

tangible response, but a few have signified their intention to do so, and the Directors' hope that all the others will do likewise. The individual subscriptions have also been less. As respects the Dispensary, a contracted income means several undesirable effects in any year, such as the reduction of the medical staff, the curtailment of prescriptions, the limitation of the number of beneficiaries now so liberally and carefully treated at the Dispensary and in their homes.

SANGUINE EXPECTATIONS AND A SUGGESTION.

But the Directors' are averse to a pessimistic view of this matter and trust that the citizens of Halifax, usually so generous in sustaining whatever is necessary for the general good, will not hereafter be unwilling to give to the Dispensary that financial aid which will continue to the sick poor its customary benefits. The Directors suggest an increase in the number of qualified members. Under the constitution the legal qualification is a subscription of four dollars per annum. This would help the income and afford a larger number of persons from among whom to choose the directorate.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS' AND MEDICAL STAFF, 1896.

While by repeated election of the same persons to this board (some of whom have served fifteen years) the Directors are flattered by the confidence and appreciation thus shown, they believe in the division of labor, the due performance of public duty and the privilege of doing good being shared in by other parties. Finding the services of the active physicians, dispenser, and dentist to be satisfactory in all respects, and every department in good working condition, the board deemed their reappointments for 1896 expedient and advisable. Commending their interesting reports to the public at large, and thanking all who have exhibited an interest, substantial or otherwise, in the work of the Dispensary, the Directors conclude their annual report.

W. C. SILVER, *President*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary*.