASES OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES FROM VESSELS.

a withrestus so	02 0024	DITEOTIDATE .	DIOIMOLO	TION YEAR	OBLO:
DISEASE					NUMBER OF CASES DURING THE YEAR
Smallpox		-upex sid	d doctions	ends willy	OJDERGESTIG
Scarlet Fever					4
Diphtheria	ering outs-	nabish tuo	Small no.	Maok and	4
Enveric Fever	noldsango	Ab TEFJE	.0000	ite to Lun	3
Measles					4
German Measles					
Scabies	ntab to t	Lagua ens	TOP BEET	IAH SSS DI	_
Pulmonary Tuber		special cons	DESCRIPTION OF	rine rine	14
Tuberculosis (English of	TON BOY	MULT TODAY
Pneumonia	oges, and	no Langio	lines south	an make an	5
Influenza	10368 50				
Dysentery	85003 De	BRIDE BULLY	Lagence	of to the	1
Malaria	e J.I.T. men	na delinea	of altre		17
Chickenpox	105 50000	I A MELL BUDO	A PROPERTY OF		14
Mumps	OV	none for the			1
Poliomyelitis		DOG . GYOLF C			1
Pyrexia					ī
Ringworm	d				5
not to Jacosted					
					74
		TABLE	E D.		A Consideration of the last
E S TO LINE SE					
CASES OF	COMMUNI	CABLE DIS	EASES OCC	URRING O	N VESSELS
DURING :	THE VOYAG	E BUT DIS	POSED OF	PRIOR TO	ARRIVAL.
	STATE SOLVE	THE RESIDENCE ASSESSED.			TOTAL STREET
DISEASE					NUMBER OF CASES
100000000000000000000000000000000000000					DURING THE YEAR
Typhus	Design 110				190
Smallpox					_
Scarlet Fever			100000		7 1
Diphtheria			See	1-0.00	antida 120
Enteric Fever	SHO G AN	Bologood			ī
Measles					4
German Heasles					2
Scabies	A A L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L L				100
Pulmonary Tuber					months of - of
Tuberculosis (nds)			ADV OF THE THINK
Pneumonia					ייבעלפים פוי-יוס
Influenza				ores !	na new 1dd
Dysentery					Pithe de Binn
Malaria					47
Chickenpox					16
Mumps					3
The state of the same of the					
					78
	DA me	DEGEDOVE	DIIDTMA	1045	
	RATS	DESTROYE	DOKING	1940	
		(1) ON 10	POOP"O		
. HADRON,		(1) ON V	٠ وتاعادون		/ \
(a)		(b)			(c)
No. of Rats		No. of R	ats	No.	of Rats found to
destroyed.		examine			fected with Plag
			The second	50 21	
7,528		791.			Nil.
(2)	IN DOCKS	, QUAYS, 1	WHARVES A	ND WAREH	IOUSES.
(a)		(b)			(c)
No. of Rats			oto	No	of Rats found to
destroyed.		No. of R			fected with Plag
		examine	d.	be in	Heaten MINI LINE
		0.00			2017

239

Nil.

5,210

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1945.

TABLE E.

(1) ON VESSELS.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May	June	Jly.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in year.
Black Rats	1039	439	818	663	699	588	595	554	330	700	000		
Brown Rats	-	-		-	_		_	004	000	399	933	462	7,519
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-						-	5	1	3
Rats examined	100	63	63	84	59	73	37	40					-
Rats infected				04	05	10	0.1	48	45	45	109	65	791
with Plague	2 / 3		-	-	70-	1	-	- 11	-	-	-	25	- 8
					1111 1	PABLE F.							
			(S) IN	DOGVO	OTTARM	HIPT A NAME							
			(~) -11.	DUCKS,	QUAYS,	WHARVI	ES AND	WAREHOU	SES.				
Number of	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May	June	Jly.	WAREHOUS Aug.	SES.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Number of Black Rats	Jan. 143	Feb.			May	June	Jly.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		Dec.	
SHIDSHING JOY	1 000		Meh.	Apl.	<u>May</u>	June 110	<u>Jly</u> .	Aug.	Sept.	252	152	Dec.	Total
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not	143	111	Mch. 181 69	Apl.	May	June	Jly.	Aug.	Sept.				Total in year.
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not recorded	143	111	<u>Hch</u> .	Apl.	<u>May</u>	June 110	<u>Jly</u> .	Aug.	Sept.	252	152	174	Total in year.
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not recorded Rats examined	143	111	Mch. 181 69	Apl.	<u>May</u>	June 110 169	<u>Jly</u> . 196 148	Aug. 193 95	<u>Sept</u> . 159 49	252 165	152 150	174	Total in year.
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not recorded Rats examined Rats infected	143	111 82 -	Mch. 181 69	Apl. 142 123	<u>May</u> 114 38	June 110	<u>Jly</u> . 196 148	Aug. 193 95	Sept.	252 165	152	174	Total in year.
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not recorded Rats examined	143	111 82 -	Mch. 181 69	Apl. 142 123	<u>May</u> 114 38	June 110 169	<u>Jly</u> . 196 148	Aug. 193 95	<u>Sept</u> . 159 49	252 165	152 150	174	Total in year. 1,927 1,283

