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L I V E R P O O L



P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y
A N N U A L R E P O R T
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PROFESSOR ANDREW B. SEMPLE, C.B.E., V.R.D., M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
CITY AND PORT OF LIVERPOOL.



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PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

OF

LIVERPOOL

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1973

BY THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

This is the 101st Annual Report upon the work of the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

The Permanent Constitution of the Liverpool Port Health Authority defines the limits of the Port for health purposes, as coincident with the limits laid down by H.M. Customs. The boundaries of the Port of Liverpool are laid down in "The Appointment of the Port of Liverpool Order 1956".

SECTION I—STAFF

There have been no staff changes during the year.

Address and telephone number of } Health Department, Hatton Garden,
the Medical Officer of Health } Liverpool L3 2AW. 051-227 3911.

SECTION II

TABLE B

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign ports	4,069	15,664,142	16	3,004	14
Coast-wise	3,731	5,547,421	—	323	—
Total	7,800	21,211,563	16	3,327	14

(343 vessels were granted radio clearance by medical officers).

The number of ships shows a slight decline in the figures for last year but the tonnage has increased.

SECTION III

TABLE C

Character of shipping and trade during the year.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	
No. of passengers INWARDS	No. of passengers OUTWARDS
203,426	183,872

(These figures exclude passengers to and from other United Kingdom ports including Northern Ireland).

CARGO TRAFFIC	
PRINCIPAL IMPORTS	PRINCIPAL EXPORTS
Crude Oil and Petroleum Products, Ores and Metals, Grain, Sugar, Animal Feeding-stuffs, Wood and Timber, Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Cotton, Wool, Lards, Oils and Fats, Rubber, Canned Foodstuffs.	Chemicals, Drugs and Dyes, Iron and Steel Manufactured Goods, Machinery, Soaps, Oils and Fats, Pottery and Glassware, Electrical Goods, Beverages and Foodstuffs, Vehicles.
PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE	
Ships arrive in Liverpool from all ports in the world.	

SECTION IV

INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

The number of barges plying in and about the Port of Liverpool is approximately 66, representing an estimated total of 52,000 tons deadweight.

During the course of the year, 32 barges were inspected.

None were found to be in regular use as dwellings.

SECTION V

WATER SUPPLY

(1) Source of supply

- (a) Liverpool Corporation supplies water for the East side and the Wirral Water Board supplies water for the West side of the River Mersey.
- (b) Vessels in dock are supplied by shore hydrants which are situated at almost every berth throughout the port.

(2) Tests for contamination

(a) Tests for contamination for water supplied to the district are carried out at frequent intervals by the various Authorities supplying water.

No unsatisfactory reports have been received from these Authorities.

(b) Report of tests for contamination of water on board ships.

DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE ABOARD SHIPS

No. of ships involved	No. of samples taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory	Total
56	189	140	49	189

In all cases of unsatisfactory samples, remedial measures were taken.

Two water samples taken from aircraft supply points at Liverpool Airport were satisfactory.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes

Officials of the Authorities supplying water are stationed in each dock area to ensure that only suitable hoses are used for the supply of water and that hoses are not allowed to come into contact with dock water and are protected from contamination.

Water is run through the hoses before filling is begun and all hoses and hydrant fittings are kept in suitable containers.

(4) Number and sanitary conditions of water boats

There are no water boats in use on the River Mersey but several tugs are specially equipped to carry and supply fresh water to vessels anchored in the River Mersey. Only those tugs approved by the Department of Trade and Industry are used for this purpose. These vessels are examined regularly and water samples taken.

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1970

There was no change in the arrangements concerning:—

- (1) The list of infected areas
- (2) Radio clearance of vessels
- (3) Mooring stations
- (4) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, surveillance of contacts and disinfection.

SECTION VII

SMALLPOX

- (1) Any case of smallpox arriving in the Port of Liverpool would be sent to the Sankey Hospital which is situated approximately three miles west of Warrington and is under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.
- (2) Cases for removal are transported by the Liverpool Corporation Ambulance Service. The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews who would be concerned in the removal of smallpox cases. These crews are re-vaccinated annually and when any cases occur.
- (3) Smallpox consultants available are :
 Professor Andrew B. Semple, Health Department, Hatton Garden, Liverpool L3 2AW.
 Dr. T. L. Hobday, 30a Princess Park Mansions, Liverpool 8.
 Professor A. W. Downie, "Canna", 10 College Close, Liverpool Road, Birkdale, Lancashire.
 Dr. A. B. Christie, Fazakerley Hospital, Longmoor Lane, Liverpool L9 7AL.
- (4) Facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are available at the Bacteriological Department of the University of Liverpool.
 There were no cases of smallpox in the Port of Liverpool in 1973.

