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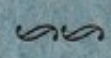
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# BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT



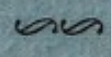
## ANNUAL REPORT

by the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

# 1948



Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

# BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

## HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948

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*Chairman:*

MR. COUNCILLOR PALMER

*Vice-Chairman:*

MISS ALDERMAN MANN

MR. ALD. JONES, MR. ALD. LARKE, MR. COUN. BINGHAM, MR. COUN. D. CATCHPOLE, MR. COUN. CROFT, MR. COUN. DURRANT, MR. COUN. FINCH, MR. COUN. GAMBLE, MR. COUN. JONES, MR. COUN. KEENE, MR. COUN. LANG, MR. COUN. MARJORAM, MR. COUN. STEVENS, MR. COUN. STRAND, MR. COUN. WALLER, MR. COUN. WARD, MRS. COUN. WING.

*Medical Officer of Health:*

V. R. WALKER, M.B., CH.B., B.SC., D.P.H. (Resigned 30th September, 1948)  
ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 30th September, 1948)

*Assistant Medical Officer:*

MARGARET S. WHITE, M.B., CH.B.,  
D.R.C.O.G.  
(Resigned 13th October, 1948)

*Dental Officer:*

JANET W. HEPBURN, L.D.S.  
(Resigned 27th September, 1948)

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

R. F. KNOWLES, C.R.S.I.  
(Resigned 31st December, 1948)

F. W. Y. BUCKLEY, C.R.S.I.  
B. J. MARSHALL, C.R.S.I.  
(Appointed 26th May, 1948)

*Matron, Isolation Hospital:*

MISS D. P. FENN (Deceased 27th November, 1948)

*Health Visitors:*

MISS W. LARGE  
MISS M. SHIPPERBOTTOM

MISS R. V. STILES  
MISS K. M. WRIGHTON

*Chief Clerk:*

MISS N. TURRELL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
123, HIGH STREET.

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting this Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1948, I present my first report to you as your Medical Officer. The year under review saw in the Health Department many changes, both in personnel and in the work of the Department itself.

The work outlined in this Report was carried out under the supervision of my predecessor, Dr. V. R. Walker, who left the service in the Borough in September. From then until I took up duty at the beginning of 1949, Dr. A. A. Gilmour, M.O.H. of Beccles, Southwold and the R.D. of Lothingland, contributed greatly towards keeping the Department running. Much of the supervisory and routine statistical work which would normally fall on the shoulders of the Medical Officer, fell on Miss N. Turrell, Chief Clerk in the Department, and I would like to record here my appreciation of the able way in which she carried on during a most difficult period. Had it not been for her efficiency and devotion to duty my task of picking up the reins would have been far more difficult.

The period under review will be remembered as one in which many of the functions, previously the responsibility of yourselves, were transferred to other authorities. One is too close to these events at present to properly assess their full repercussions, but you may be assured that we in the Health Department will do all in our power to keep the services up to the standard to which you have become accustomed in the past.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

JUNE, 1949.

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(a) STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (including foreshore) (Acres) . . . . .	5,495
Population at 1931 Census . . . . .	41,768
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1948	43,290
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at December, 1948 . . . . .	12,303
Rateable value — 1st April, 1948 . . . . .	£251,713
Sum represented by a penny rate (1947/1948) . . . . .	£987 13s. 8d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<i>Totals</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	779	381	398
	Illegitimate	58	31	27
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		837	412	425
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		LOWESTOFT	<i>Comparative Figures for England and Wales</i>	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1948		19.3	17.9	
STILLBIRTHS —				
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		22.2	22.6	
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	19		10	9
DEATHS per 1,000 estimated aver- population		10.9	10.8	
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE				
All infants per 1,000 live births		16.7	34	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		16	—	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		17	—	
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES				
Rates per 1,000 (live and still) births				
Puerperal Sepsis		1.2	.24	
Other Puerperal Causes		1.2	.78	

*Comment on Vital Statistics.*

The suggestion in the Medical Officer's report for last year, that the high number of births for that year (1,020) was not likely to be approached again, has in fact been borne out this year when the figure of 837 was recorded. This is considerably below that of 1947 and also below that of 907 in 1946. In spite of the downward trend, however, the birth rate for the Borough last year was above that for England and Wales as a whole.

