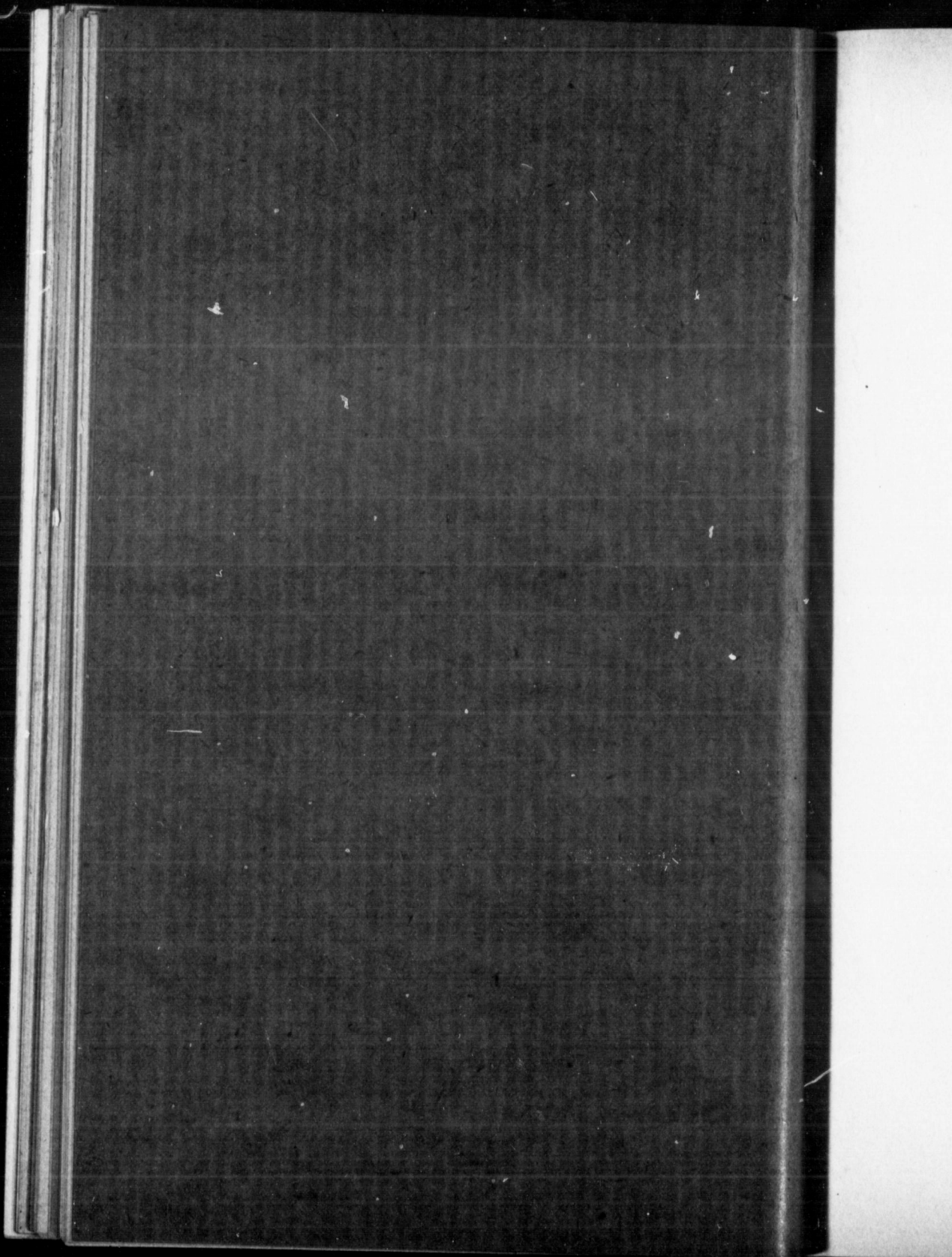


REPORT
OF THE
HALIFAX DISPENSARY,
FOR THE YEAR 1895.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

HALIFAX, N. S.
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS, 69 & 71 GRANVILLE ST.,
1896.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.



