[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Folkestone Port Health Authority.

Contributors

Folkestone (England). Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gw2b69pf

License and attribution

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

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. 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.

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

AC4412(2) FOLKESTONE (Pt+)
B

LIBRARY

PORT OF FOLKESTONE

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1950.

R.F.H. McELLIGOTT, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer.

PORT OF FOLKESTONE.

Public Health Department,
Foord Road,
FOLKESTONE.

-1st May, 1951.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough and Port of Folkestone.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit the Annual Report on the medical aspect of the working of the Port of Folkestone for 1950. This will eventually form a section of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

On the 28th December, 1950, Dr. G.J.V. Crosby resigned after more than 4 years service and I took over the duties as Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of Aliens

The boat services during the year have been as follows:

(a) From -1st January to 31st December, 1950.
Daily service to and from Calais.

(b) From 21st June to 7th October, 1950.
Daily service to and from Boulogne. (Evenings).

(c) From 1st July to 10th September, 1950.
Daily service to and from Boulogne. (Mornings).

(d) From 7th July to 17th September, 1950.
Twice weekly service to and from Flushing. (Arrived at Folkestone on Fridays and Sundays).

(e) From 14th July to 7th October, 1950.
Motor car service (passengers and cars) daily to and from Calais.

The usual cargo service has been maintained on alternate days to and from Calais and Boulogne.

There has been a slight drop in the number of passengers arriving at and departing from the Port compared with 1949 but were still very much higher than those for 1948, the gross figures for the past three years being:

	1948.	1949.	1950.
Inwards.	141,660.	252,145.	250,002.
Outwards.	133,680.	231,310.	223,446.

The number of Aliens arriving has, however, increased and as the figures below will show nearly twice as many arrived in 1950 compared with 1948:

	1948.	1949.	1950.
Arriving.	34,958.	52,246.	61,840.
Examined	3,029.	5,213.	7,447.
Certificates issued.	4.	10.	7.
Percentage examined.	8•7	10.	12.

Altogether 7,447 Aliens were examined by the Medical Inspector of Aliens during the year. This figure shows an increase of 2,234 over 1949. Consequently the Port Medical staff were very busy, especially during the Summer months.

I have formed the opinion, having held the appointment of Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens from 28th October, 1949, to 28th December, 1950, that it would be far more satisfactory if complete medical examinations were undertaken by recognised Medical Boards in the countries of origin, within seven days of the date of departure of the Alien for Britain from his or her own country. This could be supplemented by a superficial examination at the Port of entry in Britain on the boat's arrival, and would be mainly to exclude the presence of acute or infectious disease.

The reason for my view that this would be the most efficient arrangement is the great shortage of time at the harbour between arrival of the boat and departure of the boat train, often not more than half-an-hour, and it is not possible to examine in detail thirty or forty people in this time, and it is certainly not possible to exclude the presence of various serious diseases such as Diabetes, Tuberculosis, kidney disease, etc., which may interfere with the capacity of the Alien to support himself or herself, in such a short time. Also pregnancy in its early stages may pass unrecognised.

In order to make the best use of the time available for the examinations, the practice of performing the examinations on board, before the disembarkation, has been continued.

Apart from these suggestions towards increasing the efficiency of the work carried out at the Harbour, I can say that the existing arrangements have gone as smoothly as could be expected and this is due firstly to the hard work of the medical and nursing staff, and secondly to the unfailing co-operation with us of the Immigration Officials, Customs Officials and Ships Staffs.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

R.F.H. McELLIGOTT,

Port Medical Officer.

STAFF.

Acting Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of Aliens. (Temporary).	R.F.H. McElligott, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (Part-time). (Commenced: 29.12.50.)
Medical Officer of Health, Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of Aliens. (Temporary)	G.J.V. Crosby, C.B.E., T.D., M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., K.H.P. (Part-time). (Resigned: 28.12.50.)
Assistant Medical Inspectors of Aliens. (Temporary).	(1) Georgette Crosby, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time). (2) J.M.B. Morwood, M.B., B.Ch. (Belfast) (Part-time). (3) M.B. Watson, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time).
Senior Sanitary Inspector. (Borough and Port). Assistant Inspector under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations.	* L.H. Vale, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.
Port Sanitary Inspector. Assistant Inspector under Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations.	* L.F. Pattman, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. * A. Stubbs, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B. * E.M. Howells, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. * D. Prebble, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. * Also hold Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute as "Inspector of Meat and other Foods."
Nurse assisting with medical inspection of Aliens.	Nurse D. Summerfield, S.R.N., C.M.B., Health Visitor and School Nurses Certificate of R.S.I. (Part-time).

I. Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year ended 31st December, 1950.

TABLE A.

		Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector					
Foreign	(Steamers ..	1,035	944,260		11	921				
	(* Motor ..	5	1,853		1	1				
	(Sailing ..	-	-		-	-				
	(Fishing ..	-	-		-	-				
Total Foreign ..		1,040	946,113	Nil	12	922	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Coast-wise	(Steamers ..	24	19,323		2	2				
	(* Motor ..	-	-		-	-				
	(Sailing ..	-	-		-	-				
	(Fishing ..	-	-		-	-				
Total Coastwise ..		24	19,323	Nil	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise ..		1,064	965,436	Nil	14	924	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

IL - CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during 1950.

No. of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	Trans-migrants
Inwards	250,002		Nil.
Outwards	223,446		Nil.

(b) Cargo Traffic.

Principal imports:

Dates, nuts, fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat products, preserved fruit, fish, wines, horses and general cargo of miscellaneous character.

Principal exports:

Motor cars, horses, machinery and general merchandise.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.

Calais, Boulogne and Flushing.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Until the 28th December, 1950, these duties were carried out by Dr. G.J.V. Crosby and four Assistant Medical Inspectors. After that date Dr. R.F.H. McElligott was appointed Medical Inspector of Aliens and the number of Assistants reduced to three.

Rooms are available on the train departure platform on the quay, but in order to make the best use of the limited time available the practice of carrying out the medical examinations in cabins on board passenger ships has been continued.

A trained Nurse is present during the inspection of females.

An analysis of Aliens referred by the Immigration Officer for medical examination during 1950 is as follows:-

	Number Examined.	Certificates Issued
(1) Ministry of Labour permits.	6,482.	2.
(2) Immigrants without M.L. permits.	164.	1.
(3) Others remaining more than 3 months and intending to take up employment.	777.	-
(4) Students.	7.	-
(5) Visiting for health reasons.	9.	2.
(6) Appearing to the Immigration Officer to be:-		
(a) not in robust health.	8.	2.
	7,447.	7:

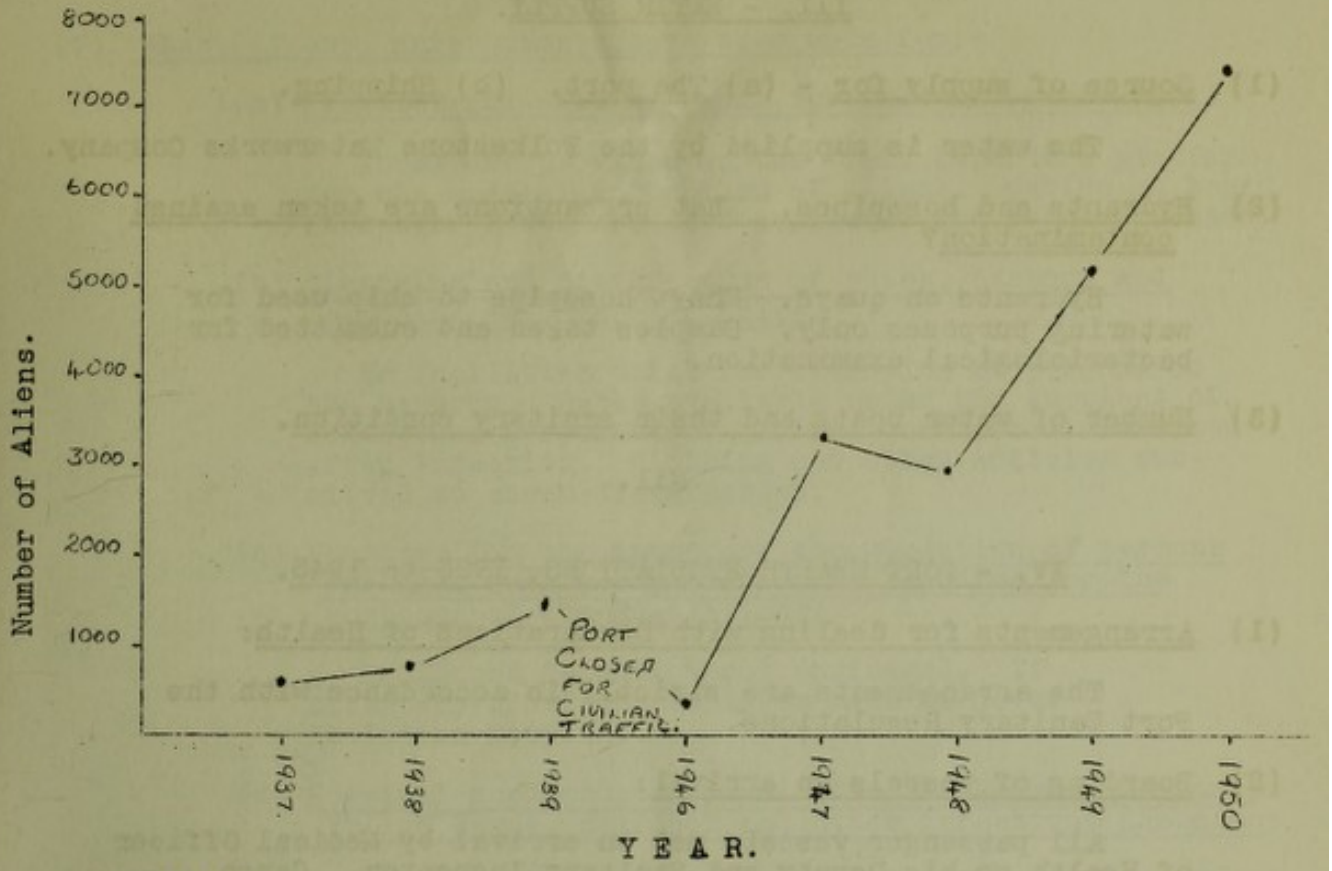
The Annual Return by the Medical Inspector of Aliens is shown on page 6.

