



REPORT  
OF  
The Halifax Dispensary,  
FOR THE YEAR  
1897.

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RE-ORGANIZED 1857.

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HALIFAX, N. S. :  
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS 69 & 71 GRANVILLE STREET,  
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# Halifax Dispensary, 1898.

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## President.

W. C. SILVER.

## Vice-Presidents.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND HON. H. H. FULLER.

## Directors.

WM. DUNBAR, CHAS. ARCHIBALD,  
ROBERT TAYLOR, A. M. BELL,  
HON. SENATOR POWER, WILLIAM ROBERTSON,  
J. F. KENNY, Hon. Treasurer.

## Secretary.

W. H. WISWELL.

## Consulting Physicians.

DRS. HON. D. MCN. PARKER, DRS. EDWARD FARRELL,  
D. A. CAMPBELL, J. F. BLACK,  
F. U. ANDERSON, 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, W. ROBERTSON,  
R. TAYLOR, 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 By-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 The present Constitution and By-Laws of the Dispensary shall be valid legally binding until altered or repealed.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 By-Laws and Rules of the Dispensary.

# CONSTITUTION.

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## 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.

### V.

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.

### VI.

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.

### VII.

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

### VIII.

A code of By-Laws shall be appended to the Constitution, embodying necessary details.

### IX.

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 Meeting and Reports of the Year's Work.

The annual meeting of the Dispensary Society was held at their building yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, when the several annual reports were read and passed, and the following board of directors, etc., elected :—

W. C. Silver, President ; the Mayor and Hon. H. H. Fuller, Vice-Presidents ; J. F. Kenny, Honorary Treasurer ; Robt. Taylor, A. M. Bell, Wm. Robertson, Hon. Senator Power, Wm. Dunbar, Charles Archibald, Directors.

W. H. Wiswell, Secretary.

Dr. F. U. Anderson was added to the board of consulting physicians.

The Secretary read the Directors' report for 1897 :

#### DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Under the provisions of the act incorporating the Dispensary, the Board of Directors are required to make an annual report of their proceedings and the general position of the institution placed under their control.

In addition to affording that information to the local government and civic authorities who materially assist its finances, the Directors think a like duty can be claimed by those kind contributors and friends by whose financial aid and sympathy the more extended and varied undertakings of the Dispensary are effectuated.

That the Directors are able to report once more (as they have been doing for 15 years) the continued successful work of this noble charity and its ability to comply with all the demands upon it is a matter of satisfaction to all parties interested in its progress, and of profound thankfulness to Him who rules all things.

#### VALUE OF THE WORK AND ITS SMALL COST.

As heretofore the proof of the value of the work performed and the absolute necessity of carrying it on will be found in the reliable and interesting statistics given in the several reports of the active medical staff.

The financial abstract of the Honorary Treasurer indicates the comparatively small cost at which thousands of our indigent sick people are supplied with medical treatment and all needful prescriptions. Thus the problem "of securing the greatest good to



the greatest number " (physically at least) has a gratifying solution. It must be remembered, however, that small as is the actual outlay in comparison to the work done, it would not be possible to carry it on to its present extent and effectiveness, did not the members of the Medical Staff perform it for a small honorarium. These gentlemen attend daily at the building or the homes of patients, and the Dispenser is fully occupied making up prescriptions by the thousand.

#### WHAT THE STATISTICS SHOW, ETC.

The statistics given in the medical reports show how great the number is of sick and disabled people in the city and vicinity, and though the poor are a class somewhat difficult to please or deal with, all demands upon the Dispensary on their behalf have been met, and complaints are almost unknown as to lack of treatment. Neglect, or failure to be attended, may be caused by wrong address, or none ; or by the person not being entitled to dispensary service ; or from the case requiring treatment at a hospital.

#### LEGITIMATE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

As misapprehension exists as to the object and subjects of the dispensary, these are given in article II, of the constitution as follows :—

"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." The Directors and Officials have always construed this section liberally (some have said, too liberally), rather than discriminate too sharply against ineligible applicants.

The Board have long been desirous of increasing the membership, 1st, to keep up the corporate status ; 2nd, to augment the finances ; and 3rd, to have a greater number from whom to choose the governing body each year. The small sum of four dollars annually confers these privileges.