The local death rate this year approximates very closely to that of the rate for England and Wales, having fallen to this rate from a higher level in the previous year.

The stillbirth rate remains the same as last year and falls a little below the national rate. There has been a marked fall in the infant mortality rate from 38 to 16.7 deaths per 1,000 livebirths, this rate being much below the national one.

It is very pleasing to be able to report that there were no deaths from diphtheria, measles, whooping-cough and scarlet fever, and one single death in the "under 2 years of age" group from diarrhoea compares very favourably with the national rate of 3.3 per 1,000 total births.

(b) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Up to July 5th the general provision of health services continued as in past years. On that date the East Suffolk County Council became the Authority for those services transferred as detailed below.

Dr. V. R. Walker left the Borough's service on 30th September, 1948. His place was temporarily occupied by Dr. A. A. Gilmour, who supervised the Department until the end of the year.

Dr. Margaret S. White left the Borough services on 13th October, 1948, her antenatal and maternity and child welfare work being carried on by Dr. M. Johns and Dr. E. Marian Walker. The Borough's Dental Surgeon, Miss Janet Hepburn, resigned and left the Borough in September, 1948. It proved impossible to fill her place during the rest of the year.

*Midwifery Service.* The midwifery scheme continued to be operated by the midwives of the Lowestoft and District Nursing Association, under subsidy from the Borough Council, as Local Supervising Authority, until the 5th July, when the East Suffolk County Council became the Supervising Authority. Prior to this date 169 cases were attended by the midwives of the Nursing Association in the capacity of midwife and 137 cases in the capacity of maternity nurse. The continued shortage of nursing staff has placed a severe strain on the resources of the midwives, who are still continuously called upon to work long hours with little relief. Medical aid was sought in 109 cases (97 domiciliary and 12 institutional).

All the Association's midwives are qualified to administer gas-air analgesia. The demand for this analgesia has increased considerably, 121 cases taking advantage of it during the first six months of the year compared with 124 cases during the whole of 1947.

*Maternity Services.* Up to 5th July, 64 maternity cases were admitted to the Lowestoft and North Suffolk Hospital. Cases included those whose domestic conditions made confinement in their own homes impossible. There is still a continued demand for institutional confinement particularly from amongst those whose housing accommodation is unsatisfactory.

*Home Helps.* Up to July 5th, when the East Suffolk County Council became the Authority responsible for providing a Home Help Service, provision of home helps by the Borough was afforded in 17 cases. One home help was employed full-time and a list was kept of women prepared to undertake occasional home help service. This service was continued throughout the remaining part of the year pending the development of the service by the East Suffolk County Council.

*Antenatal, Postnatal and Infant Welfare Centres.* These services were transferred to the East Suffolk County Council in July. Until the end of the year when the rather frequent changes in staff resulted in a falling off in attendance, all the Borough clinics were very well patronised. A minimum of one antenatal clinic has been held each week at two of the Borough's three clinics (Kirkley and Connaught House), and a postnatal clinic held as required. "Family Planning" instruction has been continued at the latter clinics for those cases coming within the terms of Circular 1408.

Infant Welfare Centres were held once weekly at Kirkley and Oulton Broad and twice weekly at Connaught House.

*The Care of Premature Infants* passed to the East Suffolk County Council in July. Prior to that date prematurity was notified in the same manner as in the past and special assistance was provided by the District Nursing Association.

*Care of Illegitimate Children* also passed to the East Suffolk County Council in July. Until that date the Borough contributed towards the employment of a full-time social worker and the maintenance of selected cases in pre-natal homes.

