

REPORT

OF

HALIFAX DISPENSARY,

x *List of Discharges among the 462*

FOR THE YEAR 1869.

See Medical Rep. Page 16 State City Poor

RE-ORGANIZED 1867,

HALIFAX, N. S.
PRINTED BY WM. MACNAB, 11 PRINCE STREET.
1870.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia
HALIFAX, N. S.

REPORT

HALL'S DISPENSARY

FOR THE YEAR 1860

HALL'S DISPENSARY

HALL'S DISPENSARY
111 N. 2ND ST. PHILADELPHIA

Hon. J.

J. S.
REV.
WM.

DRS. W.
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J.

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Halifax Dispensary.

1869

President.

REV. CANON COCHRAN, M. A.

Vice-Presidents.

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

Directors.

J. S. MACLEAN, Esq.,	H. N. PAINT, Esq.,
REV. GEORGE M. GRANT,	P. C. HILL, Esq.
WM. DUNBAR, Esq.,	T. E. KENNY, Esq.

Treasurer.

T. E. KENNY, Esq.,

Secretary.

MR. CHARLES FLETCHER.

Consulting Physicians.

DRS. W. J. ALMON,	DRS. RUFUS BLACK,
HON. D. MCN. PARKER,	A. G. HATTIE
J. TIERNAN,	

Attending Physicians.

DRS. C. GOSSIP,	DRS. T. TRENAMAN,
J. SOMERS,	W. TOBIN,
T. R. ALMON,	J. F. BLACK,

Visiting Physicians.

DR. A. H. WOODILL,	DR. RIGBY,
South District.	North District.
DR. EDW. FARRELL,	Central District.

Dentist.

J. R. CHAMBERLAIN.

Resident Apothecary

MR. C. E. PUTNER, JR.

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Directors' Report,

FOR YEAR ENDING 1st DECEMBER, 1869.

In again presenting an annual report of the Halifax Dispensary to the public, the Directors can for the first time point to a balance in hand as far as the funds are concerned, and also to the increased efficiency of the institution, in consequence of some changes made during the past year. The balance is small, but the Directors trust that the increasing liberality of subscribers and a judicious economy will allow them to lay aside an equal sum for the next year or two, that they may then lease and furnish more commodious premises than they can now afford. The premises that they have are cramped and dingy. The most is made of the room, but there isn't room enough. When they were taken, it was at considerable personal risk, as the projectors did not know to what extent they would be sustained by the public. But now that the Dispensary is properly sustained, and recognized as perhaps the most necessary and useful charitable institution in the city, and the most imperatively demanded by the public health, proper accommodation ought to be sought for, that its work may be thoroughly done. At present, in the little hall where the half-dozen Directors can scarcely find room to sit at their

quarterly meetings, often twenty or thirty sick poor, of all ages, are crowded together waiting for the coming of the daily attending physicians; and the little rooms of the physicians and the apothecary's room are so dark that great care must be taken by them if they would avoid mistakes. Two years more is the very utmost to which they should be confined to such narrow quarters.

Two improvements have been made during the past year. First, the city was divided into three districts instead of two, as before, and a visiting physician was appointed to each. The salaries of these three gentlemen—Drs. Woodill, Farrell and Rigby take \$300 of our income, but this sum, though as much as our present income can afford, is so small, looked at in the light of the amount and value of the work done by them, that it may be regarded as an *honorarium*, but not as pay. To that part of the subjoined medical report that speaks of their experiences in visiting the worst parts of the city, the Directors would call the especial attention of the city authorities and the press. There can be no doubt that there are in Halifax common stairs and back courts and corners which are almost always dirty, and as bad as the dirtiest parts of the largest cities. The surrounding atmosphere is polluted in some places by filth of all kinds, of which rotting animal and vegetable matter is not always the worst. These places are most dangerous to the general public health, as well as demoralizing in their influences on the people, and they ought to be constantly inspected, and thorough cleansing insisted on. In a city situated as Halifax is, a very moderate exercise of intelligence and authority could make it the cleanest and healthiest of cities. A clean city is likely

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to be a healthy city; and when universal cleanliness is not insisted on, medicine or medical advice will do little good. Secondly, the services of a well-qualified and permanent apothecary instead of a student have been secured, and the Directors are so well satisfied with his services that they have resolved to increase his salary from the date of this report to \$300 instead of the \$200 which they had given to a student. His hours of attendance at the Dispensary are from 10 to 1 o'clock during the day, and from 7 to 8 in the evening.