#### DECREASE IN CHURCH AND PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

To obtain sufficient funds for all necessary requirements in the administration of dispensary affairs has been a special desire and duty of the Directors. For the past and previous year they have noted a falling off in the Dispensary Sunday collections, both as regards the number of churches responding to the appeal and the amounts contributed. There has also been a decrease in the list of subscriptions, attributable more to other special claims, such as the disastrous fire at Windsor, &c., than to a failure of interest in the work of this important Charity, and to the decease of several kind benefactors.

#### IN MEMORIAM.

In this connection the Directors lament the loss of their

esteemed friend and Honorary Treasurer, the late Adam Burns, to whose memory they have had entered in their minutes the following resolution :

“Resolved, that the Directors place on record their deep regret at the decease of their co-director and Honorary Treasurer, Adam Burns, and their appreciation of his efficient services, and of the kindly interest manifested by him in the objects and welfare of the Dispensary.

APPOINTMENTS AND THANKS.

1. To fill the vacancies thus caused, Charles Archibald, Esq., was appointed Director, and J. F. Kenny, Esq., kindly undertook the duty of Honorary Treasurer.

2. In appreciation of their satisfactory services and personal merits, the Directors re-appointed the Active Medical Staff to serve for the year 1898.

The Directors conclude their report with hearty thanks to all who have contributed to the sustentation and success of the Dispensary.

W. C. SILVER, *President.*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

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## REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL BOARD.

Dr. C. D. Murray read the general report of the medical staff and statistics of work done in 1897.

### GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL BOARD.

The accompanying statistical statement bears witness to the healthy condition of the City during the year just completed. For the first time since 1890 there has been no recurrence of the epidemic form of influenza, which caused so much sickness during six years. The city has also been free from all other forms of epidemic disease during the past year. A few sporadic cases of diphtheria and scarlet and typhoid fevers have occurred, but these have been tractable to special sources of infection.

### DECREASE OF THE DEATH RATE AND SANITARY SUGGESTIONS.

The considerable diminution in the death rate for the past six months is greatly due to the small mortality from infantile diarrhoea, usually the scourge of the summer months. This may be to some extent due to the absence of the customary heat wave, but is probably more owing to the freedom of our water supply from organic and bacterial contamination. This state of affairs reflects credit on those responsible for the sanitary management of the city. Were it possible to take some practical steps for the proper care and treatment of our consumptives, another source of much disease and misery might be to a large extent removed. The sufferers from this disease should be at an early stage of their illness removed to a special institution, where they would have the best chance of cure and be less of a menace to the health of their friends and relatives. At the same time the sanitary authorities should take special precautions for the thorough disinfection of all houses and rooms in which consumptives have lived or died. The time has now arrived for the rational treatment of this class of disease. Medical science has discovered the source and mode of origin of the disorder. It remains for the state or philanthropic public to provide for the carrying out of the necessary and obvious preventive measures. The internal economy of the Dispensary has been successful and harmonious. Mr. Lugin's care and courtesy has done much to promote this result. The care of the building has been attended to satisfactorily by the Janitress.

The staff desire to thank the directorate for their reappointment and for the uniform courtesy and consideration received at their hands.

C. DICKIE MURRAY, M. B. C. M.,

*Sect'y to Medical Staff.*

### Statistical Report.

#### INDOOR WORK.

	Patients.	Consultations.
Medical Department, Dr. Hattie.....	1,140	1,842
Surgical " Dr. Gow.....	423	777
Women and Children's Department, Dr. Ternan..	763	1,509
Eye and Ear Department, Dr. Dodge.....	169	580
Dartmouth Department, Dr. M. A. B. Smith.....		299
Dental Department, Dr. Ennis, extractions, etc...	857	857
Total.....	3,352	5,864

#### OUTDOOR WORK.

	Patients	Visits.
North District, No. 1, Dr. Walsh.....	241	730
" No. 2, Dr. W. F. Smith.....	168	499
Central District, Dr. Murray.....	336	923
South District, Dr. Silver.....	150	376
Dartmouth District, Dr. M. A. B. Smith.....	183	416
Total.....	1,087	2,944

#### PRESCRIPTIONS DISPENSED.

City.....	9,182
Dartmouth.....	458
Charity.....	448
Total.....	10,120

#### GENERAL SUMMARY.

Patients visited at their home.....	1,087
No. of visits.....	2,944
Patients attended at Dispensary.....	3,352
No. of attendances.....	5,864
Total No. of patients.....	4,439
Total attendances.....	8,808
Total No. of prescriptions dispensed.....	10,120

#### EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Dodge read his report of the eye and ear department :

During the past year there have been 169 patients under treatment in the eye and ear department.