Vaccination of crews and passengers

The masters of all ships arriving from all countries in Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Americas (excluding Canada and the U.S.A.) are requested to provide a list of the dates of vaccination of all persons on board. If such a list is not available the vaccination certificates are checked.

1,385 ships arrived from the above areas and in 1,364 cases lists were obtained or the vaccination certificates checked. Arrangements were made for vaccination or re-vaccination if necessary.

SECTION VIII

VENEREAL DISEASE

Two cases of venereal disease in two ships were reported during the year. Whenever possible cases were referred for treatment at one of the undermentioned clinics. Details of the times and places are given to ships from foreign ports.

TIME-TABLE OF TREATMENT CENTRES

Seamen's Dispensary, Liverpool	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
--------------------------------	--

	Tuesday
	9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Saturday
	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Liverpool Royal Infirmary	Monday, Wednesday and Friday
	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
St. James' Hospital, Birkenhead	Monday and Friday
	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Wednesday and Thursday
	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

SECTION IX

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

(1) No cases or suspected cases of cholera, plague, smallpox or yellow fever occurred in the port during 1973 nor were there any cases or suspected cases of typhus or relapsing fever.

(2) Food Poisoning – m.v. "DIMITRA"

The above vessel arrived in the West Float, Birkenhead, from Lagos (Nigeria) on the 12th February. Prior to arrival the Master informed the Authority by radio that five members of the crew had been suffering from diarrhoea and that one member was suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting.

The vessel was boarded by a medical officer on arrival in the lock and the patient suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting was admitted to St. James' Hospital, Birkenhead.

An inspection of the vessel showed the galley, storerooms, messrooms etc., to be in a clean condition.

Samples of water were taken from various draw-off points and one taken from the forward pantry was found to be unsatisfactory.

Faeces samples were taken from all members of the crew and three of the crew were found to be positive for dysentery organisms and two positive for salmonella organisms.

The vessel sailed for Sharpness on the 15th February before the above results had been received but Gloucester P.H.A. was kept informed throughout the incident.

The patient removed from the vessel rejoined at Sharpness on recovery.

(3) Cutaneous Diphtheria – m.v. "FORRESBANK"

The above vessel arrived in Liverpool on the 15th May from Australia via Singapore.

On the 24th May a seaman in the vessel was found to be suffering from cutaneous diphtheria. Throat swabs were taken from all crew members and in all cases no pathogenic corynebacteria were isolated.

The patient was isolated on board and subsequently recovered.

(4) Gastro-enteritis – s.s. "NEVASA"

The above vessel arrived in Liverpool at 0900 hours on the 8th June from Southampton and sailed at 1430 hours the same day.

This vessel is a former troopship now used primarily for taking school children on educational cruises.

On arrival at Southampton on the 6th June the Ship's Surgeon reported that during the voyage there had been an outbreak of gastro-enteritis involving 400 children and 80 adults.

The vessel was boarded on arrival and inspection of the vessel revealed a number of minor points affecting food hygiene which was brought to the attention of the Ship's Surgeon and the Chief Catering Officer.

Six water samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

The vessel returned to Liverpool on the 21st June. No further cases of gastro-enteritis had occurred and the defects in respect of food hygiene had been corrected.

TABLE D
CASES LANDED FROM SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Diseases	No. of Cases during year		No. of Vessels concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Cutaneous Diptheria	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	3	1
Food Poisoning	—	2	1
Gastro-enteritis	—	2	2
Infective Hepatitis	—	3	1
Influenza	—	6	2
Malaria	—	2	2
Total ..	—	19	10

CASES WHICH OCCURRED ON SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS BUT DISPOSED OF BEFORE ARRIVAL

Diseases	No. of Cases during Year		No. of Vessels concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Gastro-enteritis	2	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	—	1	1
Malaria	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Total ..	3	2	4

Cases landed from other ships — nil

SECTION X

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

Three cases of malaria involving three ships were reported during the course of the year.