REPORT

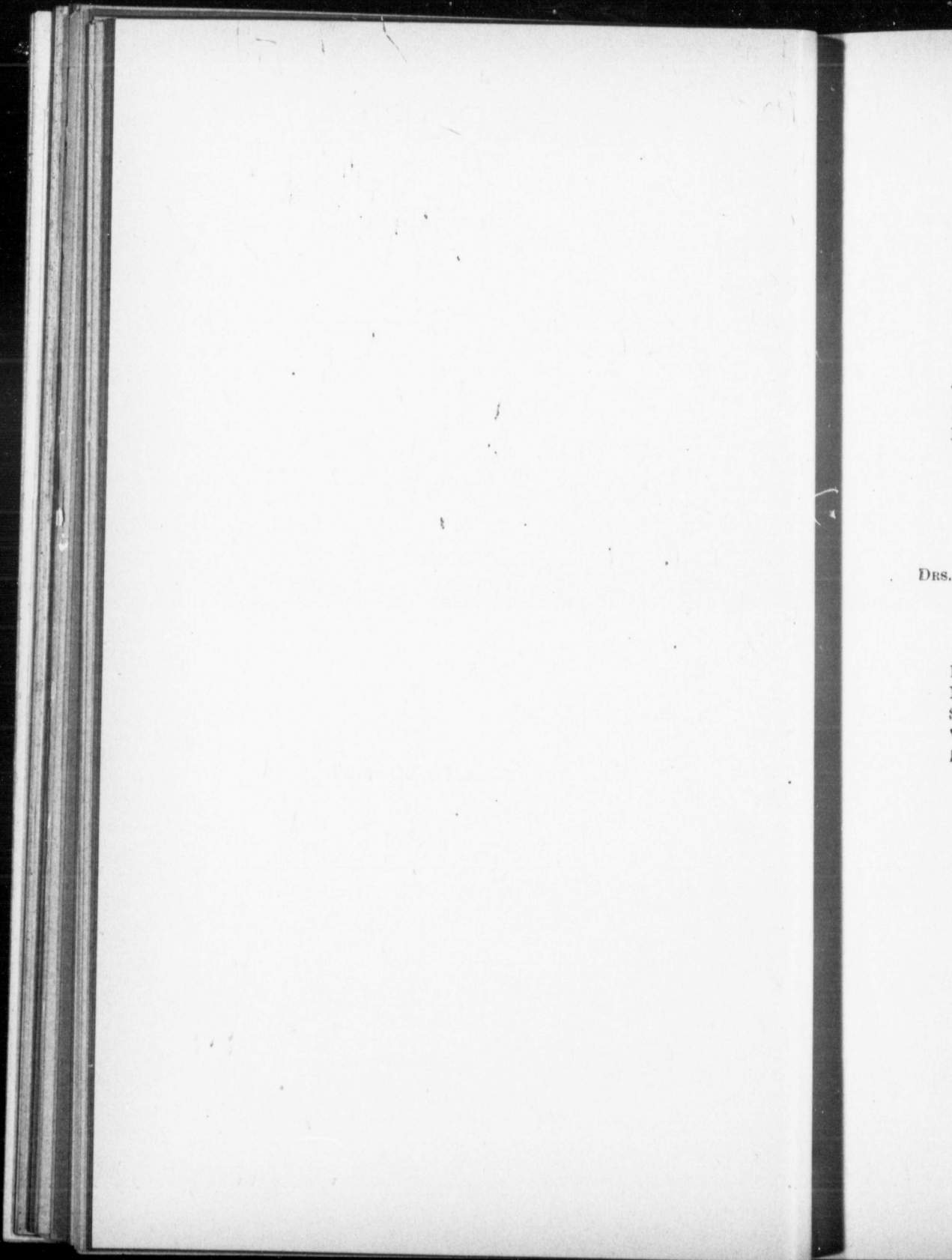
OF THE

HALIFAX DISPENSARY,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

RE-ORGANIZED 1867.

HALIFAX, N. S.
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS, 69 & 71 GRANVILLE ST.,
1896.



DRS.

Halifax Dispensary, 1896.

President.

W. C. SILVER.

Vice-Presidents.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, *ex-off.*
HON. H. H. FULLER.

Directors.

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

Secretary.

