REPORT

OF THE

Halifax Dispensary

For the Year 1876.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

HALIFAX, N. S.:
PRINTED BY WM. MACNAB, 12 PRINCE STREET,
1877

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HALIFAX DISPENSARY.

PRESIDENT.

REV. J. C. COCHRAN, D. D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR. | REV. DR. HANNAN.

DIRECTORS.

W. H. NEAL.
D. HENRY STARR.
REV. G. M. GRANT.
J. A. SINCLAIR.
D. CRONAN.
M. DWYER.

HON. TREASURER.

J. F. KENNY.

SECRETARY.

CHARLES FLETCHER.

CONSULTING PHYSICIANS.

DRS. W. J. ALMON.
HON. D. McN. PARKER.
RUFUS BLACK.
ED. FARRELL.
DRS. J. F. BLACK.
J. SOMMERS.
H. A. GORDON.

ATTENDING PHYSICIANS.

DR. ARCH'D LAWSON.
DR. S. DODGE.
DR. L. G. SINCLAIR.
DR. D. A. CAMPBELL.

VISITING PHYSICIANS.

DR. TRENAMAN, South District.
DR. CAMERON, North District.
DR. VENABLES, Central District.

DENTIST AND APOTHECARY.

C. E. PUTTNER.

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HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY.

Directors' Report,

For the Year ending December, 1876.

The Directors of the Dispensary have special pleasure this year in discharging their annual duty of reporting to the subscribers and the public; 1876 is the red letter year of the Institution. On April 17th, 1876, the new building was opened, and since that date the medical gentlemen who give so much time and pains on behalf of the sick poor have been enabled to do their work on a scale, and with facilities unknown before. We refer to the reports appended for evidences of their satisfaction, and also that the friends of suffering humanity may see that a few things are still needed The Directors will have much pleasure in supplying those requirements whenever the state of their funds permit, or perhaps benevolent individuals may be inclined to follow the example of the young lady who furnished one of the little rooms set apart for an eye and ear infirmary, and furnish the other, or provide the examiners' table and additional instruments required in the Women and Childrens' Department, or the apparatus for the Surgical Department, referred to in the report of the Medical Board. The facts brought out in the report of the Medical Board are sufficient to impress the dullest and most selfish with a sense of the unspeakable importance of the Dispensary to the community as a whole.

The total cost of the Dispensary is about eighteen hundred dollars a year. How far would that sum go towards defraying, at the ordinary rates, any one of the items mentioned in the reports? How far would it go towards paying for nine thousand two hundred and seventy-two medical visits? How far towards paying for about ten thousand prescriptions? And when we consider that—not counting eye and ear and dentistry cases—two thousand six hundred and forty patients were treated in the course of the year, and that the number of deaths was only twenty-seven: that—to take as an instance one specially dreaded disease—a hundred and nineteen diphtheria cases were attended to, with only eight deaths, it is impossible not to feel thankful to God for the good that has been done and the evil that has been avoided, and grateful to the physicians who have evidently given to the poorest the same skill and devotion that they give to the rich. Halifax has good cause to be proud of its Dispensary. Not only is the building far superior to what many larger cities possess, but the division of labor ensures that no quarter of the city or no case of suffering can be overlooked; everything works with perfect smoothness and regularity; new blood is infused into the managing and working staff every year, while the services of those who have had long experience are retained, so far as they are willing to act; and the whole administration is conducted with the strictest economy and at a total cost that is almost ludicrously small.

On this occasion, as well as last year, the gentleman in charge of the Eye and Ear Department has sent in a separate Report. According to the Bye-laws every one of the working staff has the privilege of so doing. And although there are manifest advantages in all combining in a report, so that

the public may have the conclusions of a large Board on matters affecting the general health, yet as the Directors have set apart rooms for Eye and Ear patients—there being no special provision for such cases in the general hospital—there can be no objection to such a seperate report, while much could be urged in its favor.

COST AND PAYMENT OF THE NEW BUILDING.