SECTION XI

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED OF PLAGUE

No rodent plague was discovered either in ships or ashore. 102 rodents were sent for bacteriological examination and all proved to be negative.

SECTION XII

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

The port is divided into districts and a Port Health Inspector and two Rodent Operatives are allotted to each district. One operative is engaged in searching for evidence of rodents and rodent harbourage, the other is engaged in catching rodents for bacteriological examination and dealing with minor infestations.

(Major infestations are referred to the owners for them to take the necessary action).

All vessels from foreign ports are boarded as soon as possible after arrival and advised to fit ratguards to all moorings.

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats

- (a) Enquiries and inspection of ships for rats by Port Health Inspectors.
- (b) Search of all available spaces by Rodent Operatives as soon as possible after arrival, and re-visits during discharge of cargo. Coastal and harbour craft are also inspected periodically.
- (c) Complete search of ship by Rodent Operative under the supervision of a Port Health Inspector on application for a Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate.
- (d) Immediate investigation of all reports of infestations from whatever source.

(2) Arrangements for bacteriological or pathogenic examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague

Any rodents suspected of being infected with plague or found dead without visible marks of violence are dipped in paraffin and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination.

Traps are set in all ships from plague infected ports and the first rodent so caught from each ship is also sent for examination.

(3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and if done by a commercial contract, the name of the contractor

The Masters of all ships found to be infested with rodents are advised to take the necessary action required. Agents and owners are similarly advised.

Many shipping companies employ the services of pest control organisations on a routine inspection and extermination basis.

Others employ such services as required.

Deratting in ships is carried out by the following methods:—

- (a) Trapping by the Authority's own Rodent Operatives.
- (b) Trapping and/or poisoning by ships' owners or agents.
- (c) Fumigation with hydrogen cyanide or sulphur dioxide (only this method is used when a Deratting Certificate is required).

The contractors carrying out the deratting of ships in the port and approved by the Liverpool Port Health Authority are:—

- (a) By trapping and/or poisoning:
 - Rentokil Laboratories Ltd.
 - Sewell Pest Prevention Services Ltd.
- (b) By fumigation:
 - Rentokil Laboratories Ltd.

(4) Rat-proofing in Ships

During the course of the inspection of ships by Port Health Inspectors and Rodent Operatives special attention is paid to rat proofing and harbourage. The Master is notified of any defects in this respect and advised of the measures to be taken. Owners and agents are similarly informed.

TABLE E
Rodents Destroyed During the Year 1973 in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black rats	55
Brown rats	—
Species not known	—
Mice	98
Sent for examination	26
Infected with plague	—

Dock Premises

The following methods are used to control rodent infestations:—
Routine trapping and poisoning by

- (a) The Authority's own Rodent operatives.
- (d) Rodent operatives employed by the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company.
- (c) Rodent operatives employed or retained by shipping companies, stevedores and warehouse owners.

These measures ensure that rodent infestations are dealt with promptly.

**Rodents Destroyed During the Year 1973 in Docks, Quays,
Wharves and Warehouses**

Category	Number
Black rats	160
Brown rats	160
Species not known	—
Mice	377
Sent for examination	76
Infected with plague	—

In addition to the above 1,554 rodents were destroyed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

Number of visits to ships by Rodent Operatives (Searching) ..	4,056
Number of visits to ships by Rodent Operatives (Catching) ..	2,416
Number of visits to sheds, quays, etc., by Rodent Operatives (Searching)	1,061
Number of visits to sheds, quays, etc., by Rodent Operatives (Catching)	23,482

TABLE F

**Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued
during the Year for Ships on arrival from Foreign Ports**

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
HCN	Sulphur Dioxide					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	—	—	—	7	355	362

In addition 19 Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

SECTION XIII
INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Nature and number of inspections		Notices served		Results of serving notices
		Statutory	Other notices	
Crews quarters, water supply, outside discharges, smoke observations, and refuse disposal.	3,327	nil	50	208 nuisances abated

Details of nuisances found

Nature of nuisance	No. found	No. abated
Dirty crew quarters	1	1
Verminous crew quarters	123	118
Dirty wash places or W.C.s	21	21
Foul or choked W.C.s	10	10
Accumulation of offensive refuse	4	4
Dirty galleys or pantries	8	8
Dirty storerooms	8	8
Gear stowed in crew quarters	1	1
Defective W.C. fittings	2	2
Defective waste pipes or scuppers	1	1
Defective washing facilities	4	4
Smoke nuisances	19	19
W.C.'s discharging on to quay	7	7
Miscellaneous	4	4
Total ..	213	208

There has been a significant drop in the number of verminous crew quarters.

