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River Blythe Port Health Authority.

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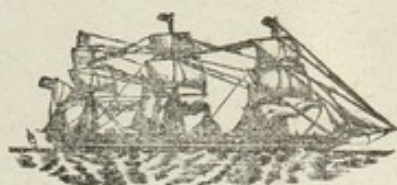
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1925.



RIVER BLYTH

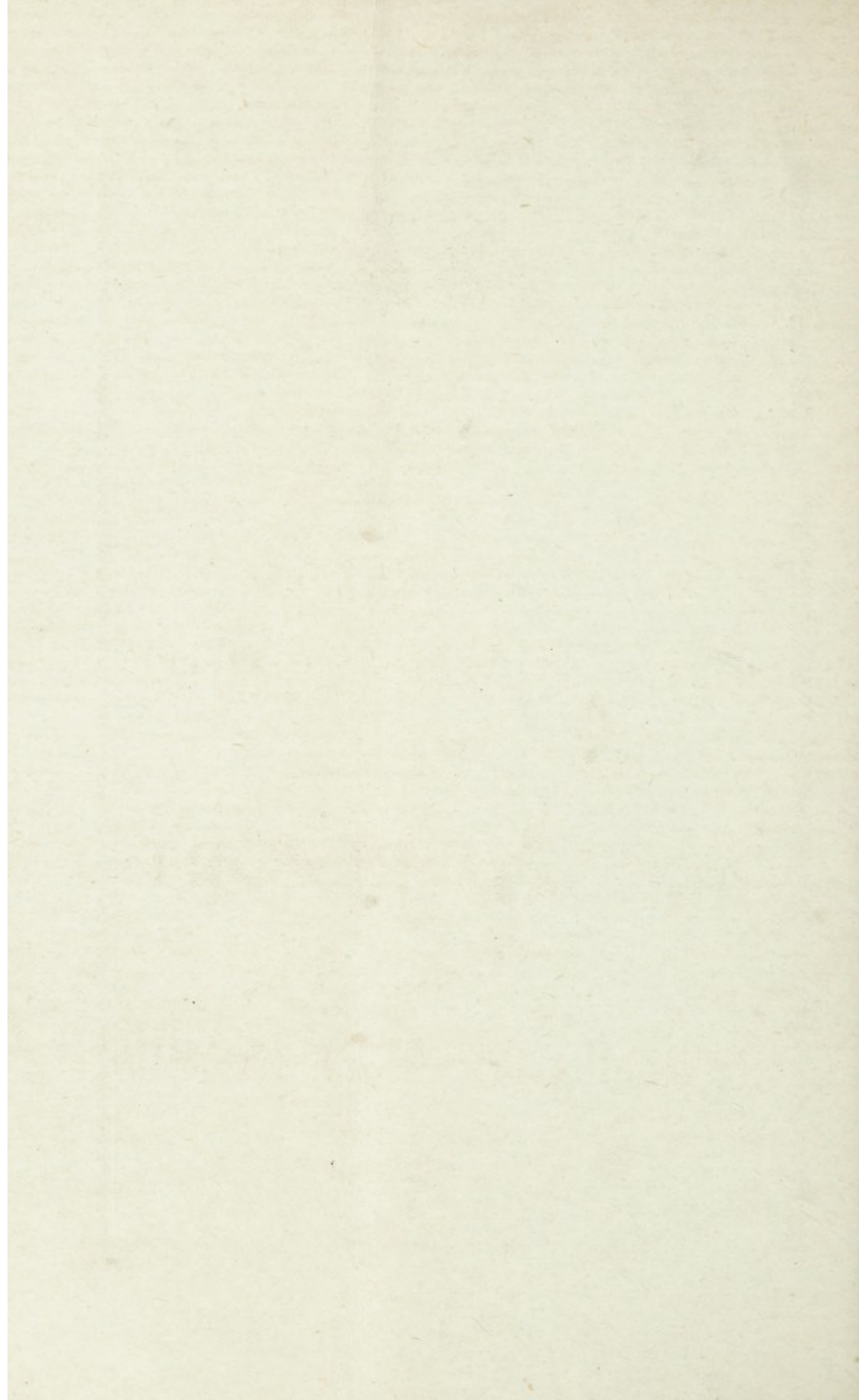
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

PRINTED BY THE BLYTH PRINTING COMPANY, RIDLEY STREET





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River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Chairman	-	Ald. A. A. ASKWITH, J.P.
Ald. J. GOULDING, J.P.		Ald. T. C. BLACKBURN.
Councillor GEO. EMMERSON.		Ald. GEO. E. TYNEMOUTH.
Councillor W. C. ROBSON.		Councillor M. BEAMSON.
Councillor Capt. NAIRN.		Councillor Capt. SEABROOK.
Councillor J. PREACHER.		Councillor JOHN RANDALL.
Councillor H. WHEATLEY.		

Members elected by the Corporation of Blyth.