Amount Contract	$8297 00
" paid for site	3000 00
" paid Architects	250 00
" Furnishing, &c	646 56
" Stock of Medicines	775 98
Balance in hand	24 57
	$12,994 11

Amount collected on Hospital Sunday, 1876	$1450 07
" 2nd Provincial Grant	1000 00
" Special Donations	679 00
Receipts last year as per Report	6865 04
Amount Borrowed on Mortgage	3000 00
	$12,994 11

This estimate shows that a generous public has given us just what we asked for. We now sit rent free; for though there is a mortgage of $3000 on the building, the rent of the basement story as a morgue enables us to pay the interest and insurance.

The Institution now serves three public uses:—(1) The morgue has been in use during the past eighteen months for nearly a score of cases, and the scandal that has hitherto been

on the city and county for lack of decent accommodation for the bodies of the dead, until an inquest can be held on them, is now removed. The morgue was fitted up in accordance with the suggestions of the Medical Board; but several alterations have been suggested by the Coroners, and these have been, or will be made, as the Directors desire to meet the wishes of those gentlemen, so far as means permit. (2). A fully-equipped attending and visiting Dispensary. (3). An Eye and Ear Infirmary.

The second story of the building is still unfinished and it is now proposed to finish and use it for a children's hospital. This is a much needed charity, and one that appeals to every tender heart and to hearts that are not usually suspected of being tender. For such a purpose the Dispensary is admirably situated. It is in the district from which most of the patients would come; commands a cheerful view; will always have good air; and is well lighted. The second story could be easily converted into two wards, one of them for a convalescent's and a matron's room. Up stairs there is sufficient cooking accommodation, and downstairs the Apothecary and the medicines are always at hand. A benevolent lady has informed the Directors that nearly $500 are available for this object. A sub-committee has therefore been appointed to ascertain the cost of finishing and furnishing the rooms, and to obtain all other needed information, and report early in the year

As the new Dispensary was first talked of as a memorial building, in connection with those valued fellow-citizens who were lost with the "City of Boston," and as the friends of some of those have taken a very active part in its erection, another sub-committee has been appointed, to consider in

what way—whether by memorial window, marble tablet, or shield,—their names should be preserved among us. It has always seemed to the Directors most fitting that those much lamented ones and other public benefactors should be remembered, and that the large waiting-hall furnishes an appropriate place for recording the names of such as may from time to time be thought worthy of this honor.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

The receipts for 1876 were $1450, as against $2700 in 1875. We are not disappointed at the falling off, as a special effort was made in 1875 for the new building, and we received in 1876 as much as we asked for in our last Report.

We trust that Hospital Sunday may now be regarded as a settled thing with us; and that the first Sunday in October, or whatever other day may be agreed upon, will regularly see all who worship God—no matter how different their forms of faith—engaged in the blessed work of contributing to the relief of those who are bowed down with the combined load of poverty and disease. So satisfied are the Directors that the contributions on that day are sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure on Dispensary, Children's Hospital, and Infirmary, that they propose to discontinue after this year that collecting from annual subscribers, which in the past was the financial mainstay of the Institution. As the whole of the proceeds of Hospital Sunday have hitherto been given to the erection of the new building, it is impossible to dispense with the annual subscriptions this year. We are a little in debt; and we must have our usual supplies to carry us on to October; but we hope, without at all pledging our successors, that this shall be our last call on our two hundred

or more friends, who have taxed themselves in the past for the benefit of the community in this matter.

IN MEMORIAM.

The Directors have in this Report a sorrowful duty to perform. One of their number was summoned away by death in the course of the year, and they desire to pay a last tribute of respect to his memory. All who knew the late James Duggan respected his sterling worth. No member of the Board took a more active and intelligent interest in the Dispensary, or evinced a greater anxiety to see such a building erected as would ensure the permanence of the Institution. Even when in failing health he was sure to be present at every meeting, and at the meetings of the Charitable Irish Society he never forgot to press its claims. Halifax had few more public spirited men than James Duggan, and the friends of the Dispensary have special reason to mourn his loss.

