

Secretary's Report.

In November, 1886, some friends interested in homœopathy and desirous of benefiting the poor of this city, decided to open a free dispensary. This was accordingly done early in 1887.

The dispensary was voluntarily attended by the homœopathic physicians of Toronto, but it was felt that the requirements of the sick poor were only partially met by free advice and medicine. Cases were continually presenting themselves requiring hospital treatment, but there were no means of giving hospital care to such patients where they could receive homœopathic treatment. Homœopathic physicians were excluded from visiting or treating patients in the Toronto General Hospital and in all other hospitals in Toronto, and there was no homœopathic institution in existence.

It soon became obvious to all who were aware of the working of the dispensary and of the conditions of homœopathic practice in the city of Toronto, that a hospital accessible to homœopathic practitioners, and where students could be taught and nurses trained, was a necessary corollary to a homœopathic dispensary.

It was not long before those interested decided to put these views into practical shape, and on January 7th, 1890, a public meeting was held, His Honor Judge MacDougall in the chair, when it was decided to enlarge the scope of the work, and to organize a homœopathic hospital, which was subsequently incorporated under the name of the Homœopathic Hospital and Free Dispensary Association.

A beginning was made in a small way in a house on Richmond Street west, rented for the purpose, where eight beds were provided for general patients, with one private ward generously furnished by a member of the Board.

It was, however, soon found that this was entirely inadequate, and so in April following, it was decided to purchase the property on the north-east corner of Jarvis and Shuter streets at the sum of \$13,000. This was rendered possible by the kind assistance of several friends of the cause, who came forward to assist the Board in the liability incurred for the purchase. Much had to be done to render the building suitable for the reception of patients, and a large expense was necessarily incurred, which still hampers the Board in furthering the work of the Hospital.