



REPORT

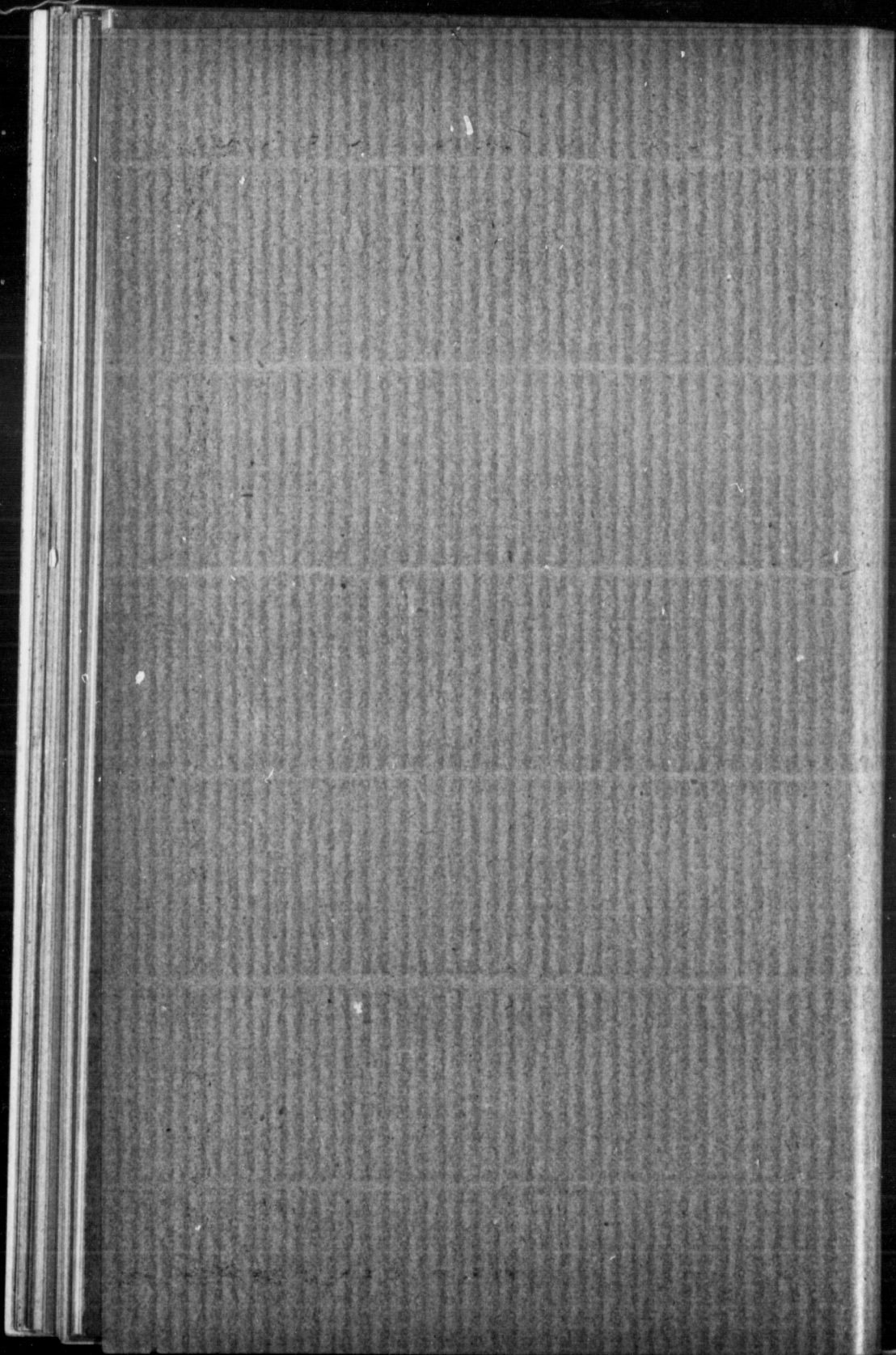
OF

The Halifax Dispensary,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

RE ORGANIZED 1857.

HALIFAX, N. S. :
HOLLOWAY BROS , PRINTERS, 69 GRANVILLE ST.
1897.



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Voci Pres.

Halifax Dispensary, 1897.

President.

W. C. SILVER.

Vice Presd^{ts} The Mayor

H. H. Fuller

Directors.

WM. DUNBAR,
ROBERT TAYLOR,

HON. SENATOR POWER,

ADAM BURNS, Hon. Treasurer.