The Directors learn with regret that another member of our Board—whom old age has kept from our meetings for some time back—is on a sick bed, from which he is not likely to rise again. The Hon. James Cochran is one of the oldest friends of the Institution. He retires from the Board this year by regular rotation. We shall esteem ourselves fortunate if we secure successors in the Directory equal in ability to James Duggan and Hon. James Cochran. We cannot expect to get men who will take a deeper interest in its success.

Report of the Medical Board.

Halifax, December 1, 1876.

To the Directors of the Halifax Dispensary:—

Gentlemen,—The Medical Board of the Dispensary herewith submit the following Report for the year ending November, 1876:—

The number of patients who have been treated by the Dispensary Physicians during the year is 2640. The number of applications or visits made by patients to the Dispensary is 8235. 1512 patients have been treated at the Dispensary by the Attending Physicians, and 1128 have been seen at their homes by the Visiting Physicians. The number of Dental cases is 561. The number of prescriptions dispensed is 9259, besides 582 for other charitable institutions. The mortality among patients has been 27.

We call again your attention to the increase in patients over the number of last year. This is most decided when you take into consideration the fact that the above figures do not include the work done in the Eye and Ear Department of the Institution.

The Board learned with surprise from the gentleman in charge of that division of the Dispensary that his appointment from you was of such a character as not to make him a member of the regular in-door staff, and that the report of his section would in future be made seperately from the annual statement of the Medical Board.

We most heartily congratulate you upon the completion of the present building, which is in every way suited to the

purpose for which it was designed, both on account of its position—rendering it easy of access to the class usually applying at such institutions,—and also for the manner in which the internal arrangements have been carried out.

It is a handsome edifice; is one of the improvements of the year, and adds another to the lists of public charities of which Halifax may justly be proud. The equipment of the Dispensary, as far as it goes, is very good, although additions are required in some of the departments.

The waiting hall is large and commodious, and usually filled with patients applying for treatment.

In the Department for Diseases of Women and Children, an examining table is absolutely necessary, for the purpose of better serving the interests of Gynœcology; and additional instruments would greatly facilitate correctness of diagnosis and successful treatment in that branch.

The Surgical department requires more apparatus for the treatment of ordinary and special forms of fracture.

The Apothecary's Dispensing Room is a perfect success, and only needs to be seen to be appreciated.

To give a better idea of the importance of the Dispensary to the sick poor, and the higher claim it has upon the public for generous and liberal support, we present the following figures:—

Indoor Departments.	Patients.	Consultations.	Deaths.
Medical	778	1,604	.....
Surgical	395	906	.....
Women and Children	339	581	.....
Total	1,512	3,091	.....
Outdoor Department.			
North District	560	2,513	.....
Central "	372	1,900	.....
South "	196	731	.....
Total	1,128	5,144	.....
Grand Total	2,640	8,235	27

Prescriptions dispensed.....9,259
For other Institutions..... 582
Number of Teeth extracted 561

The outdoor department is a most important branch of the Dispensary. The physicians attached to it visit persons who are too ill to come to the Dispensary. Their time is much spent among the very poorest of our city, who exist in places which, in many cases, can scarcely be designated houses, and often without the necessaries of life. Under such circumstances the doctor works at great disadvantage; he can supply the necessary medicines, but can do little or nothing towards providing that which is most needed—*good food, pure air, and proper clothing.* For examples of utter wretchedness and destitution, visit the outdoor patients of the Dispensary. Sickness under any circumstances is a great affliction; but how much harder is it to bear when

accompanied by destitution and want. The Medical Board, through you, are very desirous of calling the attention of the proper authorities to the very defective sanitary condition of the tenement houses of this city. Many of them are unfit for human habitation, surrounded, as they frequently are, by decomposing animal and vegetable matter, bad drains and cesspools—it is hardly to be wondered at that such diseases as diphtheria, scarlatina, and others of a zymotic origin are rife amongst us. The bad condition of our city, in a sanitary point of view, undoubtedly favors the spread of contagious diseases, and increases their mortality.

