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Contributors

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COLCHESTER (COLCHESTER DIVISION) PORT
HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1960.

Table A Section 1. Staff.

<u>Name of Officer.</u>	<u>Nature of Appointment</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>
Kershaw, John Dunkerley	Port M. O. H.	1.11.46	M.D., B.S. D.P.H.,
Middleton, John	Port Med. Insp. (Circ. 2642)	31.12.58	L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)
Colvin, James	Port Health Inspector	5.5.55	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,

The Port M. O. is also Area M. O. and Div. S. M. O. for Essex County Council, and Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Colchester. His official address is Health Offices, Trinity Street, Colchester Tel. No. 5404 Extn. 73 (after 5.30 p.m. 73107 Extn. 8)

The Port Medical Inspector is in general practice.

The Port Health Inspector is Public Health Inspector and Surveyor to Brightlingsea U. D. C.

Table B Section 2. Amount of shipping entering District during year.

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Insp. by P.D.H.</u>	<u>Insp. by Port H. I.</u>	<u>Ships having Inf. Diseases on board.</u>
Foreign ports	217	28,865	Nil	104	Nil
Coastwise	2160	165,107	Nil		Nil
Total	2377	193,972	Nil	104	Nil

Note : These figures do not include local fishing boats and yachts.

Table C Section 3. Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Passenger traffic : Nil

Cargo traffic : Principal imports : Clay, timber, petrol, corn, potatoes, fertilizer.
" exports : Scrap iron, flour, gravel and sand.

Principal ports from which ships arrive : London, Goole, Ymouden (Holland) Fur, Ejerslev (Denmark)

Section 4. Inland Barge traffic.

There is no fresh water barge traffic. Flour mills at the limit of the tideway are served by barges.

Section 5. Water Supply.

Source of supply for district : Waterworks at Brightlingsea, West Mersea, Abberton, Rowhedge and Colchester.

" " " " shipping : Borough of Colchester, U. D.'s of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe.

2. Routine samples at intervals. Results for 1960 were satisfactory.

3. Tap and hose enclosed in box.
4. One water boat based at Brightlingsea, and operated by a shipyard is inspected at regular intervals and storage tanks are thoroughly cleansed at least once a year.

Section 6. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952 to 1961

List of infected areas (Regulation 6) - No special list is kept and amended, as ships from infected areas are unlikely to use this port, overseas trade being confined to countries of Western Europe. The Weekly Epidemiological Record issued by the World Health Organisation is kept in the office of the Port M. O. H. and a copy is also posted direct from Geneva to H. M. Preventive Officer in Charge at Brightlingsea as the first person likely to board vessels on arrival.

- (2) a. Not a radio transmitting port (Regulation 13)
- b. Not a radio receiving port (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and 2.)
- (3) Notifications otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14 (1) b.)

Messages to vessels are transmitted and received through H. M. Customs and Excise, Brightlingsea, and also through Lloyd's Agent, Hythe Quay, Colchester. If necessary the Customs Officer would arrange for radio messages to be sent from a station situated outside the district.

(4) Mooring stations : Mooring stations for suspected vessels are situated at Brightlingsea.

(5) a. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Myland Hospital, Mill Road, Colchester.

b. Contacts on the vessel are seen by the M.O.H. or one of the medical staff of the Colchester Health Department, and those who have proceeded outside the area are notified to the M.O.H. of the district of destination for visit and report.

c. Ships would be disinfected within the Port area by means of formaldehyde generators or sprays, but large vessels would be sent to the Port of London for treatment.

Section 7. Smallpox.

(1) The Rivers Hospital, (Long Beach) Dartford, Kent or the Smallpox Hospital, Ipswich, Suffolk, with reserve accommodation, if necessary, at Colchester Isolation Hospital.

(2) Cases requiring removal to Hospital would be moved by arrangement with the E. C. C. Ambulance Station, Ixden, Colchester, on telephoned request from medical staff. All ambulance crews are vaccinated on joining and at intervals.

(3) Port M.O.H. is a Consultant for the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board Area No. 6, and is on the Ministry's Panel of Consultants. If unavailable one of the following acts :-

Dr. W. T. G. Boul, Grays.