Of the six attending physicians who were on the staff of the institution last year, Dr. Woodill and Dr. Farrell were selected in February as visiting physicians for the south and central districts; and Dr. Wickwire and Dr. Van Ess Parker resigned in October. In their places Dr. A. P. Reid and Dr. T. R. Almon, Dr. Trenaman and Dr. Tobin have been appointed. Dr. Gossip and Dr. Somers, of the original number, still continue at their posts. Three of the six attend every day from 12 to 1 o'clock, to prescribe for the sick who are able to come to the rooms; and as it is not the interest of any doctor or of any one to work for nothing for those who can pay, we have the best possible assurance that few, if any, persons able to pay are cured at the expense of the public.

A book is kept in which the apothecary records the visits of the Directors and the Physicians, and a glance over it will show to any one interested how they all discharge the duties they have undertaken. For full information, however, as to the nature and value to the public of the work done, we refer to the subjoined report of the Medical Board.

We have nothing more to add, except to invite subscribers to visit the institution and see for themselves. If they spend one hour in it any day, from 12 to 1 o'clock, we are quite certain that they will double their subscriptions.

N. B.—The above report having been read at the annual meeting held in the new Province Building, it was decided that more commodious premises were urgently needed, and that the collectors of the annual subscriptions should also collect for this object, as it would be unwise for the Directors to take any step in the matter until it was seen what encouragement would be given to it by the public.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL BOARD OF THE HALIFAX DISPENSARY.

To the Directors of the Halifax Dispensary:

GENTLEMEN,—The Medical Board of the Halifax Dispensary beg to submit the following Report for the year ending November 30th, 1869.

Since the last annual Report the Dispensary has been in active operation. All the departments of the in-door service have been regularly attended by the Physicians and Surgeons in charge. They have had 7,412 applications from 3,067 patients. This only includes those who come to the Dispensary to be treated. The out-door service, a large and important part of the work performed, has been regularly attended to by the visiting Physician. The total number of visits made, in the three dispensary districts into which the city has been divided, has been

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3,201 to 893 patients. A number of minor surgical operations have been performed in the Surgical Department. Some cases of midwifery have also been attended. 656 dental cases have been attended to by the Dentist, Mr Chamberlain. Quite a large number of those who have received aid from the institution have been recorded as natives of the surrounding Counties, and many come from the various districts about the city.

The present building used as a dispensary is not well adapted to the wants of the institution, and when the funds will permit the necessary outlay, we believe a larger and more commodious building should be obtained. In this connection we would suggest that in case the city authorities were to erect a building for city purposes, a part of it might be built to suit for a Dispensary, and be set apart to be used as such.

We feel gratified to know that your efforts to support this institution, which does so much good in the community, are ably assisted by the subscriptions of the public, and by aid from the Provincial and City Governments. It is usual in asking support for charitable institutions to appeal to the good and charitable feelings of the public, to remind them of the heavenly reward promised to those who give to the poor, but in addition to this we can confidently say, that the money given you for the support of the Dispensary is a good investment, from which large returns are gained. This is easily explained. The institution affords medical aid and medicine gratuitously to the poor of the city, and timely relief is now sought and obtained by the sick at the outset of a malady which, if allowed to progress, might make paupers of the patient and his family, to be supported, it might be, during his

lifetime, at the public expense. If but one case of this kind occurred during the year, it would save almost as much to the poor rates as it now takes to support the Dispensary for a year. Epidemics of contagious disease, which usually commence among the poor, are recognised at their very commencement, when they can be more easily combatted, while if poverty were to prevent those affected from calling in paid medical advice, the contagion might spread unchecked over the whole city.

It will be seen by reference to the table of diseases accompanying this Report, that a large number of cases of slow or typhoid fever has been treated,—the disease prevalent all over the city during the past summer and autumn. We took occasion in our last annual Report to remind the civic authorities of the necessity of having good sanitary laws strictly enforced, especially in the crowded localities occupied by the poorer classes. Our experience has been that our health laws are not carried out with care, nor does sanitary science receive the attention its importance demands. The drainage of the city is bad, garbage and filth are allowed to accumulate about houses, or are thrown into the street without hindrance, and their decomposition gives rise to noxious gases, which poison the air, and which we have no doubt is continually productive of typhoid fever and other debilitating diseases. This bad air is ever ready also to develop and propagate any imported contagion, such as small pox or cholera. Its least baneful influence is to diminish the vital force of all those, poor and rich, who breathe it.

During the past year it was thought necessary to have a public vaccination in the city. We regret that the

Vaccination this year 1868
Typhoid fever very prevalent

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 Deaths

Bronchitis....
 Rheumatism...
 Phthisis.....
 Fever.....
 Hydrocephalus

Amenorrhoea .
 Anæmia.....
 Asthma.....
 Abscess.....
 Abortion.....
 Apoplexy.....
 Adenitis.....

civic authorities did not recognize that such work could be performed efficiently by the medical officers of this institution, who are so well acquainted with the poorer localities of the city. X Moreover, we believe that if money X is expended for public vaccination, the attending physicians of the Dispensary should be employed, as they give daily a large amount of work and much of their time to the service of the city without fee or payment.