W. H. WISWELL.

Consulting Physicians.

DRS. HON. D. McN. PARKER, DRS. EDWARD FARRELL,
D. A. CAMPBELL, J. F. BLACK,
M. A. CURRY.

Attending Physicians.

EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.—DR. S. DODGE.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—DR. F. U. ANDERSON.
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. D. FINN, " " 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.

THE HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY.

REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1895.

The annual meeting of the friends and subscribers of the Society was held at their building on South Brunswick Street, Monday, Jan. 13th, at 4 p. m., when the following reports were read and adopted and the same Board of Directors re-elected.

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31ST, 1895.

The Directors' of the Dispensary beg to present to the supporters and friends of the Society the several reports of the work undertaken and accomplished during the past year. For the success thereof sincere thanks are due to Almighty God and to those whom He has inspired to assist in its special objects. This will be the fifty-third yearly publication of the Dispensary's affairs, and the twentieth since its reorganization and location in its present substantial edifice. As the customary report of the board is for the most part a yearly record of the same matters in regard to the prudential and financial management and the results of their oversight, the Directors' merely continue the formality as an introduction to things essential recorded herewith.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND REQUIREMENTS.

The important practical doings of the active medical staff will be found clearly and briefly detailed in their various reports, and the honorary treasurer's financial abstract will show whence the necessary funds have been derived, and for what services and requirements disbursed. The treasurer is ever ready to receive donations from liberally disposed individuals or bodies, and has often been heard to regret that more and larger gifts are not "cast into the treasury" in order to provide for increasing demands. As the blood is the life of the body corporal, so money is the vital element in the body corporate, and as is the case with this and other chartered institutions, when that current (or currency) ceases to flow, the subjects of their special benevolence must suffer accordingly.

REDUCED SUPPORT MEANS CURTAILED BENEVOLENCE.

In this connection the board have to report a falling off in the amounts of Dispensary Sunday contributions, and the failure of a number of congregations in the city and Dartmouth to whom the notices and printed special appeals were sent, so far to make any

tangible response, but a few have signified their intention to do so, and the Directors' hope that all the others will do likewise. The individual subscriptions have also been less. As respects the Dispensary, a contracted income means several undesirable effects in any year, such as the reduction of the medical staff, the curtailment of prescriptions, the limitation of the number of beneficiaries now so liberally and carefully treated at the Dispensary and in their homes.

SANGUINE EXPECTATIONS AND A SUGGESTION.

But the Directors' are averse to a pessimistic view of this matter and trust that the citizens of Halifax, usually so generous in sustaining whatever is necessary for the general good, will not hereafter be unwilling to give to the Dispensary that financial aid which will continue to the sick poor its customary benefits. The Directors suggest an increase in the number of qualified members. Under the constitution the legal qualification is a subscription of four dollars per annum. This would help the income and afford a larger number of persons from among whom to choose the directorate.

RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS' AND MEDICAL STAFF, 1896.

While by repeated election of the same persons to this board (some of whom have served fifteen years) the Directors are flattered by the confidence and appreciation thus shown, they believe in the division of labor, the due performance of public duty and the privilege of doing good being shared in by other parties. Finding the services of the active physicians, dispenser, and dentist to be satisfactory in all respects, and every department in good working condition, the board deemed their reappointments for 1896 expedient and advisable. Commending their interesting reports to the public at large, and thanking all who have exhibited an interest, substantial or otherwise, in the work of the Dispensary, the Directors conclude their annual report.

W. C. SILVER, *President*

W. H. WISWELL, *Secretary.*

THE TREASURER'S ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1895.

