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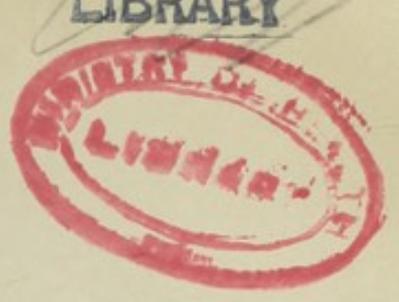
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CARDIFF

1939

PORT HEALTH SERVICE.

939

For obvious reasons, the Minister of Health's requirements as to the information to be given in annual reports of Port Medical Officers of Health during the period of the present emergency are considerably modified. The letterpress has to consist of short notes on any points of special importance and certain alterations have to be made in the tables which are usually included. This report is compiled in accordance with the Minister's requirements, but all the usual detailed statistical and other information has been compiled and will be kept for reference.

I.—CONSTITUTION, LIMITS OF JURISDICTION, ETC., OF THE CARDIFF PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

The Cardiff City Council constitute the Cardiff Port Health Authority, and the district comprises the waters contiguous to the City of Cardiff (except the parish of Rumney, which was added to Cardiff on 1st April, 1938), Penarth Urban District and Cardiff Rural District. A brief history of the Port Health Authority and full information as to their duties, powers and limits of jurisdiction were included in the report for 1938.

II.—INSPECTION OF SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of vessels (foreign and coastwise) inspected by officers of the Port Health Authority, the number reported to be defective, the number on which defects were remedied and the number reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board during 1939 :—

| Number Inspected by |                    | Number reported Defective | Number on which Defects were Remedied | Number reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Disease on Board |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Medical Officer     | Sanitary Inspector |                           |                                       |   |
| 63                  | 1,932              | 725                       | 500                                   | 18  |

III.—CHARACTER OF TRADE.

The passenger traffic is relatively small and casual. Exports greatly exceed imports. The principal exports are coal, coke and patent fuel ; other exports include flour, oil, cement, ironwork and tinplates. The principal imports consist of iron ore, pit-wood, grain, fruit, vegetables and provisions.



#### IV.—WATER SUPPLY.

A description of the water supply and arrangements for its supply to ships was given in the report for 1938.

During 1939, 111 samples of drinking water from ships were submitted to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The results of the examinations were as follows:—

|                    |      |      |     |
|--------------------|------|------|-----|
| Satisfactory       | .... | .... | 101 |
| Of moderate purity | .... | .... | 3   |
| Of doubtful purity | .... | .... | 6   |
| Contaminated       | .... | .... | 1   |
| Total              | .... | .... | 111 |

Notices were served upon the masters of the seven ships having contaminated water or water of doubtful purity on board, and in all instances the tanks were emptied, cleansed and refilled at this port.

#### V.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the nature of 12 cases of notifiable infectious disease landed from vessels during the year.