Messrs. ASKWITH, GOULDING, BLACKBURN, EMMERSON, TYNEMOUTH,
NAIRN, SEABROOK, BEAMSON and ROBSON.

Members elected by the Bedlingtonshire U.D. Council.

Messrs. PREACHER, RANDALL and WHEATLEY.

OFFICIALS.

Port Medical Officer	-	-	Dr. J. M. MacLACHLAN.
Deputy Medical Officer	-	-	Dr. W. I. GORDON.
Sanitary Inspector	-	-	Mr. W. IRVING, A.R.S.I
Rat Catcher	-	-	Mr. CHAPMAN.
Isolation Hospital	-	-	Miss DINGWALL (Matron).
			Miss DAVIES.
Clerk to the Authority	-	-	Mr. JOHN KNOTT.
<hr/>			
Office of Authority	-	-	1, Stanley Street, Blyth.
Office of Health Department	-	-	Wellington House, Blyth

River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

WELLINGTON HOUSE,

BLYTH,

January, 1926.

Mr. Ald. A. A. Askwith, J.P., Chairman and Members of
the Port Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report for the year 1925, comprising returns of the work done by your Sanitary and Hospital Staffs, and the measures adopted for the prevention of the importation of infectious diseases.

The returns of the general sanitary work which was carried out by Inspector Irving show 3569 arrivals in the Port during the year.

Of these arrivals 3541 were inspected, which includes all the important arrivals from foreign ports.

There were no cases of Cholera, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Small Pox during the year, but 1 case each of Measles, Erysipelas, and Dysentery were reported on ships arrival, the patients were promptly removed to Hospital, and the crew's quarters disinfected and fumigated.

There were no further cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN, M.B.

HOSPITAL REPORT.

*Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended
31st December, 1925.*

During 1925 twenty-nine patients have been treated in the Hospital.

The subjoined Table gives particulars of the cases and their issue :—

TABLE I.

Admitted.	Discharged.	Under Treatment 31st Dec.
12 cases Scarlet Fever 6 „ Diphtheria 1 „ Measles 1 „ Erysipelas 2 „ Enteric Fever 1 „ Dysentery 2 „ Enteric Fever 4 „ Scarlet Fever	16 cases Scarlet Fever 6 „ Diphtheria 1 „ Measles 1 „ Erysipelas 4 „ Enteric Fever 1 „ Dysentery { under Treatment 1st January, 1925.	NIL.
29 cases.	29 cases.	

3 Patients were sent in by Port Sanitary Authority.

19 „ „ „ Blyth Corporation.

1 „ „ „ Bedlington U.D. Council.

TABLE II.

Date of Admission.	Disease.	By whom sent	Result.
1925			Discharged
January 3	Scarlet Fever	Corporation of Blyth	February 13
" 10	...	...	" 28
" 19	...	...	" 28
" 19	...	...	" 28
February 4	...	...	March 14
" 28	Diphtheria	...	" 21
March 18	Scarlet Fever	...	April 25
April 9	Measles	Port Sanitary Authority	" 20
" 20	Erysipelas	"	June 6
June 2	Enteric Fever	Bedlington U D. Coun.	" 25
" 10	Diphtheria	Corporation of Blyth	July 7
" 23	Scarlet Fever	...	" 25
July 1	...	...	August 1
August 7	Diphtheria	...	" 29
" 8	Enteric Fever	...	" 26
" 14	Scarlet Fever	...	Sept. 14
Sept. 14	Dysentery	Port Sanitary Authority	" 21
October 26	Scarlet Fever	Corporation of Blyth	December 31
" 28	...	...	" 14
Nov. 5	...	...	" 14
" 7	Diphtheria	...	November 28
" 12	...	...	" 28
" 12	...	...	" 28
Under Treatment 1st Jan. 1925.	Enteric Fever	Corporation of Blyth	
	
	Scarlet Fever	...	
	
	
	

Miss B. DINGWALL, Matron.

Vessels boarded by the Medical Officer of Health.

79 Vessels have been visited by the Medical Officer of Health on account of reported or suspected sickness on board.

The following Table gives the list of vessels boarded during 1925 by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector on account of diseases on board during the voyage, or at the time of arrival in the port or while lying in the harbour.

