

REPORT  
OF THE  
HALIFAX DISPENSARY,  
FOR THE YEAR 1890.

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RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

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HALIFAX, N. S.

HALIFAX, N. S.  
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS, 69 GRANVILLE ST.,  
1891.



REPORT

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HALIFAX DISPENSARY,

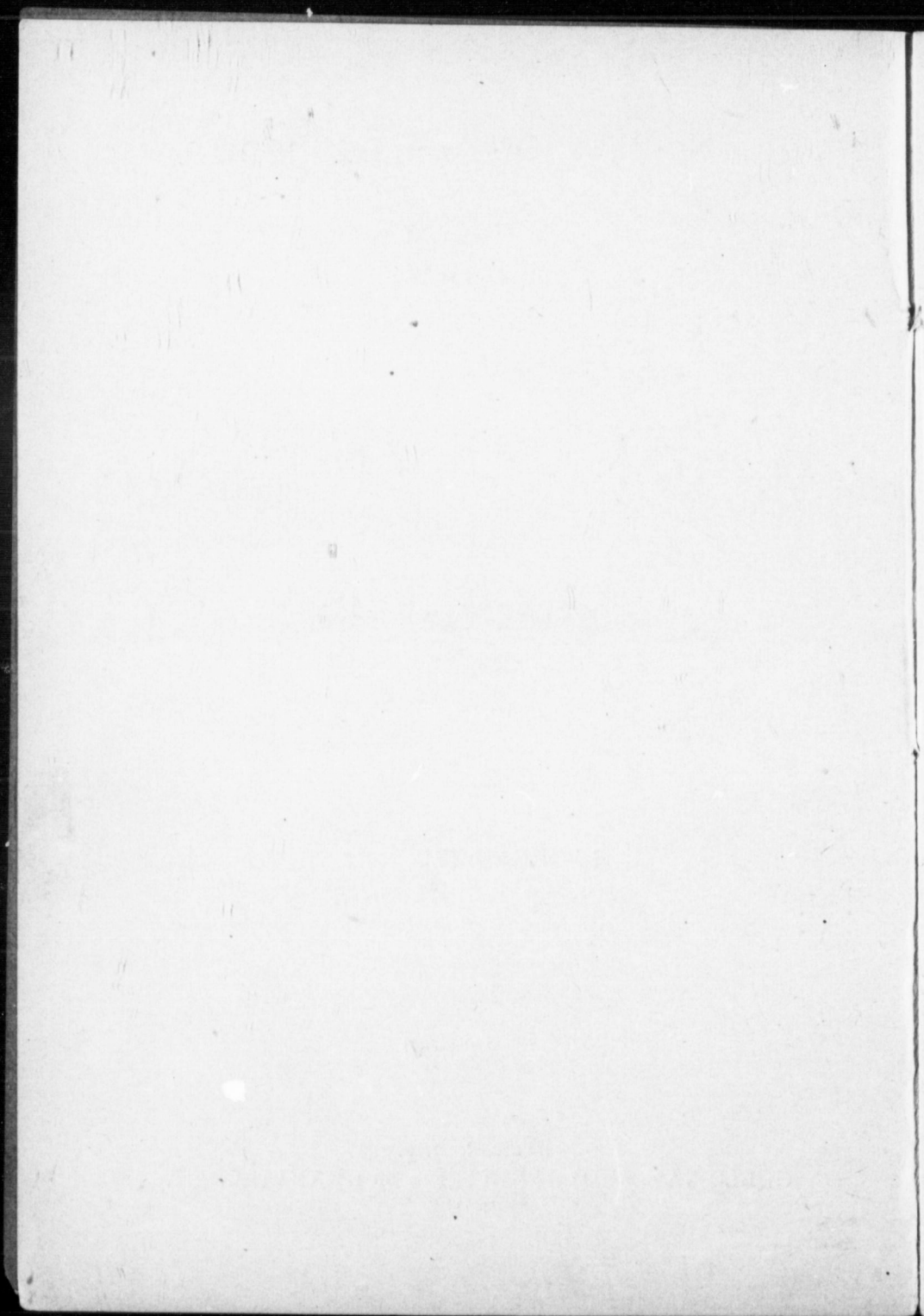
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# Halifax, Dispensary, 1891.

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## President.

