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With the Medical Officer of Health's Compliments.

NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

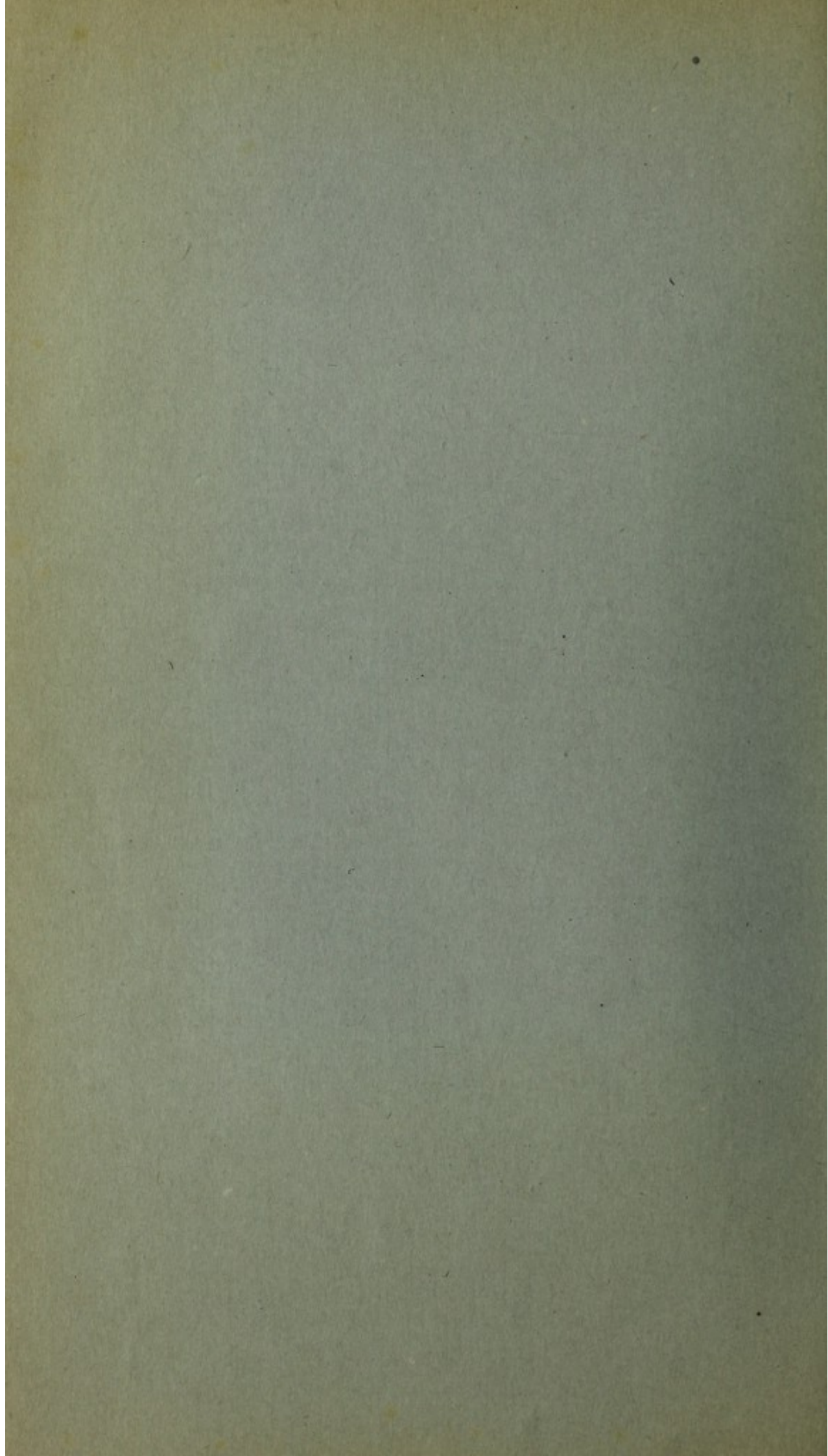
A N N U A L R E P O R T F O R
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BY

T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H ,

H. CATTO, M.D., D.P.H.

NEWPORT, Mon.



NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Health Department,
 Royal Chambers,
 High Street,
 Newport, Mon.
 9th March 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee acting
 as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1943. It is made in accordance with the Regulations of the Ministry of Health which prescribe the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, and their Circular No. 1937 dated 11th January 1940.

Constitution of Port Health Authority:-

"The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Newport, acting by the Council. It discharges Port functions in waters abutting upon the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District in addition to the Newport County Borough."

Riparian Districts included (wholly or in part) in the Port Health Districts are:-

County Borough of Newport.
 Magor and St. Mellons Council District: Parishes -
 Nash, Goldcliffe, Redwick, St. Brides and Peterstone.
 City and County Borough of Cardiff: Parish - Rumney.

The contributions of these Authorities towards expenditure are in proportion to the Rateable Value of the Districts. The current Precept is as follows:- County Borough of Newport, 95.25 per cent; the Rural District Council of Magor and St. Mellons, .73 per cent; City and County Borough of Cardiff, 4.02 per cent.

Vessels Inspected during the year.

TABLE A.

Number inspected.			
By the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	41
By the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	1831
Number reported to be Defective..	...	...	129
Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied			128
Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board	...	...	39

Source of Water Supply.

The drinking water of the Port is obtained from the Reservoirs of the Corporation of Newport. The water supply is shipped direct from the town mains. There are no water boats.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Information in reference to cases of Infectious Diseases on inward vessels and vessels requiring special attention is supplied by Pilots by arrangement with the Pilotage Board, Shipping Agents and H.M. Customs. The Preventive Officers on duty at the Alexandra Docks Entrance report any such information to the Port Sanitary Inspector or by telephone to the office during office hours and to the Medical Officer of Health at his private residence at all other times day and night.

Forty-one vessels arrived from Ports infected, or suspected to be infected with Smallpox, Plague or Typhus Fever during the year. No case of suspicious illness occurred during the voyage or after the vessel's arrival in Port.

Eighty-one cases of infectious sickness, etc., occurred on vessels during their voyages to Newport or after arrival here, namely:- Malaria 12, Venereal Diseases 56, Scabies 11, Diphtheria 1, and Tuberculosis 1. (See Tables "C" and "D".)

Ordinary cases of Infectious diseases were accommodated at the Borough Isolation Hospital and conveyed in the Borough Ambulances, by arrangement between the two Authorities. There were no cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Smallpox.

The disinfection of quarters is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors and infected bedding, clothing, etc., is either disinfected at the Borough Disinfection Station or burnt.

Venereal Diseases.

From information supplied each year by Dr. Ingram, the Medical Officer in Charge of the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Royal Gwent Hospital, the following table has been prepared respecting seamen who visited the Port during each of the past 4 years of the war. The yearly average figures for the 5-yearly period 1934-38 are given for comparison:-

	British Subjects					Foreigners				
	1940	1941	1942	1943	Yrly. av. 1934-1938.	1940	1941	1942	1943	Yrly. av. 1934-1938
Examined:	99	98	94	84	71.6	87	205	138	107	64.2
Suffering from:										
Syphilis	30	22	25	21	22.0	27	87	68	51	23.2
Gonorrhoea	49	59	35	30	41.2	34	90	47	37	28.0
Soft Chancre	5	3	7	9	3.8	11	13	8	5	5.6
Total V.D. cases.	84	84	67	60	67.0	72	190	123	93	56.8
Not V.D."	15	14	17	24	4.6	15	15	15	14	7.4
Attendances	367	443	369	293	476.2	290	532	378	318	174.2