1895.		RECEIPTS.	
To Balance from 1894			\$889 55
Hospital Sunday Church Collections			682 96
The Archbishop additional			10 00
Interest on Sir Wm. Young's bequest		\$192 75	
"	"	"	211 68
Rent			404 43
Provincial Government Grant			88 00
City of Halifax Grant			400 00
Dartmouth			750 00
Interest			60 00
"		\$90 00	
"		90 00	
"		32 02	
"		4 93	
Collected by Messrs. Fuller and Robertson			216 95
"	"	Kenny and Burns	153 00
"	"	Taylor and Bell	208 00
			34 00
			\$3896 89

1895.		EXPENDITURE.	
By Fire Insurance			\$ 18 75
Visiting and Attending Physicians			909 00
Eye and Ear			50 00
Dentist			50 00
Dispenser			800 00
Secretary			75 00
Drugs			545 79
Gas			31 80
Telephone			15 00
Coal			114 10
House Expenses			27 50
Repairs			11 85
Water Rates			25 13
Medical and Surgical Requirements			25 61
Books, Stationery, Circulars and Advertizing			54 13
Printing per Wm. McNab 3 years			60 00
Truckage of Fuel, Ashes, &c.			15 10
By Balance			1077 13
			\$3896 89

Examined and found correct.

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

Halifax, Jan. 13th, 1896.

REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL BOARD FOR 1895.

Statistical Report.

INDOOR WORK.

	Patients.	Consultations.
Medical Department, Dr. Anderson.....	1,186	1,721
Surgical " Dr. Finn.....	489	915
Women and Children's Department, Dr. Ternan.....	847	1,388
Eye and Ear Department, Dr. Dodge.....	189	576
Dartmouth Department, Dr. Smith.....	150	315
Dental Department, Dr. Ennis, teeth extracted, etc..		816
Total.....	3,675	5,731

OUTDOOR WORK.

		Visits.
North District, No. 1, Dr. Walsh.....	} 1,400	917
" " No. 2, Dr. Gow.....		567
Central District, Dr. Murray.....		1,502
South " Dr. Silver.....		637
Dartmouth District, Dr. Smith.....		424
Prescriptions dispensed	10,356	4,047

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Patients visited at their homes	1,400	No. of visits.....	4,047
" " Attended at Dispensary.....	3,675	No. of attendance.....	5,731
		Total Visits and	
Total No. of patients....	5,075	Attendance.....	9,778
Total No. of Prescriptions dispensed..			10,356

EXTENT OF THE WORK.

The foregoing figures give some idea of the large volume of charitable medical work done by the active staff of the Dispensary during the past year and is in itself a sufficient witness to the beneficent purpose which the institution fulfils, and to the esteem in which it is held by the class for whose aid it is intended. No one visiting the Institution between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock can fail to be impressed by the sight of the indigent sick who attend to seek medical and surgical assistance. The impression would be deepened could they accompany the visiting staff on their daily round of visits.

SERIOUS EPIDEMICS NOT PREVALENT.

While the class attending are not of the degraded type who often fill the out-patient departments in great cities, yet they are in the main poor and sick, often in want only because they are sick, their return to health frequently meaning a return to work

and the relief of their poverty an economic advantage not to be overlooked.

While during the past 12 months there has been no great epidemic in the city, there has been a considerable prevalence of the various zymotic diseases. Scarlet fever has been more or less constant throughout the year. Whooping cough, measles and German measles have been prevalent during the summer months and sporadic cases of diphtheria have recently occurred. Typhoid fever of a very malignant type broke out in No. 1, North District, in a tenement which was subsequently condemned by the health authorities as unfit for habitation and by care an epidemic was averted.

"STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS," NOT DENIED TREATMENT.

An increasing number of people from the outlying districts of the county and even from outside the county attend the indoor departments. Although such have no claim on the institution no such applicant for relief has been rejected.

In the dental department Dr. Ennis reports an increase of work. In this department there is a tendency for people to send their children to the Dispensary to have their teeth extracted who are in far from necessitous circumstances, but the same precaution has been taken in this as in other departments to err rather in the direction of liberality and few have been refused relief.

PERSONAL REFERENCES.

The staff again record with regret the death of one of their colleagues—Dr. McGeorge. The resulting vacancy has been most acceptably filled by the appointment of Dr. Gow.

The work of the institution during the past several years has been much facilitated by the harmony and good feeling which has prevailed among the members of the staff. The value of such feeling in an institution of the kind is inestimable. The staff desire to thank the Directors for their continued confidence as shown by their reappointment for 1896.

They desire to express their obligation to the dispenser, Mr. Lugin, for the obliging and skillful manner in which he has always met their wishes and requirements.

