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Contributors

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PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF WORKINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1942,
BY ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D. D.P.H.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. A. Cape (Chairman).

Mr. A. V. Cattrell.
Mr. H. R. Clucas.
Mr. S. Cowin.
Mr. S. Walker.
Mr. E. Davies.

Mr. W. A. Palmer.
Mr. J. Poole.
Mr. W. G. Taylor.
Mr. H. Rule.

Mr. John R. Cockfield. Clerk to the Authority.
R. W. Macpherson, M.D., D.P.H. Port Medical Officer.
R. E. Fletcher, M.B., Ch.B. Deputy Port Medical Officer.
(On Active Service since 13th June, 1942).
T. T. Graham, M.B., Ch.B. Temp. Deputy Port Medical Officer.
(Appointed - 18th June, 1942).
R. James, M.R.S.I. Sanitary Inspector.
S. M. Carruthers, A.R.S.I. Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,
Workington.

10th March, 1943.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the year 1942 has been prepared and modified in accordance with Circulars 1937 and 2768 of the Ministry of Health, dated 11th January, 1940, and 15th February, 1943, respectively, with a view to avoiding as far as possible disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, etc. Furthermore, in view of the present emergency the Minister suggests that the Report should not be published, a small number of copies being re-produced for the necessary minimum circulation to the Authority and the Ministry.

1. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year.

	By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanit- ary Inspector.	No. re- ported to be defect- ive.	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of vessels reported as hav- ing, or having had during the voyage in- fectious disease on board.
Vessels Inspected	52	549	64	59	3

2. Water Supply.

This service remains the same as previously described.

3. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

The existing arrangements have continued to work smoothly. On

(Cont.....)

three occasions the Masters of vessels reported suspected cases of infectious diseases during the voyage, but upon examination nothing of an infectious character was diagnosed.

Medical attention was also given to thirty-five seamen for various complaints, viz:- 14 venereal diseases; 8 injuries; 7 post malaria; 3 scabies; 1 appendicitis; 1 jaundice and 1 gastric trouble. Five cases were removed to the Local Infirmary for treatment.

In addition to the fourteen diagnosed cases of venereal disease, cards were issued to a number of presumably affected seamen for free treatment at one of the County Council Clinics. I doubt, however, whether any availed themselves of this treatment owing to distance, but a number received treatment privately from Local Practitioners.

The members of the Committee are aware that the matter of providing treatment for venereal diseases locally has been under discussion by the County Council, but so far no arrangements have been made.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circulars 2642 and 2662, strict supervision has been maintained at the Port due to the occurrence of Typhus Fever and Smallpox, both abroad and in the British Isles.

4. Measures against Rodents.

During the year (June) the Ministry of Health approved of the recognition of the Port for the issue of Deratisation Certificates, and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Jones) received a course of instruction in the work under the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

Three Exemption Certificates were issued, but owing to the condition of the harbour foreign traffic was reduced to a minimum. However, when conditions are restored to normal and Certificates are required, shipowners will be saved much inconvenience now that the Port has been approved for this purpose.

All vessels are carefully examined for the presence of rats, and on one occasion only was it necessary to require rat guards fixing to mooring ropes as a precautionary measure. The nature of cargoes does not encourage rat breeding, and, generally, ships, harbour and stores have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

5. Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	447	-	56	71
Other Nations	102	-	8	11

During the year 47 vessels were found to be verminous, and disinfection work was carried out by this authority on 19 occasions; the remedial measures in the remainder being carried out by the crews under supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

I must record my appreciation to H.M. Customs and Harbour Officials, for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer to the Authority.