Date	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Nationality	Where from.	Rating of Sick.	Nature of Sickness.
Jan. 3		Saint Stephen	Clint	Finnish	Obba	Steward	Rheumatism.
" 8				British	Sunderland	Chief Engineer.	Non-infectious
" 9	Jesmond	Heidelberg		British	Tyne	Sailor	Pneumonia left in Hos. at Tyne
" 15				German	London	Fireman	Rheumatism
" 23				Norge	London	Fireman	Diarrhoea
Feb. 3		Solhang	Hafnia	Norge	Antwerp	Sailor	Non-infectious
" 3		Osterland		Dutch	London	Sailor	Gastritis
" 3						Donkeyman	Non-infectious
" 4	M. Petrinovic			Jugo-Slav.	Antwerp	Sailor	Jaundice
" 7		Deerhound		British	Bruges	Chief Officer	Venereal
" 8		Brookside		British	Dieppe	Sailor	Cavarrh
" 9			D.V.A.	Norge	London	Sailor	Accident
" 10	Havmoy			Norge	Moss	Sailor	Accident
" 18		The Viceroy		British	Berwick	Fireman	Asthma
" 19		Emma		German	Grimsby	Sailor	Accident
" 24	Ottawa			Norge	Trapani	Captain, died at Sea	Dementia
March 3	Larriola			Spaniard	Middlesbro	Sailor	Rheumatism
" 15			Hans Broge	Norge	London	Captain	Rheumatism
" 22		Tron		Norge	Tangisvang	Fireman	Venereal
" 25		Rask		Norge	Hull	Sailor	Influenza
" 29			Brookside	British	Plymouth	Steward	Cavarrh

VESSELS BOARDED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Nationality.	Where from.	Rating of Sick	Nature of Sickness.
April 1			Dresden	German	Aberdeen	Engineer	Rheumatism
" 1			"	"	"	Chief Officer	Inflammation of Eye
" 1			"	"	"	Sailor	Poisoned Hand
" 2		Foresthill		British	Haumburgh	Captain	Peritonitis rvd. K. M. Hos.
" 8		Enid Dunford		British	Caen	Sailor	Measles, removed P.S.A. Hos.
" 19			Inger	Norge	Antwerp	Donkeyman	Erysipelas removed P.S.A. Hos.
" 27			Klosterfos	Norge	Manchester	Chief Engineer	Non-infectious
" 28	Gunnel			Swedish	Cardiff	Fireman	Accident
" 28	"			"	"	Sailor	Venereal
" 29			River Hudson	British	Tyne	Sailor	Nettlerash
May 1			G. Ferdinand	German	Antwerp	Fireman	Non-infectious
" 1			G. Ferdinand	German	Antwerp	Fireman	Mumps
" 4		Sarpen		Norge	Sarpsborg	Crew all Examined.	Small Pox Contacts
" 7				British	Hull	Captain	Accident
" 9		Bokn		Norge	Havre	Sailor	Non-infectious
" 22		Edda		Swedish	Trequer	Fireman	Venereal
" 29		Granli		Norge	Middlesbro'	Sailor	Venereal
" 31		Ravensdal		Norge	Lisbon	Sailor	Venereal
" 1	Monica Seed			British	Larne	3 Firemen	Non-infectious
June 1			H. Henschell	German	Hull	Sailor	Venereal
" 7				Norge	Stronsay	Sailor	Non-infectious
" 20	Galatia			Norge	Leith	Sailor	Accident
" 25		Nemo		Swedish	Antwerp	Sailor	Non-infectious
" 26		Gottfrid		Swedish	Poole	Steward	Pleurisy
" 29	Amazon			Norge	London	Donkeyman	Accident
July 4	Jernland			British	Rouen	Cook	Accident
" 6	Wild Rose			Finnish	Viborg	Boat wain.	Non-infectious
" 8		Imatria		Norge	Southampton	Sailor	Gonorrhoea
" 17		Nor		Swedish	London	Chief Officer	Non-infectious
" 19	Excelsior			Norge	Newport	Fireman	Non-infectious
" 19	Audax			German	Grimsby	Sailor	Venereal
" 23	Torreador			Dutch	Brunsbottill	Chief Officer	Accident
" 24	St. Annaland			British	Ghent	Second Officer	Mental derangement
" 12	Topaz		Newton Hall	British	Genoe	Fireman	Removed to K. M. Hospital
" 13			Caroline	Esthonian	Sharpness	Sailor	Catarrh
" 26							