Number of Seamen	Total - British & Foreigners.				
	1940	1941	1942	1943	yrly. ave. 1934-1938
Examined:	186	303	222	191	135.8
Suffering from:					
Syphilis	57	109	93	72	45.2
Gonorrhoea	83	149	82	67	69.2
Soft Chancre	16	16	15	14	9.4
Total V.D. cases	156	274	190	153	123.8
Not V.D."	30	29	32	38	12.0
Attendances	657	975	747	611	650.4

From an examination of this table it will be seen that (1) there has been a great increase in the incidence of Venereal Diseases amongst seamen visiting the Port during the war compared with the five years prior to the war; (2) the increased incidence has been much greater among Foreign Seamen than among the British. (The latter actually showed a decrease in 1943 on the pre-war average); (3) the year 1941 produced the highest number of cases and there has been a decline each year since; (4) of the three Venereal Diseases, Syphilis has shown the greatest increase during the war compared with the previous five years, i.e. 83%; the increase in Soft Chancre has been 60% and in Gonorrhoea 37%.

The nationalities of the foreign seamen examined, with the number found to be suffering from Venereal Disease in brackets were:-

American 9 (7); Belgian 3 (1); Chinese 3 (3); Danish 8 (7); Dutch 26 (25); Estonian 5 (5); Finnish 2 (2); French 11 (9); Greek 4 (4); Latvian 1 (1); Norwegian 7 (7); Polish 3 (3); Portugese 1 (1); Russian 2 (2); Swedish 12 (11); Yugo-slav 10 (5).

28.6 per cent of the British Seamen (white and coloured) and only 13.1 per cent of the Foreign Seamen examined were found not to be suffering from Venereal Disease, compared with 20.3 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively during 1942, and with 6.4 and 11.5 per cent respectively, the average for the five pre-war years.

The book (v.44) issued by the Ministry of Health is supplied to each seaman patient to ensure continuity of treatment at other Ports.

There was a fall in the number of attendances compared with the three previous years; the figure was actually below the average number for the 5 years prior to the war; they numbered 611 compared with 747 in 1942, 975 in 1941, 657 in 1940, and with 650 the annual average for the five years 1934-1938.

The average number of attendances per patient examined was 3.2 compared with 4.8 - the average for the five years 1934 - 38. The British Subjects with 3.5 attendances per patient did slightly better than the Foreign Seamen whose average per patient was only 3.0.

The chief reason for the few attendances per patient is, of course, that vessels usually remain in dock only for a short-time - and this period of stay is less now than formerly, owing to war conditions.

Propaganda: In an endeavour to prevent further increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease which has occurred among seamen since the outbreak of war, the Local Venereal Diseases Committee in conjunction with the Health Committee issued during the year 1940 a Port Health Brochure or Seafarers Guide for distribution to all seamen arriving at the Port. The immediate purpose of the booklet is to warn seamen of the risk of contracting venereal disease through promiscuous intercourse and to give particulars of the Local Treatment Centre and of Social Centres and places of entertainment available to them in the town. Its distribution was continued throughout the year 1943. Posters have also been supplied to the Dock Company for display in suitable places on Dock Premises.

Prevention: The establishment of a Prophylactic Station at the Docks has now been decided upon and at the time of writing negotiations for the use of suitable premises are proceeding.

The bacteriological examinations of rats in connection with Plague precautions, as well as other bacteriological examinations such as swabs for K.L.B., Bloods for Widal Reaction, etc., have been carried out at the Bacteriological Laboratory attached to the Health Department.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	Number during 1943 of		
	Passengers	Crew	Vessels concerned
Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Diphtheria	-	1	1
Scabies	-	4	3
Venereal Diseases	-	52	28
TOTAL:	-	58	33

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of cases during 1943		No. of Vessels concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	-	12	2
Scabies	-	7	1
Venereal Diseases	-	4	3
TOTAL:	-	23	6

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Special attention is paid to the work of detection of rodents on vessels, quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the Port and Borough. An experienced rat catcher is specially employed for this work.