NATIONALITY OF SHIPS VISITED
YEAR 1973

Nationality	Visits	Re-visits	Total
British	1,537	53	1,590
German (West)	275	9	284
Dutch	181	4	185
Norwegian	175	4	179
Danish	130	6	136
Liberian	123	6	129
Greek	109	5	114
Russian	109	3	112
Spanish	76	—	76
Cypriot	60	—	60

Nationality of Ships visited—*continued*

Nationality	Visits	Re-visits	Total
Swedish	49	—	49
Indian	43	2	45
Irish Republican	40	1	41
Nigerian	38	2	40
Peruvian	12	28	40
Pakistani	31	3	34
Brazilian	27	5	32
Egyptian	25	2	27
French	21	—	21
Panamanian	20	1	21
Somali	9	11	20
Kuwaiti	18	1	19
Singapore	16	1	17
Malaysian	15	—	15
Bulgarian	14	—	14
Portuguese	14	—	14
Yugoslav	14	—	14
Italian	12	1	13
Rumanian	10	—	10
South African	10	—	10
Argentine	9	—	9
Chilean	8	—	8
Sudanese	8	—	8
American	7	—	7
Belgian	7	—	7
Sri Lankan	6	1	7
Iraqi	5	1	6
Austrian	5	—	5
Kenyan	4	1	5
Moroccan	5	—	5
Swiss	4	1	5
Chinese	3	1	4
Turkish	4	—	4
Bangladesh	3	—	3
Bermudian	3	—	3
Finnish	3	—	3
Iranian	3	—	3
Phillipine	3	—	3
Tanzanian	3	—	3
Algerian	2	—	2
Burmese	2	—	2
East German	2	—	2
Ghanaian	2	—	2
Icelandic	2	—	2
Indonesian	2	—	2
Japanese	2	—	2
Polish	2	—	2
Saudi Arabian	2	—	2
Australian	1	—	1
Thai	1	—	1
Ugandan	1	—	1
Total ..	3,327	153	3,480

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934 and 1948

Regular observations indicate there are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

Since any such beds or layings would be liable to pollution the entire area under the jurisdiction of the Authority is defined as a prescribed area in an Order made under Regulation 5 of the above Regulations, thereby making it an offence for any shellfish to be collected from the area and sold for human consumption unless the shellfish have been subjected to a process of sterilisation approved by the Port Health Authority.

Notices warning of the dangers of consuming untreated shellfish and detailing the offences against the Order are displayed at suitable sites.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND
COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

(a) Nature and amount of aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants traffic

Number of vessels carrying aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants ..	2,371
Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspectors	1
Number of aircraft dealt with by the Medical Inspectors	—

(b) Number of conditional entries of Commonwealth Immigrants

Number of arrivals	Number medically examined	Number landed conditionally
1,082	—	—

(c) Details of aliens landed in the Port

Number of arrivals	Number medically examined	Number of certificates issued
5,346	1	1

SECTION XVI
MISCELLANEOUS

1. Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease

When notification of such a death is received H.M. Customs and the Department of Trade and Industry are informed. The body is isolated on board the ship until suitable arrangements have been made for removal direct to the place of burial or cremation. Cremation is always strongly recommended in these cases.

2. Inspection of dock premises

Progress has been maintained in raising the standard of cleanliness of sheds and roadways.

A total of 478 inspections of sheds etc., (excluding canteens and tea cabins) was made during the year.