J. F. KENNY,

A. M. BELL,

WILLIAM ROBERTSON,

Secretary.

W. H. WISWELL.

Consulting Physician.

DRS. HON. D. MCN. PARKER, DRs. EDWARD FARRELL,

D. A. CAMPBELL,

J. F. BLACK,

M. A. CURRY.

Attending Physicians.

EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.—DR. S. DODGE.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. W. H. HATTIE.

SURGICAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. F. A. R. GOW.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.—DR. W. A. P. TERNAN.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. E. P. ENNIS.

Visiting Physicians

DRS. T. W. WALSH, North District 1.

W. F. SMITH, " " 2.

C. D. MURRAY, Central District.

L. M. SILVER, South District.

Apothecary and Dispenser.

E. F. LUGRIN.

House Committee.

WM. DUNBAR,
R. TAYLOR,

W. ROBERTSON,
HON. L. G. POWER.

Dartmouth Branch—General Physician.

DR. M. A. B. SMITH.

Auditors.

ROBERT TAYLOR AND WM. ROBERTSON.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE HALIFAX VISITING
DISPENSARY.

(Passed the 18th day of April, A. D. 1872.)

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1. James C. Cochran, James Cochran, William Dunbar, John S. Maclean, George M. Grant, Henry N. Paint, Thomas E. Kenny, William H. Neal, D. Henry Starr, John Doull, and their associates, for the medical treatment of the sick poor in the City of Halifax, known as the "Halifax Visiting Dispensary," and such other persons as shall be members of the Association, according to the Rules and Bye-Laws thereof, are hereby Incorporated under the name of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary.
2. The corporation may purchase take, hold, and enjoy real estate to the value of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars, and may sell, mortgage, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of the same for the benefit of the Dispensary and the furtherance of its objects.
3. The present Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Dispensary shall be valid and legally binding until altered or repealed.
4. All property, real and personal, and all debts and liabilities of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary, are vested in the corporation hereby created, who may collect all arrears due to them under the present Bye-Laws and Rules of the Dispensary.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called "The Halifax Visiting Dispensary."

II.

The object of this Society shall be to provide and furnish medical and surgical aid, and medicines, to such persons as may be in need thereof, and unable, by reason of poverty, to procure the same.

III.

Any person paying annually the sum of Four Dollars shall be a member of the Society, and a subscription of Forty Dollars constitutes a member for life.

IV.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings to enforce the Constitution and Bye-Laws, and to call special meetings when required. In his absence one of the Vice-Presidents shall perform these duties.

VI.

The duty of the Secretary shall be to collect all subscriptions and dues to the Society, to pay over all monies received by him to the Treasurer, and report to the Directors annually, or as often as they may require it, and keep reports of all meetings. Also to give notice of the same, examine accounts, and conduct correspondence as may be required.

VII.

The duty of the Treasurer shall be to receive all monies payable to the Society, to keep all financial accounts, and make payments as directed by the President and Secretary.

VIII.

There shall be a Board of Consulting Physicians, composed of five members.

IX.

A code of Bye-Laws shall be appended to the Constitution, embodying unnecessary details.

X.

A general meeting of the Society shall be held annually on the second Monday in January, at which the President and Directors shall submit a Report of the proceedings of the previous year, and a Board of Directors for the ensuing year shall be appointed.

X

This Constitution shall not be altered, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, and not unless one month's notice shall be given to the Society, through the Secretary, of the proposed alteration.

THE HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY.

Annual Reports for the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1896.

The annual meeting of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary was held yesterday afternoon, President W. C. Silver in the chair. The proceedings consisted mainly of the reading and consideration of the reports. The officers and officials of last year were re-elected. The first report presented was the

DIRECTORS REPORT.

The return of the period in which annual statements are submitted to patrons and supporters of public institutions, calls for that duty from the Directors of the Dispensary. The Board respond to this call yearly in the expectation that the noble work which is being regularly and efficiently performed by the doctors connected with this charity may be appreciated and still further sustained and extended by all whose sympathy and compassion they would elicit on behalf of the Sick Poor. The Medical Board furnish to the city press a monthly record of the work done by them in condensed statistics. But these being without comment may possibly be overlooked by the majority of people as being more figurative than practical.

GREATER PUBLICITY NEEDED.