*Health Visiting.* The services of four combined health visitors and school nurses were available throughout the year for health visiting. From 5th July part of their duties were transferred to the East Suffolk County Council but the nature and extent of their work continued as hithertofore. Home visiting and the instruction in their own homes of young mothers in the care of their first babies was continued as in the past. This type of instruction in the home itself would appear to be more fruitful of worthwhile results than lectures to groups of mothers, and judging from the co-operation which mothers have shown when visited, the personal help which health visitors thus give seems to be well received.

#### (c) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The vacancy in the Sanitary Inspectors' staff mentioned in the last annual report, was filled in May, 1948, by the appointment of Mr. B. J. Marshall as Additional Sanitary Inspector.

In December, Mr. R. F. Knowles resigned from the post of Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector in order to take up a post in the States of Jersey.

Mr. R. C. R. Robinson, a clerk in the Department, who was granted leave of absence in 1947 in order to undergo a course of training in the duties of a Sanitary Inspector under the further Educational Training Scheme, returned to duty in July, 1948.

As was the case during the year 1947 the usual clerical assistance during the year under report was not available by reason of the absence of Junior staff; much of this work fell on the Inspectorate staff and it is hoped that during the present year this situation will be remedied.

*Water.* The water supply of the Borough is provided by the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company. Chemical and bacteriological control of the sources of the water is effected by the submission of samples to two independent laboratories. The same procedure is followed in the examination of the purified water going to supply, samples being submitted to each laboratory at monthly intervals. The water has at all times been entirely satisfactory coming up to the highest bacteriological and chemical standards. The water is of medium hardness and is not plumbo solvent and no action has been necessary during the year in respect of any form of contamination.

The number of dwelling houses in the Borough supplied with water direct to the property is 12,689.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1948 FOR THE BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

#### *Part 1 of the Act.*

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	64	57	14	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	189	148	13	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	2	4	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>—</b>

#### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred</i>		
			<i>to H.M. Inspect.</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspect.</i>	
Want of cleanliness S. 1	2	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding S. 2	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature S. 3	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation S. 4	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors S. 6	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences S. 7					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	17	—	31	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>—</b>



PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

	Section 110			Section 111		
	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list reqd. by S. 110 (d) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Making Apparel, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets	A complete record of outworkers in this trade is not available.					
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—	—

(d) HOUSING.

As in the previous post-war years the main efforts of this Department have continued towards remedying defects of an urgent nature. Towards the latter part of the year the supply of materials has, with few exceptions, increased; in consequence of this a number of houses have been put into a reasonable state of repair.

A large number of complaints concerning alleged overcrowding have been received by this Department during the year under review and, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, the results of the investigations carried out have been made available for the use of the appropriate Housing Subcommittee for any necessary action. This has resulted in many families who were living in overcrowded or unsuitable accommodation being rehoused.

A number of properties in the area still appear to be awaiting repair following war damage and, in some cases, considerable delay is being experienced by this Department in cases where it would be impracticable and costly to request the repair of defect when the owners of the property concerned are endeavouring to hasten the execution of work necessary to put the property in complete and proper repair. In this respect it should be pointed out that full co-operation has been established and every facility accorded to this Department by the firms dealing with the War Damage Assessment in the town.

The Housing Manager reports that up to the end of the year 250 prefabricated bungalows and 114 brick houses have been occupied on No. 1 Housing Site. In addition 49 aluminium bungalows on No. 2 Housing Site have also been occupied.

## (e) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.* Samples are taken regularly from a High Temperature/Short Time Pasteurising Plant installed in a large dairy in the town. Samples are taken at various stages of production and have satisfied the phosphatase and methylene blue reduction tests consistently throughout the year.