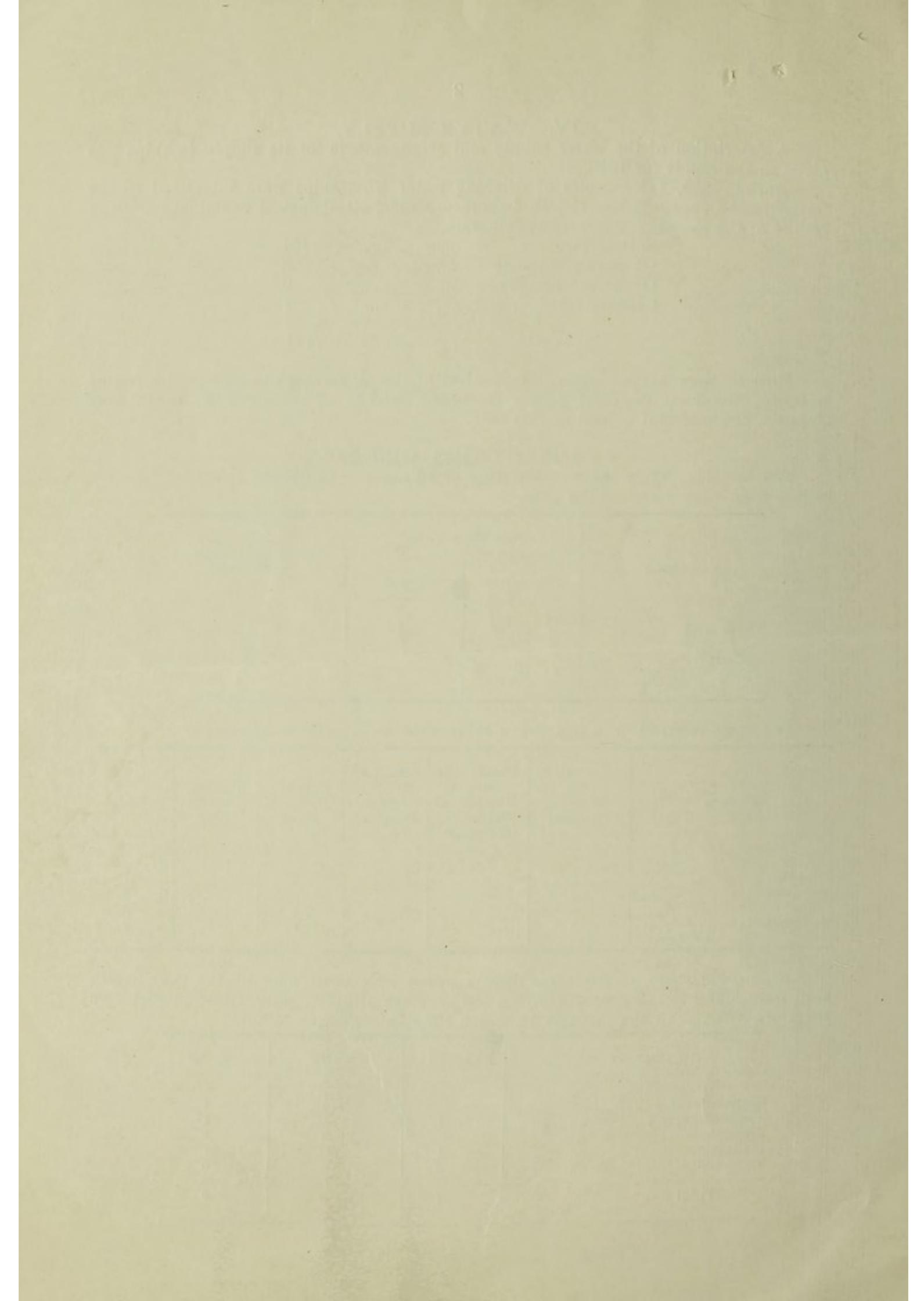
| Disease      | Number of Cases |      | Number of Vessels concerned |
|--------------|-----------------|------|-----------------------------|
|              | Passengers      | Crew |                             |
| Diphtheria   | —               | 1    | 1                           |
| Erysipelas   | —               | 2    | 2                           |
| Malaria      | —               | 6    | 5                           |
| Tuberculosis | —               | 3    | 3                           |

The cases referred to in the above table were dealt with as follows:—

| Disease      | Admitted to City Isolation Hospital | Admitted to Royal Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital | Admitted to City Lodge Hospital | Allowed to return home | Treated aboard Ship | Total |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Diphtheria   | 1                                   | —   | —                               | —                      | —                   | 1     |
| Erysipelas   | 2                                   | —   | —                               | —                      | —                   | 2     |
| Malaria      | —                                   | 6   | —                               | —                      | —                   | 6     |
| Tuberculosis | —                                   | —   | 1                               | 1                      | 1                   | 3     |

Nine other cases of infectious disease which were dealt with by the port health staff were found to fall properly within the province of urban administration and were therefore referred to the districts to which they belonged, as follows:—

| Disease       | Cardiff | Barry | Total |
|---------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | —       | 1     | 1     |
| Typhoid Fever | 1       | —     | 1     |
| Pneumonia     | —       | 1     | 1     |
| Malaria       | 1       | —     | 1     |
| Tuberculosis  | 5       | —     | 5     |
| Total         | 7       | 2     | 9     |



Nine cases of infectious disease, as follows, were reported to have occurred on seven vessels during the voyage and were disposed of prior to arrival at Cardiff :—

| Disease      | Number of Cases |      | Number of Vessels concerned |
|--------------|-----------------|------|-----------------------------|
|              | Passengers      | Crew |                             |
| Smallpox     | —               | 2    | 2                           |
| Pneumonia    | —               | 1    | 1                           |
| Malaria      | —               | 5    | 3                           |
| Tuberculosis | —               | 1    | 1                           |

**Cleansing and Disinfection.**—Ninety-six seamen who were discovered to be suffering from scabies were treated at the Cleansing Station belonging to the Cardiff City Council, their clothing being disinfected at the Disinfecting Station, which is situated adjacently. Two hundred and 32 vessels were found to be infested with bed-bugs, and notices were served upon the masters requiring them to take all necessary steps to eradicate the insects. Verminous or infected beds to the number of 1,797 were destroyed.