This matter affects the health not of a few persons, but the entire community, and where prevention is possible, no efforts should be spared to secure it.

The Board again have much pleasure in testifying to the ability of Mr. Puttner. He is always at his post, willing and ready to carry out the wishes of the gentlemen in attendance.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES.

Scald.....4	Tongue Tie 6	Varicella.....2
Sciatica.....4	Typhoid Fever.....8	Vomiting.....8
Scarletina.....42	Tumor 20	Wounds.....35
Super, Latacton.....10	Ulcers.....40	" (usethna)....2
Spermatonhoca.....2	Wino Rensio.....2	Able to pay.....30
Tonsititis.....77	" Suppressio 4	" visit 38
Tabes Mesentesica...4	Vernes.....70	No Diagnosis.....22
Sore Nipples.....6	Vulvetis.....4	Wrong Address.....60
Tinea Capity.....4	Varicose Veins 6	

DEATHS AND CAUSES.

Bronchitis.....2	Meningitis.....3
Convulsions.....1	Phthisis.....4
Carcinoma.....1	Pneumonia.....2
Diphtheria.....8	Scarletina.....3
Erysipelas.....1	
Gastrity.....2	Totol.....27

Report of the Eye and Ear Department.

To the Directors of the Halifax Dispensary :—

Gentlemen,—During the year ending November 30th, 1876, I have had under my treatment 145 cases—120 of the eye and 25 of the ear; about one quarter more in all than during the previous year. The number of visits made by these persons to the Dispensary, including some visits made by me at the houses of some of the patients, was 1037; an average of about 7 visits to each patient.

A very gratifying feature in connection with the year's work has been a very large increase in the number of those who have presented themselves for treatment during the early or acute stage of their diseases. This fact accounts for the average number of visits made by each patient being actually less than last year, while the total number of persons applying is 27 more. It is fair to conclude that the poor are more ready to avail themselves of treatment than heretofore, and do not wait until their diseases become chronic, when a protracted course of treatment is generally necessary to effect a cure, if irreparable injury has not already been produced. It is earnestly to be desired that those persons for whose benefit the Dispensary exists, will not fail to avail themselves of its advantages through a false pride; while on the other hand it is not a pleasant duty to be obliged to refuse treatment to some, who imagine the hearts of the citizens who support the Dispensary are so large that they disregard not only color and creed, but also the ability to pay in those who apply for aid.

During the year two cases of cataract have been operated upon, both of which were successful. One occurred in an old lady in one of the Charitable Institutions of the city, and the other in a laborer.

I cannot conclude this report without referring to the new building which has been completed within the year, and occupied since last spring. In external appearance, interior arrangements, and in its regard for general comfort, it compares favorably with similar institutions in any of the large cities of this Continent; and when it is remembered it was built at a time of general financial depression, it stands as a monument of the philanthropy of the citizens, and the energy of your Board of Directors.

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the readiness with which your Board acceded to my request of last year's report, for a couple of rooms in the Dispensary to receive such severe cases as could not be treated satisfactorily outside. One of these has been furnished with bed. bedding, &c., by a young lady in the city, who prefers being an anonymous donor. It is hoped some one equally thoughtful and kind will furnish the other room. During the earlier part of the time that has elapsed since the Dispensary was opened, there were three cases that would have been admitted, but for reasons with which your Board are already acquainted, and which it is not necessary to mention here. Latterly there have been no cases so severe as to require admission.

STEPHEN DODGE, M. D.

Halifax, November 30th, 1876.

DISEASES OF THE EYE.