DEFECTS FOUND IN DOCK PREMISES

Description of Premises	Defective or Inadequate			Structural Defects	Rat Harbourage	Rat Infestation	Accumulation of Refuse	Noxious Effluvia	Dirty Conditions	Water Supply	Miscellaneous	Total
	Ventilation	Sanitary Accommodation	Drainage									
Dock Sheds ..	—	—	—	—	14	36	1	1	8	—	1	61
Quays ..	—	—	1	—	5	6	8	1	1	—	—	22
Roadways ..	—	—	3	—	5	—	17	—	8	—	—	33
Canteens ..	—	2	8	—	—	4	3	1	1	1	3	23
Tea Cabins ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses ..	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Sanitary Accommodation												
Washplaces ..	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	22
Offices ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Airport ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Factories ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total ..	—	4	14	2	24	55	29	3	35	1	4	171

3. Offices, shops and railway premises act, 1963

STATISTICAL RETURN

General Inspections—Catering Establishments . .	1,362
Additional visits " " ..	38
General Inspections—Staff Canteens	47
Additional Visits " " ..	—
Infringements relating to—	
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	1
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	2
Maintenance of Sanitary Conveniences ..	2
<hr/>	
Total number of Infringements	5

4. The Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations 1960

46 ships entered the port carrying open food during the year. In each case the proposed berth was inspected prior to the vessel's arrival and when necessary the Master Porters were advised of the measures required to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

Suitable washing facilities are available at all berths where open food is handled and dock workers are provided with protective clothing.

Delivery vehicles are also inspected under the provisions of these Regulations.

5. The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations 1958

During the course of the year regular observations were made and 19 ships were boarded when infringements were noted.

In each case the ship was boarded and the officer in charge interviewed and the necessary steps taken to ensure that infringements were not repeated.

No proceedings under the Regulations were instituted.

6. Radioactive Materials

All vessels loading or discharging radioactive materials are visited by a Port Health Inspector. Detailed information regarding these cargoes is provided by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company prior to the arrival of the vessel. There were 54 visits to ships loading and 21 visits to ships discharging. In addition five visits were made to ships arriving in the Port with this type of cargo on board but which was not for discharge here. Also six visits were made to transit sheds where this material was being packed into containers.

Two spillages occurred both of a minor nature. These were dealt with by the staff of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., decontamination being carried out.

One other incident occurred when it was discovered that a drum had been damaged during the voyage. Officials of the A.E.C. monitored the contents and no danger to health was found to exist.

7. Liverpool Airport

All aircraft from Africa, Asia, South America and Australasia are met on arrival by a Port Health Inspector.

The Captain of the aircraft is interviewed, all passengers and crew are asked their present and recent state of health and their vaccination certificates are checked.

The aircraft are also inspected. During the year 16 aircraft were dealt with.

FOOD INSPECTION

1. Containers

Containerisation of foodstuffs continued to play an increasingly important part in the amount of foodstuffs imported through the Port of Liverpool, due largely to the use of refrigerated containers carrying frozen meat, fresh fruit and fish from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S.A. This is reflected in this year's figures which show an upward trend in the numbers of containerised foodstuffs imported.

During the latter part of the year the Imported Food Regulations 1968 were amended to include the certification of certain types of fresh meats from E.E.C. countries. This has meant an increase in the involvement of staff to deal with this type of traffic. During the early stages of the implementation of these amendments, two infringements were dealt with. In the first instance a container of pork arrived at Trafalgar Dock from Eire without official health certificates. The consignment was detained and its importation into the U.K. prohibited accordingly. It was re-exported.

The second case was again concerned with a container of porcine meat and as before no official health certificates were produced. In addition, the meat had been stowed with wet hides. This resulted in the rejection of the consignment as being unfit for human consumption due to contamination.

Apart from these two incidents the amendments to the Regulations are now being complied with in all respects.

The m.v. "AUSTRALIAN ENDEAVOUR" arrived in the Royal Seaforth Dock during May from Australia via Tilbury. It was found that eleven containers of frozen meat had inadvertently been disconnected from the vessel's refrigeration plant during the voyage from Tilbury to Liverpool. On inspection four containers of frozen meat were found to be soft. However, no evidence of decomposition was found and the containers and their contents were allowed to be refrozen. After this had taken place a further inspection was carried out to ascertain that the contents were sound and fit for delivery, and this was confirmed.

The number of food containers imported through the port for the year totalled 14,806, an increase of 12% over the previous year. Of these, 12,684 were notified to other Authorities under the provisions of the Imported Food Regulations 1968, which allow the deferred inspection of containers until their destination is reached. A further 1,567 containers were examined by inspectors of this Authority at local warehouses and 555 containers of fresh fruit, frozen meat, fish and other commodities were examined on the quay. In addition regular weekly inspections of fresh mushrooms arriving from Eire were carried out at Speke Airport.