**Venereal Diseases.**—The numbers of cases of venereal disease dealt with at the special treatment centre for seamen at the Royal Hamadryad Seamen's Hospital during the year were as follows :—

| Persons attending at the Centre for the First Time |              |            |   |       | Total Attendances | Aggregate Number of In-patient Days |
|--|--------------|------------|---|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Syphilis   | Soft Chancre | Gonorrhoea | Non-Venereal and undiagnosed Conditions | Total |                   |                                     |
| 125  | 81           | 316        | 50                                      | 572   | 7,247             | 1,870                               |

Twenty-three cases of venereal disease came to the knowledge of officers of the Authority during the year and were recommended for treatment at the centre.

**Psittacosis.**—Fifty parrots were dealt with under the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930, with the object of preventing the introduction of psittacosis.

## VI.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Fumigation of vessels by sulphur dioxide or hydrocyanic acid gas was carried out by private contractors under the supervision of officers of the Port Health Authority in 117 instances. The number of rats destroyed by fumigation was 1,897 (an average of 16·2 per vessel), of which 336 were submitted to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for examination for the detection of plague.

The numbers of deratisation certificates and deratisation exemption certificates issued were 117 and 285 respectively—a total of 402. The fees received by the Port Health Authority in respect of these certificates amounted to £805 7s. 0d.

A rat-catcher is employed on all vessels from plague-infected ports and on all grain-laden vessels arriving at the port. By this means 198 rats were caught, 32 of which were examined for plague.

Extensive baiting is systematically carried out around the docks by the dock owners (the Great Western Railway Company) and by occupiers of premises in the vicinity of the docks under the supervision of officers of the Authority. The number of poison baits laid was 241,910, and 1,976 rats and 782 mice were found dead as a result of these measures.



For the purpose of surveying the area around the docks for rats periodically, the district is divided into four areas. Traps are set by the rat-catcher for one week in each area. Thirty rats were caught under this scheme, of which nine were examined for plague and four were submitted to the Department of Zoology of the National Museum of Wales for classification and for identification of their parasitic fleas.

The following tabular statements give information in the form required by the Minister of Health as to the number of rats destroyed, the measures of rat destruction on plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels or vessels from plague infected ports, and deratisation certificates and deratisation exemption certificates issued.

Rats destroyed :—

|                           | On Vessels | Docks, Quays, Wharves<br>and Warehouses |
|---------------------------|------------|---|
| Rats destroyed            | 2,095      | 2,006                                   |
| Rats examined             | 368        | 9                                       |
| Rats infected with plague | —          | —                                       |

Measures of rat destruction on plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels from plague-infected ports arriving in the port during the year :—

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Total number of such Vessels arriving  | 57  |
| Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub>                              | 6   |
| Number of Rats killed  | 304 |
| Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN  | 2   |
| Number of Rats killed  | 6   |
| Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc., were employed         | 7*  |
| Number of Rats killed  | 67  |
| Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out | 45  |

\* Three of these were also fumigated by SO<sub>2</sub>.

