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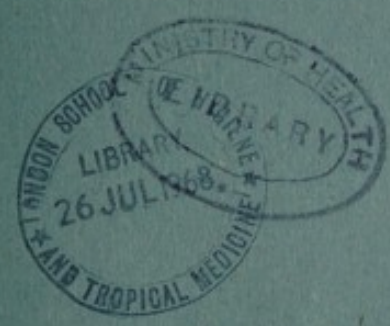
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NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

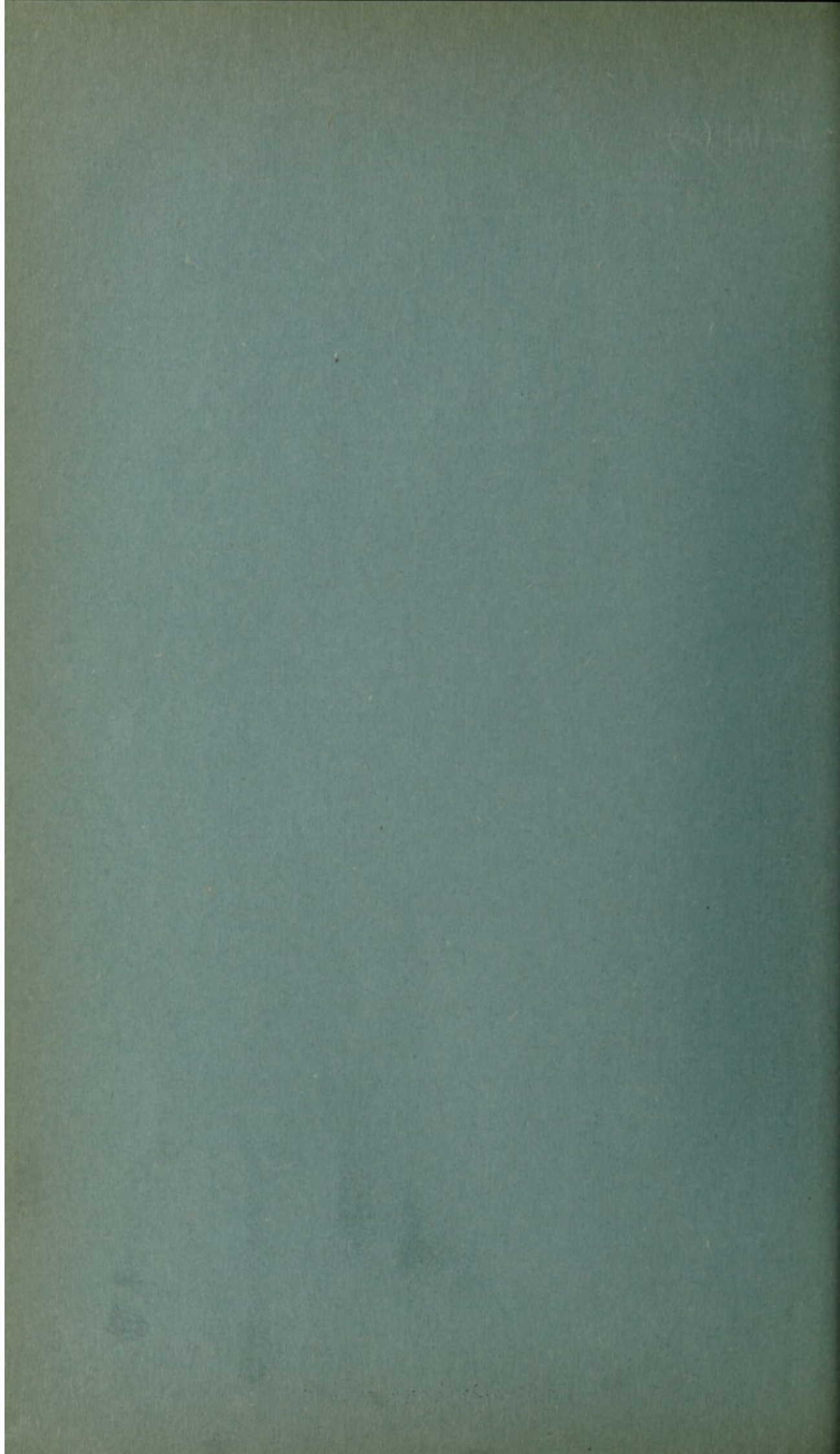
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1955.



Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
High Street,  
LEWES.  
Sussex.

March, 1956.





NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1955.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Newhaven Port Annual Health Report for the year 1955.

During the year the total number of inward passengers (alien and British) who arrived at Newhaven was 232,564 and outward passengers who embarked at the Port was 233,489.

In the year large numbers of incoming and outgoing aliens passed through the Port. The number of inward aliens was 58,410 whilst that of outward aliens was 57,754. Both figures are the highest ever recorded at Newhaven.

The increase in the annual numbers of inward aliens who entered Newhaven Port for the period 1945 to 1954 is shown as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inward Aliens</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Inward Aliens</u>
1945	17,911	1950	49,521
1946	26,376	1951	51,918
1947	31,551	1952	52,104
1948	41,412	1953	51,084
1949	48,127	1954	54,652

This table shows as the years have progressed the increasing numbers of inward aliens who came under inspection by the Medical Inspector of Aliens.

The majority of female inward aliens who arrive at the Port take up employment in this country as domestic servants, nurses, hotel workers and factory workers. Most of the males come for employment in ironworks, coal mines, factories, agriculture and for technical and professional employment with firms and as hotel workers.

The greater proportion of all inward aliens were of the female sex and they arrived for employment as domestic servants and nurses in most cases. A small number of inward aliens had been medically examined in their own countries.

Strict surveillance of all aliens by the Medical Inspector of Aliens

is imperative on many grounds. It is essential that all inward aliens be subjected to the closest medical inspection, otherwise what may appear trivial at first glance might result in serious consequences if the alien was allowed to proceed unchecked. If required, certain aliens must undergo further and more detailed medical examinations and these may take some considerable time, and usually do.

In past Port Annual Health Reports it has been stressed that, as there are only two Medical Inspectors at Newhaven and passenger carrying vessels arrive at the Port 364 days out of 365 days in the year, matters have been difficult, especially since the annual numbers of inward aliens are now more than double those of pre-war years. Recent events which have occurred through the absence of one or the other Medical Inspectors by reason of illness have clearly illustrated the need for extra medical assistance. Moreover, endeavouring to carry out the medical inspection of aliens with only two Medical Inspectors has resulted in anything but reasonable periods off duty.

At other Ports, where the annual numbers of inward aliens have been much the same as those arriving at Newhaven, there have been four Medical Inspectors of Aliens for some years now.

It can be appreciated that to cope adequately and satisfactorily with the greatly increased numbers of aliens which are now entering the Port of Newhaven requires additional medical assistance to the present small medical staff.

During the year under review the total number of vessels which entered Newhaven was 1,297 comprised of 1,008 from foreign ports and 289 coastwise. Imports amounted to 174,081 tons, of which the principle items were coal, coke and patent fuel (121,248 tons); oil and spirit (9,180 tons); fruit and vegetables (6,749 tons) and timber (5776 tons). Exports amounted to 34,122 tons of which the principle items were vehicles and vehicle parts (15,702 tons); machinery (4,171 tons), and building and road materials (2,245 tons). The average annual tonnage of imports for the five years 1946 to 1950 was 159,355 tons whilst that for the succeeding five years 1951 to 1955 was 174,090 tons. Exports rose from an annual average tonnage of 17,417 for the period 1946 to 1950 to that



of 29,585 tons for the next five year period 1951 to 1955. The tonnage exported has always been much less than the tonnage imported.

Inspections of Cross-Channel passenger vessels showed that the accommodation for passengers and crew continued to show satisfactory hygienic conditions. The number of vessels inspected by the Medical Officer of Health was ten and that by the Sanitary Inspector was eighty-six. Two informal notices were served as regards nuisances on foreign going ships and two on coastwise. One notice was complied with on a coastwise vessel. No ship was reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.