The Directors therefore ask kindly attention to the annexed more extended, yet not prolix reports of the Visiting and Attending Physicians, the eye and ear department, the Dispenser's numerous preparations, and the Dentists useful though unwished for doings. And as through the courtesy of the Press these several reports obtain a wider circulation than when sent in pamphlet form to members, subscribers and those public bodies who vote annual subsidies, the citizens generally can become fully acquainted with the objects and results of the work of an institution which provides for a large class of their disabled unfortunate brethren, some of them probably their neighbors. It is a matter of deep thankfulness to Him who is the Great Physician that in the past as in former years success has been granted to the work of the Dispensary among and for that otherwise unprovided for number of our people.

While the poor have no resources to fall back upon when overtaken by disease or remedial accidents, and cannot receive similar attention and treatment at a Hospital as at the Dispensary, or in their homes by regular practitioners, they have this one always accessible establishment where their special needs will be attended to and relieved by competent physicians and surgeons "without money and without price." Out patients and strangers, young and old people, men, women, and children, are alike beneficiaries of this

Charity, and dependent upon it for relief under suffering and physical ailments.

IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

In fact, as regards its undertakings, the Dispensary cannot be "dispensed" with, for it is now become a public necessity, whose place and special work could not be supplied if its doors were closed. Details of the extent of the work, of the variety of diseases treated, and of the successful results to patients coming to the building could be given at length as the records are systematically kept at the office. It would seem to be important to publish these if special proof of the value and utility of the Dispensary were required. The facts published in the few circulars on Dispensary Sunday ought to be sufficient to induce every one who reads them to give liberally towards an Institution which has done for so many years in the City, Dartmouth and contiguous places an immense amount of practical benevolence at comparatively small outlay. That something might be done in certain cases aggravated by malnutrition to supply suitable food, etc., is desirable. A few years ago the experiment was made in this direction, but the funds and personnel of the Dispensary do not admit of its being repeated.

FINANCIAL POSITION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ETC.

In regard to prudential affairs, the directors are happy to report that by care and economy all demands have been satisfied by the stated and voluntary income placed at their disposal. The building is in good condition and free from debt. The necessary appliances for the Medical and other departments are sufficient for the present and the number, character and efficiency of the Physicians satisfactory to all concerned. The board desire to thank all who have helped the Dispensary and its objects in any way and they hope to hear from those congregations which have delayed their yearly collections later than customary from unavoidable causes. They acknowledge gratefully the donation of their Honorary Treasurer Adam Burns, of \$250, and the bequest of \$50 from the late Monseigneur Carmody. The treasurer, pro tem, J. F. Kenny, Esq., presents an abstract herewith of receipts and expenditure for 1896.

W. C. SILVER, *President.*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

THE TREASURER'S REPORT OF DISPENSARY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.

LIFAX

\$1077 17
 180 00
 488 02
 39 48
 50
 143 00
 179 00
 788 13
 10 00
 4 00
 10 00
 5 00
 44 09
 750 00
 60 00
 60 00
 450 00
 \$4238 39

Garrison Chapel.....	\$ 12 08
Church of The Redeemer.....	17 50
Fort Massey Church.....	74 44
Trinity ".....	7 24
Chalmers ".....	15 00
Grove ".....	10 00
Kaye St. church.....	5 00
Grafton St. church.....	28 84
First Baptist church.....	12 91
St. Peter's, Dartmouth.....	30 00
Christ church.....	30 00
St. Mary's cathedral.....	177 30
St. Luke's ".....	64 38
St Paul's church.....	117 30
St. Matthew's church.....	74 00
St. John's church.....	10 75
St. Mark's church.....	19 58
St. George's church.....	17 75
St. Andrew's church.....	57 10
St. James N. W. Arm.....	5 10
N. W. Arm Presbyterian Mission.....	1 90
Union meeting of Churches, Dartmouth.....	44 09

In the absence of Dr. C. D. Murray, Secretary of the Medical Staff, the reports thereof were submitted and read by the Secretary.

REPORTS of the MEDICAL STAFF for 1896.

Statistical Report.

INDOOR WORK.

	Patients.	Consultations.
Medical Department, Dr. Anderson.....	1,120	1,377
Surgical " Dr. Gow.....	570	1,073
Women and Children's Department, Dr. Ternan.....	851	1,521
Eye and Ear Department, Dr. Dodge.....	190	589
Dental Department, Dr. Ennis, extractions, etc.....	921	921
Total.....	3,652	5,481

OUTDOOR WORK.

