

104. *Portland.*--From inquiries made through the Captain-in-Charge at Portland, it appears that although it might be practicable to obtain land in the vicinity of the Fleet River which, after proper drainage, might prove suitable, the facilities for boating would be altogether inadequate. The Fleet River is stated to be much shallower than shown in the Admiralty chart, probably having silted up in recent years. At low water it is only navigable at all states of the tide by flat-bottomed boats with local knowledge. The Coastguard at Fleet reported that it would be navigable for service boats for two hours each side of high water. The tide in the Fleet is strong; abreast the South-Eastern measured mile beacon, it was running, at the time of inspection, three knots at half tide Neaps and an hour later, abreast the North-Western Beacon, fully two knots. The East part of the Fleet is therefore considered unsuitable as a site for a Boys' Training Establishment. The Western part is considered somewhat too far from a base to be suitable for the purpose. There is no suitable land available in Portland on the mainland, and the land in the vicinity of Whitehead Works on the western side of the road is occupied by the local Urban Hospital for Infectious Diseases.