The following table shows the quantities of unsound food found in containers.

Commodity	Weight	Amount	Defect	Disposal
Canned Mandarin Oranges	19 lbs.	28 tins	Crushed, burst and perforated	Destroyed
Fresh Potatoes	36 tons	720 bags	Decomposing	"
Porcine Meat	1,374 lbs.	10 bags	Contaminated	"
Groundnuts in Shell	13,890 lbs.	463 bags	Mouldy, slimy and decomposing	"
Groundnuts in Shell	27,870 lbs.	929 bags	Presence of Aflatoxin	Released for animal feeding

2. Groundnuts

Samples from 17 consignments of Groundnuts in Shell and 159 consignments of Groundnut Kernels were taken during the course of the year and submitted to the Public Analyst to be examined for the presence of aflatoxin.

Consignments which contained this toxic substance in detectable quantities were rejected as unfit for human consumption and the remainder were released for sale.

The details of all consignments of groundnuts and the action taken are set out in the following table.

GROUNDNUTS (Bags)

G.N.K. = Groundnut Kernels

Country of Origin	Total Consignment		Rejected		Re-exported		Released for Animal Food	
	G.N.K.	In shell	G.N.K.	In shell	G.N.K.	In shell	G.N.K.	In shell
Brazil	5,522	14,000	3,000	14,000	3,000	14,000	—	—
East Africa	9,687	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
India	6,250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Israel	—	3,404	—	1,392	—	—	—	929
South Africa	15,920	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	—	400	—	—	—	—	—	—
U.S.A.	—	400	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Africa	115,866	5,773	—	—	1,799	—	3,974	—
TOTALS (Bags)	153,245	23,977	3,000	15,392	4,799	14,000	3,974	929

The m.v. "TIBER" arrived at the Royal Seaforth Container Terminal from Israel during January. Part of the cargo consisted of three full containers of groundnuts in shell. Examination of the contents for routine sampling of the groundnuts in shell for aflatoxin revealed that one container had been damaged thus admitting water which caused the contents to become wet, badly discoloured, slimy and sour smelling. The contents were rejected as being unfit for human or animal consumption and were destroyed. Samples from the other two containers of groundnuts revealed the presence of aflatoxin. This resulted in the two containers, totalling 929 bags of groundnuts in shell being rejected as unfit for human consumption.

The sampling of groundnuts is carried out to detect the presence of aflatoxin. This is a toxic substance produced by the mould *Aspergillus flavus*. The deaths of a large number of turkeys, due to carcinoma of the liver, were attributed to this substance in the early 1960's.

3. Desiccated Coconut

Desiccated coconut arriving in the port is sampled on a percentage basis to determine the presence of pathogenic organisms, which in turn indicates the efficiency of the heat treatment process to which the desiccated coconut is subjected. This involves the meat of the coconut being sterilised. The sterilised pieces are then shredded and dried in hot air ovens at about 82°C until the moisture content is reduced to below 2.5%. The finished product is then packed for export.

81 samples of desiccated coconut were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and all proved satisfactory in relation to pathogenic organisms.

During November the m.v. "LANKA RANI" berthed at S.2 Gladstone Dock from Ceylon and discharged 1,900 bags of desiccated coconut into the loft of the berth. On the 24th November, a fire broke out in the ground floor section of the shed immediately underneath the stowed desiccated coconut. A mercury compound was involved in the fire and as all mercury compounds vapourise when heat is applied, it was decided to detain the consignment and submit samples to the City Analyst for mercury contamination. This revealed that some contamination had taken place but that the level of contamination was so low as to be negligible. The consignment was accordingly released.

4. Lard in Bulk

Importations of lard in bulk from the U.S.A. have continued to fall in number as they have since 1970, whilst importations of lard from Europe continue at an even rate.

Lard arriving in bulk from abroad must be accompanied by official certificates showing the quantity of lard and that the vessel's tanks were cleaned before loading.

The m.v. "INTRICO" arrived from Spain in May with one consignment of lard. It was not accompanied by official or tank cleanliness certificates. The consignment was detained and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food notified. The consignment was later released after consultation with the Ministry and the receipt of telex messages from the Spanish Authorities certifying that the ship's tanks had been cleaned prior

to loading and that the lard had originated from an approved establishment.

