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River Blythe Port Health Authority.

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PORT OF BLYTH.

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**1915.**  
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Annual Report

PRESENTED TO THE
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

BY

JAMES M. MACLACHLAN,

M.B.C.M. (GLAS).

Medical Officer of Health for the Port and the Blyth
Urban District Council.

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River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR :

J. J. HARRIS.

HOSPITAL STAFF :

Matron . . . J. A. SMITH.
Nurse . . . B. DINGWALL.

Office 1 Stanley Street]

RIVER BLYTH
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RIVER BLYTH
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

GENTLEMEN—

In compliance with the order of the Local Government Board, I beg to submit for your consideration my report of the work performed in the Port during the year 1915.

During the year 2457 vessels (including 92 trawlers) arrived in the Port, a decrease of 637 vessels as compared with 1914. This decrease is entirely due to the continuance of the European War. A systematic and careful inspection was made of all vessels arriving, and only 30 ships were reported with sickness on board, and all of a non-infectious character. During the stay of the vessels in the harbour 6 cases of infectious disease were reported to me, and on inspection of the patients they were immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital. The quarters of the infected members of the crews were fumigated and thoroughly disinfected before the ships cleared from the Port.

The trade of the Port is the same as in former years, viz :—The export of coal and the import of wood.

The work at the New Staiths is progressing steadily, though slowly, the difficulty of getting timber and labour in sufficient quantities owing to war conditions being the stumbling block to rapid progress.

The Herring fishing was practically nil, only 92 Trawlers and Drifters making use of the Port's facilities.

WATER SUPPLY—This as in former years is satisfactory.

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF CHOLERA AND PLAGUE—Owing to the prevalence of those diseases abroad, a strict watch was kept on all vessels, especially those which had been trading to infected ports, arriving in the Harbour. The weekly returns of the Local Government Board being most helpful in this respect.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS—No action was taken under this Act during the year.

Soldiers have been billeted in various positions in the docks and ice house. The sanitary arrangements of new billets are satisfactory and have been regularly inspected.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—During the year 33 patients were admitted, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	14
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	4
Diphtheria	-	■	-	-	13
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2
					—
Total	-	-	-	-	33

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	14 discharged (cured)
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	1 „
Diphtheria	-	-	-	12 „
				1 transferred to Union Hospital, Newcastle
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2 discharged (cured)
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	2 fatal cases

On 31st December, no patients were in the Hospital.

Of the 33 cases sent in—27 were sent in by the officials of the Blyth Urban District Council, 16 by your officials.

I have to thank Mr. Baldwin, The Harbour Master, Sanitary Inspector and The Hospital Staff for the assistance they have rendered during the year.

Copies of this report will be sent to the Local Government Board, and Northumberland County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MORTON MacLACHLAN, M.B.C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Medical Officer of Health
River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

SIR,

I most respectfully submit the following report of the number of British and Foreign vessels arrived at this port during the year 1915.

TABLE OF VESSELS ARRIVED.

	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Total.
British Steam	169	528	697
British Sailing	Nil	28	28
Foreign Steam.....	1070	539	1609
Foreign Sailing.....	19	12	31
			<hr/> 2365
British Steam Trawlers and Drifters	-	-	92
Foreign Steam Trawlers	-	-	Nil
			<hr/>
Total arrivals	-	-	2457

Register Tonnage exclusive of Trawlers and Drifters 1,599,856.

Number of Vessels found defective in structural arrangements and sanitary defects.

	Structural Arrangements.		Sanitary Defects.		Total
	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Foreign	Coastwise.	
British Steam.....	12	13	18	24	67
British Sailing	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1
Foreign Steam	Nil	Nil	45	35	80
Foreign Sailing.....	Nil	Nil	4	2	6
					<hr/> 154

STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Overhead decks and beams not covered causing damp beds and forecastles	1
Leakage in forecastles causing damp forecastles	3
Defective side ports in forecastles	19
Defective stoves causing smoky forecastles	4
	<hr/> 27

SANITARY DEFECTS.

Forecastles not clean	65
Deck water closets not clean	53
Fumigating of vessels	5
Drinking water unfit for use	4
	<hr/> 127

HOSPITAL TABLE, 1915.