VESSELS BOARDED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Date.	On Voyage.	On Arrival.	In Port.	Nationality.	Where from.	Rating of Sick.	Nature of Sickness
Sept. 3			Genoa	German	Rendsburgh	2nd Engineer	Neurasthenia
" 4			Greenwich	British	Antwerp	Sailor	Accidentally drowned
" 7			Jugo-Slavia	Jugo Slav	Portland	Fireman	Dysentery, rem P.S.A.H
" 13		Ester		Swedish	Cardiff	Sailor	Venereal
" 13		" Izgled		"	"	Fireman	Non-infectious
" 13		"		Jugo-Slav	Rouen	Sailor	Accident
" 30		Nordefiell		"	"	Fireman	Catarrh
" 30		"		Norge	Rotterdam	Cook	Accident
Oct. 2	Argo			"	"	Fireman	Rheumatism
" 3	Estrid			Norge	Hamburgh	Sailor	Accident
" 6	Clydeburn			Danish	London	Chief Officer	Accident
" 8		Regal		British	London	Chief Engineer	Accident
" 9	Stern			Norge	Gravelines	Sailor	Venereal
" 16	Faro			"	Ghent	Sailor	Accident
" 18		Brynmere		Danish	Rotterdam	Chief Officer	Accident
" 30		Bera		British	Hartlepool	Wireless Operator	Fatal Accident
" 30		"		Norge	Ghent	Chief Officer	Inflammation of Bladder
Nov. 10	Jernland			"	"	Second Officer	Accident
" 12		Spigerborg		"	Antwerp	Donkeyman	Accident
" 12	Fofo			Danish	Rotterdam	Sailor	Non-infectious
" 12	Hill			Greek	Leith	Sailor	Burns
" 12				Norge	Middlesbro	Fireman	Non-infectious
" 27	Gripfast			British	Drammen	Chief Engineer	Died on Voyage out
" 28		S. Philipsland		Dutch	Copenhagen	Sailor	Rheumatism
Dec. 2		Sten		Norge	Rotterdam	Sailor	Accident
" 10		Garibaldi		"	Skive	Sailor	Diarrhoea
" 10		"		"	"	Donkeyman	Ulcerated Stomach
" 13		Kurland		Danish	Bremen	Chief Officer	Non-infectious
" 13		"		"	"	Sailor	"
" 19	Wild Rose			British	Cowes	Fireman	Accident
" 21	A Goolandris			Greek	Hull	Sailor	Catarrh
" 25			Skipjack	British	Plymouth	Chief Engineer	Fatal Accident
" 27		Hale		Norge	Sundvaal	Chief Officer	Catarrh

A most systematic careful inspection and examination is made on all vessels arriving in the harbour by your Sanitary Staff. During the year 3567 vessels (including 346 fishing craft) arrived in the river, and of that number 3541 were inspected. With the exception of 3 cases of infectious diseases (Measles, Erysipelas and Dysentery) the other ailments were of a non-infectious character. These patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the crews quarters thoroughly fumigated and disinfected.

The total Registered Tonnage of the vessels arriving was 1,964,522 tons, and the crews numbered 51,846.

In addition to the usual routine inspection 79 vessels were visited for reported cases of sickness on board, while 255 special visits were made by your Sanitary Inspector for sickness, sanitation and rat inspection.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

This is infinitesimal, only some 62 persons being landed during the year, the majority being wives and children of the officers of the ships.

REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD ACT.

No action was taken during the year, all ships arriving empty for cargo.

ADVICE AS TO SICKNESS.

On shipboard and other matters continue to be received and forwarded to the Health Departments of other British Port Sanitary Authorities, while the information, regarding Infectious Diseases existing in foreign countries in the weekly returns as sent by the Ministry of Health to all Port Sanitary Authorities is most helpful to your Sanitary Staff.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The facilities for the free treatment of Venereal Diseases are pointed out to the Masters of ships on being inspected after their arrival in the river. Leaflets for seamen giving information on the dangers of these diseases and the facilities for treatment are distributed to the crews by the Inspector.

FISHING BOATS.

Only one local owned Trawler has regularly sailed out and in from the harbour, while 346 fishing craft have made the Port either for bunkers or through stress of weather.

REGULATIONS.

Copies of Regulations have been posted on prominent places on the Quayside.

WATER BOATS.

One Water Boat is in commission which is in good condition. The water supply to the ships is principally drawn from the mains on the Quayside

CLOTHING AND BEDDING.

The living quarters in 10 ships were reported to be verminous, these, with the clothing, etc., were satisfactory dealt with.

THE MORTUARY.

The fencing round the building has been repaired, while the mortuary itself has been repainted.

DISINFECTING STATION.

No progress has been made with the erection of a cleansing and disinfecting station.

CHOLERA AND PLAGUE.

No cases of Cholera, Plague, Typhus Fever or Small Pox has occurred in the Port during the year 1925.

Structural and Sanitary Defects are dealt with in the Inspector's Report attached. The orders given were fully complied with to our satisfaction on written or verbal notice.

TRADE OF THE PORT.

The main trade of the Port is the export of coal and include the following countries: - Baltic, Scandinavian and Mediterranean Ports, France, South America and India, Coastwise.

4,425,332 tons of coal were exported during the year.

IMPORTS.

Timber (mining) 9804 loads from Scotland and Baltic Ports.

Timber (other kinds), 5660 loads from Scandinavian and Baltic Ports.

Cement, 15618 tons from France and Coastwise.

Roofing Tiles, 2971 tons from France.

There were also a few cargoes of slates, iron joists, oil and asphalt.

THE STAITHS.

Much progress has been made with the New Staiths in the upper reaches of the river, and when in operation, the trade of the river in a larger export of coal should be greatly increased.

Attached is the Sanitary Inspector and Rat Catcher's Report for 1925, and I have again to express my high appreciation of the efficient manner in which your Sanitary and Hospital Staff have carried out their duties during the year.

