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Contributors

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RIVER BLYTH
PORTHEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

1941

JOHN STOKOE M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.



RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1941.

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.-

Chairman - Alderman A. Walton.
Vice-Chairman - Alderman F. Rafferty.

Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council.-

Alderman H. Donnachie,	Councillor J. R. Curry,
" W. W. Mather,	" J. W. Heatley,
" F. Rafferty,	" T. Stephenson,
" R. Walker,	" R. Turnbull.
" A. Walton,	

Appointed by the Bedlingtonshire
Urban District Council.-

Councillor C. S. Kidd,
" W. Mather,
" W. C. Ward.

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:

J. Dixon.

Clerk to the Authority:

J. Leigh Turner Esq. Municipal Buildings,
Blyth.

Telegraphic Address.-
Portelth, Blyth.

* Part-time appointment.

RIVER VALLEY HEALTH AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1961

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Chairman - Alderman A. Wilson
Vice-Chairman - Alderman W. Roberts

Appointed by the River Valley Council

Alderman W. Roberts	Chairman
Alderman A. Wilson	Vice-Chairman
Alderman J. R. Giddy	Member
Alderman J. V. Hensley	Member
Alderman T. G. Giddens	Member
Alderman R. Turnbull	Member

Appointed by the Parliamentary
Urban District Council

Councillor C. S. King
Councillor W. G. Ward

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

Mr. J. Gordon, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Officer of Health

Mr. J. Gordon, M.A., M.B., D.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer (General and Public Health)

Mr. J. Gordon, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer (Private and Industrial)

Mr. J. Gordon, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer (Public Health)

Mr. J. Gordon, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer (Public Health)

Mr. J. Gordon, M.B., B.S.



Telephone Numbers
Public Health Officer, 1234

* Part-time appointments

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Wellington House,
Blyth.

February, 1942.

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1941, and in doing so point out that much which is usually included in a report of this sort is omitted in case information of use to the enemy is disclosed. It would be imprudent, for example, to include details concerning the sailings, tonnages, or nationalities of the vessels using the port, or to insert the customary tables describing the number of vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected or suspected ports.

Regarding the health of the seamen, increases in the number of cases of notifiable diseases, in particular Diphtheria, and Scabies, have been observed. ... Rather more cases of Venereal Diseases have been reported, but these figures cannot give a true assessment of the prevalence of these illnesses since many victims obtain independent advice and treatment without reporting to the Authority. A slight reduction in the number of accidents occurred in 1941 as compared with the previous year.

Constant supervision of the accommodation for crews was maintained and in this connection it is gratifying to be able to report that all reported sanitary or structural defects were either remedied or in the process of being corrected by the end of the year.

Special attention was paid to the destruction of rodents on Wharves, Docks, Quays, etc. Reports that certain premises on the quayside were "over-run with rats" were not confirmed despite repeated inspections of the places concerned. Well over a thousand poison baits were laid but only 9 rats were recovered.

Co-ordination between the Civil Defence Casualty Services of the Borough of Blyth and of the Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council has been established for the purpose of collecting and treating victims of enemy action among those working within the Authority's area. In this connection, we are indebted to the responsible officials of the Blyth Harbour Commissioners for their willingness to make available their river craft at all times.

In the town, extensive alterations have been made to the Seamen's Institute, providing, among other things, a billiard room and additional accommodation.

Fewer de-ratisation and de-ratisation exemption Certificates have been issued this year, largely on account of a reduction in foreign sailings from the port.

On the authority of the Ministry of Health Circular 2226, Northumberland County Council has arranged for the treatment of Venereal Diseases in Blyth by certain practitioners who, by virtue of their special experience and training, are permitted to undertake work of this nature.

The report is compiled from figures provided by the Port Sanitary Inspector and the Rat-Catcher to both of whom I am grateful for their continued co-operation and assistance.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN STOKOE.

Port Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

Fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid or Sulphur Dioxide was carried out in 17 vessels on account of bug and cockroach infestation; one other was treated with a suitable insecticide. In all cases the vessels were declared satisfactorily treated following re-inspection.

Crews' accommodation in 22 vessels were disinfected after the removal of cases of infectious or contagious diseases. Clothing and bedding were disinfected by the staff of the Borough of Blyth Health Department. It was necessary to have several mattresses destroyed.

Table A. (Curtailed).

Number of vessels inspected.-		No. of Vessels.-		No. of Vessels.-
By Medical Officer of Health.	By Sanitary Inspector.	Found with defects.	in which defects were remedied.	Having Infectious Diseases on Board.
24.	2,430.	90.	88.	12.

Classification of Defects.-

Forecastles to clean out	-	8	Skylight to repair	-	1
" " paint out	-	15	Radiators " "	-	2
" " repair	-	10	Ventilators to "	-	1
32 Ports to repair (8 Vessels)			Holds to wash out	-	1
Bogies to renew and repair	-	8	Food Lockers to fix	-	1
Galley's to repair	-	3	Sanitary tanks to repair	-	2
Officers rooms defective	-	3	W.C.'s to repair	-	6
Bunks to renew	-	5	W.C.'s to clean out	-	2
Fresh-water tanks to clean out	-	3	Scupper pipe to clean	-	1
14 beds to destroy (3 vessels)			W.C.'s flushed on to Quay	-	7

Total Defects = 90.

The defects were found in vessels thus:-

	Structural Defects.	Sanitary Defects.	TOTAL.
British Steam	41.	43.	84.
Foreign Steam	1.	5.	6.
	42.	48.	90.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of infectious diseases among seamen were removed to hospital on account of (a) Diphtheria - 9 patients, (b) Scarlet Fever - 1 patient. All were admitted to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The patients' quarters and personal effects were disinfected and the crews of the vessels examined at later dates; in the cases of contacts with Diphtheria patients, throat swabs were taken. The results of the throat swab examinations were communicated to the Medical Officer of

the next port of call on his application, otherwise the crews were visited while still in Blyth to ensure that any cases occurring among the contacts could be isolated promptly.

OTHER DISEASES.

Altogether 71 seamen were reported to be suffering from various complaints and, with the exception of the infectious diseases patients, were either treated by private practitioners or directed to hospitals. The commonest causes of ill-health among seamen using the port were:-

Scabies	-	14	patients
Accidents	-	13	"
Venereal Diseases	-	12	"
Diphtheria	-	9	"

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Poison baits were put down in 2 vessels and in 9 others, traps were set. One vessel was issued with a De-ratisation Certificate after fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid; 23 vessels were granted Exemption Certificates. In all, 68 rats were recovered from vessels.

On the quayside, many poison baits were put down and 9 rats were recovered; none showed macroscopic signs of infection and 4 examined bacteriologically were declared free from plague infection. In all probability, many more rats were destroyed, but their carcasses will have reached inaccessible places or have been washed away by tidal waters.

Table H. (Curtailed).

De-ratisation Certificates issued.	Exemption Certificates issued.	TOTAL
1 (after HCN)	23	24.

Poison baits laid on Docks, Quays, Wharshouses, etc.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
100	75	50	50	25	125	125	140	230	50	120	75	1,165.

This report was prepared by the

Black	Brown	White	Other	Total	Male	Female	Both	Other	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	4	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

