

Contributors

River Tees Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1902

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1902.

The River Tees Port Sanitary Authority.

SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T. Woolston, Printer, 22, Wilson Street, Middlesbrough.



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The River Tees Port Sanitary Authority

*Was Constituted by an Order of the Local Government Board, issued on
the 2nd day of January, 1886.*

The Members of the Board are Elected as follows:—

BY THE MIDDLESBROUGH CORPORATION.

S. A. SADLER, Chairman.

T. R. DENT,	J. McLAUCHLAN.	ALEX. MAIN.
J. FORBES.	R. BURROWS.	W. HARKESS.

BY THE STOCKTON CORPORATION.

A. G. RUDD.	R. HIND.	J. H. NIGHTSCALES.
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BY THE ESTON LOCAL BOARD.

D. EVANS.	T. DAVIES.
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BY THE THORNABY CORPORATION.

Wm. ANDERSON.	H. TAYLOR.
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BY THE STOCKTON RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

C. L. BELL.	J. G. PICKERING.
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BY THE NORMANBY LOCAL BOARD.

JOHN ATKINSON.

OFFICES OF BOARD ... MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS,
MIDDLESBROUGH.

FLOATING HOSPITAL ... ON THE RIVER TEES,
OPPOSITE ESTON JETTY.

1902.

The 16th Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

MIDDLESBROUGH,

1st JANUARY, 1903.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Tees Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1902.

During the year just ended fourteen cases of disease have been investigated. Four of these were those of infectious disease, particulars of which will be found under "Small-Pox."

I shall, first of all, refer briefly to the general prevalence of Infectious diseases. —

BUBONIC PLAGUE.

This disease has, during the whole year, prevailed to an appalling extent in India, where it has given rise to a mortality of 5,000 to 25,000 per week, notwithstanding the practice of isolating infected individuals and communities, and of inoculation with Anti-Plague serum. It is expected that the efforts of the government to suppress this disease, coupled with the prospective early cessation of the famine, will soon bring about an improvement in this dreadful condition of things.

In addition to India, we find that the disease is disseminated along the trade routes, for many cases have occurred at places so far apart as Hong Kong, Egypt, Mauritius, Durban and Port Elizabeth in South Africa, and Sydney in Australia.

In Europe some cases were reported during the year from Odessa and Constantinople. With these exceptions Europe appears to have been free from this disease.

A considerable outbreak of Cholera occurred in Egypt towards the latter part of the year, but it was dealt with so energetically by the Sanitary Administration that by now very few cases remain.

No cases nor suspected cases of Plague, nor yet of Cholera and Yellow Fever, have been met with in this Port during the past year.

SMALL POX.

The epidemic of this disease in London continued until September, and in all about 9,000 cases have occurred there.

Since its cessation in the metropolis, it has spread, as was expected, to the provinces, such places as Liverpool, Birkenhead, Manchester, Stockport, Leeds, Bradford, Oldham, Birmingham, Burnley, Leicester, South Shields, and Swansea have each reported a number of cases. Probably there has also been a considerable prevalence at Carthagena, Aguilas, and Bilbao on the continent.

Strict precautions were taken at this Port in the inspection of ships coming from infected places, and any cases of illness occurring on board such ships were at once medically investigated.

Case I.—As above stated, four cases of this disease were introduced into the Tees. The first was found on 21st March in a house in Warwick Street, whither he had gone from the s.s. "Claudia" on the 19th. He complained of illness and was given a bed. On the 20th he was worse, and on the 21st the case was diagnosed as Small Pox and sent to Hemlington Small Pox Hospital where he died. The s.s. "Claudia" is a regular trader between this Port and London, taking about 24 hours for the voyage, is well managed and commanded, and every care was taken while in London to prevent the crew mixing with the ordinary people about the docks. It is probable that the infection was caught there from the 5th to 8th instant. The ship arrived in the Tees on the morning of the 17th inst., and remained here until the evening of the 19th, when she again left for London. During this time there was no suspicion of illness of any kind on board, and the Captain, though he had to work the ship with a diminished crew, never suspected illness as the cause of the absence of the man, and was very greatly surprised when, later in London, he learnt the true cause. I immediately saw the owners, and telegraphed to the Medical Officer, Port of London, and to the Captain to have his ship disinfected and the men re-vaccinated without delay. From the Medical Officer I learnt that all precautions had been taken except the re-vaccination, which the men promised him to submit to at the hands of their own medical men on their return to Middlesbrough. The patient it seems was well liked by his mates as a steady, decent man, and was not known to have mixed in any way with low people in London.

On 23rd inst. the s.s. "Claudia" again arrived in the Tees, and I went on board immediately at midnight, and examined every member of the crew and passengers of whom they were thirty-two. I found them all well, and that eight had been re-vaccinated during the late epidemic in Middlesbrough. Of the remainder, the majority faithfully promised to submit to the operation during the next day or two, but I could not persuade any to have it done on the spot. The ship was clean and in every respect satisfactory.