W. C. SILVER.

## Vice-Presidents.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
H. H. FULLER, Esq.

## Directors.

WM. DUNBAR,  
ROBERT TAYLOR,  
HON. SENATOR POWER,  
J. F. KENNY,

A. M. BELL,  
WILLIAM ROBERTSON,  
ADAM BURNS,  
Hon. Treasurer.

## Secretary.

W. H. WISWELL.

## Consulting Physicians.

DRS. HON. W. ALMON,  
HON. D. McN. PARKER,  
D. A. CAMPBELL.

DRS. EDWARD FARRELL,  
J. F. BLACK,  
~~W. D. FINN.~~

## Attending Physicians.

DRS. S. A. DODGE,  
T. A. STODDARD.

DR. A. MORROW,  
DR. W. D. FINN,

## Visiting Physicians.

DRS. R. H. CRAWFORD, North District 1.  
F. ANDERSON, " " 2.  
F. W. GOODWIN, Central District.  
W. A. P. TERNAN, South District.

## Apothecary.

E. F. LUGRIN.

## Dartmouth Branch—General Physician.

DR. M. A. B. SMITH.

## Auditors.

ROBT. TAYLOR AND WM. ROBERTSON.



# The Halifax Visiting Dispensary.

## DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Among the duties pertaining to the management of its prudential affairs, the Directors of the Dispensary submit an Annual Report for the information of subscribers and friends.

Since the establishment of the Institution under a Charter, and upon substantial conditions as to premises, objects and efficient working staff, these yearly Reports of the Board might be stereotyped in regard to its continued usefulness and success (under the blessing of Almighty God) in its daily work among the sick poor of the city and vicinity. The accompanying abstracts of that work prepared by the active Medical Staff will afford practical illustrations of the nature and value of the results obtained by their humane and skillful endeavours, not only to alleviate pain and restore health among the indigent poor, but in the limitation and prevention of the spread of epidemic, and the relief of endemic diseases.

The past year has been remarkable for the prevalence of Diphtheria and Typhoid and Scarlet Fevers in all parts of the city, owing to unsanitary conditions, and yet among Dispensary Patients (the more likely subjects from their surroundings and privations to succumb to those fatal ailments) the mortality has been very much less than among those of the better classes.

### PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

The Board direct attention to the fact that in the existence and continuance of the Dispensary, the community has to a large extent a safeguard against the extension of infectious, and the fatalities of contagious disease. The Visiting Phy-

sicians become aware of these in their incipient stages, and by prompt treatment practical advice and sanitary measures, may, and do generally succeed in remedying or suppressing evils so much to be dreaded. Obviously the tendency in Dispensary practice would be to endorse the old proverb that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," but every case outside of, and at the Dispensary, receives such attention and treatment as the nature and exigencies of the case demand.

#### CORRECTION OF POPULAR ERRORS.

Mistakes are often committed as to the objects rules and legitimate work of the Dispensary by the friends of persons desiring treatment, and on the part of the sick poor themselves, and complaints are frequently made to members of the Board and the Staff of refusal to supply medicine, or give attention and advice to applicants. At present the Board can only advert to some of these errors by briefly referring to the system and privileges of the Institution. Subscribers and friends will be supplied with the Constitution and By-Laws on application to the Secretary. Among other things it should be noted:

1. That people able to pay are not subjects for treatment.
2. That contributors have no special privileges.
3. That quack medicines are not administered.
4. Infected patients cannot be treated at the Dispensary.
5. That patients may not apply or be treated at the private offices of the Medical Staff.
6. That any person paying annually four dollars, thereby becomes a member of the Dispensary Corporation.
7. That subscribers and friends should visit the Dispensary.
8. That patients must give exact and clear addresses.

#### DISPENSARY SUNDAY.

The Directors beg to remind "All whom it may concern," that the Dispensary (as for many years past) depends mainly for financial support on voluntary contributions from regular

subscribers, and from the general public on Dispensary Sunday. They regret to say that the first are decreasing in number in consequence of deaths, removals or inability, and the last from the gradual non-observance of the special object of the day named, or failure in several churches to make any collection, so that the moral and commercial effect of unanimity and liberality is being lost sight of, and the sustentation of this Public Charity with its increasing needs endangered.

GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

are tendered to all those who so cheerfully and regularly respond to the calls made upon them in money, publications, prayers or co-operation in word or work on behalf of the Institution and its benevolent objects.