The m.v. "REGINE" arrived in May from Antwerp with two consignments of lard. One parcel had originated in France and the other in Bulgaria. Both had official certificates but the establishment numbers were not listed in the official circulars. The consignments were detained and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed. After consultations with the Ministry and the Belgian Authorities the consignments were released after it was learned from the Belgian Authorities that the French Certificate had been wrongly issued and that the Bulgarian Certificate was in force at the time of the importation of the lard into Belgium.

The m.v. "XILENO" arrived from Spain in September with a consignment of lard which was not accompanied by official certificates. The consignment was detained. However it was released soon after when it was learned from the importer that the consignment had been wrongly manifested and that the lard was in fact for industrial use only.

TABLE OF BULK LARD SHIPMENTS

	From U.S.A.	From Europe
Number of Ships	10	30
Number of consignments ..	27	63
Tonnage	18,995	28,726

5. Meat and Meat Products

In August a request was received from the Department of Health and Social Security advising that a manufacturing defect had been found in the production of canned corned beef from a certain South American Establishment and requesting that all stocks of South American corned beef from this establishment be located and checked. This was carried out and 3,900 cartons were found and detained in local warehouses. Detailed inspections followed which revealed an absence of vacuum and some blowing of the cans. Samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and the results showed no evidence of bacterial growth. However, on opening a percentage of the cans all showed evidence of the breakdown of the fat content, had a slight sour odour and were of a putty-like consistency. Also they all had an unusual characteristic in that one half of the pack presented an entirely different appearance from the other, the breakdown of the fat being more pronounced on one side than on the other. In each case the line of demarcation was most definite and always exactly midway between the faces. Cans are normally placed in the retort in the vertical position which often results in the fat being concentrated at one end. The characteristic mentioned suggests that the cans had been resterilised in

the horizontal position which is not the practice of the particular South American Establishment. The consignment was deemed to be unfit for human consumption and was subsequently re-exported.

The m.v. "BRITTANIC" arrived in June from New Zealand via Sheerness. The No. 3 lower hold contained 58,076 frozen lamb carcasses which were discharged by conveyor directly into the Union Cold Store at Alexandra Dock. During the course of the discharge it was found that a considerable number of lamb carcasses were mis-shapen and that some carcasses were frozen together necessitating the use of crow-bars to break out the carcasses. Eventually as the bottom layers were reached decomposition and black spot mould became evident. Separation of the affected carcasses was carried out and resulted in the rejection of 1,242 carcasses weighing 29,577 lbs. They were surrendered by the importers and destroyed.

6. Imported Egg and Egg Products

The following table gives details of egg or products containing egg as an ingredient, which were sampled during the year.

Origin	Consignment	Finding	Action Taken
Australia	11 consignments comprising 196,561 tins of frozen egg	6 samples relating to 2,026 tins of egg were found to be unsatisfactory and the consignments detained. All other results satisfactory and consignments released	2,026 tins were repasteurised and released after satisfactory sample results
Belgium	1 consignment of 1,600 tins of frozen egg	Satisfactory	Released
China	1 consignment of 400 c's egg noodles	Satisfactory	Released
Holland	4 consignments of 5,623 ctns. spray dried whole hen egg	All samples satisfactory	Released
New Zealand	3 consignments of 32,889 tins of frozen egg	In 1 consignment rusting of the tins was noted, the frozen blocks were trimmed and after satisfactory sample results were released	Released
	2 consignments of 1,625 ctns. of egg powder	Satisfactory	Released

continued next page

Imported Egg and Egg Products—*continued*

Origin	Consignment	Finding	Action Taken
South Africa	2 consignments of 23,148 tins of frozen egg	Satisfactory	Released
U.S.A.	6 consignments of 1,072 packages of dried egg	Satisfactory	Released

7. Inedible Offal

139 consignments comprising 371,609 packages of frozen raw meat and offal were imported during 1973 and delivered to approved processors to be sterilised prior to sale as pet food. None of these consignments presented any difficulty.

8. Crustacea

25 consignments of frozen prawns, one consignment of mussels and one consignment of frozen frogs legs arrived in the port during 1973. Eight consignments of frozen prawns were allowed to proceed to other Local Authorities for sampling.

