

# REPORT

OF THE

## Halifax Dispensary,

FOR THE YEAR 1871.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

HALIFAX, N. S.  
PRINTED BY WILLIAM MACNAB, 11 PRINCE STREET.  
1872.

REPORT

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1871

REPORT

PRINTED BY WILSON AND GARDNER, 11 PRINCE STREET, 1871

Hon. JAS.

J. S. MACDONALD  
REV. G. M. H. N. PAINE

DRS. W. J. HON.

DRS. C. G. T. THOMAS

DR. A. SOUTHWELL

# Halifax Dispensary.

1871

## President

REV. CANON COCHRAN, M. A.

## Vice-Presidents.

HON. JAS. COCHRAN, M.P.P., | HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

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ARCHD. LAWSON.

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South District. | DR. J. SOMERS,  
North District.  
DR. H. A. GORDON, Central District.

## Dentist.

MR. C. E. PUTNER, JR.

## Resident Apothecary.

MR. C. E. PUTNER, JR.



1871

## Directors' Report,

For the Year Ending November, 1871.

*North Centre & South*

The Directors of the Halifax Dispensary have the pleasure of meeting its friends and supporters with a brief account of the work that has been going on during the past year, and of its present condition and prospects. Nothing very new, or startling can be reasonably expected in such a report. The good and humane work of the Institution, in relieving the sufferings of the poor and the stranger, has not been intermitted for a single day. Its doors have been open continually at the appointed hours, and visitors of the right sort have never been found wanting. The attending Physicians have kindly, gratuitously and efficiently ministered to the relief of all applicants. The visiting Physicians have, as far as possible, met the calls from North, centre, and South of the city, to attend the numbers of sick folk, who could not reach the Dispensary. Mr. Putner, in his double capacity of apothecary and dentist, has had a busy time of it during the regular hours, and his operations in the latter capacity must have been greatly valued, 592 cases having undergone the radical cure at his hands. The excellent Report of the Medical Board which has just been read, gives a detailed account of the operations of the Institution within its doors and abroad, in all parts of the city,

*Old & unsuitable Premises Still  
See Medical Staff Report*

and the Directors would have this meeting and the public ponder well—read, mark, learn and digest, if they can, the benefit conferred on the poverty stricken members of this community by what has been done by the Halifax Dispensary since its establishment. Here we find nearly 3000 applicants for advice by those who had not a cent to pay for it. We have 673 patients attended in their garrets and cellars, by regularly educated physicians, who have paid to these 600 no less than 201 special visits. Then we have 6,217 doses of all sorts, colors and flavor sent forth, after being duly mixed and compounded by Mr. Putner in his back shop, (not bigger than a respectable closet,) to contend with the fearfully long list of diseases of unpronounceable names, enumerated by the Faculty in their Report, amounting to about 150 different kinds, of the ills which our poor flesh is heir to, and occupying two pages of foolscap. All this is very quickly written down and soon listened to; but let it be remembered that it gives us a bird's eye view of the labors, mental and physical, of a few worthy medical men during the 365 days of 1871, having their head-quarters in that miserably equipped, cramped up, unwholesome, and every way unsuitable tenement, which we are still unhappily obliged to call the Halifax Dispensary, and to which we would be ashamed to invite a stranger to accompany us. The Directors feel that the whole community of Halifax are under lasting obligations to the medical fraternity connected with the Institution, for their almost entirely unpaid services, whereby, it cannot be doubted, that not only much actual suffering has been ameliorated, but the prevalence of dangerous epidemics has been prevented by the timely enforcement of cleanliness and other sanitary auxiliaries.

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Thus it is felt that this Institution has established a strong and indisputable claim to public and private support, and has a right to expect the required assistance in providing a suitable building for its location, as is once more so properly and so earnestly urged in the Medical Report.

Objections are often made when private contributions are asked, to the effect that as the subjects treated at the Institution are either the strangers, or the poor of the land for whose support taxes are levied, the City and Provincial Treasuries should bear the whole expense of its maintenance. At present it receives only \$400 from the Province, and \$500 from the city. It is earnestly hoped that both these grants will be largely increased for the year 1872—thus enabling the Directors to extend and improve their operations, instead of crippling their means of usefulness, as is the case now. Meanwhile, however, let not our former friends withhold their pecuniary support, but rather increase it as God hath prospered them; and let them advise those who have not yet subscribed to do so at once. And instead of waiting to be called upon, they will greatly oblige by sending their contributions to the worthy Treasurer, T. E. Kenny, Esq., or the Secretary, or any of the Directors. There is wealth enough in the city of Halifax to build and endow a Dispensary that would immortalize the name of the donors, and to do the like for all our other charitable institutions requiring help, and still leave the owners abundance for themselves and families. Let us hope that the example of Peabody in England and America, and of our own Wm. Murdoch, formerly connected with the old Dispensary, in richly endowing several of our humane institutions,

may find many followers, who will remember that the "poor are always to be among us, and for this very purpose—that we may do them good," and it will be better still, if they open their purses, while they live, and thus be their own executors. As one of the good things that may be done to increase the sanitary benefits of the Institution among the poor, the Directors call attention to a suggestion of the Medical Board in their Report of 1869, that means should be provided for supplying, not only the needful medicines for the patients, but also the no less needful nourishment in their convalescence, which the poor cannot procure for themselves, and for the want of which the best medical treatment, no doubt, often fails.