1 4

TABLE H.

DERATISATION CERTIFICATES AND DERATISATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

			Numbe	r of De	ratisat	Number of	Total		
	Net Tonnage.		Aft	er fumi with		After trapping	TOTAL.	Deratisation Exemption Certificates	Certifi- cates
			HCN.	802.	HCN. so2.	poisoning etc.	TOTAL.	Issued.	Issued.
	Species was the second	sa Tag	File	16	146	98 46	168	150 141	1,888
	Ships up to 300 tons	28	6	-11	786	J89 - T98	6	28	28
1 80	Ships from 301 to 1,000 tons	65	31	7,000	572	mit - pier	31	34	65
1	" 1,001 to 3,000 tons	105	51	1	-	WASHIOLDER.	52	53	105
	" " 3,001 to 10,000 tons	300	115	4	-	-	119	181	300
	Ships over 10,000 tons	9	7				7	2	9
		65 86			24	ee	90	100 65 3	ABI
			His						
		507	210	5	-	-	215	292	507
		10					200		0 0 0 0

TABLE J.

HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES. CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

British	Defects of original construction	10
	Structural defects through wear and tear	37
	Dirt, vermin and other conditions	
	prejudicial to health	17
ods storms	- Sign Man of man there was at the got or anon-	
Other	Defects of original construction	Nil
Nations	Structural defects through wear and tear	8
	Dirt, vermin and other conditions	
	prejudicial to health	7

EAST GREENWICH MOORINGS.

During the year your Worshipful Committee considered the desirability of moving the mooring barge "ELLA VICARS" from her moorings at East Greenwich to a more suitable berth, and, with the assistance of the Harbour Master, Port of London Authority, such a berth was found to be available at the South Metropolitan Gas Co's. moorings at East Greenwich, approximately 2 miles below the existing moorings.

There also arose the question of acquiring another barge to take the place of the "ELLA VICARS" which was considered as beyond repair owing to war damage.

A suitable craft - a wooden sailing barge, the "UPLEES" - was offered for sale by Hessrs. Thomas F. Wood of Gravesend and its ultimate purchase was accelerated by the fact that on the 6th September the "ELLA VICARS" was again so severely damaged by a steamship while lying at the moorings that she had to be beached and became a total wreck.

The new mooring barge the "UPLEES" was towed up from Gravesend by your m.l. "ALFRED ROBERTSON" on the 3rd November and moored at the new site off the South Metropolitan Gas Co., at East Greenwich.

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Twenty-one parrots etc. came under the notice of your Officers during the year. Thirteen Notices were issued in respect of 19 parrots etc. -

Number	exported in respect of Notices served	- 8
Number	destroyed (Notice served to export)	- 9
Number	admitted under Ministry of Health permit	2
Bodies	of birds sent for investigation to the Ministry of Health	Nil
Number	transhipped on through Bills	Nil

DANGEROUS DRUGS.

During the year 13 certificates authorising the purchase of scheduled Dangerous Drugs were issued by your Hedical Officer under the Dangerous Drugs (No.3) Regulations, 1923, amending the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1921.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. PART X - CANAL BOATS.