The janitress continues to keep the building clean and comfortable and gives every satisfaction.

C. D. MURRAY, M. D., *Secretary.*

REPORT OF EYE AND EAR DEPARTMENT.

The report herewith presented shows that 189 patients have been in attendance during the year—a larger number than on any previous year with one exception.

It is now 28 years since the Dispensary was reorganized. Previous to 1867 it was in charge of a single physician. The post of physician became vacant, and a number of medical gentlemen met together and agreed upon the present organization, with an indoor and outdoor staff. They submitted their proposition to a number of leading citizens, and it met with their approval. Now there are four physicians connected with the indoor work, and four with the outside, besides one for Dartmouth. Very few of the citizens are aware of the magnitude of the professional work done.

REFLEX VALUE OF MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE.

It is now 21 years since I became connected with the Dispensary. I have had some thousands of cases under treatment. From a scientific point of view every progressive physician takes an interest in any given case of disease, and watches its behaviour under treatment; and if the means employed have been successful in bringing about a restoration of health, he feels that he has added to his stock of knowledge, and enlarged his experience. He has also a peculiar satisfaction, arising from the consciousness that he has been instrumental in relieving the pains and discomforts of a fellow-being, and aiding in the restoration to health and the activities of life. This pleasurable feeling is heightened when it is seen, as in the great majority of cases, that the services rendered are appreciated by the recipients. Some appear to act as if they owned not only the Dispensary, but the physicians. But even in the cases of those least thankful, attendance upon them may have been a blessing in disguise, for it afforded a training in the discharge of duty under difficulties. Still it is better not to have too numerous examples of this character, as physicians do not profess to be angels nor paragons of virtue, and there is danger of their becoming soured towards humanity.

DISCRIMINATION NEEDED—AND A SUGGESTION.

But there is one part of the work which is positively disagreeable and distasteful, and the physicians should be relieved of it, as it is not really professional work. The Dispensary was established for the indigent poor, but application is often made by those who do not really belong to this class. Some do not even deny that they are able to pay a moderate sum for treatment, but claim that they are as much entitled to treatment as Mr. or Mrs. So-and-so, or their family. Heretofore the physicians have had to decide this question as to the circumstances of the applicant, and when in

doubt have given the person the benefit of the doubt. It would seem more fitting that your Board of Directors should take charge of this part of the work, spending 15 or 20 minutes of each day going over the applicants. With each Director taking a week at a time, no one would be unduly taxed.

I have much pleasure in submitting the foregoing for your consideration.

STEPHEN DODGE, M. D.

REPORT OF THE DARTMOUTH BRANCH.

The following table indicates the work performed by the Dartmouth Branch during the year :—

No. of patients.....	194
No. of visits.....	424
No. of consultations.....	306
No. of teeth extracted.....	16
No. of deaths.....	9

The above figures indicate about the same amount of work as last year. This would have been less, however, had it not been for a serious epidemic of scarlet fever which prevailed during the spring and summer, which took away four little patients and made the death rate higher than usual. This epidemic was followed by one of measles. There was therefore a great deal of sickness among the children.

A PRACTICAL PROPOSAL.

One suggestion I would made, though perhaps funds do not permit of its being carried out. Medicines can only be got here from the City Central Dispensary once a day, in the morning, and not on Sunday. The Halifax poor can obtain it from there in the evening as well as in the morning. In urgent cases, which occur very rarely, I have ordered prescriptions from Dartmouth druggists for the service at my own expense. If the Dartmouth physician was authorized by the Directors, in a case of emergency, to obtain medicine from a local druggist selected by them with whom some reduced rate of charge for drugs could be arranged, the cost would be very little in a year, and the service rendered more effective. I would not, however, for a moment favor any disturbance of the present relations between Dartmouth and the central.

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

CH
Garrison
Taberna
St. Math
Chalmer
St. Geor
Grove
Charles
St. Luk
St. Pau
St. And
Kaye St
Park St.
Trinity
Brunswi
Fort Ma
St. John
First Ba
St. Peter
Christ
Presbyt
D
Church
St. Mar
St. Patr
St. Agn

CHURCH COLLECTIONS DISPENSARY SUNDAY AND
SUSEQUENTLY.

