



**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE**  
**Washington**



**Founded 1836**

**U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare**  
**Public Health Service**





AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
✓  
PHILADELPHIA DISPENSARY,  
INSTITUTED  
FOR THE  
MEDICAL RELIEF  
OF THE  
POOR,

APRIL 12, 1786.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY BUDD & BARTRAM, N<sup>o</sup> 58, NORTH  
SECOND-STREET.

1802.



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C H A R T E R

I N C O R P O R A T I N G   T H E

P H I L A D E L P H I A   D I S P E N S A R Y .

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**T**HE principal object of this Institution is to afford relief to the Poor, in those cases where removal to a public Hospital would for any approved reason be ineligible.

For the above purpose the present contributors to the said institution, viz. We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, William White, Samuel Pleasants, Henry Hill, J. Henry Ch. Helmuth, Samuel Powel Griffiths, Robert Hare, Robert Smith, Lawrence Seckel, George Fox, Robert Blackwell, George Meade, Thomas Clifford, John Clifford, John Kaighn, Benjamin Rush, William Shippen, jun. Samuel Clarkson, Ezekiel King, John F. Mifflin, George Latimer, John Swanwick, William Clifton, Joseph Huddell, Samuel Magaw, Tench Coxe, Samuel M. Fox, John Bleakley, Adam Kuhn, Benjamin W. Morris, Thomas Greeves, Edward Burd, James Abercrombie, Thomas Fisher, Miers Fisher, David H. Conyngham, Joseph Anthony, Betton and Harrison, William Wigglesworth, William Young, Charles Marshall, Christopher Marshall, jun. Joseph Parker Norris, Samuel Meredith, George Eddy, Thomas Mifflin, Michael Leib, William Rawle, Robert Morris, George Aston, William Wister, Thomas C. James,  
James

James Woodhouse, Caspar Wistar, jun. Joseph Crukshank, John Redman, Amos Wickersham, Benjamin Say, Isaac Hazlehurst, Nathan Field, Thomas Norton, Jacob Shoemaker, Godfrey Haga, Samuel Mechlin, Edward Penington, Francis Bailey, Benjamin R. Morgan, John Cumming, William Bingham, John Porter, Thomas Penrose, Kearny Wharton, Mordecai Lewis, Arthur Howell, Joseph Sanson, Richard Hill Morris, Henry Drinker, James Reynolds, Samuel Duffield, Thomas Dobson, James Cresson, John Vaughan, Robert Ralston, and such other persons as shall hereafter become contributors thereto shall be and they are hereby erected into a body politic and corporate, by the name of "The Philadelphia Dispensary," and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and may purchase, take and hold by gift, grant, demise, bargain and sale, devise and bequest, or by any other lawful mode of conveyance, any lands, tenements, goods or chattels, real, personal, or mixed estate, and the same or any part thereof from time to time, to alien or dispose of. And shall and may have a common seal, and the same alter and renew at their pleasure.—*Provided always nevertheless*, That the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands, and tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments and real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of money by them lent shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds.

II. The officers of the said company shall consist of twelve managers, to be annually elected on the first Monday in January, at the house for the time being occupied for a Dispensary, by the ballot of a majority of the contributors, who shall attend in person or by proxy. Five managers shall constitute a quorum. And until the next election the following persons shall be managers, viz. William White, Samuel Pleasants, Henry Hill, Lawrence Seckel,

Seckel, Robert Blackwell, Henry Helmuth, George Meade, George Fox, Robert Hare, Robert Smith, John Field and Samuel Powel Griffiths.

III. The managers shall annually appoint a treasurer of the Dispensary, who shall give such security as they may deem expedient, and an apothecary, and shall also annually and from time to time as vacancies may happen, appoint such and so many attending and consulting physicians and surgeons as the good of the institution may be found to require.

IV. No contribution of less than one guinea per annum or ten guineas in one entire sum shall entitle the contributor to the rights of membership in the said corporation.

V. The board of managers shall have power from time to time to make such bye laws, rules and regulations, prescribing the duties of the officers, and for conducting the affairs of the institution as to them shall appear expedient.

*Provided always,* That the said bye laws, rules and regulations, or any of them be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States, to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth or to the foregoing instrument.

We the Justices of the supreme court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, certify to his Excellency the Governor that we have examined the preceding instrument of writing, and are of opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

As Witnesses our Hands,

*Philadelphia, 28th  
March, 1796.*

THOS. M'KEAN,  
EDWD. SHIPPEN,  
J. YEATES,  
THOMAS SMITH.

I have

I have perused and examined the preceding instrument and am of opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

JARED INGERSOLL, Att. Gen.

March 25th, 1796.

