

REPORT
OF THE
HALIFAX DISPENSARY,

FOR THE YEAR 1889.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.

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Halifax Dispensary, 1890.

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, DR. EDWARD FARRELL,
HON. D. McN. PARKER, J. F. BLACK.
D. A. CAMPBELL,

Attending Physicians.

DRS. S. A. DODGE, DR. M. A. CURRY,
T. A. STODDARD, A. MORROW.

Visiting Physicians.

DRS. N. M. GRANT, North District 1.
R. H. CRAWFORD, " 2.
F. W. GOODWIN, Central District.
D. A. FRASER, 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.

REPORTS &c., FOR 1889.

The Annual meeting of the Halifax Visiting Dispensary was held Monday Jan. 13th, 1890, afternoon. President Silver, in the chair, who commended the objects of the institution and spoke of its continued usefulness and increased work, referring to it as one of the best in the city and really indispensable.

The Secretary then read the

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1889.

As in duty bound the directors of the Dispensary submit to its members, subscribers and friends their record of the undertakings of the institution for the past twelve months as embodied herein and set forth in the practical and specific reports of the Medical Staff, including the Dartmouth branch.

The facts therein stated show that under the blessing of Divine Providence this noble charity has been the means of alleviating to a greater extent than before the physical evils which afflict the sick poor of the City and its surroundings, and also of relieving strangers who need its special aid.

The fiscal arrangements and general management of its affairs appertain to the Board, involving responsibilities and duties which are connected with the maintenance and supervision of its special objects, but not requiring to be detailed.

FUNDS, THANKS, SYMPATHY, &c.

The annual formality of presenting a Report however, affords

the directors a convenient opportunity for making appeals to the community at large for a fresh supply of the funds required for upholding and extending the work of the Dispensary; and also of thankfully acknowledging the pecuniary gifts of those friends and sympathizers who by personal donations, or contributions on Dispensary Sunday administer aid and comfort to their afflicted fellow creatures.

The amounts thus bestowed will be found in the Treasurer's statement and list of subscribers at the end of the report. Only in these contributions, freely given, do the Directors realize the approval and sympathy of the public in the objects and management of this great charity.

PERSONAL INTEREST NEEDED.

The daily fulfilment of duty and professional labors on the part of the Doctors and Dispenser are known chiefly to the recipients of the benefits conferred in visits, advice and prescriptions.

For want of individual interest, time, and other reasons, very few outside of the Board pay a visit to the Institution on South Brunswick street, or enquire as to how the special objects are being carried out, or what these really are.

ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS CORRECTED

It may be well here to correct a misapprehension not uncommon in the city, that the Dispensary affords help and grants benefits which are really and properly the work or duty of other and differently constituted charities or institutions, each established for its own class of applicants and beneficiaries.

It is not a hospital nor an infirmary where patients can come and remain to be treated by a resident or visiting physician, though in the case of non-resident patients coming under the Eye and Ear department, provision for accommodating them with lodging can be made with the Custodian. The special advantage of the present over the old dispensary consists in visiting the sick poor in their abodes. The staff of the dispensary has been increased of late years with the view of meeting the wants of that class more fully. There are now

two visiting physicians for the north end, one south and one for the centre of the city. Three attending physicians, with Dr. Dodge for the Eye and Ear department, and a Dentist, together with the Dispenser do the work within the building.

A NEW DISPENSER.

In the Dispensing department very much depends upon the character, competency and promptitude of the incumbent in regard to the special duties of that position, and in his relations with the physicians, the poor, the building, etc. In appointing Mr. E. F. Lugin to fill that office, the directors feel assured that he will prove equal to the requirements.

INCREASED LIBERALITY REQUESTED.

In conclusion the Board, on the subject of finances, beg to remind former regular contributors, intending subscribers and the public generally, that increased and rapidly increasing demands, upon the Institution and its resources necessarily cause greater outlay; that the income over and above the public grants is dependent upon voluntary contributors; and that these taken together for the past years very slightly exceed the expenditure. Relying therefore, upon the sympathy and liberality of all who know and feel for the needs and sufferings of the Sick Poor, the directors leave the subject of pecuniary assistance in their hands.