Case II.—In this case the patient was found on 9th April sitting amongst a doctor's patients in the town, and was promptly sent to the Sanitary Office, where he was seen without any delay. He was a Spanish fireman from s.s. "Esles" lying at Williams' Wharf. After consulting with Dr. Dingle, the Mayor, and Town Clerk, he was removed under every precaution to the Floating Hospital. I immediately boarded the ship and examined the crew. They were then quite well. I re-vaccinated the whole crew, and the ship was sent to the Quarantine Buoys at Eston, where she was thoroughly disinfected and isolated. The Captain, on being cashiered, replied in broken English that he was not a doctor, that the man had complained for the first time that day, and, as he had not the remotest idea what he was suffering from, he had allowed him to go ashore for advice. This ship had left Bilbao on the 1st April, and had reached the Tees on the 7th, and the case discovered on the 9th. In this instance the infection was probably caught in Bilbao. The patient was discharged cured on 7th May.

Case III.—This case was found on April 25th on board s.s. "Ibex." Captain Noall had voluntarily taken his ship to the Quarantine Buoys on arrival, and I was promptly summoned there by the Custom House Officials by telephone. The ship left Carthagena on 16th April and Almeria on the 11th April, and on the 18th the Chief Officer named William Anderson, from South Shields, complained of being ill, a rash appeared on skin on 21st which pitted on 24th, and on arrival here he had well marked Confluent Small Pox. The place of infection seems to have been in this case Almeria. The patient was removed to the Floating Hospital, his cabin and other parts of the ship thoroughly disinfected, and all his effects destroyed by fire. Re-vaccination was urged upon the rest of the crew, to which I was only able to get nine to submit, the remainder, nine men refused for various reasons to be done. The case proved the most severe I have yet had at the Hospital. The disease baffled all treatment, and the patient died on the 3rd May.

Case IV.—The s.s. "Sestao" left Bilbao on October 5th and reached the Tees on the 12th and reported all well, and the Captain came on shore to his Broker's Office that day, though as a matter of fact he had not been well since the 10th. On the 15th he became worse and sent for advice. The case being reported to me as one of probable Small Pox, I immediately drove down to Normanby Wharf, and felt no hesitation in

diagnosing the case and ordering his removal to the Floating Hospital and the ship into quarantine. The weather became too boisterous to permit removal of ship from her berth, but she was placed in a position of isolation and all intercourse with the land forbidden. Here she was disinfected and visited, and the crew examined daily as usual. The whole of the crew was immediately revaccinated. The captain did well at the Hospital, and was discharged cured on the 9th November.

THE FLOATING HOSPITAL.

The only admissions into the Hospital during the year have been the 3 cases of Small Pox detailed above, of which 2 recovered. The average stay in hospital was 20.33 days. Your hospital has well maintained its efficiency during the year, and no difficulty was experienced in dealing with the cases as they occurred.

The admissions into Hospital during the last 6 years have been as follows :—

1896	...	...	...	...	7 cases.
1897	...	...	...	...	6 „
1898	...	...	...	...	4 „
1899	...	...	...	...	3 „
1900	...	...	...	...	2 „
1901	...	...	...	...	1 „
1902	...	...	...	...	3 „

Subjoined is a record of shipping for the last few years, supplied by the Tees Conservancy Commissioners, through the courtesy of Mr. Amos, their Secretary :—

Year.	Total No. of Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1892	4,582	1,746,613
1893	5,206	2,287,992
1894	5,390	2,393,537
1895	5,272	2,379,751
1896	5,618	2,564,679
1897	5,692	2,627,680
1898	5,298	2,485,004
1899	5,639	2,603,072
1900	5,140	2,479,851
1901	4,691	2,209,083
1902	4,945	2,379,512

Following is a list of ships and of cases of disease dealt with by myself during the year :—

1902. January 31st, 10 p.m.—S.S. “Gutenfels,” at Harris’ New Wharf, from Bremen. The 3rd Engineer was ill with General Catarrh and considerable debility. Prescribed, and allowed to proceed.

March 4th, 4 p.m.—S.S. “Whimbrel,” from the Tyne. Letter had reached me that a case of Small Pox had been taken from this ship while there, and notifying me of her departure for the Tees. I went in search of her at once, and found from the Harbour Master that she had been in and had left again for Grangemouth. I communicated these facts to the authorities at that place and the Tyne.

March 10th, at 10 a.m., at Bolekow’s Wharf, S.S. “Rio Tinto,” from Ergesteria (Greece). One man had had Rheumatism for 14 days, and had been well treated by the Captain, and another had a feverish cold. The former was recommended to a general Hospital.

March 21st, at 4 p.m., S.S. “Claudia,” from London. Case of Small Pox. Details of this case are given on page 5.

March 23rd, at 11-30 p.m., at Tees Union Wharf, S.S. “Claudia,” from London. On previous voyage a case of Small Pox had been found. On this occasion the ship and the whole of her crew and passengers were carefully examined, and free revaccination offered them.

April 9th, at noon, at Williams’ Wharf, S.S. “Esles,” from Bilbao. A case of Small Pox from this ship had just been found in the town, details of which will be found on page 6. The ship was ordered into quarantine for isolation and disinfection, and all members of the crew were revaccinated.