In only one case among this number was an eye lost. This occurred in an infant belonging to a young girl. The disease was a purulent inflammation in both eyes occurring shortly after birth. I have on former occasions referred to this disease and its consequences. It causes a large part of the blindness met with in young children. It emphatically requires prompt and efficient treatment; and unless the child has a very bad physical organi-

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zation it is generally treated with success. She was told how serious was the nature of the disease, warned of the consequence of neglect, given strict instructions as to her part in carrying out the treatment, her responsibility pointed out, and given the most positive orders to bring the child regularly to the Dispensary. It was a whole week before she returned, with one eye destroyed. She seemed to utterly fail to take in the situation, came once or twice more and never returned, probably preferring to take the advice of some equally ignorant friend.

There seems to be something lacking in the provision made for certain cases of illegitimate children that do not enjoy the benefit of the Infants' Home. The mothers attempt to care for them, and they are often careless, slovenly and unable to care for themselves. In the majority of cases it is a very difficult task to get them to attend regularly, to spend time to keep the eyes clean at home, any to avoid the use of old dirty rags for that purpose. Often they have not the means to clothe themselves decently, or their child. In other cases their infants are left to the tender mercies of some woman who makes a living by professing to care for such children. The law should step in and deal with such cases. Better far, from a simple money point of view for the state to pay for the proper care of all such cases of illegitimacy and for the treatment too, as physicians are under no obligation to the state, nor to the community, to furnish gratuitous attendance.

I have already said that purulent inflammation in infants causes a large proportion of those permanently blind. It would be much better for the state and municipality to see that proper provision is made to prevent blindness than to be obliged to support such unfortunate cases after blindness occurs, or even to provide for their education extending over a term of years as now.

In the United States within the last few years 11 states have passed laws "requiring that, should one or both eyes of an infant become inflamed or swollen or reddened at any time within two weeks of its birth, it shall be the duty of the midwife or nurse having charge of such infant to report in writing within six hours to the health officer or some legally qualified physician of the city, town or district in which the parents of the infant reside, that such inflammation or swelling or redness of the eyes exists. The penalty for failure to comply with the law is made a fine not to exceed \$200 or imprisonment, not to exceed six months, or both." Such a law is needed in our own Province that all cases of purulent inflammation in infants may be promptly attended to. But even this enactment does not meet the case of those referred to in the earlier part of this report, and additional provision is necessary in the line that I have indicated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN DODGE, M. D.

Halifax, Dec. 31st, 1897

The Treasurer submitted his abstract of receipts and expenditures for the past 12 months, the former being much smaller than heretofore, as will appear in his accounts, page 13 :

Expenses for the year.....	\$2911 66
Receipts " " .....	2610 23
Deficit.....	\$ 301 43

**HONORARY TREASURER'S ACCOUNT, 1897.**

J. F. KENNY, Treasurer in account with THE HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY.

Jan. 1.	To Balance cash on hand.....	\$1487 76
6.	Collections in various Churches for Hospital Sunday, 1896, as per memo annexed.....	81 12
25.	Balance of rent of room used by Medical College	30 00
Apl. 14	Deposit Receipt taken out Jan. 25th, and withdrawn now for Current Expenses.....	1000 00
	Interest on Bills.....	7 47
July 29.	Dividend on Sir Wm. Young's fund.....	499 61
Aug. 26.	Received from J. H. Townsend, donation from Sunday School fund, Mineville, Hx Co.	2 07
Nov. 24.	Hospital Sunday, 1897, from Churches heard from as per memo annexed.....	487 96
Dec. 8.	Amount collected by Messrs Fuller & Robertson.	143 00
31.	" " Messrs. Kenny & Archibald	149 00
	Provincial Government Grant.....	400 00
	Halifax City Grant.....	750 00
	Dartmouth " .....	60 00
		<u>\$5097 99</u>
1897.	CR.	
Jan. 25.	By Deposit Receipt.....	\$1000 00
	12 months Insurance on Building in Acadia.....	18 75
Mar. 12.	12 mos. Insurance on Furniture, etc., in Phoenix..	3 60
Oct. 28.	18 tons hard, and 5 chaldrons soft coal.....	119 70
Dec. 31.	Gas account for the year.....	41 95
	Brown & Webb account for Drugs, etc., for year	542 47
	Salaries of Members of Medical Staff for year....	1000 00
	Salary of Dispenser for year.....	799 93
	Secretary for services during year.....	75 00
	Secretary's memo for expenditures during the year as per his statement and vouches, viz. :	
	Medical and Surgical requisites.....	\$ 18 80
	Repairs, Refittings, etc. to Property....	109 04
	Rates and Taxes.....	23 91
	Kindling wood, etc.....	19 70
	Cleaning Morgue and House.....	28 30
	Printing, Advertising & Stationery..	95 51
	Telephone, 12 mos. to May, 1898.....	15 00
		<u>310 26</u>
	Balance cash on hand.....	1186 33
		<u>\$5097 99</u>