W. C SILVER, *President.*
W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT.

The Report of the Medical Staff was read by Dr. Crawford as follows:—

STATISTICAL.

Medical department.....	2,143 consultations.
Surgical.....	857 "
Women and children.....	1,731 "
Eye and ear.....	632 "
Dartmouth.....	185 "
North district, No.1.....	1,565 visits.
" " No.2.....	1,097 "
Central ".....	1,243 "
South ".....	1,088 "
Dartmouth.....	479 "
Dental.....	955 "
Charity prescriptions.....	275 "
Dartmouth ".....	715 "
City.....	11,943 "
Total.....	12,905
Patients.....	4,781

GENERAL.

The above is a synopsis of the work done at the Dispensary during the year just ended, and compared with that of previous years show a decided increase in the number of patient's treated at this institution. This increase has not been due to the prevalence of any epidemic, for our city has been wonderfully free from any special form of epidemic during the year, but it has rather been due to the increased number of patients who come to the Dispensary to be treated for slight ailments. There can be no doubt that to day the Dispensary is one of the best of the charitable institutions of our city and one of the most indispensable. We have great satisfaction in noting the interest that is being taken in its maintenance by the various religious bodies of our city, and we feel sure that if the work done by it was brought more prominently

before the public it would receive from the public the support to which it is entitled.

ABUSE OF DISPENSARY PRIVILEGES

While it is gratifying to know that the dispensary is thus accomplishing the object for which it was intended, namely, to give free medical assistance to all the Sick Poor, still it is to be feared that the privileges of the Dispensary are greatly abused by those who are not legitimate dispensary patients, but who are able to pay. This suggests the need of some change in the present system of giving medical assistance. At present, as you are aware, it is left solely to the judgement of each member of the Medical Staff to decide whether a patient is or is not to be treated at the Dispensary. The members of the staff have the responsibility of thus discriminating between patients who apply for medical attendance. This system is very unsatisfactory, for the members of the staff have no means of judging whether or not a patient is entitled to receive free medical attendance. It is hoped that before long a more satisfactory system will be adopted. In this connection the Medical Staff would thank the Directors for their anxiety to remedy this state of things, and for their repeated solicitations from the staff of suggestions as to the best means of effecting a change. To this end the staff have appointed a committee to find out from the management of similar institutions how they overcome this difficulty. When the desired information has arrived it will be submitted to the Directors for their consideration, feeling assured that whatever is most practical will be adopted.

CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL STAFF.

It is the painful duty of the Medical Board to embody in their report the loss by death of their colleague Dr. J. S. Lathern, who was for some years connected with this institution, and whose sad and sudden demise took place early in the year. The medical board felt sorry when Dr. Marshall announced his intention of resigning the office of apothecary; but they have to congratulate the directors on securing the

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services of such a competent and careful dispenser in Mr. Lugin to fill the vacant position.

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CONSULTING STAFF.

The acting staff are pleased to know that the difficulties which existed a few years ago between the consulting and acting physicians no longer exists; and they feel sure that the consulting physicians would again sit at the board with the acting staff if so desired by the Directors. This would be a decided benefit to the dispensary, for the Consulting Physicians would then have the same status as obtains in all other similar institutions, and they would take a greater interest in the working of the Dispensary. The acting staff feel sure that the Directors are anxious to make the Halifax Dispensary equal to the best institution of a similar character in our land and in this endeavor the staff will gladly second their efforts.

THE EYE AND EAR REPORT.

Dr. Dodge read the following report from the Eye and Ear Department.