(b) *Meat.*

*Slaughterhouses.* 798 visits were paid during the year to the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the Borough and 3,420 carcasses were inspected. The total amount of fresh meat and offal condemned as unsound and unfit for food amounted to 32,645 lbs., of which 20,926 lbs. or 64.2% was tubercular. Details concerning the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Benacre are being included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Lothingland Rural District Council.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	778	251	829	1490	72
Number inspected	778	251	829	1490	72
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	3	4	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	220	112	13	26	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.6%	45.8%	2.1%	1.8%	8.3%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	13	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	100	82	1	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.2%	39.5%	0.23%	—	11.1%

*Other Foods.* Other articles found unfit for human consumption and accordingly condemned were as follows:—

Flour 280 lbs.; tomato paste 4 lbs.; beans 103 tins; fruit 246 tins; jam 120 tins; milk 1923 tins; vegetables 487 tins; meat 270 tins; fish 1135 tins; frozen beef 935 lbs.; cereals 119 lbs.; cheese 77 lbs.; salmon 200 tins; fruit 331 lbs.; fish 4609 lbs.; herrings 476 cases and 14,238 lbs.; pudding mixture 38 packets; chocolate cup 72 packets; corned mutton 2214 lbs.; corned beef 1244 lbs.; sugar 262 lbs.; tomatoes 1132 lbs.; dehydrated beef 121 lbs.; oatmeal 111 lbs.; poultry 60 lbs.; malted barley 50 bushels; herring roes 2 boxes; peas 42 tins; sweets 166 lbs.; soya flour 150 lbs.; pickles 439 jars; blood 68 gallons; suet 1 packet; sausages 2 tins; cake flour 5 packets; miscellaneous foods 173 lbs., 69 tins, 22 jars and 1 case.

(f) PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year 1948:—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total cases notified (after correction)</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths (within Borough)</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	1	—
Dysentery	7	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	21
Whooping Cough	65	2	—
Measles	157	3	—
Polioencephalitis	1	1	—

Whooping-cough and measles continue to be the most prevalent of the infectious diseases. The incidence of measles during the year was, however, lower than in the preceding year. A slight rise in the number of cases of scarlet fever is recorded. This disease continues to be a mild one and only one case was admitted to hospital. There were no cases of diphtheria in the Borough.

The incidence of food poisoning was of a satisfactorily low level with a total of but five cases associated with two small outbreaks.

*Diphtheria Prophylaxis.* The response to diphtheria immunisation has proved excellent. Most mothers now appear to regard this as routine and little difficulty is experienced in persuading parents to have their children immunised. Up to 4th July a further 362 children under 5 years of age were immunised. Between the ages of 5 and 15 years 62 children were immunised and again up to July 255 children previously immunised received "refresher" doses.

#### BOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On the appointed day for the National Health Service Act the Isolation Hospital became vested in the Regional Hospital Board. An agency agreement was made with the Borough by the Regional Hospital Board for the Borough to continue running the hospital until the 31st March, 1949.

Following the death of the Matron, Miss D. P. Fenn, in November, 1948, the Isolation Hospital was temporarily closed. Until its closure the number of cases admitted is shown in the following table:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Admitted from Area of Borough</i>	<i>Admitted from other Authorities</i>
Scarlet Fever	—	4
Paratyphoid	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1
Suckling Infants	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Nursing Mothers	—	—
Measles	2	3
Erysipelas	—	1
Whooping-cough	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—
Infective Jaundice	3	—
Observation Cases	6	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>

The low number of admissions suggested that the continued use of the Hospital for fever cases was unnecessary. It was, therefore, closed down entirely by the Regional Hospital Board, such patients requiring hospitalisation for infectious disease being sent from the Borough to the Yarmouth Isolation Hospital.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1948 are given for the area in the following table:—

	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respira- tory</i>		<i>Non- Respira- tory</i>		<i>Respira- tory</i>		<i>Non- Respira- tory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
15—	10	5	—	1	—	1	—	—
25—	5	5	3	—	3	—	1	—
35—	5	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
45—	6	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—	7	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

Figures tabulated by  
Registrar General after  
final transfers

11 8 2 —

There was a considerable rise in the number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis in males recorded during the year and an appreciable drop in the number of such cases amongst the female population. The same trend was shown by the figures for deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, whilst deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis were much the same as during the previous year.