Deratisation of vessels under the International Regulations for the prevention of plague, etc., is carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Inspectors. The chemicals used are sulphur and hydrocyanic acid. The rat population around the docks has been materially reduced of recent years by special attention to warehouses and other places of harbourage, such as river banks, tips, etc. 756 rats were destroyed on these premises in 1943 compared with 321 in 1942. On board ship 249 rats were destroyed as against 723 in 1942.

Rats destroyed during 1943.

TABLE E. On Vessels.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague.
249 & 42 mice	18	Nil

In Docks, Quays, Wharves & Warehouses. TABLE F.

No. destroyed.	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague
756	Nil	Nil

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessel or Vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the Port during the year.

N I L.

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

No. of Ships	64
No. of Deratisation Certificates issued:	
After fumigation with) H.C.N... ..	6
) Sulphur.	2
) H.C.N. & Sulphur	-
After trapping, poisoning, etc.	11
Total	19
No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued:	45
Total Certificates issued	64

Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

	Number	Percentage of total.
No. of vessels inspected during 1943	1831	-
Defects of original construction.	1	.39
Structural defects through wear and tear	48	18.68
Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health..	208	80.93

General Inspection of Vessels.

7.0 per cent of the 1831 vessels (including British and Foreign) inspected during the year had sanitary defects according to the present standard laid down by the Board of Trade.

The types of nuisances and defects dealt with show that 80.9 per cent of the nuisances were due to lack of care and sanitary supervision of the living quarters, whilst 19.1 per cent were due to defective structural conditions, including those caused through wear and tear. The great majority of both types of nuisances could have been avoided by stricter supervision of the crew and attention to minor structural defects.

With regard to individual nuisances discovered, dirty and verminous crew's quarters, berths, wash-places and mess-rooms accounted for 34.3 per cent, foul water closets for 1.5 per cent, and defective and dirty lockers 42.4 per cent.

Lack of attention to fittings and structures, including defective side scuttles, deck prisms, ventilators, side ports, cable castings and hawse pipes, leaky decks or defective stoves, etc., were responsible for a large proportion of the other insanitary conditions.

Although many of the above insanitary conditions are no doubt due to carelessness on the part of the crew, the "ultimate responsibility," as stated by the special Committee appointed by shipowners to enquire into the subject, "rests upon the master, and the degree of cleanliness is a criterion of the discipline of the ship."

A supply of the pamphlet "Prevention of Infestation of Ships by the Bed-Bug" compiled by the Association of Port Health Authorities has been obtained and copies are distributed to Masters of vessels where necessary.

I wish to thank the Collector of H.M. Customs and his "Preventive" Officers and the Clerk of the Pilotage Board for affording prompt and valuable assistance at all times in carrying out preventive work in connection with Infectious Diseases.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

H. CATTO

Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, acting as the Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1943.

SHIP INSPECTION.

During the year, 1831 vessels were inspected and 129 (7.0 per cent) of them were found to have nuisances or defects on board. It was not necessary to serve any statutory notices with regard to these vessels. 190 verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which most of the nuisances and defects were remedied and 61 quayside nuisances abated. 2085 re-visits were made to vessels in connection with sickness, nuisances and defects, rat destruction and to vessels from infected areas.

Nuisances and Defects.

Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health accounted for 208 (80.93 per cent), structural defects caused through wear and tear for 48 (18.68 per cent) and defects of original construction 1 (.39 per cent) of the total found. The numbers and types of nuisances and defects dealt with on all vessels together with percentages, are shown in Table J of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. Table 1 indicates the various nuisances dealt with and of these 7.5 per cent were due to the verminous condition of quarters and berths, 42.4 per cent to dirty and defective lockers, 19.2 per cent to dirty quarters, 1.2 per cent to defective ports, and 2.8 per cent to foul and defective water closets and fittings.

Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.

It is evident that most Masters of vessels are maintaining their efforts to control dirty conditions of the crews' accommodation. The number of vessels dealt with during the year on account of dirty and/or verminous conditions of quarters was the same as that of the previous year, being about 30% of the number found in 1939.