I have also to accord our thanks for the very valuable assistance given by H M. Collector of Customs and his Staff, the Harbour Commissioners Staff and Harbour Master and the Pilots, all of whose services have been highly appreciated by your Officials.

Copies of this Report will be sent to the Ministry of Health and the Northumberland County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M MacLACHLAN,

Medical Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
10 LOW QUAY,
BLYTH,

December 31st, 1925.

To the Medical Officer of Health, Blyth Port Sanitary Authority—

SIR,

I most respectfully submit to you the following report of Sanitary work carried out during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

TABLE OF VESSELS ARRIVED.

	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Totals.
British Steam	424	1375	1799
" Motor	1	17	18
" Sailing	1	33	34
Foreign Steam	729	590	1319
" Motor	7	23	30
" Sailing	10	13	23
Fishing Vessels	8	338	346
			<hr/> 3569

Tonnage of Vessels arriving in Blyth for breaking up purposes are not included in the following :—

Registered Tonnage of Vessels arriving	...	1,947,248
" " Fishing Vessels	...	15,917
		<hr/> 1963165
Crews of Vessels examined—		Totals.
Coastwise 27,676. Foreign 20950.	... ..	48,626
Fishing Vessels ... ..	... ..	3,220
		<hr/> 51,846

Passengers landed at Blyth :—British 50. Alien 12. Total 62.

The chief imports for the year have been Timber and Cement, with small quantity of Grain and Cattle feeding cake.

One Trawler owned in the Port of Blyth has landed small quantities of fish which have been sold on the Quayside.

Other fishing vessels have put in for refuge or called for Bunkers.

Form A.

Amount of Shipping entering Blyth Port Sanitary District
during 1925.

Vessels.	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number Reported Defective	Number of Orders issued	
			By the Sanitary Inspector	By the Medical Officer of Health.		Stat.	Other Orders
Foreign Steamers	1153	969890	1150	33	96	Nil.	96
„ Motors	8	3519	8	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
„ Sailing	11	1280	11	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
„ Fishing	8	946	7	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total...Foreign	1180	975735	1176	33	96	Nil.	96
Coastwise Steamers	1965	950269	1942	15	100	Nil.	100
„ Motors	40	12415	39	—	1	Nil.	1
„ Sailing	46	9775	46	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
„ Fishing	338	14971	338	—	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total Coastwise ...	2389	987430	2365	15	101	Nil.	101
TOTAL... Foreign & Coastwise	3569	1963165	3541	48	197	Nil.	197

255 Special Visits have been paid to vessels through Sickness, Sanitation, and Rat Inspection.

Correspondence continues to be received and forwarded to the Health Departments of other British Port Sanitary Authorities in relation to Sickness or Sanitation on vessels.

Lists of Infected Ports are sent regularly to H.M. Customs and the Pilots. The following is a copy of the form which is filled in from the "Weekly Record of Infectious Diseases at Ports, etc., at Home and Abroad," issued by the Ministry of Health.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Telephone Nos.—Medical Officer's Residence, 129. Wellington House, 300.

Inspector's Office, 151

Inspector's Address—Westmore House, Wensleydale Terrace, Blyth.

RIVER BLYTH PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.**PRECAUTIONS**

AGAINST THE

Introduction of Cholera, Small Pox, Plague, Yellow Fever
and Typhus Fever.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

INFECTED AND SUSPECTED PORTS.

The undermentioned may be considered Infected or suspicious Ports, and in order to guard against the introduction of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox, or Typhus Fever into the Port of Blyth the arrival of vessels therefrom should be immediately notified to the Medical Officer of Health, so that the crew and passengers (if any) may be medically inspected.

PLAGUE.—

CHOLERA.—

YELLOW FEVER.—

SMALL POX.—

TYPHUS FEVER.—

Until further notice from me in writing, any vessel leaving any of those Ports on and after _____ may on arrival at Blyth be detained by any officer of Customs for examination by the Medical Officer of Health.

As far as I am aware the Ports mentioned in my last letter, and not included in the above list, are free from Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and Typhus Fever.

In order to avoid delay and to conform with the regulations of the Ministry of Health, the names and addresses of the Passengers, and any of the crew if being paid off, should be in readiness for the use of the Medical Officer of Health. The necessary gangway or ladder should also be in readiness on arrival in order to facilitate the inspection of the vessel. The dates of arrival at and departure from Ports, during the course of voyage, should also be provided. The Medical Officer of Health also requests that the probable date of arrival of vessels should be notified by Owners or Agents to him.

Issued by the River Blyth Port Sanitary Authority.

J. M. MacLAHLAN, M.B., & Co.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The following vessels have been fumigated after having Infectious Disease on board or for Rat Infestation.

Name of Vessel.	Where from.	Reason for Fumigation.
S.S. Enid Dunford	Caen	Infectious Disease.
„ Inger	Antwerp	„ „
„ Newton Hall	Genoa	„ „
„ Ariadne Alexandria	London	Rat Infestation & Vermin
„ Jugo Slav	Alexandria via Portland.	Infectious Disease.

