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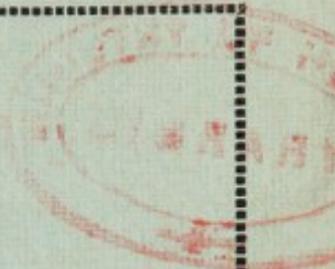
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River Blyth  
Port Health Authority



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ANNUAL REPORT

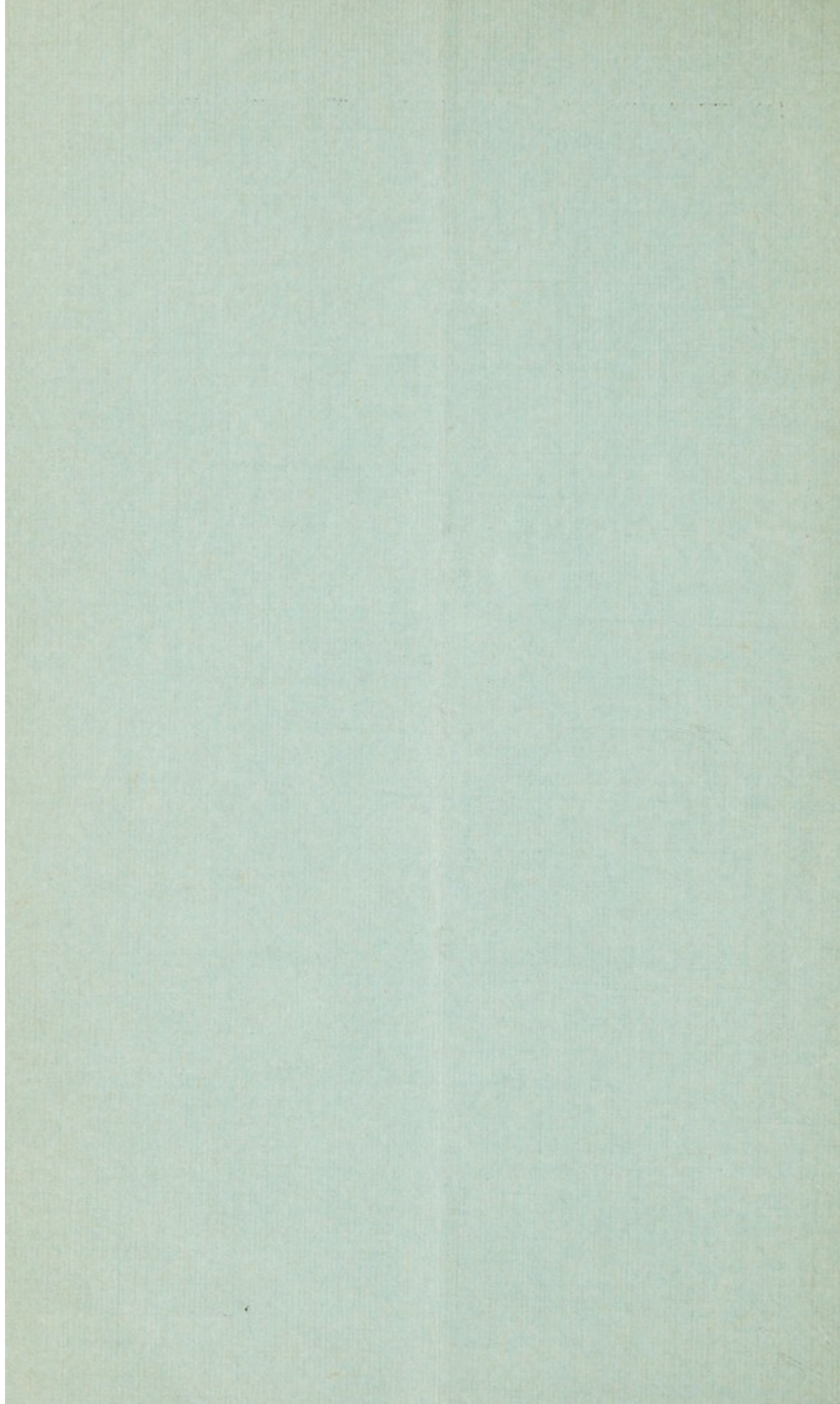
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

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BLYTH:  
THE NORTHERN PRESS LTD., BOWES STREET  
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# River Blyth Port Health Authority

1939-40.

## MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

*Chairman* : Councillor R. TURNBULL.

*Vice-Chairman* : Councillor J. R. CURRY.

*Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council* :

Alderman H. DONNACHIE.	Councillor J. R. CURRY.
Alderman W. W. MATHER.	Councillor J. W. HEATLEY.
Alderman F. RAFFERTY.	Councillor T. STEPHENSON.
Alderman R. WALKER.	Councillor R. TURNBULL.
Alderman A. WALTON.	

*Appointed by the Bedlington Council* :

Councillor C. S. KIDD.  
Councillor W. C. WARD.  
Councillor W. MATHER.

## OFFICERS AND STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health* :

J. STOKOE, M.D., B.Hy, D.P.H., Wellington House, Blyth.

*\* Deputy Medical Officer of Health* :

W. I. GORDON, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Waterloo Road, Blyth.

*Sanitary Inspector and Executive Officer*  
under Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act,  
1919 : JOHN DILKS, M.S.I.A.

*Rat Catcher* : A. F. CHAPMAN.

*Clerk* :

N. HARDCASTLE (resigned 7th October, 1939).

F. ARMSTRONG (appointed 10th November,  
1939).

6, Blagdon Street,  
Blyth.

*Matron* : Miss H. KIMM, S.R.N., C.M.B.

*Nurse* : Miss L. HUTCHINSON.