Dr. J. P. Marsden, Rivers Hospital, Joyce Green, Dartford.

Dr. W. J. Coughlan, Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent.

(4) Suspected smallpox crusts or vesicle fluids for diagnostic complement fixation tests are sent to Prof. A. W. Downie, Dept. of Bacteriology, The University, 126, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

Section 8. Venereal Diseases.

The World Directory of Venereal Disease treatment at Ports published by the W. H. O. and issued by the Min. of Health (Decr. 1960) is kept in the office of the Port M.O. and is available to other port staff for addresses at home and abroad. Lavatories and urinals in the Port area have local information exhibited and posters issued by the Ministry of Health.

Centre for diagnosis and Out-patient treatment at the Essex County Hospital, Ixenden Road, Colchester as under :-

Mondays : 5-7 p.m. and Fridays : 3.30-4.30 p.m.

In-patient treatment is arranged at the nearest Seaman's Hospital, at Greenwich, London, S. E.

Section 9. Cases of notifiable and other
Table D. infectious diseases on ships.

No cases of infectious diseases occurred among crews. As noted under Table C there is no passenger traffic. The answers are therefore 'Nil' throughout.

Sections 10 and 11. Malaria and Plague.

The Port is not used by any ships visiting tropical areas.

Sections 12. Measures against rodents in
ships from foreign ports.

- (1) Examination for evidence of rat infestation is carried out in all vessels inspected.
- (2) Bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents would be carried out in Ministry of Food Laboratory or at the Public Health Laboratory, Borough General Hospital, Ipswich, Suffolk.
- (3) Disinfestation is by means of poison baits, but in cases of heavy infestation where hydrogen cyanide would be more appropriate and effective, the vessel would be sent to either the Port Authorities at Harwich or London.
- (4) Some vessels built many years ago show need of rat proofing.

Table E. Rodents destroyed during the year in
ships from foreign ports.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Knd.</u>	<u>Plague found.</u>
Black, brown	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unknown species	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table F. This Port Health Authority is not authorised to issue Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates.

Rodent Control Certificates under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951 are issued.

Section 13. Inspection of ships for nuisances.

Table G. Inspections and Notices.

<u>Nature & No. of inspections.</u>	<u>Notices served</u>		<u>Result of serving notice.</u>
	<u>Statutory</u>	<u>Other</u>	
General (sanitation, infestation and cleanliness) 102	Nil	8	Cleansing and repairs carried out
Water Boat for Hygiene and sampling. 2	Nil	Nil	----

Section 14. Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

Oysters from Brightlingsea and St. Osyth Creeks which are liable to pollution are treated at Brightlingsea Oyster Cleansing Station which is controlled by the Tendring and Brightlingsea Shell-fish Committee under the direction of the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Health.

Large numbers of young oysters are imported each year from Portugal and reared on oyster beds in the above creeks, and are sold throughout the year without any close season.

The famous Colchester Native oysters are cultivated in the River Colne and the Pyefleet Channel, and are not subject to the pollution which occurs in the other creeks. They are checked for purity by the Bacteriologist to the Fishmongers Company before release in the London Markets, and in case of adverse report both oyster and water samples are submitted for analyses at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Cockles, winkles, and mussels are collected from the shores of the tidal River Colne and are sold without treatment of any kind. No case of Typhoid or Paratyphoid came to our knowledge which could be attributed to infection by shell-fish obtained in the locality. Since the last Survey Report cases have been reported involving oysters consumed at a Colchester hotel and which were purchased at West Mersea and bacteriological examination and typing seems to confirm that they were the vehicle of infection.

Section 15. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

Section 16. Miscellaneous.

Mortuaries are available at Colchester, Brightlingsea, and Wivenhoe. Burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from an infectious disease or other cause has been in the past at Colchester Cemetery under the supervision of officers of the Borough Health Department, and in the presence of a member of the Consular staff in the case of foreign nationals.

Since the last Survey Report Colchester has opened and operates a crematorium at the cemetery.

John S. Kenton
Port Medical Officer of Health.

April, 21st. 1961.