Annual Return by the Medical Inspector of Aliens for the Year ended 31st December, 1950.

	Total	Number inspected by the Medical Inspector	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector	Certificates issued.					Trans-migrants
				Lunatic or M.D. (a)	Undesirable for medical reasons (b)	Physically incapacitated (c)	Suffering from acute infectious disease (d)	Landing necessary for adequate medical examination (e)	
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ..	61,837	-	7,444	-	-	4	-	-	-
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer (for medical reasons)	3	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-
(c) Transmigants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ..	61,840	-	7,447	-	3	4	-	-	-

Total number of vessels carrying Alien passengers ... ... 808.
Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ... 568.

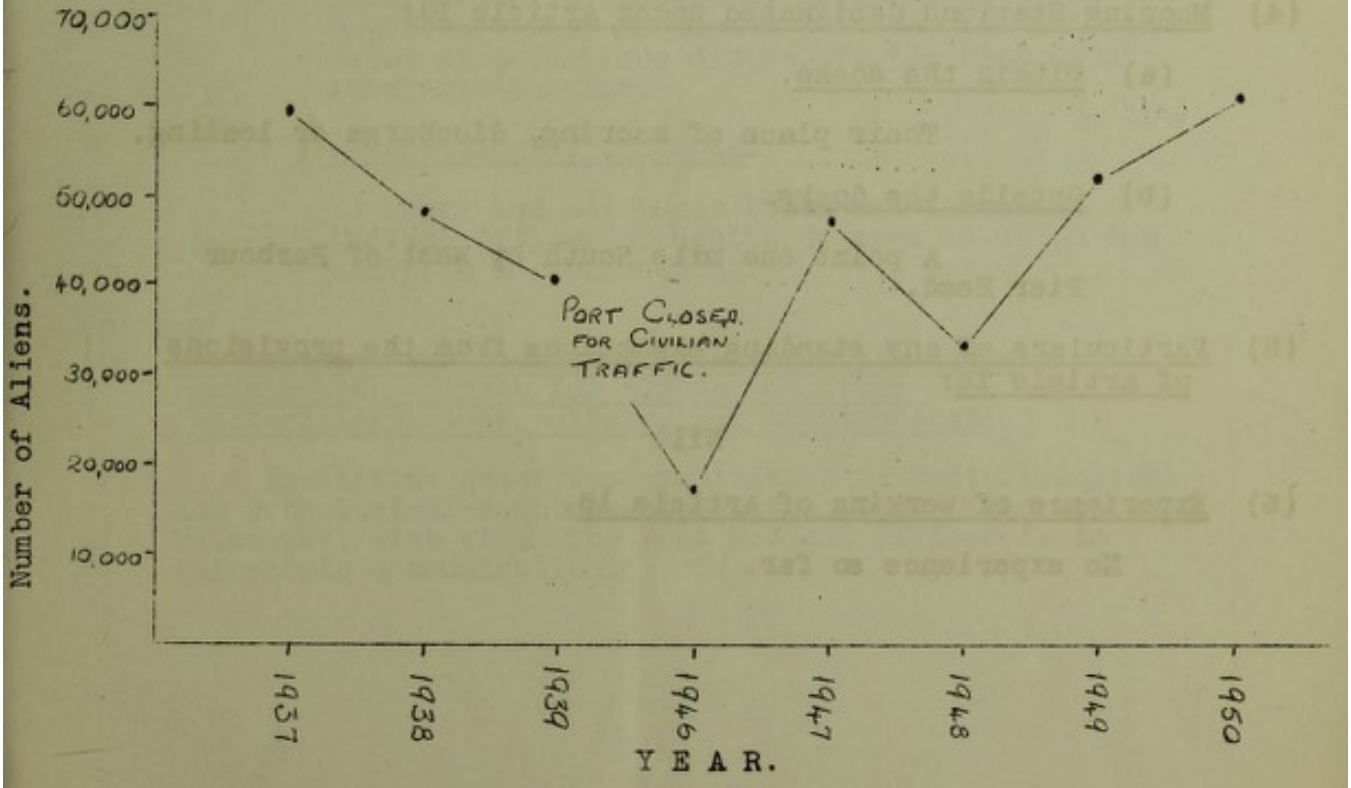
Chart showing Aliens Medically Examined since 1937.