Accommodation for the medical inspections and examinations of aliens at the Port was as satisfactory as possible in the lay-out and limited space available.

There was an outbreak of smallpox in Northern France which lasted from the middle of January until the beginning of July, 1955. The number of cases was between seventy and eighty and the case fatality rate was about one sixth.

Smallpox usually shows a complete independence of conditions such as race, climate, soil, age, sex, occupation and sanitary surroundings. It spreads wherever the contagion is carried and wherever it finds susceptible people. Probably no one is naturally immune.

During the time of the outbreak a number of persons passed through or came from the infected areas and landed at Newhaven Port. Surveillance of inward passengers at the Port was carried out with smallpox especially in mind. Fortunately no cases were detected and as events proved afterwards none had been landed at the Port and developed smallpox afterwards in this country.

In May 638 cases of typhoid fever occurred in the Ruhr district of Germany. Typhoid fever is spread from cases and carriers both by direct and indirect contact - indirect through water, milk, milk products, shellfish and other foods; also by flies, fingers and articles such as clothes

soiled with infected faeces. The danger of spread of the disease from the Continent to this country is perhaps not so great as in the case of smallpox. Nevertheless, cases can develop on the voyage over to this country or a carrier may be landed here at Sea or Air Ports. Thus, the latter can be places of entry of the disease into this country from abroad. There was no evidence that any case or carrier of typhoid entered through the Port of Newhaven in 1955.

In conclusion I have to thank Mr. Harrison for his ever ready assistance and other officials at the Port for their courtesy and helpfulness. I appreciate also the help and encouragement which you have shown me during the year.

Yours obediently,

G.M. Davidson Lobban,

M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,F.R.S.I., etc.,

Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of  
Aliens, Newhaven Port.

Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
LEWES.

March, 1956.



## SECTION I - STAFF.

TABLE 4.

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointment held
Dr. G.M.D.S. E. Lobban.	Port Medical Officer and Medical Insp. of Aliens.	15th May 1945.	M.B.,Ch.B. D.P.H., F.R.S.H., F.R.I.P.H., F.S.M.O.H.,	Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex United Districts Physician (Infect.Diseases) Brighton & Lewes Hospital Group, S.E.Met.Reg. Hosp. Board.
Dr. R.A. Stenhouse	Assistant Port Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens	19th April 1948.	L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)	Assistant School Medical Officer East Sussex County Council, Asst. Med. Officer of Health Newhaven U.D.C.
Dr. R.G.B. Young.	Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens	20th July 1953.	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H.	Deputy County Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex.
W.P. Harrison.	Port Sanitary Insp. & Food Inspector.	5th March 1945.	Cert.R.S.I., & S.I.J.B., Cert.R.S.I. Meat & Foods M.R.S.H., B.O.T. Cert. Master Mariner	Sanitary Inspector Newhaven U.D.C.
Miss R.Baldwin	Part time Clerk Port Health Dept.	4th October 1954	-	-
Mrs.A.Bassett	Nurse-Attendant Medical Inspection of Aliens.	1st March 1948	-	-

Address and Telephone  
Number of the Medical  
Officer of Health:-

Lewes House,  
School Hill,  
LEWES. 1282.



SECTION II - Amount of Shipping Entering  
the district during the year.

TABLE - B.

Ships from:-	Number	Tonnage	<u>Number Inspected</u>		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector.	
Foreign Ports	1,008	571,106	8	37	NIL
Coastwise	289	70,197	2	49	NIL
TOTAL:-	1,297	641,303	10	86	NIL

SECTION III - Character of shipping  
and Trade during the year.

TABLE - C.