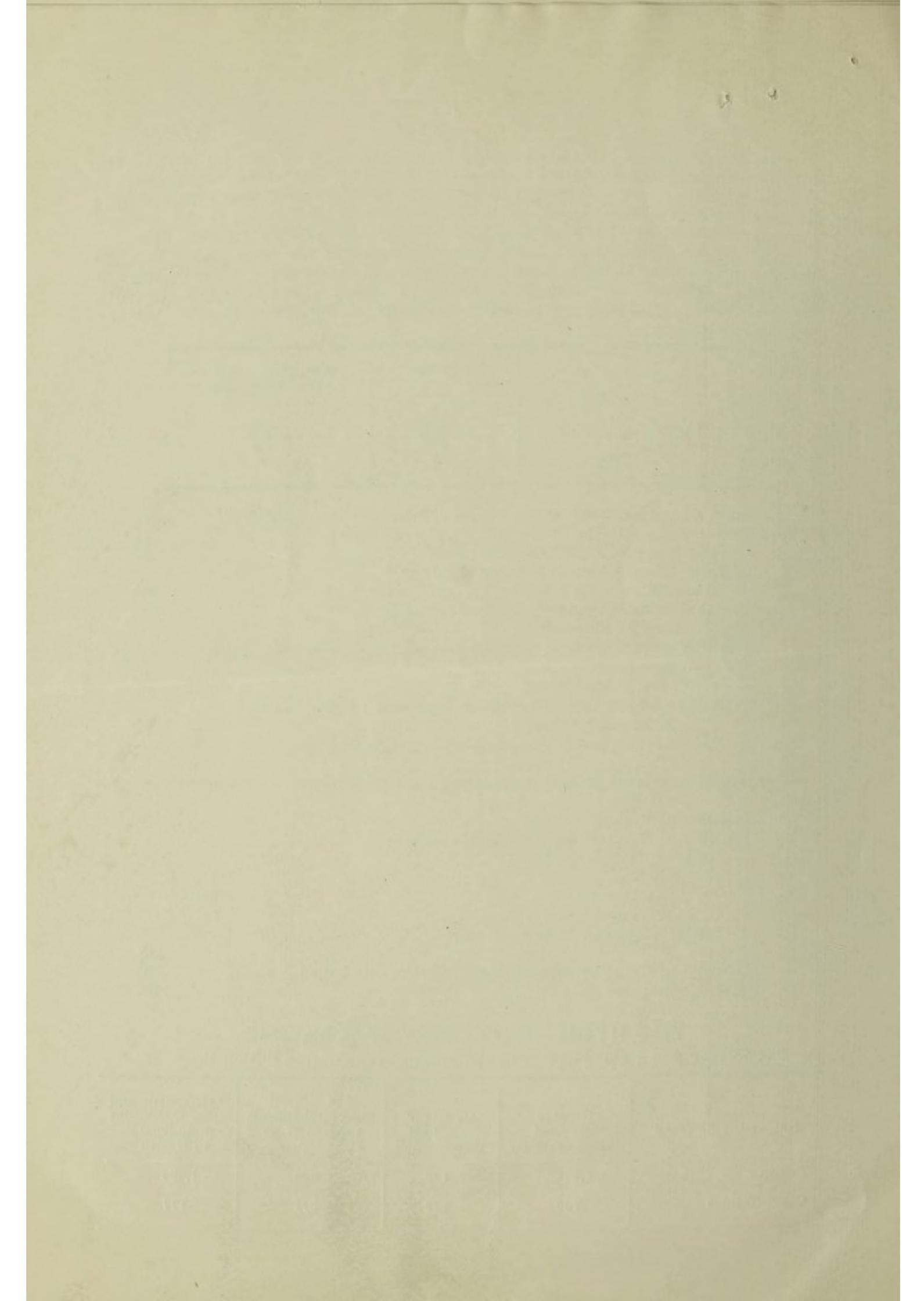
Deratisation certificates and deratisation exemption certificates issued during the year :—

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of Vessels                                    | 402 |
| Number of Deratisation Certificates issued :—        |     |
| After fumigation with—                               |     |
| HCN  | 35  |
| SO <sub>2</sub>                                      | 81  |
| HCN and SO <sub>2</sub>                              | 1   |
| After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.                      | —   |
|  | 117 |
| Number of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued | 285 |
| Total Certificates issued                            | 402 |

## VII.—HYGIENE OF CREW SPACES, ETC.

The following is a classification of the nuisances discovered during the year :—

| Nationality of Vessel | Number inspected during the Year | Defects of Original Construction | Structural Defects through Wear and Tear | Dirt, Vermin and Other Conditions prejudicial to Health |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| British               | 1,193                            | 136                              | 866                                      | 1,383   |
| Other Nations         | 739                              | 299                              | 371                                      | 177   |



The following table shows the number of the defects referred to in the preceding table which were remedied at this port :—

| Nationality of Vessel | Defects of Original Construction | Structural Defects through Wear and Tear | Dirt, Vermin and Other Conditions prejudicial to Health |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| British ....          | 32                               | 837                                      | 1,379   |
| Other Nations ....    | 17                               | 314                                      | 172   |