The names and addresses of members of crews arriving at Blyth from Infected or Suspected ports and paying off are sent on to the Medical Officer of Health at their respective destinations.

10 Vessels have been found having Vermin in living quarters. These have been chiefly dealt with by spray with Solution.

1 Vessel had to have all wood cleading removed and was fumigated and thoroughly cleaned out before the cleading was renewed.

Only one water boat has been supplying water to vessels during the year and this has been kept in good condition.

The water is mostly supplied direct from the mains. In the near future the new staiths at the Cambois Dock will be opened for shipping coal, and vessels loading there will have to take their supply of water from the Water boats until the mains are carried along to the loading berths.

The fencing at the Mortuary has been repaired, and all wood-work received two coats of paint, and the iron-work one coat. It is now in good condition and should last a considerable time.

Number of Vessels found having Structural or Sanitary Defects.

	Structural Arrangements.		Sanitary Defects.		Total.
	Foreign.	Coastwise.	Foreign.	Coastwise.	
British Steam	17	21	24	45	107
British Motors	—	—	—	—	Nil
Foreign Steam	9	5	46	29	89
Foreign Motors	—	—	—	1	1
					197

Defects in above have been attended to as follows :—

	Work completed.	Work in hand.	Totals.
Forecasts cleaned out ...	67	...	67
Water Closets washed out...	12	...	12
Damage to W.C discharge pipe repaired	2	...	2
W C discharge pipe blocked	3	...	3
5 wooden Seats provided for W.C's	3	...	3
Foul water standing on W.C. floor removed	1	...	1
Door to W C. repaired	2	...	2
Bilges cleaned out after fish or grain cargoes	4	...	4
Fresh Water tanks cleaned and cemented	5	...	5
Tanks emptied of water and refilled at Blyth	1	...	1
Defective Water Cask removed, new cask secured	1	...	1
Broken Pan in W.C renewed	1	...	1
Forecasts repainted	15	...	15
Forecastle door repaired	3	...	3
Lock and fastener secured for Forecastle door	1	...	1
Forecastle cleaded out with wood	2	...	2
Defective Bogies in Forecastle renewed	2	...	2
11 New Bogie funnels secured	8	...	8
Food Lockers in forecastle repaired	1	...	1
Stale Bread removed from lockers	1	...	1
New Tables secured for Forecastle	2	...	2
Dirty Galleys cleaned out	4	...	4
Dirty Messrooms cleaned out	1	...	1
Dirty Poultry run cleaned out	1	...	1
Foul water removed from Fore peaks	3	...	3
Foul water removed from Washroom	2	...	2
Washroom door repaired	2	...	2
35 Defective ports repaired	16	3	19
Holds washed out after cargoes of fish	5	...	5
2 dilapidated beds in bad condition destroyed	1	...	1
23 Old Beds burned	2	...	2
Deck leaking into berth, caulked	4	1	5
Waste Food on deck removed	3	...	3
Strips gear removed from forecastle	1	...	1
Leakage from fore tank into forecastle repaired	1	...	1
W.C's discharged on to Quay causing nuisance, washed down	10	...	10
	193	4	197

Vessels arriving from Infected or Suspected Ports.

The following Table shows the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Sanitary Authority, on account of coming directly or otherwise from Foreign Ports infected, or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus Fever.

Months 1925	From Infected Ports		From Suspected Ports.		Totals.
	Direct to Blyth.	To Blyth indirectly.	Direct to Blyth	To Blyth indirectly.	
January	...	3	...	4	7
February	...	...	...	2	2
March	...	6	...	...	6
April	...	3	...	5	8
May	1	7	1	1	10
June	1	4	...	...	5
July	...	2	...	3	5
August	...	1	1	2	4
September	...	1	...	7	8
October	1	...	...	2	3
November	...	4	...	3	7
December	...	2	1	4	7
					72

The above Vessels arriving at Blyth have come directly or indirectly from the following Ports:—

Novorissisk	...	...	...	3
Leningrad	...	...	...	2
Archangel	...	...	...	3
Braila	...	...	...	2
Port Said	...	...	...	1
Spanish Ports	...	...	...	28
Bathurst	...	...	...	3
San Domingo	...	...	...	1
North African Ports	...	...	...	4
Rangoon	...	...	...	1
Senegal	...	...	...	4
Aquila	...	...	...	1
Alexandria	...	...	...	5
Piraeus	...	...	...	2
Marseilles	...	...	...	1
Dakar	...	...	...	2
Lisbon	...	...	...	1
Oran	...	...	...	1
Obi	...	...	...	1
Tunis	...	...	...	1
Cuba	...	...	...	1
Java	...	...	...	1
Casablanca	...	...	...	1
Mariopol	...	...	...	1
Odessa	...	...	...	1
				72

NATIONALITIES OF VESSELS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF BLYTH, 1925.