Passenger Traffic (Number of Passengers INWARD 232,758  
(Number of Passengers OUTWARDS 233,489

(	Principal	<u>IMPORTS</u>	<u>Tons</u>
(		Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel	121,248
(		Fish	137
(		Fruit and Vegetables	6,749
(		Iron and Steel	2,127
(		Oil and Spirit	9,180
(		Timber	5,776
(		Chemicals and Chemical Fertil.	494
(		Raw Wool	315
(	±	Other Commodities	28,055
(	TOTAL:		174,081

± Includes Motor Vehicles 4,730  
Motor Cycles 677  
5,407

(	Principal	<u>EXPORTS</u>	<u>Tons</u>
(		Iron and steel	688
(		Oil and Spirit, Mineral	
(		± Motor	96
(		Building and Road Materials	2,245
(		Machinery	4,171
(	*	Vehicles & vehicle parts	15,702
(		Woollen Goods	158
(		Other textiles	335
(		Chemicals & Chemical fertils.	359
(		Other Commodities	10,368
(	TOTAL:-		34,122

\* Includes Motor vehicles 6,058  
Motor Cycles 543

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive.

The main trade of the port is with Dieppe, but there are also arrivals from Baltic ports with Timber.

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SECTION IV - Inland Barge Traffic.

The Port is not used by Inland Barge Traffic.

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SECTION V. - Water Supply.

- (1) Source of Supply for (a) The District (b) Shipping.

(a) The Newhaven and Seaford Water Company, from their Poverty Bottom Well, supply all the district with the exception of four houses and two Hotels, which are supplied by the main piped supply from British Railways, Southern Region Well at Denton. Both are subject to chlorination.

(b) The West side of the Harbour is supplied by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company.

The East Side of the Harbour is supplied by British Railways, Southern Region.

- (2) Reports of tests for contamination:

Twenty-four samples (12 Bacteriological and 12 Chemical) reported by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company were satisfactory.

Twenty samples from British Railways Well at Denton before chlorination and twenty samples from this main piped supply to the East side of the Harbour after chlorination were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

Two Chemical samples were submitted to the Public Analyst.

- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

West Side. Hydrants and Hosepipes are in charge of the Turn-cock of the Newhaven and Seaford Water Co. and are stored under suitable conditions. Before filling tanks the hoses are flushed out.

East Side. Equipment is well maintained and under the care of a responsible employee of the British Railways and is suitably stored. Water is run to waste before filling ships' tanks.

- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

No water boats are employed at this Port.

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SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships)  
Regulations 1952.

- (1) List of Infected Areas.

Arrangements for the preparations and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied and the procedure for supplying to those persons.

The weekly record is normally received by Monday morning of each week. After scrutiny a list of Infected Areas is drawn up, based substantially on Part I of the Record.



Section VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952 (continued)

Typed copies are forwarded to H.M. Waterguard Surveyor, the Senior Port Pilot, and the Assistant Medical Inspector of Aliens. These are posted by 1.00 p.m. on Monday ensuring delivery by first post on Tuesday.

(2) RADIO MESSAGES.

- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

On request the Divisional Manager, British Railways, Newhaven Port, would pass the permission to the Post Office Radio Station Niton, who would despatch the signal to the ship in question.

- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulations 14 (1) (a) and (2)).

Messages are received by the Post Office, Radio Station, Niton, and passed to the Medical Officer, Newhaven, via the Divisional Manager, British Railways, Newhaven Port. If necessary replies can be transmitted through the same channels.

(3) NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO (Regulations 14 (1) (b))

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

The Port Health Office immediately adjoins the Harbour. The Sanitary Inspector is available on the telephone at all hours. H.M. Customs and the Harbour Authority co-operate readily in passing information.

(4) MOORING STATIONS (Regulations 22 to 30)

Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

There are no designated Mooring Stations. In the event of action under the regulations becoming necessary, any berth at the Railway Quay or North Quay would be used for the purpose.

(5) ARRANGEMENTS FOR:-

- (a) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION for infectious diseases (other than smallpox-see Section VII).

The Newhaven Infectious Disease Hospital near the Port is available for cases of infectious disease.

- (b) SURVEILLANCE and follow up of contacts.

No set routine has been laid down to deal with such contacts, but arrangements are made by the Medical Officer of Health in each case to ensure that the contact is warned to watch out for appropriate symptoms and, if necessary, to report to his own doctor. In appropriate cases the Medical Officer of Health of the district to which the person is proceeding is warned. In cases of serious risk, the contact can be kept under surveillance at the Newhaven Isolation Hospital for a suitable period.