The Dentist—Mr. Chamberlain—has attended regularly every day to those who required his services.

The Apothecary—Mr. Putner—has performed his duties faithfully, and has given efficient aid to the Dispensary in his department.

Number of Patients treated at Dispensary.....	3067
" Applications " " 	7412 ✓
" Patients visited.....	893 ✓
" Visits made.....	3201 ✓
" Prescriptions dispensed.....	6998
" " " for other charitable Institutions	238 7236
" Dental cases.....	656
Total number of applications and visits.....	10613
Surgical operations performed.....	13
Number of cases of minor injury.....	10
Deaths.....	26

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Bronchitis..... 4	Paralysis..... 1	Apoplexy..... 2
Rheumatism..... 1	Senectus..... 1	Diarrhoea..... 2
Phthisis..... 2	Scarlatina..... 1	Pneumonia..... 5
Fever..... 2	Heart Diseases..... 1	Aneurism..... 1
Hydrocephalus..... 1	Cancer..... 1	Involution of Uterus.. 1

DISEASES TREATED AND NUMBER.

Amenorrhoea..... 57	Alcoholism..... 1	Bright's Disease..... 14
Anæmia..... 42	Acne..... 3	Bursitis..... 4
Asthma..... 11	Apthæ..... 1	Convulsion..... 1
Abscess..... 60	Aneurism..... 1	Croup, Spasmodic.... 2
Abortion..... 2	Anasarca..... 1	Cholera Morbus..... 7
Apoplexy..... 4	Bronchitis..... 178	Colic..... 16
Adenitis..... 12	Burn..... 3	Catarrh..... 184

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Caries.....	11	Herpes.....	16	Orchitis.....	6
Constipation.....	66	Hysteria.....	15	Ozoena.....	3
Contusion.....	23	Hydrocephalus.....	3	Odontalgia.....	1
Cataract.....	7	Hydrocele.....	8	Periostitis.....	4
Conjunctivitis.....	25	Hypatitis.....	31	Pregnancy, disord's of	11
Choroiditis.....	1	Hernia.....	4	Pertussis.....	2
Carcinoma.....	4	Hare Lip.....	61	Parotitis.....	2
Carbuncle.....	9	Haemorrhoids.....		Phthisis.....	17
Cephalgia.....	21	Haematemesis.....	7	Paraphymosis.....	1
Diphtheria.....	1	Haemoptysis.....	4	Prolapsus Uteri.....	4
Dropsy.....	9	Haemicrania.....	2	Psoriasis.....	15
Debauch.....	3	Intestinal Irritation..	19	Paronichia.....	2
Dysuria.....	1	Injury.....	65	Prurigo.....	4
Diabetes.....	1	Intis.....	8	Presbyopia.....	1
Dentition, disorder of	13	Impetigo.....	8	Phlyctenular.....	5
Diarrhoea.....	123	Inanition.....	7	Pterygium.....	3
Dysentery.....	7	Icterus.....	1	Pedioculi Cap.....	2
Debility.....	24	Keratitis.....	8	Pleuritis.....	16
Dyspepsia.....	276	Leucorrhoea.....	21	Pneumonia.....	32
Dysmenorrhoea.....	5	Lachrymal Duct, } obstruction of... }	8	Pernio.....	1
Deafness.....	34	Lichen.....	7	Rheumatism.....	72
Dislocation.....	2	Lupus.....	7	Rubeola.....	9
Eczema.....	35	Laryngitis.....	12	Retinitis.....	1
Erythema.....	6	Lithiasis.....	6	Ramolissement Centi.	1
Erysipelas.....	6	Lumbago.....	14	Syphiis.....	32
Epilepsy.....	6	Man:mitis.....	2	Scabies.....	34
Enuresis.....	1	Menorrhagia.....	15	Serofula.....	31
Emphyzema.....	9	Marasmus.....	2	Scald.....	5
Epistaxis.....	1	Melancholia.....	1	Stomatitis.....	5
Epitheluma.....	2	Miscarriage.....	3	Spinal Disease.....	5
Ethema.....	3	Measles.....	60	Tonsillitis.....	60
Fever, Scarlet.....	16	Morbus Coxarium.....	1	Tongue Tie.....	3
" Intermittent..	4	Midwifery.....	4	Tumors.....	14
" Continued....	71	Meuritis.....	1	Ulcers.....	34
" Typhoid.....	7	Meningitis.....	1	Urticaria.....	9
Feruncle.....	7	Neuralgia.....	54	Urethritis.....	1
Fracture.....	12	Nephritis.....	4	Vermes.....	73
Frost Bite.....	6	Nodes.....	2	Varicel.....	16
Foreign Body, ex- } ternal meatus... }	1	Necrosis.....	1	Vaccination.....	30
Gonorrhoea.....	13	Ottorrhoea.....	18	Varicose Veins.....	5
Glaucoma.....	1	Ophthalmia.....	25	Vagina, occlusion of .	7
Gangrene.....	1	Ovaritis.....	6	Whitlow.....	10
Goitre.....	1	Oedema.....	7		
Heart Disease.....	23	Ottalgia.....	5		

Total 162

43

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. McN. PARKER, *Chairman.*

A. H. WOODILL, *Secretary.*

Total Diseases treated for Applicants

162

From

Balance due
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Rent.....
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JANUARY 1

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

From January 1st, 1869, to January 1st. 1870.