In conclusion, it only remains for the Directors to commend this truly charitable institution to the continued and increasing support of the public, in the hope that the Lord will dispose all hearts and hands to help on a work so full of benefit to the poor of the land.

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#### MEDICAL REPORT.

*To the Directors of the Halifax Dispensary,—*

GENTLEMEN,—The Medical Board of the Halifax Dispensary beg to present the following Report for the year ending November 30th, 1871 :

The number of patients treated at the Dispensary during the year has been one thousand four hundred and fifteen. The number of patients visited has been six hundred and seventy-three. The number of dental cases has been five hundred and ninety-two. Making in all two thousand six hundred and eighty persons treated. The patients in the in-door department have each been

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seen on an average twice, there having been two thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine applications. In the out door department each patient has been visited on an average three times, the whole number of visits being two thousand and fourteen. The number of prescriptions dispensed was six thousand two hundred and seventeen. In addition to which one hundred and forty were prepared for other charitable institutions. Eighteen deaths have occurred in the out-door department.

In comparing these figures with those of the last Report, it will be seen that there has been some diminution in the number of patients applying at the Dispensary for relief, this is attributable to various causes, of which the following may be mentioned: 1st. The absence of any epidemic disease. 2nd. An unusually cool summer giving rise to a much smaller number of cases of fever and of intestinal diseases, which latter are usually so prevalent, especially among the children of the poor. 3rd. The prevention of much sickness by the timely treatment of cases first presenting themselves. 4th. The somewhat improved sanitary measures of the civic authorities, due, in some degree, at least we believe, to the representations of this Board. While referring to this subject, we have to regret that these measures are not yet by any means as efficient as they might and should be made. 5th. A successful fishing season and abundant harvest leading to a great reduction in the number of applications from the outlying districts.

The working of the institution has been somewhat deranged by the fact of several vacancies existing on the staff of attending physicians; one member having resigned and two having left the city, this has thrown an extra amount of work on the remaining members. There are at present two vacancies remaining in the in-door department, and it is to be hoped that some measures may be taken to obviate this difficulty.

The Board have to regret deeply that the end of another year still finds the Dispensary in its present

most unsuitable premises, and feeling, as they do, that the interests of the institution are thereby suffering, and its opportunities for usefulness greatly impaired, would respectfully urge some speedy action in the matter.

Several of the Directors having expressed a wish to know the opinion of this Board with regard to the best location for a Dispensary building, the following are suggested as the limits within which it would be advisable to select a site, viz. : between Jacob and Sackville Streets, and not further westward than Argyle Street.

The duties devolving upon the apothecary, Mr. Putner, have been faithfully performed—he in addition to this regular work, having had to attend to the Dental Department, as the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Chamberlain still exists.

The usual tabular statement of diseases, causes of death, etc., is subjoined.

The entire number of Patients treated at Dispensary.....	1415
“ “ “ “ Applications for advice at Dispensary ...	2979
“ “ “ “ Patients visited at their houses .....	673
“ “ “ “ Visits made.....	2014
“ “ “ “ Prescriptions dispensed at Dispensary....	6217
“ “ “ “ “ “ for other Char- itable Insti- tutions.....	140
“ “ “ “ Dental Cases.....	592
“ “ “ “ Applications and Visits.....	4993
“ “ “ “ Deaths.....	18

DISEASES TREATED AND NUMBER.

Abortion . . . . .	4	Angina Pectoris... 1	Cardiac Disease... 13
Abrasion of leg... 1		Anorexia..... 3	Caries..... 3
Abscess..... 40		Anthrax..... 9	Cataract..... 1
Acne..... 2		Apthæ..... 1	Catarrh..... 51
Adenitis. .... 11		Apoplexy..... 1	Cephalalgia..... 16
Amenorrhœa .... 34		Ascites..... 8	Cerumen, Impact of 2
Amputation of } finger..... }	1	Asthenia..... 1	Chlorosis..... 9
Amputation of } thumb..... }	1	Asthma..... 22	Cholera, Infantum. 1
Anæmia..... 38		Brain, Congest. of. 1	“ Morbus.. 6
Aneurism..... 5		Bronchitis..... 139	Chorea..... 2
		Burn..... 4	Climacteric..... 1
		Bursitis..... 6	Colic..... 2