- (c) CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION of ships, persons, clothing and other articles

Equipment is available in the Port Health Department for the disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles. A disinfection station is earmarked for use when required on the East Quay. A steam disinfectant is available for the treatment of bedding and other articles at the Newhaven Infectious Diseases Hospital.



## SECTION VII - Smallpox.

### (1) NAME OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL TO WHICH SMALLPOX CASES ARE SENT FROM THE DISTRICT.

Smallpox cases would normally be admitted to the River Hospital, Long Reach, Dartford, Kent.

### (2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORT OF SUCH CASES TO THAT HOSPITAL BY AMBULANCE; GIVING THE NAME OF THE AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AMBULANCE AND THE VACCINAL STATE OF THE AMBULANCE CREWS.

The Ambulance Authority is the East Sussex County Council which has earmarked an ambulance for the conveyance of smallpox or suspected smallpox cases and has arranged for the provision of protective clothing to the ambulance personnel, all of whom are in a satisfactory vaccinal state.

### (3) NAMES OF SMALLPOX CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE.

Dr. W.S. Parker, Royal York Buildings, Brighton.  
Dr. R.J. Telehan, Town Hall, Bexhill.

### (4) FACILITIES FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX.

The Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London N.W.1., provides full facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox. Specimens may either be sent direct or via the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton.

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## SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

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 AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO MAKE THESE FACILITIES KNOWN TO SEAMEN.

The following details relate to the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen, in common with the local population.

### Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

#### Male.

Mondays	...	4.30 p.m.
Wednesdays	...	9.30 a.m.
Thursdays	...	1.30 p.m.

#### Female.

Tuesdays	...	1.30 p.m.
Thursdays	...	10.0 a.m.
Saturdays	...	9.30 a.m.

In-patient treatment is also arranged, if necessary, by the above-mentioned hospital.

This information is made available by the Port Sanitary Inspector on boarding ships.



SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other  
infectious disease on ships.

TABLE - D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	-	NIL	NIL	NIL
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	NIL	NIL	NIL
Cases landed from other ships	-	NIL	NIL	NIL

SHORT ACCOUNT OF MEASURES TAKEN ON ARRIVAL BY SHIP OF (a) ANY CASE OF SMALLPOX, CHOLERA, PLAGUE, YELLOW FEVER, TYPHUS OR RELAPSING FEVER EXCLUDED IN TABLE D, (b) ANY SUSPECTED CASE OF SUCH DISEASE.

No measures were required to be taken as there were :-

- (a) No cases of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever, and,
- (b) No suspected cases of such disease which occurred during the year.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence  
of malaria in ships.

No case of malaria arrived at the port, nor did any vessel report a case of malaria during the voyage.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships  
infected with or suspect of Plague.

No measures were taken as there were no ships infected with or suspected of plague.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in  
ships from foreign ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

Where possible the Sanitary Inspector examines vessels for the presence of rats. A regular inspection is made in the case of the Cross Channel vessels and an attempt is made to inspect thoroughly all foreign-going ships.

(2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF  
RODENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RODENT PLAGUE, INCLUDING THE NUMBER  
OF RODENTS SENT FOR EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR.

Arrangements exist for the examination of rodents from ships when necessary at the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton.

No specimens were sent during 1955.

(4) Nature and Amount of Aliens Traffic.

Transmigrants	Suffering from acute infectious disease	Physically incapacitated	Undesirable for medical reasons	Lunatic, idiot or M.D.	Number subjected to detailed examination by the Medical Inspector.	Number inspected by the Medical Inspector.	TOTAL.
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port.	-	10	18	-	1,386	56,359	58,245
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	-	1	6	-	7	158	165
(c) Transmigrants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Aliens arriving at the Port.	-	11	24	-	1,393	56,517	58,410

Total number of vessels carrying alien passengers ..... 418

Total number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ... 418