During the year I have treated 172 patients with diseases of the Eye or Ear. These varied very much in intensity. Some got well rapidly; others required a more or less prolonged attendance, especially certain forms of eye disease with ulcerative action, generally occurring in persons somewhat advanced in life or in younger persons with lowered vitality, who are poorly fed, imperfectly clad, subject to exposure to rough weather and with bad hygienic surroundings. Many of these cases are painful; others are not. Successful treatment demands prompt attention. After an experience in Dispensary practice extending over many years, I have noticed how little attention is paid to any disease impairing the sight or hearing providing it is not painful. It is also surprising how much value is attached to the organ of hearing than to that of sight. Many become so deaf that they can scarcely hear the tick of a watch, and yet they speak of their having been "slightly effected." Many apply with discharges from the

DISPENSARY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS,

The order in which they were received :

Robie St. Methodist Church.....	\$ 8 25
Grafton St. Methodist Church.....	20 00
St. Luke's Cathedral.....	88 77
Brunswick St. Methodist Church.....	45 57
St. Peter's Church (Dartmouth).....	30 00
St. Mary's Cathedral.....	211 00
St. Patrick's Church.....	98 15
St. Joseph's Church.....	22 90
Christ Church Dartmouth.....	36 80
St George's Church.....	42 00
St. Matthew's Church.....	103 00
Chalmers Church.....	25 00
St. James' Dartmouth.....	24 59
North Baptist Church.....	12 30
Charles St. Methodist Church.....	28 00
Beech St. Methodist Church.....	3 00
Trinity Church.....	5 55
St. Andrew's Church.....	33 74
Fort Massey Church.....	50 00
Park St. Church.....	30 00
Bishop's Chapel.....	28 01
First Baptist Church.....	28 64
St. John's Church.....	26 50
St. Paul's Church.....	143 41
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SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1889.

His Grace the Archbishop.....	\$10 00	"Tobogran".....	\$ 3 00
Mahon Bros.....	2 00	G. P. Mitchell & Sons.....	3 00
Adam Burns.....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm.....	4 00
E. B. Sutcliffe.....	5 00	H. H. Fuller.....	5 00
Jas. Butler & Co.....	5 00	Wm. Dunbar.....	4 00
M. B. Daly.....	4 00	J. F. Kenny.....	5 00
E. P. Archibald.....	5 00	Wm. Miller.....	10 00
Hesslein & Sons.....	5 00	Pickford & Black.....	10 00
Robie Uniacke.....	5 00	Brown & Webb.....	10 00
M. P. Black.....	5 00	Bauld & Gibson.....	10 00
Hart & Murray.....	4 00	James Scott.....	5 00
M. S. Brown & Co.....	4 00	Lawson, Harrington & Co.....	5 00
F. C. Elliot.....	2 00	James Morrow, (2 years).....	10 00
Wm. Chisholm.....	2 00	Geo. E. Smith, (2 years).....	10 00
Jairus Hart.....	4 00	Macdonald & Co, (2 years).....	10 00
J. R. Lithgow.....	4 00	Davidson Bros.....	10 00
F. D. Corbett.....	5 00	A. & W. Smith & Co.....	5 00
W. H. Pallister.....	5 00	Smith Bros.....	5 00
R. J. Sweet.....	3 00	W. J. Coleman.....	5 00
Austen Bros.....	2 00	T. C. Allen Co.....	5 00
Clayton & Sons.....	3 00	W. L. Lowell & Co.....	4 00
A. W. Redden.....	5 00	Alex Stephen.....	1 00
Stephen Tobin.....	2 00	D. Cronan.....	5 00
F. J. Phelan.....	1 00	A. McDougall & Son.....	5 00
W. B. Reynolds & Co.....	2 50	J. A. Chipman.....	2 00
Muir & Blackadar.....	3 00	B. W. Chipman.....	2 00
B. G. Gray.....	5 00	E. Morrison & Co.....	1 00
J. C. McIntosh.....	5 00	Chas. H. Harvey.....	2 00
J. Y. Payzant.....	5 00	W. J. Kennedy.....	5 00
A. N. Whitman.....	2 00	T. A. S. Dewolf & Son.....	1 00
Levi Hart.....	2 00	W. E. Schwartz.....	1 00
R. S. & Co.....	3 00	F. Schwartz.....	1 00
Geo. E. Boak.....	2 00	W. H. Simpson.....	1 00
A. M. Bell, (2 years).....	4 00	E. W. Crease.....	2 00
Wm. Robertson.....	20 00	Jas. Gordon.....	2 00
W. C. Silver.....	8 00	J. A. Crease.....	3 00
Hon. Senator Power.....	5 00	Hart & Murray.....	1 00
Robert Taylor.....	5 00	R. B. & Co.....	4 00
E. Davison.....	5 00	Jno. White & Co.....	10 00
Rev. Dr. Maury.....	2 00	W. E. Schwartz & Son (1888).....	2 00
Emily S. Wiswell.....	1 00	C. E. Creighton & Co (2 years).....	10 00
D. J. Power.....	1 00	J. Taylor & Co.....	4 00
P. O'Mullin (1888).....	2 00	Gordon & Keith.....	4 00
R. I. Hart & Co.....	5 00	J. Cornelius.....	4 00
Agt. Canada Life Insurance.....	5 00	J. E. Morse (2 years).....	1 00
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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 membership 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.