	Visits.
North District, No. 1, Dr. Walsh.....	513
" No. 2, Dr. Finn.....	317
Central District, Dr. Murray.....	835
South " Dr. Silver.....	404
Dartmouth District, Dr. Smith.....	308
Total.....	2,375

PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED.

City.....	8,499
Dartmouth.....	451
Charity.....	374
Total.....	9,324

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GENERAL SUMMARY.

Patients visited at their home	1,158
No. of visits	2,375
Patients attended at Dispensary	3,652
No. of attendances	5,481
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Total No. of patients	4,810
Total visits and attendances	7,856
Total No. of prescriptions dispensed	9,324

GENERAL REPORT.

The above statistical report shows a slight falling off in the number of calls for medical and surgical assistance made upon the Dispensary during the year just ended. This has been due to a variety of causes, chief among which is the improvement yearly taking place in the sanitary condition of the city. Outbreaks of diphtheria and scarlet fever occurring during the year have been narrowly limited by the vigilance of our sanitary authorities, who have shown much zeal in the isolation and disinfection of such cases. Chicken pox, measles and whooping cough have prevailed in a mild degree; typhoid fever of a severe type broke out in several suburban districts, to which the City water supply has not been extended. The heavy rain fall in the autumn saturated the sub-soil and much surface water poured into unprotected wells carrying with it sewage and other contaminating matter. As almost every case of typhoid had access to well water, the inference as to the origin of the disease can hardly be avoided. One case, occurring in the central district, in a man who is a great milk drinker, suggested that suburban milkmen should exercise discrimination as to the source of the water with which they cleanse their milk cans. The epidemic, if such it may be called, is now practically over and the health of the city is comparatively good.

Another cause which has in some degree contributed to

LESSEN THE DISPENSARY WORK

can hardly be considered more than a temporary one. It is the improvement in the condition of the laboring class due to the abundance of work in the City during the past twelve months. The demand for free medical aid has subsequently been lessened and the poorer classes being better fed, more warmly clothed and being placed in more hygienic surroundings, are less liable to the invasion of disease.

With regard to the internal economy of the Institution, there has not been much to remark during the past year. The improved sanitary arrangements are appreciated by the staff. The removal upstairs of the dental department has proved a satisfactory change. The best of feeling has prevailed among the members of the staff. The Dispenser, Mr. Lugin, has performed his important duties with his usual skill, faithfulness and urbanity, and the appreciation of him by his co-workers remains undiminished.

The retirement of Drs. Anderson and Finn after six years of faithful service, removes two gentlemen whom their colleagues have learned highly to esteem.

The appointment of Drs. Smith and Hattie is gratifying to those of us who remain.

The care of the building and departments by the janitrix has been in every way satisfactory.

The Staff desire to record the uniformly fair and courteous treatment which they have always received at the hands of the Directorate, and feel assured that such confidence in them as has been displayed in the past by the Directorate, shall not be ill requited.

C. D. MURRAY, M. D.

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EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Dodge presented his report as follows :

During the past year 190 patients applied for treatment at the eye and ear department. With one exception a greater number than in any previous year. On the whole the work has been very satisfactory. Patients are gradually learning the importance of prompt application for treatment, and regularity in attendance. Never before were the results as satisfactory. Many severe cases were attended in which complete recovery ensued, or fairly good results were obtained. Some of the patients showed a thorough appreciation of what was done for them, and were fully grateful. One little fellow who had been under my care for an obstinate ear disease, which required prolonged attendance, brought an orange, which he kept carefully concealed until he came to my room, when advancing he held it out before him, and with a smiling face made straight for me. He offered it for a Christmas present. I was very much pleased with the feeling that prompted the action, though I had not much difficulty in persuading him to eat it himself. Since then he and I have formed a mutual admiration society of two members, and have become fast friends.