Isolation Hospital,  
Cowpen, Blyth.

*Clerk to the Authority* :

J. LEIGH TURNER, Esq., Municipal Buildings, Blyth.

*Telegraphic Address* : Portelth, Blyth.

*\* Part-time appointment.*



# River Blyth Port Health Authority

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WELLINGTON HOUSE,

BLYTH,

February, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
River Blyth Port Health Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report of the work of the River Blyth Port Health Authority for the year 1939.

For obvious reasons, the Ministry of Health has instructed that much information ordinarily contained in Annual Reports should be withheld; my Report, therefore, is necessarily curtailed this year, and offers mere outlines in comparison with other years when details were included.

Figures relating to shipping, including the numbers of vessels and the tonnage concerned, have perforce been omitted from the Report. Similarly, statistical records of exports and imports, cargoes, the names of ports from which vessels arrived and to which they proceeded, were regarded as information likely to be of use to an enemy country.

With the object of complying with the Ministry's instruction to economise, data in respect of the usual services provided by the Authority (water supply, administrative details, health declarations, mooring stations, methods of deratisation, and many other matters) which are still conducted on lines similar to those described in previous reports, were considered unnecessary inclusions. Even many of the statistical tables have been drastically reduced for the reasons already stated.

Perhaps the most important special work carried out during the year was "The Shellfish Investigations," a detailed report of which was submitted to the Committee in July last, and copies of which were forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health of a number of Local Authorities whose officials had shown interest in the circumstances governing the subject. The local press afforded considerable publicity to the fact that the Shellfish were unfit for human consumption, and the practice of collecting large quantities of mussels, etc., for food purposes, which prompted

investigations, seems to have ceased altogether. In this connection, I desire to record my sincere appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health of Tynemouth C.B. and his Sanitary Inspector.

The only notifiable disease known to have arrived in the Port was the case of a sailor, who was duly proved to be suffering from typhoid fever. Immediate steps were taken to prevent spread of the infection by notifying the facts of the case to the Medical Officers of those districts to which members of the ship's crew had proceeded on leave, and by adopting appropriate measures locally. As far as can be ascertained, no other case occurred as the result of infection from this patient.

Until March 31st, 1939, a certain number of Borough of Blyth cases of scarlet fever were isolated in your hospital, but since then no case has been admitted there. The Ministry of Health has not finally decided whether to advise the Authority to maintain the hospital for the use of the very few cases of infectious diseases occurring on ships arriving at Blyth, or to recommend the Authority to have these cases admitted elsewhere.

**TABLE A.**

VESSELS INSPECTED.

By Medical Officer of of Health.	By Sanitary Inspector.	Reported to be defective.	Defects remedied.	Vessels reported as having, or having had Infectious Disease on Board.
8	4,261	109	109	6

CREWS OF VESSELS EXAMINED.

Coastwise.	Foreign.	Fishing.	Total.
43,446	14,325	973	58,744

## TABLE C.

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE LANDED.

One case of typhoid fever and one case of influenza were landed from vessels arriving at the Port, and (TABLE D) one case of malaria was landed before the vessel reached this Port.

VESSELS BOARDED BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Below is given a list of illnesses occurring among the crews of vessels arriving at the Port, and boarded by the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspector or both, and the method of dealing with these cases:—

<i>Nature of Illness.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Catarrh .....	Private treatment.
Abscess .....	Removed to Hospital.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Lumbago .....	Sent home.
Malaria.....	Examined by Medical Officer of Health.
Influenza .....	Private treatment.
Influenza .....	Sent home.
Influenza .....	Private treatment.
Stomach trouble .....	Removed to Hospital.
Influenza .....	Private treatment.
Accident to hand .....	Private treatment.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Ear trouble and Neuralgia .....	Private treatment.
Accident to hand .....	Private treatment.
Haemorrhage .....	Private treatment.
V.D. ....	Private treatment.
Heart trouble .....	Sent home (landed before reaching Blyth).
Typhoid .....	Removed to Hospital.
Neuralgia .....	Private treatment.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Accident of hand .....	Private treatment.
Non-Infectious.....	Private treatment.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Neuralgia .....	Private treatment.
V.D. ....	Private treatment.

Accident .....	Private treatment.
Non-Infectious.....	Private treatment.
Accident .....	Private treatment.
Appendicitis.....	Removed to Hospital.
Ear trouble .....	Private treatment.
Non-Infectious.....	Private treatment.
Tonsillitis.....	Examined by Medical Officer of Health.
Accident .....	Removed to Hospital.
Varicose ulcers .....	Private treatment.
Septic hand.....	Examined by Medical Officer of Health (removed to Hospital).
Neuritis.....	Private treatment.
Accident. ....	Private treatment.
Appendicitis.....	Sent home.
Accident .....	Private treatment.

#### MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Eight ships were fumigated, resulting in the destruction of 74 rats and one mouse, and in two ships traps were set capturing five rats. In all, (TABLE E) 79 rats were destroyed on vessels, and (TABLE F) four rats were recovered from docks, quays, wharves, and warehouses; in none of these rodents were signs of disease detected.

#### TABLE H.

105 Deratisation Exemption Certificates and 8 Deratisation Certificates, a total of 113 Certificates, were issued during the year.

#### HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

36 instances of structural defects were reported, and 73 other conditions prejudicial to health, all of which were corrected before the vessels left the Port.

38 vessels were boarded by your Officers on account of the ships coming directly or indirectly from foreign ports, infected, or suspected of being infected with cholera, plague, yellow fever, or typhus fever.

Finally, it is a pleasure to record the satisfactory and diligent manner with which the whole staff carried out their duties during the year.

JOHN STOKOE, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
*Port Medical Officer of Health.*



