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With the Medical Officer of Health's Compliments.

NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

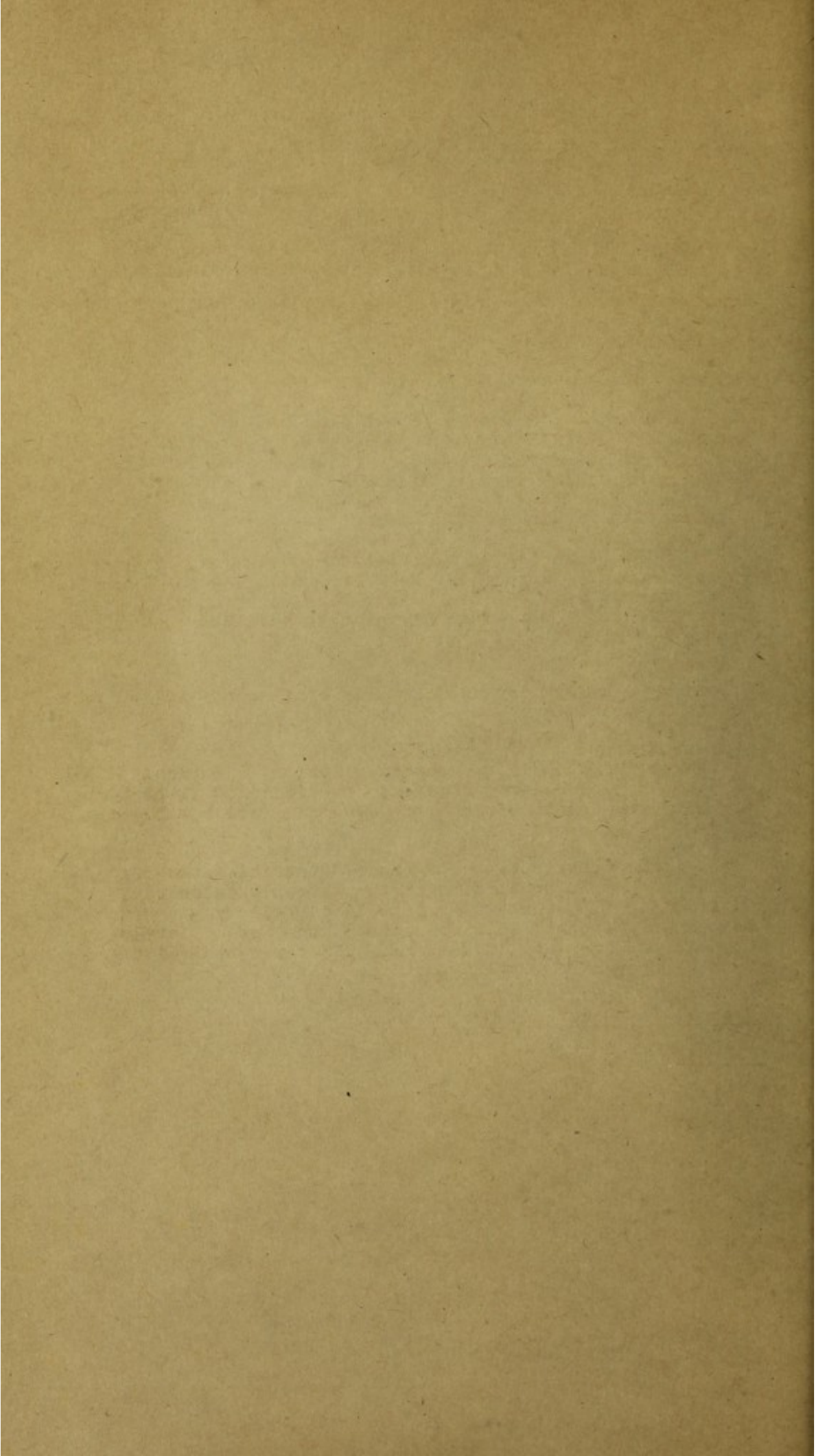
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T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H ,

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

NEWPORT, Mon.



NEWPORT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Health Department,
Royal Chambers,
High Street,
Newport, Mon.
1st March 1945.

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 1944. 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	...	...	16
By the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	1776
Number reported to be Defective..	...	...	147
Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied			145
Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board	...	...	53

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.