No.	DATE OF ADMISSION.	NAMES.	AGE.	DISEASE.	BY WHOM SENT.	DATE OF DISCHARGE.
1	Jan. 8th	Lieut Walter James	19	Scarlet Fever	Blyth U. D. Council	February 22nd, 1915
2	" 25th	Private Joseph Yeomans	28	do	do.	March 3rd
3	Feb. 4th	Eigot Emil Erriksson	18	Diphtheria	Blyth P. S. Authority	February 20th
4	" 9th	Hilda Moorhouse	10	Enteric Fever	Blyth U. D. Council	February 25th
5	" 10th	Private William Wann	21	Scarlet Fever	do.	March 22nd
6	" 23rd	James Oliver	24	Enteric Fever	do.	Died March 1st
7	Mar. 4th	Private David McIntosh	26	Scarlet Fever	do.	April 9th
8	" 6th	Private John Borthwick	17	do	do.	April 19th
9	" 8th	Cecil Fenton	4	Diphtheria	do	March 27th
10	" 19th	William Lauritson	16	do.	Blyth P. S. Authority	April 3rd
11	" 20th	Private John Ogle	19	Scarlet Fever	Blyth U. D. Council	April 28th
12	" 24th	Andrew Jeweland	24	Diphtheria ?	do.	Transferred April 13th
13	April 7th	Thomas A. Porteus	11	Scarlet Fever	do.	May 19th
14	" 8th	Private Ralph Gibson	21	Diphtheria	do.	April 28th
15	" 21st	Private William J. Angrove	18	Scarlet Fever	do.	June 9th
16	" 21st	Private Joseph Hogg	18	do.	do.	June 3rd
17	" 30th	Carl C. Lynne	28	do.	Blyth P. S. Authority	June 3rd
18	May 8th	Emil Valdemir	39	Erysipelas	do.	May 17th
19	" 8th	Richard Brown	45	Enteric Fever	Blyth U. D. Council	Died May 16th
20	June 12th	Private Archibald R. Hooper	18	Diphtheria	do.	July 13th
21	" 17th	Private Edgar Richards	18	do	do.	July 6th
22	" 17th	Sergt. Walter Steer	32	do.	do.	July 6th
23	" 29th	Dr. Clement Kille	16	do.	do.	July 19th
24	July 6th	Capt. Honore Morgan	29	Erysipelas	Blyth P. S. Authority	July 13th
25	" 23rd	Private Ernest Hancock	22	Diphtheria	Blyth U. D. Council	August 19th
26	" 24th	Einar Witgo	22	Enteric Fever	Blyth P. S. Authority	September 27th
27	Aug. 18th	Driver Robert W. Pringle	24	Scarlet Fever	Blyth U. D. Council	September 17th
28	" 29th	Jessie Wright	8	Diphtheria	do.	September 17th
29	" 30th	Private Thomas H. Boucher	24	do.	do.	September 8th
30	" 31st	Alick Wright	4	do.	do.	September 10th
31	Oct. 4th	Private Matthew M. Commerford	18	Scarlet Fever	do.	November 15th
32	" 18th	Robert Wemyss	7	do.	do.	December 4th
33	Nov. 27th	George Henry Lawton	6½	do.	do.	December 27th

TABLE OF SICKNESS.

Date.	Name of Vessel.	Rig.	Where from.	Rating.	Nationality.	Nature of Sickness.
January.	Wm. Th. Malling	S.S.	Copenhagen	Cook	Danish	Catarrh
"	Forstein	do.	Leith	Fireman	Norwegian	Catarrh
"	Erna	do.	Helsingfors	Seaman	Norwegian	Shock and Broken Ribs
February	Forsvik	do.	Gothenburg	Seaman	Swedish	Diphtheria
March	Fulton	do.	Drammen	2nd Engineer	Norwegian	Heart Disease
"	Cairndon	do.	Bordeaux	Mess Boy	British	Diphtheria, removed to Hospital
April	Ran	do.	Gothenburg	Fireman	Swedish	Catarrh
"	Hans Broge	do.	Christiania	3rd Engineer	Danish	Scarlet Fever
"	Folis	do.	Galveston	Fireman	Greek	Catarrh
"	Wm Th. Malling	do.	Copenhagen	2nd Mate	Danish	Erysipelas
May	Betty	do.	Tyne	Fireman	Russian	Accident
"	Forstein	do.	Middlesbro'	Fireman	Norwegian	Removed to Hospital
July	Niobe	do.	Caen	Captain	French	Erysipelas
"	Neptun	do.	Granville	Seaman	French	Accident
"	Azira	do.	Bergen	Fireman	Norwegian	Catarrh
"	Azira	do.	Bergen	2nd Mate	Norwegian	Typhoid Fever
"	Hans Gude	do.	Dieppe	Two of Crew	Norwegian	Removed to Hospital
August	Bossi	do.	Tyne	Seaman	Norwegian	Rupture
"	Godo	do.	Caen	Cook	Norwegian	Accident
"	Ren	do.	Havre	Fireman	Norwegian	Lumbago, removed to Hospital
September	Zero	do.	Archangel	Fireman	British	Influenza
"	Erika	do.	Archangel	Fireman	Russian	Rheumatism
"	Zero	do.	Archangel	Fireman	British	Accident
"	Bolette	do.	Rouen	Seaman	Norwegian	Catarrh
"	Bolette	do.	Rouen	Seaman	Norwegian	Catarrh, removed to Hospital
October	Wanstead	do.	London	Seaman	Norwegian	Accident, removed to Hospital
November	Brode	do.	Middlesbro'	Fireman	British	Rheumatism
December	Greatham	do.	Calais	Fireman	Norwegian	Accident
"	Inger	do.	Tyne	Donkeyman	British	Pneumonia, removed to Hos.
"	Grimski	do.	Tyne	Seaman & Engineer	Norwegian	Catarrh

The following table classifies the vessels arriving according to nationality—

Nationalty.	No. of Vessels.
British - - - -	725
Norwegian - - - -	1003
Danish - - - -	271
Swedish - - - -	223
Russian - - - -	44
Dutch - - - -	32
French - - - -	35
Belgian - - - -	11
Spanish - - - -	6
Greek - - - -	8
Italian - - - -	7
British Trawlers and Drifter	92
	<hr/>
	2457

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. HARRIS, Sanitary Inspector.

1. 1881
2. 1882
3. 1883
4. 1884
5. 1885
6. 1886
7. 1887
8. 1888
9. 1889
10. 1890
11. 1891
12. 1892
13. 1893
14. 1894
15. 1895
16. 1896
17. 1897
18. 1898
19. 1899
20. 1900