On the 11th January, 1946, the Port Medical Officer made a report on the steps taken to carry into effect the provisions of Part X of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Canal Boats within the district of the Port of London Health Authority, during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

During the year 33 inspections of Canal Boats were made of which 31 were found to conform to the Acts and Regulations. Written cautions were given in respect of the two vessels found not to conform.

No new boats were registered during the year under review, the actual number of Canal Boats on the Register on the 31st December, 1945, being 216.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The inspection of foodstuffs under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927, resulted the seizure and destruction of 721 tons of foodstuffs, a decrease of some 517 tons as compared with last year.

The following is a summary showing the method of disposal of the foodstuffs seized:-

METHOD OF DISPOSAL.	TONS	WEI CWTS.	GHT QRS.	LBS.	APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.
BOILING DOWN	125	1	2	20	17.33
CATTLEFOOD	177	-	-	2	24.55
REFINING	149	14	-	19	20.80
INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES	84	18	2	-	11.78
RECONDITIONING	8	12	1	25	1.24
OTHER DISTRICTS	99	6	-	-	13.73
BURNT	44	2	1	25	6.10
BURIED	31	17	2	14	4.44
TOTAL	720	12	3	21	99.97
	-				

WEEVIL INFESTED ZEDHI DATES.

In January a consignment of some 6,000 tons of dates arrived in London and was distributed, for storage, in the Surrel Commercial Dock (15,547 cases) and at wharves in the City of London and the Boroughs of Southwark, Bermondsey, Stepney and Poplar.

The Ministry of Food, Dried Fruits Section, explained that the dates were an old crop (some eighteen months old) and although their sale for retail was out of the question they were of the opinion that the dates were not totally unfit for human consumption.

Samples of the dates were drawn and examined and following a conference between the Ministry of Food and representatives of the local authorities concerned it was agreed that the dates, after sorting, could be disposed of as follows, without any danger to the public health:

- (a) For pickle and sauce manufacture or for other manufacturing purposes involving boiling.
- (b) For the bakery and confectionery trade provided that the Health Authorities of the receiving areas could be notified prior to the dispatch of the goods and permission obtained from them to enter the area.

This arrangement, together with the obtaining of guarantees from each individual purchaser was obviously going to entail a considerable amount of clerical work and in order to avoid duplication it was decided, with the consent of the local authorities concerned, that this work should be undertaken by your Authority.

Details of a scheme for controlling the distribution of the dates was worked out in conjunction with the Ministry of Food, who supplied lists of the names and addresses of intending purchasers.

The number of these individual purchasers was no less than 1,636 whose premises were situated in 628 different local authorities areas. Seventy-six of these local authorities declired to receive the dates into their areas, the main objection being that they did not have sufficient staff to carry out the necessary supervision.

Nevertheless some 4,200 tons of dates were disposed of in this manner and it is gratifying to note that not one single complaint has reached either this office or the Hinistry of Food from any source, of any ill effects resulting from the use of these dates for manufacturing purposes.

The full extent of the amount of clerical work involved is evident from the following summary of the numbers of individual postal packets sent out -

This resulted in an expenditure of £29.10s. $7\frac{1}{2}d$. in postage, which amount will be reimbursed the Authority by the Ministry of Food.

There is little doubt that a review of the whole policy of the inspection of foodstuffs and the conservation of as much food as possible that is fit for human or animal consumption, if necessary after reconditioning or processing in some form or another, is long overdue as also is a change in the Regulations (Imported Food Regulations and the Preservatives in Food Regulations) which cover not only the type of foodstuffs but also the system of inspection and the rejection of foods which do not conform with the requirements of the Regulations.

Before the war the policy of the Government can be stated briefly as a policy of admitting from abroad only the fine quality of food, free from all taint or disease, and this no doubt was a sound policy since food was plentiful, reasonably cheap and the Government on behalf of the consumer could afford to pick and choose.