The number of quarters and berths found dirty and/or verminous was much greater than the previous year. This is, to a certain extent, however, due to the improvement in the crews accommodations by providing rooms in place of open forecastles, but also indicates that in some cases there is still not the proper supervision.

Disinfestation was carried out by means of fumigation by hydrogen cyanide and other patent gas fumigants, and by hand and pressure spraying of liquid insecticides into all crevices of woodwork, bunks and other fittings.

Structural Defects caused through Wear and Tear.

Defective port frames, linings and broken glasses, defective stoves and fittings, bunks, water closets and lockers were responsible for the greater number of this type of defect and many of these conditions were caused by misuse and lack of attention. Other defects dealt with were defective ventilators and shutos, hawse pipes, floors and leaky docks.

Table 1.

Nuisances and Defects dealt with.

Defective bunks and fittings	...	...	...	5
" side ports and deck prisms	...	...	...	21
" ventilators and fittings	...	...	...	1
" water closets and fittings	...	...	...	22
" hawse pipes etc.	...	...	...	1
" or dirty food lockers..	...	...	...	754
" floors or leaky docks..	...	...	...	3
" doors	...	...	...	1
" stoves and fittings	...	...	...	25
" chain pipes	...	...	...	6
Dirty crew quarters and berths...	...	...	...	342
" mess rooms	...	...	...	95
" wash places	...	...	...	38
" and/or verminous beds	...	...	...	287
Verminous crew quarters and berths	...	...	...	134
Foul water closets	...	...	...	27
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	18
Quayside nuisances	...	...	...	61
Choked scupper pipes	...	...	...	11
Insufficient water closet accommodation	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of water	...	...	...	1
Unshoathed bulkheads	...	...	...	3

Rat Destruction.

The warehouses, sheds, quays, hoists, sidings, river banks, wharves and private premises within the district were periodically inspected and 10,750 poison baits laid down. 756 rats were found dead after poisoning and of these 644 were picked up on the wharves and banks of the River Usk and 112 on the banks of the River Ebbw. Immediate measures are taken when fresh evidence of rats is seen or their presence reported.

The number of rats destroyed on board vessels during the year was 249 and 42 mice. 2 vessels were deratised by means of burning sulphur, traps and poison baits, 13 rats being killed by traps and poison baits, and 56 by burning sulphur. 6 vessels were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide and on five of these ships trapping and poison baits were also employed, 29 rats being killed by traps and poison baits, and 101 by hydrogen cyanide. On 11 vessels measures of trapping and poison baits were utilised, resulting in the destruction of 50 rats.

Certificates issued:- Deratisation 19; Exemption, 45.

With a few exceptions, all vessels from foreign ports are examined for evidence of rats and when recent indications are found, precautions are taken to prevent the rats making their way to the shore.

The Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1930.

One parrot and one love bird came under observation during the year. Notices were served prohibiting their import and in each case a written undertaking that the birds would not be landed was received from the owner. The birds were in a healthy condition and were taken away on board the vessels when they left the port.

Importation of Animals.

The various orders with reference to the importation of canine and other animals have been enforced during the year. 62 dogs and 250 cats were imported directly or indirectly. The vessels concerned were visited during their stay in port to ensure that the requirements of the Orders were observed.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED) FOOD REGULATIONS 1937.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED) MILK REGULATIONS 1926.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS,
1925 - 1927.

In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1927, it has not been found necessary to take any action.

The quantities of various kinds of foodstuffs withheld from human consumption during the year were as follows:-

Imported Food.

Canned meats	1,977 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	Dried Eggs	114 lbs
" milk	313 lbs	Flour	1,102 lbs
" fish	374 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs	Wheat	672 lbs
" fruit, etc.	30 lbs	Dried peas	42,644 lbs.

Ships Stores.

Meat 2,891 lbs.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R.M.SCORRER,

Senior Port Sanitary Inspector.