Remarks:

1946 - all passenger services discontinued during November.
1947 - all passenger services withdrawn on 3rd November until end of year.
1948 - regular passenger services commenced on 8th May.

Chart showing Total Number of Aliens Arriving since 1937.



See above remarks re 1946, 1947 and 1948.

III. - WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of supply for - (a) The port. (b) Shipping.

The water is supplied by the Folkestone Waterworks Company.

(2) Hydrants and hosepipes. What precautions are taken against contamination?

Hydrants on quays. Short hosepipe to ship used for watering purposes only. Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

(3) Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.

Nil.

IV. - PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 to 1945.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health:

The arrangements are strictly in accordance with the Port Sanitary Regulations.

(2) Boarding of vessels on arrival:

All passenger vessels met on arrival by Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy and Sanitary Inspector. Cargo vessels visited within short time of arrival by Sanitary Inspector.

(3) Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.):

All vessels met by H.M. Customs and quarantine questions put to the Master before any communication with shore allowed.

(4) Mooring Stations designated under Article 10:

(a) Within the docks.

Their place of mooring, discharge or loading.

(b) Outside the docks.

A point one mile South by West of Harbour Pier Head.

(5) Particulars of any standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14:

Nil.

(6) Experience of working of Article 18.

No experience so far.

(7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for:-

(a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.

Rooms are provided on the train departure platform for the medical inspection of Aliens. Cabins on board Passenger Boats are also available and regularly used.

(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles:

No facilities exist for cleansing of persons on the harbour. Baths available under the auspices of Folkestone Corporation. Ships' quarters disinfected after infection. Clothing and other articles submitted to steam disinfection.

(c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purposes of the Regulations:

Prolonged detention not envisaged. If necessary provision would be made at Dover Isolation Hospital.

(d) Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases:

Smallpox cases would be admitted to the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford. Accommodation for other cases of infectious disease would either be at the Dover or Ashford Isolation Hospitals or arranged by the South-East Kent Hospital Management Committee.

(e) Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from Smallpox or Typhus Fever would be removed by arrangement with the Canterbury City Ambulance Service, and all other cases of infectious disease by the Kent County Ambulance Service.

(f) Supervision of Contacts.

Names and addresses taken and forwarded to Medical Officer of Health of area to which the contacts are proceeding.

(8) and
(9) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague and other bacteriological or pathological examinations:

Facilities exist for examination of bacteriological and pathological requirements at the County Laboratory at Maidstone, with which the Port Medical Officer is in telephonic communication.

(10) Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen:

Where necessary full information supplied to seamen concerned.

Clinics are held at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dover, and at Ashford.

(11) Arrangements for the internment of dead:

Adequate. Mortuary available.

THE PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

One parrot was landed - the owner producing a Ministry of Health authorisation to allow the bird to remain in the country for theatrical performances over a specified period.