10

12

12

Conjunctivitis.....
Constipation.....
Contusion.....
Convulsions.....
Cornea, Opac.....
“ Ulcer.....
Croup.....
Cystitis.....
Dacryocystitis.....
Deafness.....
Debauch.....
Debility.....
Dentition, Dis- orders of.....
Diabetes.....
Diarrhœa.....
Dislocation Clavicle.....
Dislocation Thumb.....
Dislocation Shoulder.....
Dysentery.....
Dysmenorrhœa.....
Dyspepsia.....
Dysphagia.....
Dysuria.....
Eczema.....
Emansio Men- struæ.....
Emphysema.....
Epilepsy.....
Epistaxis.....
Erysipelas.....
Erythema.....
Fancitis.....
Fabricula.....
Fever, Contin- ent.....
Fistula.....
Fissure of Nip- ple.....
Foreign body arm.....
Foreign body buttock.....
Foreign body nose.....
Fracture.....
Frostbite.....

Conjunctivitis.....	35	Furunculus.....	4	Paraphymosis.....	1
Constipation.....	51	Gastritis.....	5	Paronychia.....	9
Contusion.....	10	Gastrodynia.....	4	Parotitis.....	7
Convulsions.....	3	Gout.....	2	Pediculi.....	6
Cornea, Opacity of.	3	Hæmorrhoids.....	11	Periostitis.....	4
"    Ulcer of...	4	Hæmoptysis.....	7	Pericarditis.....	2
Croup.....	2	Hepatitis.....	1	Peritonitis.....	3
Cystitis.....	1	Hernia.....	6	Pernio.....	4
Dacryocystitis.....	3	Herpes.....	4	Pertussis.....	42
Deafness.....	6	Hordeolum.....	3	Pleurisy.....	25
Debauch.....	12	Hydrocephalus....	1	Pneumonia.....	12
Debility.....	58	Hysteria.....	24	Polypus, Nasal....	1
Dentition, Disor- } ders of.....	12	Impetigo.....	7	Porrigo Favosa...	3
Diabetes.....	2	Inanition.....	5	Preg'y, disorders of	21
Diarrhœa.....	72	Indigestion.....	29	Prolapsus Ani....	2
Dislocation of } Clavicle.....	3	Influenza.....	14	Psoriasis.....	6
Dislocation of } Thumb.....	1	Injury.....	48	Pterygium.....	1
Dislocation of } Shoulder.....	3	Intertrigo.....	1	Retinitis.....	1
Dysentery.....	18	Keratitis.....	9	Rheumatism.....	27
Dysmenorrhœa....	12	Laryngitis.....	2	Rnbeola.....	9
Dyspepsia.....	130	Lencorrhœa.....	5	Rupia.....	2
Dysphagia.....	2	Lithiasis.....	3	Scabies.....	5
Dysuria.....	1	Lumbago.....	8	Scald.....	3
Eczema.....	36	Lupus.....	1	Scarlatina.....	6
Emansio Mensium.	2	Melancholia.....	3	Sciatica.....	4
Emphysema.....	12	Meningitis.....	2	Scrofula.....	5
Epilepsy.....	4	Menorrhagia.....	24	Spina Bifida.....	1
Epistaxis.....	5	Miliaria.....	1	Spine, Curvature of	1
Erysipelas.....	28	Midwifery.....	5	Sprain.....	11
Erythema.....	1	Morbus Brightii..	8	Stomatitis.....	8
Fancitis.....	6	Myalgia.....	1	Suppressio Mensium	1
Febricula.....	13	Myopia.....	2	Synovitis.....	8
Fever, Continued..	41	Necrosis.....	3	Syphilis.....	79
Fistula.....	2	Nephritis, Acute..	1	Taber Mesenterica.	4
Fissure of Nipple.	1	Neuralgia.....	39	Tongue-tie.....	8
Foreign body in } arm.....	2	Nevus.....	2	Tonsilitis.....	16
Foreign body in } buttock.....	1	Odontalgia.....	1	Tumor.....	12
Foreign body in } nose.....	1	Onanism.....	2	Ulcer.....	26
Fracture.....	11	Ophthalmia Neo- } natorum.....	1	Urethritis.....	9
Frostbite.....	5	Ophthalmia Tarsi.	1	Urine, Retention of	1
		Orchitis.....	7	Urticaria.....	1
		Ostitis.....	7	Varicose Veins...	3
		Otalgia.....	2	Varicella.....	5
		Otitis Externa....	2	Vermes.....	36
		Ovaritis.....	8	Wound.....	
		Paralysis.....	1	No. Diagnosis....	11
			1	Refused to treat..	11

40

46

46

Total 166

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Apoplexy.....	1	Morbus Brightii..	3	Senectus.....	1
Bronchitis.....	1	Pneumonia, Double	1	Syphilis, Con-	} 1
Cardiac Disease..	1	Phthisis.....	1	genital.....	
Cholera Infantum	1	Rubeola.....	1	Tubercular Men-	} 1
Erysipelas.....	1	Scarlatina.....	4	ingitis.....	