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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 Bye-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.

BYE-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The Directors shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations for the management of the Institution.

II.

The Board of Directors shall meet at the Dispensary at least once a quarter to inspect the Rooms and transact such business as may be brought before them. At such meetings they shall appoint two of their number an Executive Committee to attend to any business that may come up during the succeeding quarter and report thereon at next meeting of the Board. At all meetings of Directors (unless at the Annual Meeting) four shall be necessary to form a quorum.

III.

No Director personally interested in a matter under debate shall be entitled to vote at such debate.

IV.

The Directors shall appoint—

1. The Consulting Physicians.
2. Attending Physicians for each class of patients.
3. Visiting Physicians.
4. An Apothecary.

V.

All patients treated at the Dispensary shall be divided into four classes, as follows; but the Board may make such modifications thereof as they think proper:—

7. General Medicine, including Disease of the Heart and Lungs.

2. Surgical Cases.
3. Diseases of Women and Children.
4. Eye and Ear Department.

VI.

To each of the above classes shall be appointed by the Board of Directors one attending Physician, whose duty shall be to attend at the Dispensary daily for at least one hour, from 12 to 1 o'clock, and treat patients of their respective classes, with exception of the Physician to the Eye and Ear Department, who shall attend Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 12 to 1 p.m.

VII.

There shall be kept at the Dispensary the following Registers :--

1. Visiting Physicians' Register.
2. Register of patients of each class.
3. Fyles of the prescriptions of each Physician for the year.
4. Fyle of the prescriptions of Charitable Institutions.

VIII.

The Physicians shall reject such applicants as are not entitled to the benefits of the Dispensary. The reasons for such rejection shall be entered upon the Register.

IX.

Lying-in women ordinarily are not patients of the Dispensary, but in extraordinary cases of labor, or when medical aid may be necessary after delivery, they may be attended by the Visiting Physicians.

X.

If any patient shall continue absent from the Dispensary for the space of two weeks, such patient shall be considered discharged.

XI.

Each attending Physician shall enter in a Register, to be kept for that purpose in the prescribing room, such particulars of each case treated as may be deemed necessary by him.

XII.

The Attending Physicians may bring students to the Dispensary to witness the treatment when the patients do not object. No student shall operate or prescribe in the Dispensary. They shall conform to such rules as the Board may consider necessary.

XIII.

The Attending Physicians of the Dispensary shall draw up such rules for the conduct of students and patients as they may deem necessary. Such rules to be approved of by the Board of Directors, and prominently exposed on the walls of the Dispensary.

XIV.

The City may be divided into four Districts, and there shall be a Visiting Physician for each, viz :—*South District*—South of Sackville Street, East to Harbour, West to N. W. Arm. *Central*—South, Sackville Street; North, Jacob Street, West, N. W. Arm; East, Harbour. *1st North District*—South, Jacob, Cogswell Streets to N. W. Arm; East Harbour; West, N. W. Arm; North, Gerrish Street, through Maynard to West Street, through West to Robie Street, through Robie to Cunard Street, through Cunard Street to Chebucto Road, thence through North Street to N. W. Arm. *2nd North District*—All North of 1st North District within City limits.