Pennsylvania, ss.



*In the Name, and by the Authority  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the  
said Commonwealth—*

THO. MIFFLIN.

*To Matthew Irwin, Esq. Master  
of the Rolls, in and for the said  
Commonwealth, Sends Greeting.*

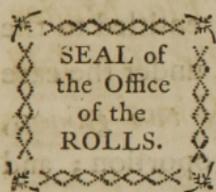
**W**HEREAS it has been duly certified to me by Jared Ingersoll, Esquire, Attorney General of the said Commonwealth, and by Thomas M'Kean, Esquire, Chief Justice, and Edward Shippen, Jasper Yeates and Thomas Smith, Esquires, Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, That they have respectively, perused and examined the within Act or Instrument, for the Incorporation of the "*Philadelphia Dispensary,*" and that they concur in opinion, that the objects, articles and conditions, therein set forth and contained, are lawful: Now know you, That, in pursuance of the Act of the General Assembly, in such case made and provided, I have transmitted the said Act, or Instrument of Incorporation, unto you the said Matthew Irwin, Master of the Rolls aforesaid, hereby requiring you to enroll the same, at the expense of the applicants,

to the intent, that, according to the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, the Parties may become, and be, a Corporation or Body Politic, in Law and in Fact, to have Continuance by the Name, Style and Title, in the said Instrument provided and declared.

Given under my Hand and the great Seal of the State, at Philadelphia, this fifteenth Day of April, in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-six, and of the Commonwealth the Twentieth.

By the GOVERNOR,

A. J. DALLAS, Secretary.



*Inrolled in the Rolls Office for the State of Pennsylvania, in Letter of Attorney Book, No. 5. Page 307, &c. WITNESS my Hand and Seal of Office, the Eighteenth Day of April, 1796.*

MATHW. IRWIN, M. R.

RULES

# R U L E S

O F T H E

## PHILADELPHIA DISPENSARY

F O R T H E

### *Medical Relief of the Poor.*

Instituted April 12th, 1786.

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1st. **E**ACH lady or gentleman, who pays annually into the hands of the treasurer *one guinea*, shall be entitled to the privilege of having two patients at one time, under the care of the *Dispensary*; those who pay annually *two guineas*, shall have four, and so on in the same proportion; and those who subscribe *ten guineas* at once, shall be entitled, *during life*, to the privilege of having two patients attended at one time by the physicians of the Dispensary.

2d. A board, consisting of twelve managers, shall be annually elected on the *first Monday* in *January*, by a majority of the contributors. Votes may be given at all elections, either in person or by proxy. Five managers shall constitute a quorum. Their business shall be to provide medicines for the sick, and to regulate all affairs relative to the institution.

3d. Six attending, and four consulting physicians and surgeons, an apothecary, and a treasurer of the Dispensary, shall be annually elected by the managers of the institution.

4th. The

4th. The physicians and surgeons in ordinary shall regularly attend at the Dispensary on \* *Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays*, from *twelve to one o'clock*: and such patients as are unable to go abroad on Dispensary days, shall be regularly visited at their respective places of abode.

5th. *Every case shall be duly attended, whether acute, chronic, surgical or obstetrical, if recommended by a contributor in a † written note addressed to the attending physician, agreeably to the first rule. The mitigation of the evils and danger of the small-pox, by inoculation, shall likewise be the object of the charity of this institution.* The attending physicians and surgeons shall have a right to apply for advice and assistance to the consulting physicians and surgeons, when they think proper, in all difficult and extraordinary cases.

6th. The apothecary shall reside at the Dispensary. His business shall be to compound and deliver medicines; to keep an exact account of the names, places of abode, diseases, times of admission, discharge, &c. of the patients, for which he shall receive a salary of per annum.

## LIST

\* Such was the original design—but it having been found impracticable to give a proper attention to the cases of the patients on this plan, two of the six physicians, in rotation, are now in attendance at the same time, one taking charge of the northern, the other of the southern district of the city; and thus attend, alternately, at the Dispensary, on the *six* days of the week, and visit, at all times, such patients as are not well enough to go abroad.

† For the benefit of the patients (which has always been the leading principle in this institution) printed letters of recommendation, with the rules respecting them subjoined, are now kept at the Dispensary, from whence the contributors may be furnished with them,

# LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

T O T H E

## PHILADELPHIA DISPENSARY.

### A.

Joseph Anthony,  
Thomas Armat,  
George Aston,  
Thomas Annesley,  
Thomas Alibone,  
James Abercrombie.