All of which is respectfully submitted,

By order of the Board,

J. F. BLACK, M.D.,

*Secretary*

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### TREASURER'S ACCOUNT

From 1st January, 1871, to 1st January, 1872.

EXPENDITURE.

Balance due Treasurer from last year.....	\$ 187.99
Salary of Resident Apothecary.....	300.00
Salary of Secretary.....	50.00
Salary of Visiting Physicians.....	300.00
Rent.....	141.12
Medicines.....	135.13
Printing.....	24.50
Coal, Wood, Tradesmen's Bills, &c.....	58.70
Difference of currency on balance on hand June 30.....	15.96

	<u>\$1213.40</u>
Balance in Treasurer's hands January 1, 1872.....	45.60
	<u>\$1259.00</u>

RECEIPTS.

Donation of Lt. Governor.....	\$ 10.00
“ “ Charitable Irish Society.....	40.00
“ “ North British Society.....	40.00
“ “ Young Men's Literary Association.....	40.00
Subscriptions collected by W. Dunbar, Esq., and the Sec'y	479.00
Provincial grant for 1871.....	400.00
Balance of City grant from 1870.....	250.00

\$1259.00

THOMAS E. KENNY, *Treasurer.*

Halifax, 1st January, 1872.

*North British 40*  
*Charitable Irish 40*  
*Y Men's Lit Assoc 40*

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE HALIFAX  
VISITING DISPENSARY 1871.

His Honor, Lieut. Gen. } Sir C. H. Doyle, sub- } \$10.00 scription for 1872..... }	Neal, White & Co.....5.00
His Grace the Archbishop..10.00	Lawson, Harrington & Co...5.00
The Lord Bishop.....12.00	James Donaldson.....5.00
Hon. Judge Bliss.....4.00	P. Power, M.P.....5.00
Hon. Judge Wilkins.....4.00	W. P. West.....5.00
Hon. Judge Ritchie.....5.00	Robt. Boak, Jr.....5.00
Hon. James Cochran. ....10.00	D. Cronan.....5.00
Hon. M. B. Almon.....4.00	J. A. Moren.....5.00
Hon. Jeremiah Northup...5.00	W. B. Fairbanks.....5.00
Hon. Alex. Keith.....4.00	George H. Starr.....5.00
William Cunard.....10.00	Alderman Power.....5.00
Doull & Miller.....15.00	N. L. West.....5.00
T. & E. Kenny.....15.00	James B. Morrow.....5.00
James R. Lithgow.....10.00	John P. Mott.....5.00
Bauld, Gibson & Co.....8.00	Robt. W. Fraser.....5.00
Robert Noble.....6.00	Alex. McLeod.....5.00
Rev. G. M. Grant.....5.00	P. Walsh.....5.00
John Stairs.....5.00	B. H. Collins.....5.00
John S. MacLean.....5.00	Black Bros. & Co.....5.00
Adam Burns.....5.00	James Butler & Co.....5.00
Duffus & Co.....5.00	A. McLeod & Co.....4.00
Henry Hesslein.....5.00	J. & R. B. Seeton.....4.00
James Scott.....5.00	Samuel H. Black.....4.00
Michael Dwyer.....5.00	Esson & Co.....4.00
G. P. Mitchell.....5.00	John Silver & Co.....4.00
Edward Binney.....5.00	J. R. Jennett.....4.00
Wm. J. Stairs.....5.00	Sircom & Marshall.....4.00
David Starr & Sons.....5.00	Robert Taylor.....4.00
Moir & Co.....5.00	W. J. Coleman & Sons....4.00
S. A. White.....5.00	Joseph J. Northup.....4.00
Thomson, Abbott & Co.....5.00	Wm. J. Fraser.....4.00
J. F. Avery, M.D.....5.00	Anderson, Billing & Co....4.00
Edward Albro.....5.00	S. Howard & Son.....4.00
	William Montgomery.....4.00
	J. J. Bremner.....4.00

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W. B. McN  
C. D. Hunte  
P. C. Hill..  
William Dur  
John A. Sind  
John C. Hali  
S. N. Binne  
James W. M  
J. Taylor W  
W. S. Stirlin  
T. C. Kinnea  
Jarius Hart.  
H. P. Burton  
John McDon  
Thos. A. Bro  
Andrew Mite  
John W. Bur  
R. C. Hamilt