XV.

Each Visiting Physician shall take charge of and give adequate attention to all Dispensary patients residing within the District to which he is appointed, needing medical aid at

their dwellings. He shall call at the Dispensary at least once each day, between 1 and 3 o'clock, except Sunday, and at each call he shall copy the entry of all such patients from the Register of out door applicants, and shall indicate against each name on the Register previously copied the result of his visit.

XVI.

The Attending and Visiting Physicians shall, one week previous to the Annual Meeting, send to the Board of Directors a Report of all patients treated during the year, giving the statistics and results, with such remarks in regard to the diseases treated by them, and the causes thereof, as the public health may seem to require.

XVII.

The Apothecary shall attend at the Dispensary daily, from 10 a. m. till 1 p. m., and from 6 to 7 p. m., and on Sundays from 12 to 1 p. m. It shall be his duty (1st) to classify the patients that come to the Dispensary to be treated; (2nd) to receive and record all applications for out-door treatment; (3rd) to compound medicines and dispense the prescriptions of the Attending and Visiting Physicians; (4th) to make up prescriptions for a poor patient coming from any of the consulting Physicians; (5th) to perform such other duties in the Dispensary as the Board may direct.

XVIII.

The compensation to the Attending and Visiting Physicians and the Apothecary shall be determined from year to year by the Board of Directors, and shall be proportionate to the work requiring to be done by them.

XIX.

No Physician, nor the Apothecary, shall appoint another to take his place should he retire. Before resignation each shall give three months' notice.

XX.

These Bye-Laws shall not be altered unless the proposed alteration shall be submitted in writing to the Board at least one stated meeting previous to that at which the action of the Board shall be had thereon.

XXI.

The foregoing Bye-Laws shall commence and take effect on the first day of April, 1883, and all previous Bye-Laws shall thereupon cease and become void.

XXII.

GENERAL MEDICAL BOARD.

1. There shall be a Board in connection with the Dispensary, to be made up of the Consulting, Visiting, and Attending Physicians, and to be known as the General Medical Board.

2. Such Board shall have power :—

a. To make such Bye-Laws and Rules as may be deemed advisable for the efficient transacting of the business of the Board, which Bye-Laws and Rules, when approved by the Directors, shall bind all the members of the Board.

b. To consider proposals and suggestions for the better conducting of the work of the Dispensary, whether such proposals and suggestions be original or be based upon the experience of other places.

c. To report such proposals or suggestions, if approved by the General Medical Board, to the Directors, with or without alterations; and to recommend action thereon by the Board of Directors.

d. To report to the Directors the views of the General Medical Board upon any matter connected with the working or organization of the Dispensary.

3. There shall be appointed annually an Executive Committee of the General Medical Board composed of three members, (one of whom shall be elected from the Consulting

Physicians, one from the Visiting Physicians, and one from the Attending Physicians.) It shall be the duty of such Executive Committee to carry out the directions of the General Medical Board as to all matters within the jurisdiction of the Board, and to give particular attention to the details of the professional work of the Institution. Provided always that no action involving any material change in such professional work shall be taken, except upon a resolution of the General Medical Board, passed at a regularly called meeting, and approved by the Board of Directors at a meeting summoned in the regular way.

4. The Active Medical Staff shall prepare the Annual Report, dealing with the proceedings of their section and general work, which, with any other matter that they may deem expedient, shall be submitted at a meeting of the General Medical Board before it is transmitted to the Directors.

5. Nothing in this Bye-Law shall be construed to take away or impair the right of the existing Medical Board, composed of the Visiting and Attending Physicians, viz:—

a. To select, subject to the approval of the Directors, for each member of the Acting Staff, his position in connection with the Dispensary for the year; or—

b. To refer any charge against itself, or any of its members, to the Directors for adjudication.

6. So much of any existing Bye-Law as is inconsistent with this Bye-Law is repealed.