LOWESTOFT  
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year

1948

STAFF:

*Port Medical Officer:*

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., CH.B., B.SC., D.P.H. (Resigned 30th September, 1948)

*Acting Port Medical Officer:*

T. STEVEN NICOL, M.B., B.S. (From 30th Sept., 1948 to 31st Dec., 1948)

*Port Medical Officer:*

(Appointed 30th September, 1948)

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



*Port Health Inspectors:*

A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector

R. F. KNOWLES, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector



*Offices:*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 123, High Street, Lowestoft.

Telephone: LOWESTOFT 782).



1.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected					No. of vessels reported as having or having the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Sanitary Inspector	No. reported to be defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Tpt. Surveyor	
FOREIGN.								
Steamers and Motor Vessels	66	12406	—	34	—	—	—	—
Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	56	972	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN	122	13378	—	34	—	—	—	—
COASTWISE.								
Steamers and Motor Vessels	275	46475	—	18	1	1	—	—
Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing (Trawlers (Drifters	2010 3748	120600 171164	—	38 43	14 17	14 17	—	—
TOTAL COASTWISE	6033	338239	—	99	32	32	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	6155	471617	—	133	32	32	—	—



## II.—CHARACTER OR TRADE OF PORT.

### (a) *Passenger traffic during the year.*

There is no real passenger traffic at this port, which is not approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

### (b) *Cargo traffic.*

Principal Imports — Timber and salt.

Principal Exports — During the period 1st September to 31st December, 1948, 31,966½ crans of fresh herrings and 45,074½ barrels of pickled herrings were exported to Germany from the Port.

### (c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Scandinavian, Baltic and North Sea Ports.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

## III.—WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the existing arrangements.

## IV.—PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

Revised Forms of Declarations of Health are being used in accordance with the Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945.

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS.

There have been no cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year.

There were no cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred on any vessel during its voyage to this Port.

## V.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Methods of deratization, rat-proofing and other measures against rodents have continued as in previous years.

### RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR

#### (1) On vessels.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Black	75	75	—	50	—	75	100	50	50	—	—	—	475
Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The above figures are of necessity estimated due to boats leaving for sea immediately after disinfestation work has been carried out.

During the year the Corporation Rat Catchers carried out disinfection by means of poisoning, trapping and gassing (S.O.<sub>2</sub>) on 23 boats, this work entailing 89 visits.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

It is regretted that again no figures are available of the number or species of rats destroyed in the docks, quays, wharves and warehouses. The Railway Executive has ownership of all the dock premises and warehouses, and employ their own rat catcher who attends at the docks, etc., as may be required. The Company reports that "in view of the fact that the method of destruction is mainly by poison it is not practicable to keep such a record."

No Plague "Infected" or "Suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague Infected Ports arrived in the Port during the year.

Lowestoft is not a Port approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratization Certificates.

VI.—HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

Classification of Nuisances.

<i>Nationality of Vessel</i>	<i>No. inspected during year</i>	<i>Defects of original construction</i>	<i>Structural defects through wear and tear</i>	<i>Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health</i>
British	62	—	—	8
Other Nations	14	—	—	—

VII.—FOOD INSPECTION.

- 1.—Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 39).

According to the figures given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the weight and values of fish landed at Lowestoft during the year 1948 were:—

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Trawl Fish	279,080 cwts.	£1,163,018
Herrings	179,822 crans	£651,142

During the year 476 cases and 14,238 lbs. Norwegian herrings, 4,609 lbs. fish and 2 boxes of herring roes were found unfit for human consumption.

- 2.—Shell Fish.

There are no shell fish beds in this area.

- 3.—Number of Samples of Food examined by:—

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil.
(b) Analyst	Nil.

ARTHUR C. GEE.

June, 1949.

Port Medical Officer.