The remainder were sampled with the following results.

Origin	Number	Finding	Action
Caribbean	3,691 ctns. frozen prawns	All satisfactory	Released
Ceylon	24 ctns. frozen prawns	All satisfactory	Released
Chile	215 ctns. frozen prawns	All satisfactory	Released
Eire	400 ctns. mussels	All satisfactory	Released
Indonesia	1,777 ctns. frozen prawns. 50 ctns. frogs legs	706 ctns. frozen prawns. 50 ctns. frogs legs unsatisfactory	Re-exported
Malaya	6,507 ctns. frozen prawns	582 ctns. unsatisfactory	Destroyed

COMMODITIES SAMPLED 1973

Commodities	Analyst	Bact.
Apples	1	
Dried Apples	1	
Almond Cakes	1	
Anchovy Fillets	1	
Bean Curd	3	
Bean Sauce	3	
Barbecue Sauce	1	
Beetroot (Dried)	1	
Beef—Cooked—Frozen	—	1
Bean Paste	1	
Black Beans	1	
Bubble Gum	3	
Butter Ghee	1	
Cake Mix	8	
Candies	1	
Cane and Imperatae Essence	1	
Cheese Powder	1	1
Corned Beef	—	14
Canned Corn	3	
Chewing Gum	5	
Chilli Powder	1	
Chilli Sauce	1	
Curry Paste	1	
Curry Powder	1	
Desiccated Coconut	6	81
Dried Black Fungus	1	
Dried Egg	—	68
Frozen Egg	—	200
Frozen Egg Albumen	—	151
Egg Noodles	—	2
Fish Gravy	1	1
Fish Pickle	1	
Dried Fruit	1	
Fruit Cocktail	1	
Fruit Salad	1	
Fruit Candy	1	
Food Colours	1	
Frogs Legs		1
Groundnut Kernels	150	
Groundnuts in Shell	12	
Gelatine		2
Ginger (Dried)	1	
Green Beans	1	
Goats Milk Powder		1
Canned Harar	1	
Hoi Sin Sauce	1	
Honey	3	
Instant Fruit Drink	2	
Canned Karela	2	
Kevda Water	1	1
Lard	1	
Laychee Honey	1	
Leek Flakes	1	

Commodities Sampled 1973—*continued*

Commodities	Analyst	Bact.
Lettuce in Soy	1	
Lemon Pickle	1	
Lime Pickle	1	
Lotus Root	1	
Macaroni		5
Mandarin Oranges (Canned)	1	
Mango Pickle	1	
Masala	4	
Mango Juice (Canned)	1	
Mixed Pickle	1	
Mushroom Soy	1	
Frozen Mussels	1	1
Smoked Mussels	1	1
Noodles	1	1
Oleoresin of Black Pepper	1	
Canned Olives	1	
Preserved Olives	2	
Onions	1	
Onions (Dried)	3	
Oyster Sauce	6	
Dried Oysters	2	
Smoked Oysters	1	1
Peanut Oil	1	
Pickles in Oil	1	
Pimentos	2	
Fresh Pork		4
Frozen Prawns		96
Canned Prawns	2	
Preserved Chinese Fruits	1	
Rice	1	
Rose Water		3
Salmon (Canned)	2	
Sausages (Canned)	1	
Sesame Oil	1	
Shrimp Paste	2	
Shrimp Sauce	1	1
Soy Sauce	13	
Spices	3	
Tinda (Canned)	2	
Tuna (Canned)	1	
Turmeric Fingers	1	
Verginger	1	
Whole Wheat Wafers	1	
Wine	1	
Yams (Canned)	1	
Total	304	637

**UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS DESTROYED OR UTILISED
UNDER SUPERVISION DURING 1973**

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef, Mutton, Pork	34	19	—	2
Canned Goods	110	3	2	6
Fruit and Vegetables	653	19	—	19
Cereals	2	12	1	24
General (Lard, Coconut, Tea, etc.)	590	14	2	16
Total	1,392	8	3	11

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Information concerning positive findings, following examination of imported food, was circulated to other seaports and copies sent to the Department of Health and Social Security and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Quarterly returns are made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food giving full details of unsound meat and meat products and also of contraventions of the Official Certificate procedure.

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ANDREW B. SEMPLE,
Medical Officer of Health,
Liverpool Port Health Authority.



