

were—suppresses those personal emotions of pity and sympathy or philanthropy which the sight and sounds of pain and poverty call forth. Nevertheless the Dispensary affords to a very large class of our poor people the means of obtaining, gratis, the benefits of skilful treatment and reliable prescriptions whenever and wherever needed. The closing of the Dispensary would deprive that afflicted class of its essential benefits and subject them to serious loss; and they would be driven to resort to private solicitations for relief, which many would regard as troublesome and to be avoided. Wherefore, Good Public, please to respond more liberally and unanimously to the Directors' annual appeal distributed in Church pews on "Dispensary Sunday." It comes round only once a year.

CONTRIBUTIONS DECLINING.

The Board views with great regret the yearly reduction of contributions from that once very satisfactory plan. Nearly 7,000 of those little reminders were issued stating positive facts and if the average response was 25 cents, it would be sufficient to enable the Board to sustain the Institution, and the private subscriptions now falling off, would meet emergencies. The plan adopted in Dispensaries in the United States, of asking each patient to pay 5 cents for prescriptions has been suggested to the Board, but does not commend itself to the favorable consideration of the Directors at present.

EXTENT OF THE WORK.

The general summary of the physicians, among other figures gives the total number of Patients as 3,404; the number of attendance 7,310, and the number of prescriptions 10,277. Prescriptions for other charitable requirements are still granted when desired by City Physicians. These amounted this year to 485.

THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The number of applicants for positions on the active medical staff for 1899 was greater than usual and some changes have been made in its personnel. Dr. Ternan resigned, and Dr. Hattie was appointed to the position of Superintendent of the Hospital for Insane, making two vacancies to be filled. The Board selected two other gentlemen for the City, and Dr. Gossip for Dartmouth. The retiring physicians have the good will of the Directors, and full appreciation for their valuable services while on the Staff.

There is nothing further to mention than to tender thanks to all friends of the Dispensary, especially to those, who for so many years have given continued support and co-operation. In this connection counting the City Press.

W. C. SILVER, *President.*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*