April 25th, at 9-30 a.m., at Quarantine Buoys, S.S. “Ibex,” from Carthage. Chief officer suffering from Small Pox, and was removed forthwith to the Floating Hospital. The ship being already in quarantine was kept there as long as possible. Half the crew submitted to revaccination. Details of this case on page 6.

May 3rd, at 6 p.m., at the Dock Point, S.S. “Gregynog,” from Bilbao. The Chief Engineer had Dropsy and Eczema of legs from Heart Disease. He was allowed to proceed home.

June 9th, at 10-30 a.m., at the Dock Point, S.S. “Hummersea,” from Grangemouth. A man had Measles, and was directed to remain on board the ship for treatment, and then allowed to proceed.

August 4th, at 4 p.m., at Eston Jetty, S.S. "Busturio," from Bilbao. The 3rd Engineer was suffering from Pneumonia and under treatment. He was removed to a general hospital.

September 10th, at 3 p.m., at Deep Water Buoys, S.S. "Elba," from Riga and Copenhagen. Captain Wilson was found suffering from Unresolved Pneumonia and Hemiplegia. Was not fit for removal, and was attended on board ship until his death on the 17th September.

October 15th, at 4 p.m., at Normanby Wharf, S.S. "Sestao," from Bilbao. The Master, Captain Tribisarrope, was found to be suffering from Small Pox. He was removed to the Floating Hospital, the whole of the crew revaccinated, the ship ordered into quarantine, and disinfected. The case is reported in full on page 6.

December 4th, at 1 p.m., at Tees Union Wharf, S.S. "Rusland," from Copenhagen. The Chief Engineer was found suffering from Orchitis and a Seaman from contusion of foot. They were prescribed for and allowed to proceed.

December 5th, at 4 p.m., at Williams' Wharf, S.S. "Zoe," from Granton and Aquilas. Ascertained that at Granton one of the crew was found to be suffering from Small Pox and removed to hospital there. Revaccination and disinfection of ship and clothing had been carried out fully. The condition of the vessel was now quite satisfactory.

December 23rd, at Deep Water Buoys, S.S. "Langbank," from the Tyne. Two Lascars were found suffering from Diarrhoea, were prescribed for, and allowed to proceed.

Fourteen ships were thus reported to have sickness on board, or to have had it recently.

Compared with previous years, the following results are obtained:—

1896	...	...	15
1897	...	...	30
1898	...	...	27
1899	...	...	18
1900	...	...	17
1901	...	...	12
1902	...	...	14

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The usual Sanitary inspections have been carried out by Inspector Jefferson, and the following is his statement of the work done during the year :—

Number of Vessels inspected from 1st January to 31st December, 1902 :—

British Steam Ships	2247
British Sailing Ships	141
Foreign Steam Ships	881
Foreign Sailing Ships	127
Total Ships	<u>3396</u>
Extra Visits	131
Total Visits	<u>3527</u>

The Nationalities of the Ships are as follows :—

British Steam Ships	2247
British Sailing Ships	141
Norwegian Steam Ships	286
Norwegian Sailing Ships	45
German Steam Ships	159
German Sailing Ships	2
Spanish Steam Ships	132
Swedish Steam Ships	126
Swedish Sailing Ships	18
Dutch Steam Ships	70
Danish Steam Ships	21
Danish Sailing Ships	33
Russian Steam Ships	25
Russian Sailing Ships	28
Belgian Steam Ships	22
French Steam Ships	13
French Sailing Ships	1
Japanese Steam Ships	25
Austrian Steam Ships	2
Visits	<u>3396</u>
Extra Visits	131
Total Visits	<u>3527</u>

The Structural and other defects observed include the following :—

			NUMBER OF CASES.	REMEDIED UNDER NOTICE.
Dirty Forecastles ...	...	...	13	13
Dirty Forepeaks ...	...	...	4	4
Iron Decks Unlined	...	...	2	1
Dirty Water Closets	...	..	10	10
Defective Ventilation	...	...	7	6
Paints in Fore Locker	...	...	1	1
Total			37	35

Compared with previous years, the following results are obtained :—

		SHIPS WITH DEFECTS, &c.	
YEAR.	ARRIVALS.	NUMBER.	REMEDIED.
1896	3377	95	86
1897	3484	83	76
1898	3003	65	63
1899	3088	55	52
1900	3313	66	63
1901	3321	54	51
1902	3396	37	35

It would appear from these comparative results that the system of inspection carried out by the Authority in the past is having the desired effect, the number of defects discovered this year being less than half what it was in 1896 and 1897.

The Inspector further states that—All beds and bedding which had been in contact with the Small Pox patients were destroyed by fire, as were also quantities of old clothing and old beds taken from ships returning from long foreign voyages.

The Osprey's condenser will be tested and repaired, and the boiler examined and thoroughly cleaned as soon as arrangements can be made for this purpose.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to express my thanks to your Officers for advice and assistance; and particularly to the late Collector, Mr. Hobbins, and to Mr. Sheridan, the present Collector of H. M. Customs, and their Officers for their constant courtesy and prompt assistance in enabling me to visit ships from infected ports, and in other directions.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WATKIN EDWARDS, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

10/27/15