British ...	...	...	...	1852
Norwegian	...	...	...	562
Swedish	...	...	...	165
Danish	...	...	...	176
French	...	...	...	59
Belgian	...	...	...	34
German	...	...	...	176
Dutch	...	...	...	78
Greek	...	...	...	10
Finnish	...	...	...	16
Esthonian	...	...	...	8
Russian	...	...	...	8
Spanish	...	...	...	16
Italian	...	...	...	2
Danzig Free State	...	...	...	17
Jugo Slavian	...	...	...	9
Memel Free State	...	...	...	3
Latvian	...	...	...	30
Lithuanian	...	...	...	1
Roumanian	...	..	...	1
				<hr/>
				3223
				<hr/>

Rats and Mice (Destruction Act) 1920.

607 Rats were caught on 23 vessels and destroyed in the ships furnaces during the year 1925.

The following instructions to Ship's Captains have been printed on cards and are presented to the Officer-in-charge of each vessel inspected by your Staff.

BLYTH PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION ACT) 1920.

This Act came into operation on 1st January, 1920.

PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO DESTROY RATS AND MICE.

Any person who shall fail to take such steps as may from time to time be necessary and reasonably practicable for the destruction of rats and mice on or in any land of which he is the Occupier, or for preventing such land from becoming infested with rats and mice, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding **Five Pounds**, or where he has been served with a Notice under this Act requiring him to take such steps, not exceeding **Twenty Pounds**.

The expression "Occupier" means, in the case of land not occupied by any Tenant or other person, the Owner of the land.

The expression "Land" includes any buildings, and any other erection on land, and any cellar, sewer, drain or culvert in or under land.

This Act shall apply to a Vessel as if the Vessel were "Land" and the Master of the Vessel shall be deemed to be the "Occupier" thereof.

Nothing in this Act contravenes the powers possessed by the Port Sanitary Authority to deal with rats as a preventive measure against infectious diseases under which obstruction to an Officer of the Authority involves a penalty not exceeding £100, with an additional £50 for each day the obstruction continues.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH RATS ON SHIPBOARD.

The most effective method for destroying rats on shipboard is by fumigation with Sulphur Dioxide gas, and this method will be insisted upon when a vessel is considered to be definitely infested.

To prevent a vessel becoming infested it is essential that arrangements should be made for systematic trapping every time a vessel is in port; whilst at sea, the use of traps should be continued, or baits, treated with Barium Carbonate and Squills, prepared and laid. Proprietary preparations of the latter can be purchased along with full directions respecting use.

Ship's stores and gear should be moved periodically to counteract harbouring ; refuse, excepting ashes, should not be allowed to accumulate on deck when in port. Galley refuse and old bedding should be burnt and must not be thrown overboard.

Rat Guards must be fixed on the mooring ropes of all vessels from 'Infected' Ports, and it is strongly recommended that other vessels adopt this precaution. Gangways should be efficiently lighted at night.

The keeping of cats on board ship is recommended.

Trapped rats must be drowned and then burnt.

No rats must be taken outside the dock gates either dead or alive.

Reliable rat catchers will be authorised by the Port Sanitary Authority, and as a condition of such authorisation will be required to produce certificates signed by an officer in charge to the effect that rats trapped by them have been satisfactorily destroyed.

It is **not** advisable to directly handle dead rats ; they should be lifted on a shovel and thrown into a boiler furnace.

Any increase in the number of rats seen on a ship, or the finding of a succession of dead rats should be **immediately reported** to the Port Medical Officer.

Any further information respecting the obligations under the Act may be obtained on application at the Offices of the Authority.

J. M. MACLACHLAN, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Reports of Inspections and Work Done under the "Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919."

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

Form C.

Particulars relating to Vessels "Infected" or "Suspected," or from Infected Ports.

Name of Vessel.	Date of Arrival.	Whether Infected or Suspected, or from an Infected Port.	Methods of Rat Destruction employed.			Number of Rats killed	Whether a Certificate of Deratization was issued.	Remarks.
			Fumigation by S.O. 2.	Fumigated by H.C.N	Trapping, Poisoning, etc.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
s.s. Marija Racie	May 9th.	Infected Port.			Trapping.	87	Yes.	
s.s. Inzaleran	June 20th.	Infected Port			Trapping.	39	Yes.	
s.s. Ariadne Alexandria	Sept. 11th.	Infected Port	Fumigated.		Fumigated by S.O. 2.	22	Yes.	Results have been Negative in all of Rats sent for Bacteriological examination.
s.s. Intaba	Oct. 13th.	Infected Port			Trapping.	37	Yes.	

Form D.

Vessels (other than those dealt with in Form C) subjected to measures of Rat Destruction.