Present day conditions are very different and with a world shortage it is vitally important to conserve every particle of food that is fit for human or animal consumption. Furthermore and in consequence, we can no longer afford to require only the highest quality but must take whatever is available.

luch of the foodstuff coming into this country at the present moment is incapable of inspection. This applies particularly to meat since it is impossible to identify what part of the carcase it comes from; indeed, many hundreds of tons of meat are being imported in the form of 'scrap' meat which is categorically prohibited by the present Regulations. The Regulations do not apply in principle to foodstuffs in charge of the Crown but the fact remains that the object of the Regulations - the control of the healthiness of foodstuffs, i.e. their fitness for human or animal consumption, is not being observed. True there is a control to the extent that all animals are inspected ante and post mortem in the country of origin and certificated in a manner approved by the United Kingdom Government, but the final right of inspection, and if necessary of rejection in the port of arrival in the United Kingdom, which the Government has always maintained, cannot be observed for the reasons stated above.

A great deal of effort has been expended, not only by the Port Health Staff but also by the agents of the Ministry of For between whom there has been, and is, a close and constant collaboration towards the conservation of foodstuffs and the avoidance of waste. This has resulted in the saving of many hundreds of tons good food. It is, of course, a policy which involves a considerable lowering of pre-war standards but it is, nevertheless, a soun policy and there is little doubt that the former standards were in fact extremely wasteful and resulted in an inexcusable loss of good nutriment.

One feature of the present regime which mitigates again efficiency is a lack of recognised standards and concerted action between the various ports of entry. A Port Medical Officer in one port may reject foodstuffs which would not be rejected in another port. Furthermore, Medical Officers of Health may refuse to accept foodstuffs into their areas which require reconditioning under their supervision.

What is needed is a conference convened by the Ministry of Food at which the parties concerned can discuss the numerous problems that arise in the control of imported foodstuffs and agree upon a policy for all to follow in the future.

APPENDIX 1.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RATS DURING 1945.

Total examined	Found	RATS Trapped Poisoned etc.	Found	Trapped	Found	ES UNKNOWN Trapped Poisoned etc.	Found	Trapped Poisoned etc.	Rats Infected with Plague.
1,030	687	260	6	77	-	_	-	-	Nil.

APPENDIX II.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942	1943	1944.	Mean Annual No.for 10 years ending 31st Dec. 1945.	1945
(a)			624	77							
ASES REPORTED											
holera (ir 1. suspected cases)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	9 -
ellow "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
lague "	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-
mallpox	9	-	4	5	1	1	1	-	1	2.2	
carlet Fever	10	6	16	13	3	1	2	5	4	6.5	
iphtheria	16	3	9	13	. 4	11	5	3	5	7.4	
nteric Fever	29	28	36	16	7	1	1	-	-	12.2	- 4
easles	16	57	49	40	9	1	1	1	1	18.3	8
erman Heasles	4	6	25	34	17	5	2	1	-	9.6	2
rysipelas Vphus Fever incl. suspected	2	2	4	5	1	2	-	-	-	1.3	
cases).	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2]
uberculosis - Pulmonary	120	94	75	83	19	4	. 5	12	e	43.2	14
Other kinds	120	2	3	1	19	4	D	10	6	0.6	14
ther Diseases		2	U							0.0	
(including Chickenpox)	543	508	540	388	178	88	179	273	180	299.2	115
TOTALS -	749	707	762	595	239	114	196	295	197	400 • 8	154

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Mean

Disease.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941 WHGOL	1942	1943	1944	Mean Annual No.for 10 years 1 ending 31st.Dec. 1945.
(b)		-			13	118RA	RY C	=	No.	
(0)					107	15 NOV		0		
ADMITTED TO					100	13110				
HOSPITAL.					1	1	100	Y .		
Cholera (incl.					geran	TRUPIS!	IT W			
suspected cases)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow "Fever"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	2	-	-	_	-	-	-	. 0.2
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Scarlet Fever	1	2	14	-	-	-	2	5	4	3.5
Diphtheria	16	1	5	4	-	9	5	2	4	5.1
Enteric Fever	9	7	12	8	1	-	1	-	-	4.1
Measles	5	37	28	7	3	-	1	-	1	8.6
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	0.4
Parotitis	1	2	4	9	-	-	-	2	3	2.2
Dysentery	-	-	_	-	2	-	-	-	-	0.3
Other Diseases										Maria Sala
(including Chickenpox)	36	65	133	79	52	26	15	16	34	50 • 6
	,	4	1		3			9.10		
TOTALS -	68	115	199	107	58	37	24	25	46	74.7