W. C. SILVER, *President.*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

TREASURER'S REPORT—HALIFAX DISPENSARY.

ADAM BURNS, TREASURER.

1890.		DR.	
Jan. 7,	To balance forward. ....		\$1572 88
" 7,	" Sir Wm. Young's charitable fund	\$233 14	
Nov. 1,	" " " " " "	250 00	
			483 14
	" Hospital Sunday church collections		1075 01
	" Grants Provincial Government....	400 00	
	" " Dartmouth Town. ....	60 00	
	" " Halifax City. ....	750 00	
			1210 00
	" Colls. from Kenny and Robertson	227 00	
	" " " Fuller and Dunbar....	102 00	
			329 00
	" Archbishop O'Brier.....		10 00
	" Interest on deposits.....	18 20	
	" " " " " "	80 00	
			98 20
			<u>\$4778 23</u>



CR.

1890.

By Gas Light Co. 1st qr.....	12 40	
“ “ “ 2nd “.....	7 00	
“ “ “ 3rd “.....	3 40	
“ “ “ 4th “.....	8 80	
	<hr/>	31 60
“ Drugs, &c., pr. Forsyth, Sutclif & Co	267 44	
“ “ “ “ “	270 98	
“ “ “ “ “	224 49	
“ “ “ “ “	220 01	
	<hr/>	982 92
“ Fire Insurance.....	18 75	
“ Medical & Surgical requirements....	46 63	
“ Repairs, cleaning, &c.....	252 48	
“ Printing, advertising, &c.....	66 01	
“ Water rates.....	52 95	
“ Coal, wood, &c.....	68 90	
“ Telephone.....	15 00	
“ Cashbook \$2.10 miscellaneous \$1.20..	3 30	
“ Salary Dispenser.....	800 00	
“ “ Visiting physicians.....	500 00	
“ “ Attending “.....	300 00	
“ “ Dartmouth branch.....	75 00	
“ “ Dental.....	50 91	
“ “ Eye and Ear.....	50 00	
“ “ Secretary.....	37 50	
	<hr/>	1813 41
Dec. 31, By balance.....	1426 28	
		<hr/>
		\$4778 23
		<hr/>
Balance on hand.....	\$1426 28	

Examined and found correct.

WM. ROBERTSON, }  
 J. F. KENNY, } *Auditors.*

January 12th, 1891.

## REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The Secretary of the Medical Board, (Dr. Crawford,) read the following:—

### STATISTICAL REPORT, 1890.

#### *Indoor Department.*

Medical Department . . . . .	1,660 consultations.
Surgical . . . . .	977       "
Women and children . . . . .	1,614       "
Eye and ear . . . . .	480       "
Dartmouth . . . . .	274       "

#### *Outdoor Department.*

North District, No. 1 . . . . .	1,354 visits.
"    "    No. 2 . . . . .	1,374       "
Central   "    . . . . .	1,257       "
South     "    . . . . .	801       "
Dartmouth . . . . .	501       "
Dental Department, teeth extracted . . .	690       "
Dental     "    Dartmouth, teeth extracted . . . . .	22       "
Charity prescriptions . . . . .	481
Dartmouth   "    . . . . .	646
City       "    . . . . .	1108

Total Prescriptions . . . 12,241

R. H. CRAWFORD, M.D.,  
Sec'y &c.

## GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL STAFF.

The foregoing statistical report read by the secretary of the acting staff suffices to show the continued advantages afforded the more needy population by the existence of this institution. The classes of cases treated are very numerous. In the indoor department, besides the more common ailments which do not incapacitate patients from finding their way to the dispensary, cases of fractured arms and ribs and acute inflammatory diseases of the lungs are met with. In the outdoor department many cases of severe acute disease have been treated, including a large number of cases of diphtheria. This last disease which, invades all ranks and districts is particularly prevalent owing to the filth, improvidence and ignorance of the poorest classes, and during the past year the outside staff have had almost uninterruptedly a number of cases upon their hands. In the earlier months of the year and coexisting with the epidemic of diphtheria came the expected and long heralded "influenza." This disease was for a time ripe among all classes and temporarily made considerable demands upon especially the outside staff. The drug most used in the treatment of influenza was "antipyrin" which happens to be an expensive article. This may partly account for an increased drug bill compared with other years.

In this connection it may be stated that it is undoubtedly true that new and especially expensive drugs should not be too readily prescribed by the staff until their value and necessity are well proved.