No. of Vessels fumigated by S.O. 2.	Number of Rats killed.	Number of Vessels fumigated by H.C.N.	Number of Rats killed.	Number of Vessels on which trapping, etc. was employed.	Number of Rats killed.	Number of fumigation Certificates issued on Form "Port 10."	Number of other Certificates issued.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	19	422	Nil	21	Six Certificates were issued to Captains after their vessels were searched and no trace of Rats or Mice found.

Form B.

RATS DESTROYED IN 1925.

Number of Rats.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Black Rats	43	4	Nil	12	87	39	82	61	91	37	90	37	583
Brown Rats	Nil	Nil	"	Nil	Nil	23	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	24
Rats examined	"	"	"	"	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	10
Rats infected with Plague	"	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rats not infected	43	4	"	12	87	62	82	61	91	37	91	37	607
Poison baits laid	Nil	Nil	24	Nil	550	120	Nil	Nil	Nil	20	2980	50	3744

The decreasing number of Rats found on vessels proves that the work of Port Sanitary Authorities is producing the desired result.

Not only at home but abroad active work is being carried out by the various Port Sanitary Authorities, as the following list of places and numbers of vessels coming therefrom which I found had been deratized before coming to Blyth indicates.

Number of Vessels.	Port where action was taken.	Means used.
4	Alexandria	S.O.2.
1	Savona	"
1	Naples	"
1	Aquila	"
1	Constanza	"
3	Piraeus	"
25	Spanish Ports	"
2	Havre	"
2	Marseilles	"
1	Dieppe	"
2	Dunkirk	"
2	Bordeaux	"
4	Hamburg	"
1	"	Poison
1	Bremen	H.C.N.
1	Stettin	S.O. 2.
1	Flensburg	"
1	Ursiviskis	"
1	Gothenborg	H.C.N.
1	Oslo	S.O. 2.
1	Copenhagen	"
1	Odense	"
1	Leningrad	"
2	Archangel	"
1	Norfolk Virginia	"
3	Philadelphia	H.C.N.
1	New Orleans	S.O. 2.
1	Portland Main	"
1	Montreal	H.C.N.
1	New York	"
1	Santos	S O 2.
1	Bathurst-Gambia	"
1	Java	"
1	Cuba	"
1	Manilla	"
1	London	"
1	Hull	Traps
2	Tyne	"
1	Middlesbro	"
2	Leith	H.C.N.
1	Grangemouth	S.O. 2.

The Official Ratcatcher has made 2889 visits to vessels and premises in the execution of his duties. He assists me in searching vessels as they arrive in Port and also does fumigation or other work as required.

No dead rats have been found and only in one instance was a rat caught having any indication of disease. This was sent for Bacteriological examination, but the result was negative.

One Captain, on whom notice was served, brought his own ratcatcher from the Tyne, and the work was done under our supervision.

6 Certificates have been issued to Captains after their vessels had been searched and no indications of Rats or Mice found.

The constant searching of vessels for rats keeps before Captains and Officers the need of keeping vessels clear. There is a growing sense of the undesirability of harbouring rats from the hygienic as well as from the economic point of view. This is no doubt due to the efforts of the Ministry of Health, responsible authorities and also to the publicity given by the press.

Special posters are kept in prominent positions along the Docks and Riverside drawing the attention of all concerned to the requirements of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and also giving information as to means to be employed for rat destruction.

We have frequent inquiries from business and other people about Rats and Mice, and it is always our endeavour to give all the information and help we can.

RAT WEEK.

Special efforts were made to secure the co-operation of as many as possible in declaring war upon the rats during Rat Week. I conferred with the Borough Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Redpath, and we have given help to each other in our work, whenever possible. Letters were sent the week previous to all firms having business premises on the river side. These I followed up by a personal visit giving advice and help so that as many rats might be destroyed as possible. I find great benefit arising from the previous correspondence. Those written to being ready and willing to do their share in the work.

Rat Week is a general reminder to all, and makes a wide appeal to Owners and Occupiers on this special subject. The results of Rat Week are beneficial not only for that special time, but also for the efforts that are made by firms at other periods of the year whenever the rats appear in increased numbers. These increasing efforts owe much to the publicity given to the subject during Rat Week. The success of the poisoning methods we adopted for rat week is proving itself by the remarks made by those working on the Quayside that they seldom see rats running about now.

The discharging of sewers and drains into the river and the close proximity of old property to the river side make it difficult to free it entirely from the rats.

I desire to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Port Sanitary Authority for making it possible for me to attend the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Edinburgh in July to read my paper on "Some Aspects of the Rat Problem." The aspects I dealt with were :—

- (1) General public apathy and its causes
- (2) The Rats power of propagation.
- (3) The Cautiousness of the Rat arising from fear.

The paper was well received and I hope the points raised may have created a deepened interest as well as a more intelligent grasp of the subject which will result in greater efficiency in dealing with the rat problem.

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM IRVING, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Port Sanitary Inspector, Executive Officer, A.R.S.I., R.M.D.A., 1919.