Garrison Church.....	\$ 20 34
Tabernacle.....	10 00
St. Mathew's Church.....	80 40
Chalmers ".....	15 00
St. George's ".....	21 75
Grove ".....	10 00
Charles St. ".....	51 65
St. Luke's Cathedral.....	68 85
St. Paul's Church.....	81 49
St. Andrew's ".....	40 25
Kaye St. ".....	5 00
Park St. ".....	24 56
Trinity ".....	6 38
Brunswick St. Church.....	17 66
Fort Massey ".....	53 30
St. John's Presbyterian Church.....	12 80
First Baptist Church.....	22 70
St. Peter's Church, Dartmouth.....	28 75
Christ ".....	30 00
Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, union meeting of these churches, Dartmouth.....	40 13
<i>Received since end of year :</i>	
Church of the Redeemer.....	10 20
St. Mary's Cathedral.....	162 50
St. Patrick's Church.....	75 45
St. Agne's ".....	6 00

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO HALIFAX
DISPENSARY, 1895.

W. B. Arthur & Co.....	\$ 5 00	Mr. Carroll.....	1 00
Adam Burns.....	5 00	Capt Allan.....	2 00
Burns & Murray.....	5 00	Geo. J Hiseler.....	1 00
J. F. Kenny.....	5 00	Mr. Rankine.....	1 00
G. Mitchell & Sons.....	4 00	B. Swenerton.....	1 00
J. Y. Kennedy.....	1 00	J. E. Morse.....	2 00
Matt. Morrow.....	5 00	A. G. Cunningham.....	1 00
Levi Hart.....	5 00	Clayton & Sons.....	5 00
Charles Archibald.....	5 00	D. Roche.....	2 00
Walter Mitchell.....	5 00	Davidson & Co.....	5 00
Jas. T. Thompson.....	5 00	Wm. Robertson.....	8 00
Boak & Bennett.....	5 00	H. H. Fuller.....	5 00
A. N. Whitman.....	5 00	G. J. Troop.....	5 00
J. McInnis & Son.....	5 00	J. F. & Co.....	2 00
H. Hesslein & Sons.....	5 00	R. B. Seeton.....	5 00
J. Y. Payzant.....	5 00	Simson Bros. & Co.....	5 00
Jairus Hart.....	5 00	W. J. Coleman.....	5 00
Austen Bros.....	3 00	A. & W. Mackinlay.....	10 00
E. P. Archibald.....	5 00	Smith Bros.....	5 00
Geo. E. Boak.....	5 00	J. W. Allison.....	5 00
J. L. Lithgow.....	5 00	Kelley & Glassey.....	5 00
Geo. Rent.....	2 00	Bauld Gibson & Co.....	10 00
B. G. Gray.....	5 00	E. Morrison & Co.....	2 00
Mahon Bros.....	5 00	Wood Bros. & Co.....	5 00
W. J. Stairs.....	5 00	T. C. Allen.....	4 00
Murdochs Nephews.....	10 00	W. C. Sarre.....	3 00
J. C. Mackintosh.....	5 00	Wm. Chisholm.....	4 00
Barnstead & Sutherland.....	4 00	Geo. A. Pyke.....	2 00
Jack & Bell.....	10 00	Longard Bros.....	5 00
Drysdale & McInnes.....	5 00	A. & W. Smith & Co.....	5 00
G. M. Smith.....	5 00	Pickford & Black.....	20 00
Cragg Bros.....	3 00	Brown & Webb.....	10 00
T. E. Kenny.....	5 00	W. C. Silver.....	5 00
Jas. Thomson.....	10 00	W. H. Johnson.....	2 00
A. Keith & Son.....	5 00	Billman, Chisholm & Co.....	2 00
Geoffrey Morrow.....	5 00	Michael Dwyer.....	5 00
Wm. Dunbar.....	4 00	A. Hobrecker.....	5 00
Robt. Taylor.....	5 00	J. A. Chipman.....	2 00
A. M. Bell.....	5 00	L. G. Power.....	5 00
A. J. Grant.....	2 00	Jas. Gordon.....	5 00
Ald. McFatridge.....	1 00	Donald Keith.....	5 00