Sixteen vessels arrived from Ports infected, or suspected to be infected with Smallpox, Cholera, 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-eight cases of infectious sickness, etc., occurred on vessels during their voyages to Newport or after arrival here, namely:- Malaria 8, Venereal Diseases 65, Scabies 5, Measles 4, Pneumonia 2, Cerebro-spinal Fever 1, Scarlet Fever 1, and Tuberculosis 2. (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 tables have been prepared respecting seamen who visited the Port during each of the past 5 years of the war. The yearly average figures for the 5-yearly period 1934-38 are given for comparison:-

	British Subjects					Yrly. av. 1940- 1944	Yrly. av. 1934- 1938
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944		
Examined	99	98	84	84	82	89.4	71.6
Suffering from:							
Syphilis	30	22	25	21	32	26.0	22.0
Gonorrhoea	49	59	35	30	18	38.2	41.2
Soft Chancre	5	3	7	9	6	6.0	3.8
Total V.D. Cases	84	84	67	60	56	70.2	67.0
Not V.D. cases	15	14	17	24	26	19.2	4.6
Attendances	367.	443.	369	293	317	357.8	476.2

	Foreigners						
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Yrly. av. 1940- 1944	Yrly. av. 1934- 1938
Examined	87	205	138	107	86	124.6	64.2
Suffering from:							
Syphilis	27	87	68	51	47	56.0	23.2
Gonorrhoea	34	90	47	37	22	46.0	28.0
Soft Chancre	11	13	8	5	1	7.6	5.6
Total V.D.cases	72	190	123	93	70	109.6	56.8
Not V.D.cases	15	15	15	14	16	15.0	7.4
Attendances	290	532	378	318	262	356.0	174.2

Number of Seamen	Total - British and Foreigners						
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	Yrly. av. 1940- 1944	Yrly. av. 1934- 1938
Examined	186	303	222	191	168	214.0	135.8
Suffering from:							
Syphilis	57	109	93	72	79	82.0	45.2
Gonorrhoea	83	149	82	67	40	84.2	69.2
Soft Chancre	16	16	15	14	7	13.6	9.4
Total V.D.cases	156	274	190	153	126	179.8	123.8
Not V.D.cases	30	29	32	38	42	34.2	12.0
Attendances	657	975	747	611	579	713.8	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 greater among Foreign Seamen than among the British. (The latter actually showed a decrease in 1943 and 1944 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. 81%; the increase in Soft Chancre has been 45% and in Gonorrhoea 22%.

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

American 11 (7); Belgian 6 (4); Danish 9 (7); Dutch 5 (4); Estonian 8 (7); Finish 4 (3); French 5 (4); Greek 2 (2); Latvian 3 (3); Norwegian 5 (5); Polish 5 (3); Swedish 18 (17); Yugo-slav 5 (4).

31.7 per cent of the British Seamen (white and coloured) and only 18.6 per cent of the Foreign Seamen examined were found not to be suffering from Venereal Disease, compared with 28.6 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively during 1943, 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 four previous years; the figure was actually below the average number for the 5 years prior to the war; they numbered 579 compared with 611 in 1943, 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 3.4 compared with 4.8 - the average for the five years 1934-38. The British Subjects with 3.9 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 1944. Posters have also been supplied to the Dock Company for display in suitable places on Dock Premises.

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 1944 of		
	Passengers	Crews	Vessels concerned
Tuberculosis	-	2	1
Measles	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	2	1
Corebro-spinal fever	-	1	1
Scabies	-	5	3
Venereal Diseases	-	62	38
TOTAL	-	73	45

TABLE D.

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

Disease	No. of Cases during 1944		Vessels concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Malaria	-	8	2
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1
German Measles	-	3	2
Venered Diseases	-	3	3
TOTAL	-	15	8

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. 609 rats were destroyed on these premises in 1944 compared with 756 in 1943. On board ship 657 rats were destroyed as against 249 in 1943.

Rats destroyed during 1944.
TABLE E. On Vessels.

No. destroyed	No. examined.	No. found to be infected with Plague
657	26	Nil

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

No. destroyed	No. examined	No. found to be infected with Plague
609	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	...	...	...	...	47
No. of Deratisation Certificates issued:					
After fumigation with	) H.C.N.	...	14		
	) Sulphur	...	2		
	) H.C.N. & Sulphur		-		
After trapping, poisoning, etc...	...	...	9		
Total	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued					22
	Total Certificates issued.				47

Two vessels were deratised by means of hydrogen cyanide and one vessel by means of hydrogen cyanide, trapping and poison baits, but no certificates were issued. 12 rats were killed by hydrogen cyanide and 2 by traps and poison bait.

Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

	Number	Percentage of total
No. of vessels inspected during 1944	1776	-
Defects of original construction	1	.37
Structural defects through wear and tear	91	34.34
Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health. ...	173	65.29

General Inspection of Vessels.

8.2 per cent of the 1776 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 65.3 per cent of the nuisances were due to lack of care and sanitary supervision of the living quarters, whilst 34.3 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 31.3 per cent, foul water closets for .4 per cent, and defective and dirty lockers 33.8 per cent.

Lack of attention to fittings and structures, including defective side scuttles, deck prisms, ventilators, side ports, 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 1944.

SHIP INSPECTION.

During the year, 1776 vessels were inspected and 147 (8.2 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. 203 verbal and informal notices were given, as a result of which most of the nuisances and defects were remedied and 56 quayside nuisances abated. 2326 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 173 (65.29 per cent), structural defects caused through wear and tear for 91 (34.34 per cent) and defects of original construction 1 (.37 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 14.2 per cent were due to the verminous condition of quarters and berths, 33.8 per cent to dirty and defective lockers, 12.5 per cent to dirty quarters, 3.5 per cent to defective ports, and 4.6 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 crews quarters was 17% less than that of the previous year; whilst the number of crews quarters and rooms found dirty and/or verminous was 25% less than the previous year.

Disinfestation was carried out by means of fumigation with burning sulphur, 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 ports (frames, linings, and broken glasses,) defective stoves and fittings, 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 shutters, bunks and fittings, floors and leaky decks, entrance doors and washbasins.

The Ministry of War Transport Surveyor was notified of all defects found on ships, which necessitated structural alterations to remedy them.

Table 1.

Nuisances and Defects dealt with.

Defective bunks and fittings	8
" side ports and deck prisms	45
" ventilators & fittings	5
" water closets & fittings	56
" hawse pipes etc.	2
" or dirty food lockers.	445
" floors or leaky decks.	11
" doors... ..	3
" stoves & fittings	24
" wash basins	2
" hand pump	1
Dirty crew quarters & berths	166
" messrooms... ..	40
" wash places.	20
" and/or verminous beds	256
" icebox	1
Verminous crew quarters and berths	187
Foul water closets	5
Accumulations of refuse..	30
Quayside nuisances	56
Choked scupper pipes	8
Insufficient ventilation.	1
Insufficient water closet accommodation	1

Rat Destruction.

The warehouses, sheds, quays, hoists, sidings, river banks, wharves and private premises within the district were periodically inspected and 9,950 poison baits laid down. 609 rats were found dead after poisoning and of these 534 were picked up on the wharves and banks of the River Usk and 75 on the banks of the River Ebbw. Immediate measures are taken when fresh evidence of rats is seen or their presence reported.

The Great Western Railway employ a ratcatcher who has co-operated with this Authority's efforts in combatting the rat menace throughout the dock area. He has laid 3,575 poisoned baits and picked up 48 dead rats during the year.

The number of rats destroyed on board vessels during the year was 657. 2 vessels were deratised by means of burning sulphur, traps and poison baits, 15 rats being killed by traps and poison baits, and 57 by burning sulphur. 17 vessels were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide and on 12 of these ships trapping and poison baits were also employed, 108 rats being killed by traps and poison baits and 376 by hydrogen cyanide. On 9 vessels deratisation was carried out by measures of trapping and poison baits, resulting in the destruction of 101 rats. 3 of the vessels deratised did not require the issue of deratisation certificates.

Certificates issued:- Deratisation 25; Exemption 22.

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.

Four parrots and one budgerigar 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. 221 dogs and 435 cats were imported directly or indirectly. 3 dogs were landed under licences issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 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, including ships stores, withheld from human consumption during the year were as follows:-

Dried beans	16,735 lbs.
Biscuits	9,000 lbs.
Meat	4,952 lbs.
Fish	194 lbs.
Poultry	70 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.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF _____

Know all men by these presents, that _____

of the County of _____ State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of _____ Dollars, to _____ in hand paid by _____ the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have granted, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said _____ of the County of _____ State of Texas, all that certain _____

WITNESSED my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____ 19____.