Cystic tumour of lid	2	Abscess of Lach. sac	1
Inflam of lids (erysipelatous)	1	Supra Orbital Neuralgia	2
Keratitis	4	Pterygium	1
Keratitis phlyctenular	19	Epithelial corner of lid	1
Keratitis ulcerative	7	Subconjunctival tumour	1
Keratitis interstitial	1	Hypermetropia	1
Foreign body in Cornea	1	Neuro Retinitis	1
Keratitis ulcerative and and prolapse of Iris	1	Atrophy optic nerve	1
Corneal speck	1	Dislocation of lens (traumatic)	1
Corneal staphyloma	1	Detachment of retina	1
Subconjunct hemorrhage	1	Contusion of globe	1
Wound of Cornea and Iris	1		
Obstruction of Lach. duct	6		120

DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Impacted Cerumen	2	Suppur. Inflam. Middle Ear. (chronic)	2
Otitis externa (diffused)	1	Chronic Aural Catarrh	13
Otitis externa (circumscribed)	1	Ozœna	2
Acute Inflam. Middle Ear	3		
Suppur. Inflam. Middle Ear	1	Total	25

TREASURER'S

THE HALIFAX DISPENSARY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

Dr.

To paid Salary of Apothecary	$ 366 63
" " " Secretary	75 00
" " " Physicians	525 00
" " for Printing, Advertising, Books, &c	70 25
" " " Medicines	775 98
" " Rent of old premises to April, 1876	88 00
" " Gas, Fuel, Water, &c	135 26
" " Malcom & Johnston, balance of contract	4797 00
" " Elliott & Busch	250 00
" " Longard & Muirhead	161 93
" " W. G. Wiswell	80 00
" " James Reardon	39 27
" " for Furniture and Gas Fittings	139 05
" " Thomson & Bullock for professional services	15 00
" " Interest on Mortgage	97 50
" " Insurance on Buildings	15 06
" balance on hand	24 57
	$7655 50

STATEMENT.

THE HALIFAX DISPENSARY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

Cr.

By Balance on hand January 1, 1876		$ 60 58
" Donations—Daniel Cronan, Esq	$50 00	
James Thomson, (Custos)	25 00	
M. H. Richey, (Mayor)	25 00	
E. M. Colford	14 00	
Judge Marshall	4 00	
Widow Lady, per Rev. J. C. C	4 00	
Charitable Irish Society	40 00	
North British Society	40 00	
Garrison Theatricals	50 00	
Stadacona Ins. Comp'y	40 00	
People's Singing Class	7 10	
D. & D. Mutes, per Rev. J. C C	5 00	
Girls of Acadian School	2 00	
		306 10
" Am't collected by D. Henry Starr and Secretary		553 50
" " Provincial Grant		400 00
" " City Grant, half-yearly		375 00
" " Sales of Old Stoves		10 20
" " Borrowed on Mortgage		3000 05
" " Special Provincial Grant		1000 00
" " Collected in the Churches on Hospital Sunday per list		1450 07
" " Donations to New Building, per list		500 00
		$7655 50
By balance brought down		$24 57

E. E.

J. F. KENNY,
Hon. Treasurer.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS IN THE CHURCHES,

SEPTEMBER 24, 1876.

St Paul's Church	$223 30
St. Luke's "	138 11
St. Mark's "	12 00
St. George's "	41 32
Trinity "	19 94
Bishop's Chapel	21 75
St. Mat'hew's Church	205 20
St. Andrew's "	27 50
Chalmer's "	40 00
Fort Massey "	50 00
St. John's "	40 00
Poplar Grove "	25 71
St. Mary's "	259 03
St. Patrick's "	99 59
St. Joseph's "	36 40
Grafton St. Methodist Church	40 00
Brunswick St. " "	55 28
Charles St. " "	13 13
Baye St. " "	7 09
Keech St. " "	2 50
Granville St. Baptist "	14 00
North End " "	6 00
Gerrish St. " "	4 72
Church of the Redeemer	35 00
Christ Church, Dartmouth	25 50
North West Arm Church	4 00
Goodwood, per J. Caruthers	1 00
	$1450 07

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO NEW BUILDING.

Edward Binney, Esq	$200 00
Michael Dwyer, Esq	100 00
Charitable Irish Society	100 00
Elliott & Busch	50 00
S. A. White, Esq	25 00
M. B. Almon, Esq	20 00
W. G. Wiswell, Esq	5 00
	$500 00

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1876.