The Rev. Dr. Heber Newton, one of New York's most eminent clergymen, who is also like so many of his calling, in close contact with the masses of the people, and is always ready to support any measures for redressing their wrongs, has lately written a very timely article "on social discontent." He was prompted to write because of certain facts which came out during the late presidential campaign, when so many supported the free silver candidate just because of the oppressions of capitalists, railroad corporations, trusts, etc. He acknowledges his indebtedness for much of his information to a leading physician, and uses the following language : "Those who come most closely in contact with the plain people, who know their lives, who understand their hardships, who are they who most sympathize with them in their complaints." Now if as the Rev. Dr. acknowledges, physicians as a class are brought most in contact with the mass of the people, it is emphatically so in the case of the Sick Poor. Everyone admits that the Halifax Dispensary is a great blessing to the poor of our city ; but if it were blotted out the physicians of Halifax would still attend them in sickness. They would not attend them as systematically as now, nor provided with medicines, though I am persuaded that many at present are quite able to pay for their medicines. Now of the 4,810 patients who were treated at the Dispensary, the physicians alone have any adequate idea of what these figures represent. No family is long without an experience of sickness. But among the

poor how different is their case from those who have the means of providing themselves with every comfort which they require. How different the work of the physician too in the case of the poor. He has often to be physician, nurse, friend and advisor; for in very many cases there is a history behind the illness. Improvidence, want of thrift, and worse than these, intemperance and vicious habits account for much of the poverty, others again are poor because of circumstances over which they had no control. In too many cases mothers with their children have been deserted by their husbands.

(The remaining portion of the report was not adopted as relating to matters not within the jurisdiction of the Directors.)

REPORT OF PHYSICIAN OF THE DARTMOUTH BRANCH.

Dr. M. A. B. Smith presented the report of the work in Dartmouth, which was adopted as follows:

Number of patients	190
Visits	306
Consultations	303
Teeth extracted	22
Deaths	5

The above represents the work done for the branch in Dartmouth, and on comparison it will be found to be slightly less than the average of former years. Judging from the health of Dartmouth as indicated by dispensary work and otherwise, the past has been an exceedingly healthy year. There has been no epidemic of any sort.

I would beg to refer to the suggestion which I made last year of the need of some local druggist from whom medicine could be obtained for a dispensary patient in an emergency at another hour than that one in the morning when it can be got at the central dispensary. If a local druggist could be selected by the board, from whom medicine could be obtained at cost for a poor person in a sudden case of need, the Dartmouth dispensing service would be more effective.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO HALIFAX
DISPENSARY, 1896.

The Archbishop.....	\$10 00	Wm. Muir, Son & Co	5 00
W. B. Arthur & Co.....	5 00	A Friend, R. M. B.....	10 00
Adam Burns	5 00	Wm. Robertson	8 00
Burns & Murray	5 00	H. H. Fuller.....	5 00
J. F. Kenny.....	5 00	R. B. Seeton	4 00
W. Y. Kennedy	1 00	Simson Bros. & Co.....	5 00
Levi Hart.....	5 00	A. & W. Mackinlay.....	10 00
Charles Archibald.....	2 00	Smith Bros.....	5 00
Walter Mitchell.....	5 00	J. W. Allison.....	5 00
Jas. T. Thompson.....	5 00	Kelley & Glassey.....	5 00
R. I. Hart.....	5 00	Bauld Gibson & Co.....	10 00
J. McInnis & Son.....	5 00	E. Morrison & Co.....	2 00
H. Hesslein & Sons.....	5 00	Wood Bros. & Co.....	5 00
J. Y. Payzant.....	5 00	T. C. Allen	4 00
Austen Bros.....	3 00	W. C. Sarre.....	2 00
E. P. Archbold.....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm.....	4 00
Geo. E. Boak & Co.....	5 00	Geo. A. Pyke.....	2 00
J. R. Lithgow	5 00	A. & W. Smith & Co.....	5 00
Geo. Rent	2 00	Pickford & Block	20 00
Mahon Bros	2 00	Brown & Webb	10 00
Murdochs Nephews.....	10 00	W. C. Silver.....	5 00
J. C. Mackintosh.....	5 00	Billman, Chisholm & Co.....	2 00
Barnstead & Sutherland.....	4 00	Michael Dwyer	5 00
Jack & Bell	10 00	A. Hobrecker	5 00
Drysdale & McInnes.....	5 00	J. A. Chipman.....	1 00
G. M. Smith.....	5 00	L. G. Power	5 00
Kenny & Co.....	5 00	Gordon & Keith.....	5 00
Jas. Thomson	5 00	F. D. Corbett.....	5 00
A. Keith & Son	5 00	M. L. Carney	5 00
Wm. Dunbar.....	4 00	Jas. Butler & Co.....	5 00
T. F.	2 00	Black Bros. & Co.....	5 00
Stairs, Son & Morrow.....	5 00	E. B. Sutcliffe	5 00
Boak & Bennett.....	5 00	Longard Bros.....	5 00
H. D. McKenzie	5 00		