A second parrot was also landed - a Ministry of Health authorisation had been secured. In this case the bird was in transit to the U.S.A.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the year.		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Diphtheria "suspect"	1	-	1	-

The patient, a female aged 32 years, was admitted to the Dover Isolation Hospital and later confirmed as suffering from Acute Tonsillitis.

Table "D" shows a "Nil" return.

V. - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.

(a) In ships in the port:

The nature of the cargoes of vessels trading at this port is not such that would be likely to attract rats in quantity, there being no grain or foodstuffs of that nature discharged here.

The Port Sanitary Inspectors, during the course of inspection, ascertain any undue prevalence of rats.

(b) On quays, wharves, warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the port:

There are no warehouses or wharfs of that nature in the vicinity of the Port. Periodical inspections by the Port Sanitary Inspectors and attention of the British Railways, Southern Region, called to any undue prevalence of rats.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and shore:

Not found necessary.

(3) Methods of deratisation of:-

(a) Ships.

Fumigation, when necessary, by Dover Port Health Staff.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.

Dealt with by Rat Officer of the British Railways, Southern Region. If required assistance given by the Borough Rodent Operator.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore:

Periodical inspections.

(5) Rat-proofing:

(a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, &c., rat-proof?

No warehouses other than those used by H.M. Customs for bonded goods.

(b) Action taken to extend rat-proofing:

(i) in ships:

Nil.

(ii) on shore:

New concrete floor to H.M. Customs warehouses.

Tables "E," "F," "G" and "H" all show a "Nil" return.

VI. - HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

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	11.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other nations	3.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

BRITISH VESSELS.

Those entering this Port from Calais and Boulogne are either owned or on charter by the British Railways. The passage being so short very few of the crew sleep on board.

FOREIGN VESSELS.

(1) Bi-weekly passenger service from Holland (Flushing) during Summer season (July - September).
(2) Occasional holiday craft or small trader.

VII. - FOOD INSPECTION.

(1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940.

All cargoes inspected.

Summary of Foodstuffs imported:

FOODSTUFF.	BOULOGNE.		CALAIS.		OSTEND.	
	tons.	cwts.	tons.	cwts.	tons.	cwts.
Dates.	1565	9	250	8	-	-
Nuts.	276	1	23	5	-	-
Fruit and Vegetables.	272	2	99	15	14	5
Poultry	91	11	-	-	-	-
Meat Products	83	1	366	15	-	-
Preserved Fruit	35	8	257	14	-	-
Fish	11	13	12	2	-	-
Shellfish	-	11	-	-	-	-
Tomato Puree	-	-	-	8	-	-
	2335	16	1010	7	14	5

Grand Total: 3,360 tons 8 cwts.

Foodstuffs Condemned.

			cwts.	lbs.
Periwinkles	-	10 bags.	10.	-
Smoked cod fillets	-	40 cases.	6.	-
Hams, bacon and sausages	-	1 case.	-	45.
Salami and other sausage products	-	1 case.	-	34.
Olives and olive oil	-	1 case.	-	5.
Total:	16 cwts.	84 lbs.		

Total number of visits to Port ... 727.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937.

During the year 2 consignments of meat products were landed without Official Certificates of Inspection and were detained; in one case Statutory Notices forbidding further removal, except for purposes of re-exportation, being served in accordance with the Regulations.

The necessary documents were, however, later produced and in these circumstances the meat products were released.

(2) Shell-fish: Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

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

(3) Number of Samples of Food examined by:-

(a) Bacteriologist: Nil.

(b) Analyst: 5 samples.

Nature of Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
Dates.	Free from infestation, sulphur dioxide and fumigating compounds.	The sample passes as genuine.
Canned Luncheon Meat.	Preservatives absent and no metallic or chemical contamination. The gelatine was sound, and there was no evolution of gas on opening.	The sample called for no adverse remarks.
Salami.	Had a definitely musty odour not only on the outside but also in the interior of the product. No evidence of the mould having penetrated through the skin of the sausage and the fat gives no evidence at all of rancidity. Preservatives absent.	There is therefore no chemical evidence requiring the condemnation of the Salami.

Nature of Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
Saucisson Mortabelle	Cooked sausage free from preservatives and mould. The "blisters" are due to fat aggregates. This fat is in sound condition and free from rancidity.	Genuine.
Tomato Puree.	Contains less than 10 parts per million of copper, equivalent to less than 40 parts per million on the dry matter. Free from preservatives and contains negligible amount of tin.	The sample complies with the agreed standards.

---------- oOo ----------