COLLECTED BY D. HENRY STARR AND THE SECRETARY.

Avery, James F., M. D.	$10 00
Albro, Edward	5 00
Almon & Mackintosh	5 00
Archbold, E. P.	5 00
Akins, Thomas B.	5 00
Anderson, Billing & Co.	4 00
Binney, Edward	20 00
Bishop of Nova Scotia	15 00
Bauld, Gibson & Co.	8 00
Black, Martin P.	5 00
Burns, Adam	5 00
Butler, James	5 00
Black Bros. & Co.	5 00
Bent, John K	5 00
Boak, Hon. Robert	5 00
Black, William L.	4 00
Black, Samuel H	4 00
Brown, Thomas A	4 00
Brown & Co., M. S.	4 00
Bremner, J. J.	4 00
Burton, John W.	4 00
Black, William A.	4 00
Bayne, John	2 00
Connolly, Archbishop	20 00
Cochran, Hon. James	20 00
Cunard, William	10 00
Cronan, Daniel	5 00
Carney, Michael	4 00
Chisholm, William	4 00
Cronan, John	2 50
Creighton & Son, J. G. A.	2 00
Doull & Miller	10 00
Dwyer, Michael	5 00
Duggan, James	5 00
Duffus & Co.	5 00
Donaldson, James	5 00
Daley, M. B.	4 00
Esson & Co.	6 00
Ead, John	$ 1 25
Farquhar, Forrest & Co.	5 00
Francklyn, G. E.	5 00
Fuller, H. H.	2 00
Fraser, Oland & Co.	2 00
Fordham, Arthur	2 00
Grant, Rev. Geo. M.	5 00
Gordon, Dr. H. A.	4 00
Gastonguay & Dompierre	2 00
His Worship the Mayor	10 00
Hesslein, Henry	10 00
Hannan, Rev. Dr. V. G.	5 00
Howlett & Co., L.	5 00
Hogan, Peter	4 00
Halliburton, J. C.	4 00
Howard & Son, S.	4 00
Hart, Jairus	4 00
Harrington, W. D.	2 00
Jennings & Clay	4 00
Jones, A. G., M. P.	4 00
Kenny, Sir Edward	10 00
Kenny, J. F.	5 00
Lithgow, James R.	10 00
Lawson, Harrington & Co.	5 00
Lowell, W. L. & Co.	2 00
Maclean, John S.	5 00
Macleod & Co., A.	5 00
Macleod, Alexander	5 00
Mott, John P.	5 00
Moren, James A.	5 00
Morrow, James B.	5 00
MacDonald & Co., J. S.	4 00
Macnab, William	2 25
Mackintosh, R. B.	2 00
Muir & Blackadar	1 00
Northup, Hon. J.	5 00
Neal, White & Co.	5 00
O'Brien & Son, M.	1 00

Pickford, Robert	$ 5 00
Peters, T. Sherman	5 00
Power & Co., P	5 00
Parker, Hon Dr	4 00
Pugh & Son, John	4 00
Peters, Henry	4 00
Pallister, W. H	3 00
Ritchie, Judge	10 00
Rhind, William	5 00
Robertson, Wm	3 00
Reilly & Davidson	2 00
Sinclair, John A	10 00
Stairs, W. J	5 00
Stairs, John	5 00
Scott, James	5 00
Smith, Edward	5 00
Starr, George H	5 00
Starr, D. Henry	$ 4 00
Sterling, W. S	4 00
Silver, W. C	4 00
Silver, John	4 00
Sircom & Marshall	4 00
Sweet, Rufus J	1 00
Smith, John S	0 50
Taylor & Co., John	5 00
Taylor, Robert	4 00
Walsh, Patrick	5 00
Walker, John M	5 00
West, N. L	5 00
West, W. P	5 00
White, S. A	5 00
Wilkins, Judge	4 00
	$553 50