EXPENDITURE.

Balance due Treasurer.....	\$ 73.90
Salary of Resident Apothecary.....	200.00
" " Secretary.....	50.00
" " Visiting Physicians.....	275.00
Rent.....	156.00
Medicines.....	367.93
Gas Fittings.....	8.39
Cab Hire, visits to patients outside the city.....	4.00
Printing.....	23.25
Coal, Wood, Lights, and Tradesmen's bills.....	62.21
	\$1220.68

RECEIPTS.

Donation of North British Society.....	\$ 40.00
" " Charitable Irish Society.....	40.00
* Provincial Grant.....	400.00
City Grant, half.....	250.00
Subscriptions collected by Messrs. D.H. Starr & Secretary.....	619.11
	\$1849.11

Balance in Treasurer's hands.....\$128.43

THOMAS E. KENNY,

Treasurer.

JANUARY 1st., 1870.

Expenditure 1197.78
 { Medicines cost 368 }
 { Vis^g Physicians 275 }
 Res^d. Dispensary 200 }

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO HALIFAX VISITING DISPENSARY, 1869.

His Honor Major-General Doyle, sub. for 1870...\$10.00	J. R. Lithgow	5.00
His Grace the Archbishop. 20.00	James A. Moren.....	5.00
The Bishop of Nova Scotia	Miss Vass	5.00
..... 15.00	John Tobin & Co	5.00
The Hon. Judge Bliss... 5.00	P. Power, M.P	5.00
“ “ Wilkins 4.00	Robt. W. Fraser.....	5.00
His Worship the Mayor. 5.00	David Starr & Sons. ...	5.00
Rev. G. M. Grant..... 4.00	James Donaldson.....	5.00
“ R. F. Uniacke..... 4.00	W. B. Fairbanks.....	5.00
Hon. James Cochran.... 10.00	T. G. Budd	5.00
“ M. B. Almon	Jeremiah Northup, M.P.P	5.00
“ Edward Kenny..... 5.00	N. L. West.....	5.00
“ J. W. Ritchie	W. P. West.....	5.00
“ Wm. J. Stairs..... 5.00	Moir & Co.....	5.00
“ Alex. Keith	T. E. Kenny	5.00
John Brookfield	John Barron	5.00
30.00	Black & Bros.....	5.00
Doull & Miller	James B. Morrow.....	5.00
15.00	G. H. Starr	5.00
William Cunard	John Stairs	5.00
10.00	Edward Albro.....	5.00
An Exile.....	J. C. Halliburton	4.00
10.00	W. J. Coleman & Sons... 4.00	
Bauld, Gibson & Co..... 8.00	Edward Smith.....	4.00
Robert Noble..... 6.00	Fraser, Paint & Co.....	4.00
Duffus & Co..... 5.00	James Woodill	4.00
S. A. White..... 5.00	W. B. McNutt.....	4.00
Thomson, Abbott & C... 5.00	William Jordan.....	4.00
Lawson, Harrington & Co. 5.00	S. H. Black.....	4.00
James Scott..... 5.00	Brenton H. Collins.....	4.00
P. C. Hill..... 5.00	Esson & Co	4.00
James Forman	C. D. Hunter	4.00
5.00	J. & R. B. Seeton	4.00
G. P. Mitchell & Son.... 5.00	John Silver & Co.....	4.00
John P. Mott..... 5.00	John E. Cabot.....	4.00
Alexander McLeod..... 5.00	J. F. Avery, M.D.....	4.00
Edward Binney..... 5.00	W. S. Stirling.....	4.00
John S. MacLean..... 5.00	A. McLeod & Co.....	4.00
Neal, White & Co..... 5.00	J. J. Bremner.....	4.00
Burns & Murray..... 5.00		
James Butler..... 5.00		
Daniel Cronan		
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A. G. Jones, M.P..... 5.00		

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S. P. Fair
 Jarius Har
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 Robt. Boal
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 William H
 T. C. Kinn
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 J. W. Men
 Peter Hog
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 W. Barron
 Grant, Ron
 Sircom & J
 G. W. Dup
 T. A. S. D
 Andrew M
 W. M. Har
 T. A. Brow
 Joseph Bel
 H. H.....
 John W. E

