

EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.

To the Board of Directors of the Halifax Dispensary :

GENTLEMEN,—During the past year ending Dec 31st, 175 patients have been under my care ; 130 of the eye, and 45 of the ear. In the previous year there were 176 in a period of 13 months, the time embraced by the report of that year.

The great majority of these were cured, some were improved, and a few received no benefit from treatment. As the advantages of the Dispensary become better known the proportion which the latter class bears to the first is smaller each year. The average length of attendance on the part of each patient becomes less also, from the fact that recent or acute cases require less time than those which are chronic. There are two classes of people who should be better informed as to the objects of the Dispensary. Those who are really poor need have no hesitation in applying for treatment, any who are of this class should not allow foolish pride to stand in the way. But any who can afford to pay need not apply.

The attendance has been very regular, as a rule, and I have rarely had any reason to find fault with any of the patients. Although the year's service involved a good deal of labor, it affords me much satisfaction to know that the services rendered have been generally appreciated.

Of the incurable cases two only are really blind ; one of them, a sailor from the country, received no treatment. He was unfortunately at sea when prompt and vigorous treatment would have arrested his disease and preserved his sight ; but when I saw him no remedies could possibly benefit him. The other was sent by a lady who has on former occasions given substantial proof of her interest in the institution. He had a progressive disease of his eyes (atrophy of both optic nerves), which rendered him nearly blind when he came to see me, and I gave him a very