It is therefore suggested that the directors might pass a by-law to the effect that no new drug should be ordered by any physician or the dispenser until its addition to the dispensary pharmacopœa has been sanctioned by a majority of the staff at a meeting of that body.

Another matter of very considerable importance is the question of abuse of dispensary privileges.

The evils to the recipients arising from indiscriminate charity are becoming well known.

Free medical attendance given to people who are well able to pay a medical man is not charity. The effect is—must be, injurious to the character of the recipient, and give a false and poor idea of the value of medical service. Were this to

become general probably nothing would more stem the tide of contributions to a charitable institution than the knowledge that the funds were expended on behalf of those not in need of them.

The medical staff of the dispensary are well aware that a number of people present themselves for treatment who are not entitled to the privileges of the institution. It is invidious and undesirable for the physicians to cross-question the patients in this regard, and the staff would make the following suggestions towards meeting the difficulty :

That there should be a dispensary register :

That a patient presenting himself for the first time should be treated, but told that in order to receive any further treatment he must bring a certificate from his employer or other responsible party, stating that his weekly wages does not exceed so much.

That upon presentation of such a certificate his name be placed upon the dispensary register, and he be treated without further question to the end of the year ;

That the dispenser superintend this matter and keep the dispensary register ;

That the weekly wage limit be fixed by the directors for married and single men, etc., respectively ;

And that it is recognized that with the same weekly wage families differ very much in their thrift and comfort, so that treatment would sometimes be justly given even where the weekly wage seemed such as hardly to entitle to it.

Nothing has occurred during the year to mar, in the slightest degree, the harmony subsisting among the different members of the staff.

Of those connected with the indoor department, Dr. Curry has retired after being connected with the institution for five years. His genial presence will be missed by those remaining.

Drs. Fraser and Grant of the outside department have also withdrawn ; the first after an association with the institution of some six or seven years.

ARTHUR MORROW,

*President Acting Staff, 1890.*

**EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.**

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Dr. Dodge read the Report of the Eye and Ear Department.

I have to report the usual variety of diseases under treatment during the year just closed. In many cases the disease was slight, and soon yielded to treatment; in others, it was more aggravated and required attendance more or less prolonged. As stated in a previous report, I have seldom to complain of the irregularity of attendance on the part of those who apply, but of the delay in seeking treatment; and this is especially noticed in the cases of children who are unable to come alone, and who require to be brought by their parents. So much depends upon prompt treatment in many cases of diseases of the eye and ear, yet it seems impossible to overcome this negligence to which I have referred. During the year 156 cases were attended to. Notwithstanding the dispensary has been established so many years, it is surprising that there are so many who apparently do not know its object. Some imagine it to be a sort of joint-stock affair, to which they can contribute a trifle on dispensary Sunday and become entitled to free attendance in return—instead of regarding it as a charitable institution for the poor. In some cases really deserving people very foolishly show an unwillingness to apply for treatment. But there are far too many who are unwilling to pay for treatment, and who go to the dispensary, imposing upon the physicians the unpleasant duty of rejecting them.

S. DODGE, M. D.



## REPORT OF THE DENTAL DEPARTMENT.

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During the past year 690 dental operations performed. At present there is no dentist in charge of this department and the work is being done by members of the staff. The department is well equipped and has proved a great boon to the class of patients.

R. H. CRAWFORD, M. D.

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### DARTMOUTH BRANCH REPORT.

Visits	-	-	-	-	501
Consultations	-	-	-	-	274
Deaths	-	-	-	-	4
Teeth extracted	-	-	-	-	22
Patients treated	-	-	-	-	193

After full opportunity of knowing the working of the service here, I believe that the Dispensary Branch in Dartmouth furnishes a much needed charity to the poor of the town; and that it is a town where there are more poor people than most of its size, or at least more who are unable to meet any expenditure beyond the ordinary necessary expenses of life and health. Of course there are those who seek assistance from this branch who are able to pay; and it is not always possible for a physician to learn whether an applicant is able or not. Still I believe he is, on the whole, more likely to form a correct judgment in the matter than any other single person. It is sometimes vexatious when an individual able to pay, on being asked to do so, says indignantly: "I thought you was 'Spensary doctor." It is thought by such people that Dispensary physicians live by the Dispensary, and have medicine that costs no body anything. The responsibility to physicians of the staff in this matter is unpleasant, but I hardly see how it can be helped.