The defects and nuisances discovered during 1939 were as follows :—

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Insufficient ventilation .....                  | 72    |
| „ lighting .....                                | 8     |
| Obsolete privies .....                          | 188   |
| Privies without water service .....             | 151   |
| Ventilators over bunks .....                    | 16    |
| Defective ventilators .....                     | 52    |
| „ skylights and deck-lights .....               | 17    |
| „ steam heaters, stoves, stove-pipes, etc. .... | 197   |
| „ sanitary conveniences, flushes, etc. ....     | 195   |
| „ side ports, deck-prisms, etc. ....            | 334   |
| „ bulkheads .....                               | 16    |
| „ floors .....                                  | 28    |
| „ doors .....                                   | 63    |
| „ bunks and bedsteads .....                     | 63    |
| „ food-lockers .....                            | 9     |
| „ baths, wash-hand basins and waste-pipes ..... | 68    |
| „ drain pipes .....                             | 9     |
| „ cable casings .....                           | 10    |
| „ hawse-pipes .....                             | 24    |
| Leaking decks .....                             | 152   |
| Verminous crew quarters .....                   | 438   |
| Dirty crew quarters .....                       | 482   |
| „ messrooms .....                               | 100   |
| „ food-lockers .....                            | 125   |
| „ sanitary conveniences .....                   | 212   |
| „ bathrooms and wash-houses .....               | 107   |
| „ fresh-water tanks .....                       | 14    |
| Foul bilges .....                               | 2     |
| Foul accumulations .....                        | 38    |
| Miscellaneous .....                             | 42    |
| Total .....                                     | 3,232 |

### VIII.—FOOD INSPECTION.

**The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1939.**—The procedure adopted in connection with the examination of imported foodstuffs and the rigid methods of examination, which have been described in previous annual reports, were continued during 1939.



The total quantity of various kinds of unsound foodstuffs withheld from human consumption during the year amounted to 169 tons 11 cwt. 34½ lb.

Seven samples of imported food were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, as follows :—

|                        |       |       |       |   |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Butter-colouring Fluid | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Mustard                | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Raisins                | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Sardines               | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Sultanas               | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Tomato Puree           | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Tongue, Canned         | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |

Each of the samples was reported to be genuine or to contain preservatives within the limits prescribed in the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

A sample of canned veal which was submitted for bacteriological examination was reported to be approximately sterile, with no evidence of bacterial growth, the physical characters being normal.

**Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.**—No fresh milk was imported during the year.

**Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934.**—There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the area under the Jurisdiction of the Cardiff Port Health Authority.

## IX.—MISCELLANY.

**Medical Inspection of Aliens.**—The following is a summary of the work done during the year in connection with the medical inspection of aliens :—

|  | <i>Total<br/>Number.</i> | <i>Number Inspected<br/>by Medical<br/>Inspectors.</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Aliens (excluding alien seamen) landing at the port        | 220                      | 71   |
| Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer   | 24                       | —  |
| Total  | 244                      | 71   |
| Number of vessels carrying alien passengers                | —                        | 115  |
| Number of such vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector |                          | 8  |
| Analysis of aliens landing :—                              |                          |  |
| Residents returning  |                          | 1  |
| In transit   |                          | 42   |
| Visitors   |                          | 73   |
| Business   |                          | 63   |
| Diplomatic   |                          | 2  |
| Seamen   |                          | 2  |
| Contract seamen  |                          | 37   |
| Total  | 220                      | 220  |

Of the 71 aliens medically inspected, 45, who intended taking up employment and remaining in the country over three months, were referred by the Immigration Officer for detailed medical examination.

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**The Dangerous Drugs (Consolidation) Regulations, 1928.**—Five certificates were issued authorising masters of foreign ships to purchase dangerous drugs.

**Diseases of Animals Acts, etc.**—The various orders under the Diseases of Animals Acts with reference to the importation of animals were strictly enforced as hitherto. Two hundred and 15 dogs, 669 cats, three pigs, three sheep and one cow were brought to the port on vessels. All the vessels were visited regularly during their stay in port to ensure that the requirements of the orders were observed.

Legal proceedings were taken against the masters of two vessels for infringements of the Animals (Importation) Order, 1930, fines amounting to £7 being imposed.

Seventy-seven calves and 1,378 head of cattle were landed at the Imported Animals Wharf from Canada during the year.

**Canal Boats.**—The Chief Port Sanitary Inspector, who is also Inspector of Canal Boats, has reported that he made 67 inspections of canal boats during the year and found infringements of the regulations made under the Canal Boats Act, 1877, regarding painting in seven instances and marking in two instances. Verbal instructions were given, and the infringements in each case were remedied. The number of boats (not propelled by motor) on the register was six, each with accommodation for two males.

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