J. F. KENNY,  
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct,  
WM. ROBERTSON, Auditor.  
Halifax, January 8th, 1898.

## DISPENSARY SUNDAY CHURCH COLLECTIONS, 1897.

Garrison Church, Halifax.....	\$ 12 10
Anon.....	2 00
United Services Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians in St. James Church, Dartmouth.....	46 54
St. Peter's Church, Dartmouth.....	34 75
St. Mathias Church, Halifax.....	7 00
Chalmers " ".....	15 00
Poplar Grove " ".....	6 00
Methodist Church, Caledonia.....	2 00
Grafton St. Methodist Chrnrh, Halifax.....	21 10
Fort Massey Church, Halifax.....	49 40
St. Paul's " ".....	116 42
St. Andrew's " ".....	36 30
St. Matthew's " ".....	60 12
St. Luke's " ".....	37 34
Kaye St " ".....	5 00
First Baptist " ".....	15 14
Trinity " ".....	7 10
St. George's " ".....	14 65

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\$487 96

Halifax, Jan'y 8th, 1898.

J. F. KENNY,

*Treasurer.*

## Memo Collections for Dispensary Sunday, 1896, received 1897.

Charles St. Church.....	\$25 94
Brunswick St. Church.....	25 68
Park St. Church.....	21 50
Robie St. Church.....	8 00

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\$81 12

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO THE HALIFAX  
VISITING DISPENSARY, 1897.

Pickford & Black.....	\$20 00	R. B. Seeton.....	\$5 00
Murdochs Nephews.....	10 00	A. & W. Smith & Co.....	5 00
Jack & Bell.....	10 00	A. Hobrecker.....	5 00
A. & W. Mackinlay.....	10 00	Wood Bros. & Co.....	5 00
Brown & Webb.....	10 00	J. W. Allison.....	5 00
Bauld, Gibson & Co.....	10 00	W. C. Silver.....	5 00
W. B. Arthur & Co.....	5 00	E. B. Sutcliffe.....	5 00
Levi Hart.....	5 00	Smith Bros.....	5 00
W. Mitchell.....	5 00	Michael Dwyer.....	5 00
J. T. Thomson.....	5 00	W. H. Wiswell.....	5 00
Geo. E. Boak.....	5 00	Wm. Robertson.....	5 00
A. Keith & Son.....	5 00	Hon. Senator Power.....	5 00
Arthur N. Whitman.....	5 00	Kelly & Glassey.....	5 00
Jno. McInnes & Son.....	5 00	Simson Bros & Co.....	5 00
J. Y. Payzant.....	5 00	William Dunbar.....	4 00
H. Hesslein & Sons.....	5 00	Barnstead & Sutherland.....	4 00
J. C. Mackintosh.....	5 00	T. C. Allen & Co.....	4 00
W. J. Stairs.....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm.....	4 00
Drysdale & McInnes.....	5 00	G. P. Mitchell & Sons.....	3 00
Geo. E. Smith.....	5 00	Austen Bros.....	3 00
T. E. Kenny.....	5 00	Cragg Bros & Co.....	3 00
G. M. Smith.....	5 00	M. R. Morrow.....	2 00
J. F. Kenny.....	5 00	Mahon Bros.....	2 00
Jairus Hart.....	5 00	Estate Geo. Rent.....	2 00
J. A. Lithgow.....	5 00	Thos. Forhan.....	2 00
E. P. Archibald.....	5 00	Geo. A. Pyke.....	2 00
Chas Archibald.....	5 00	C. W. Outhit.....	2 00
Longard Bros.....	5 00	W. C. Sarre.....	2 00
H. H. Fuller.....	5 00	E. Morrison & Co.....	2 00
G. J. Troop.....	5 00	W. Y. Bennett.....	1 00