Medicine is regularly furnished to the branch from the Halifax Dispensary twice a day if necessary, through a messenger boy, who brings it from there as prescribed by the Dartmouth physicians.

M. A. B. SMITH, M. D.

## DISPENSARY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS, 1890.

St. Luke's Cathedral .....	\$141 42
St. Paul's Church .....	117 87
St. Stephen's Church .....	11 65
St. Mark's Church .....	25 51
Trinity Church .....	6 06
St. Matthias Mission .....	10 00
do. do. 1889 .....	8 47
North West Arm, (Episcopal) .....	6 20
Christ's Church, Dartmouth .....	36 98
St. John's (Presbyterian.) Church .....	20 00
St. Matthew's Church .....	85 00
St. Andrew's Church .....	29 13
Chalmers Church .....	20 00
Park Street Church .....	40 00
Grove Church, Richmond .....	13 00
St. James' Church, Dartmouth .....	24 96
Fort Massey Church .....	50 00
St. Joseph's Church .....	28 65
St. Mary's Cathedral .....	148 33
St. Patrick's Church .....	59 30
St. Peter's Church, Dartmouth .....	32 74
Grafton Street Church .....	20 00
Brunswick Street Church .....	40 18
Robie Street Church .....	4 50
Charles Street Church .....	26 35
Beech Street Church .....	3 05
Baptist Church, Dartmouth .....	6 50
do. do. 1889 .....	4 00
First Baptist Church, (City.) .....	23 10
North Baptist Church .....	15 00
Church of the Redeemer .....	17 18

## SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HALIFAX DISPENSARY 1890.

Sir Edward Kenny.....	\$ 5 00	D. H. Pitts .....	\$ 1 00
J. F. Kenny.....	5 00	T. & E. Kenny .....	10 00
W. L. Lowell & Co.....	2 00	Jas. Thomson .....	10 00
J. C. Mackintosh.....	5 00	C. C. Blackadar .....	10 00
Alfred Shortt .....	2 00	Craig, Bros & Co.....	3 00
B. W. Chipman .....	1 00	Mahon Bros.....	2 00
C. H. Harvey .....	5 00	Riley & Davidson .....	2 00
A. G. Jones .....	5 00	James Gordon.....	3 00
Levi Hart.....	5 00	Gordon & Keith.....	5 00
F. D. Corbett .....	5 00	Geo. Rent.....	2 00
Frank J. Phelan .....	2 00	James Fraser .....	5 00
Geo. E. Boak .....	4 00	G. P. Mitchell .....	3 00
L. H. ....	4 00	John Doull .....	5 00
A. N. Whitman .....	5 00	A. Stephen & Son .....	5 00
J. R. Lithgow .....	5 00	William Miller.....	10 00
E. P. Archbold .....	5 00	W. H. Wiswell .....	5 00
Boak & Bennett .....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm .....	4 00
H. Hesslein & Son .....	5 00	Wm. Dunbar .....	4 00
Austen Bros.....	2 00	H. H. Fuller.....	5 00
Wm. Robertson .....	8 00	Pickford & Black .....	20 00
A. Burns .....	5 00	J. A. Chipman.....	2 00
John White & Co .....	2 00	C. B. McDougall.....	2 00
Burns & Murray.....	5 00	Smith Bros .....	5 00
Freeman Elliott .....	2 00	T. C. Allen & Co .....	4 00
A. C. Cogswell .....	2 00	R. J. Sweet.....	2 00
Farquhar, Forrest & Co. 10 00		M. S. Brown & Co.....	4 00
Jas. Butler & Co.....	5 00	W. J. Coleman.....	5 00
Hart & Murray.....	4 00	A. & W. MacKinlay .....	5 00
Wm. Muir .....	5 00	Bauld, Gibson & Co .....	10 00
R. I. Hart .....	5 00	A. & W. Smith & Co....	5 00
W. Stairs, Son & Morrow	5 00	W. H. Pallister .....	3 00
B. G. Gray .....	5 00	A. W. Redden.....	2 00
Jno. Y. Payzant .....	2 00	Brown & Webb.....	10 00
W. B. Reynolds & Co ..	3 00	M. Dwyer .....	5 00
S. Tobin .....	1 00	Hon. L. G. Power .....	5 00
E. B. Sutcliffe.....	5 00		