### B.

Sarah Bordley,  
Charles Biddle,  
William Bingham,  
Robert Blackwell,  
William Bell,  
James Bringham,  
Bowyer Brooks,  
George Bickham,  
Patrick Byrne,  
Francis Bailey,  
John Bleakley,  
Edward Burd,  
Charles Bitters,  
Joshua B. Bond,  
Thomas Billington,  
Michael Billmeyer,  
Elias Boudinot,  
Philip S. Bunting,  
Samuel Breck.

### C.

Mary Conyngham,  
George Clymer,  
David H. Conyngham,  
Benjamin Chew,  
Benjamin Chew, jun.  
Joseph Cruikshank,  
John Clifford,  
Thomas Clifford,  
William Clifton,  
Joseph Cowperthwait,  
Ephraim Clark,  
Lewis Croufillat,  
William Crammond,  
John Cooke,  
Joseph Clark,  
Jacob Clark,  
Matthew Carey,  
Charles Crawford,  
Thomas Clayton,  
Thomas Cuthbert,  
Nicholas Collin.

### D.

Henry Drinker,  
Thomas Dobson,  
Benedict Dorsey,  
Samuel Duffield,

Thomas

Thomas Dixcy,  
John Dorfey,

E.

Anne Emlen,  
George Emlen,  
John Evans.

F.

George Fox,  
Samuel M. Fox,  
Thomas Fisher,  
Miers Fisher,  
Thomas Fitzsimons,  
John Fries,  
John Field.

G.

Elizabeth Griffitts,  
Samuel P. Griffitts,  
Ashbel Green,  
Thomas Greeves,  
Joshua Gilpin,  
George Guest,  
John Guest.

H.

Sufanna Hudson,  
Robert Hare,  
William Hall,  
Pattison Hartshorne,  
Samuel Howell,  
Godfrey Haga,  
Arthur Howell,  
Hamilton and Son,

Henry Helmuth,  
Isaac Hazlehurst,  
John Harrison,  
Ebenezer Hazard,  
Joseph Huddell,  
John Hart,  
J. C. H. Heineken.

I.

Jared Ingerfoll,  
John Inskeep.

K.

Adam Kuhn,  
John Kaighn,  
Stephen Kingston,  
Thomas Ketland, jun.  
Michael Keppele.

L.

George Latimer,  
John Leamy,  
William Lewis,  
Moses Levy,  
Henry Lisle,  
Caleb Lownes,  
James Logan,  
James Lyle,  
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania  
Joseph S. Lewis,  
John Lisle, jun.

M.

Sarah Moore,  
Christopher Marshall,  
Charles Marshall,

William

William M'Kenzie,  
Samuel Meredith,  
Magnus Miller,  
Benjamin R. Morgan,  
Benjamin Morgan,  
Richard H. Morris,  
Benjamin W. Morris,  
John M'Allister,  
Thomas Mifflin,  
William Macpherfon,  
Ifrael W. Morris,  
Samuel Meeker,  
Abraham Markoe,  
M. H. Messchert.

N.

John Nixon,  
Joseph P. Norris,  
Thomas Norton,  
Snowden and North.

P.

Samuel Pleafants,  
Thomas Penrose,  
Ellifton and John Perot  
Richard Parker,  
Ifaac Pearson,  
Thomas Parke,  
Richard Peters,  
Robert Poalk,  
Zachariah Poulfon.

R.

William Rawle,

Benjamin Rush,  
John Redman,  
Robert Ralston,  
James Read,  
Cropley Rose,  
Hugh Roberts.

S.

Margaret Smith,  
Rebecca Shoemaker,  
Edward Shippen,  
William Sheaff,  
William Shippen,  
Daniel Smith,  
John Stille,  
Joseph Swift,  
Robert Smith,  
Lawrence Seckel,  
Nathan Sellers,  
James Sawyer,  
Andrew Summers,  
Richard Sweetman,  
David Seckel,  
Joseph Sansom,  
Frederick Schmidt,  
John and Abraham Singer,  
Thomas Stewardfon,  
Edward Shoemaker,  
Scots Thistle Society,  
William Savery.

T.

Henry Toland,  
Edward Tilghman,  
John R. Taylor,

John Thompſon,  
James Taylor,  
Joſeph R. Tatem.

V.

John Vaughan,  
James Vanuxem,  
Abraham Vanbeuren,  
John Ulrich.

W.

Rachel Wharton,  
Amos Wickersham,  
Caſpar Wiſtar,

Nicholas Waln,  
Thomas Willing,  
William White,  
Robert Waln,  
Philip Wager,  
John Warder,  
Samuel Wilcocks,  
William Wiggleſworth,  
Gideon Hill Wells,  
Iſaac Wharton,  
Joſeph Waln.

Y.

William Young,  
Ellis Yarnall.

DONATIONS

# DONATIONS

*For the Purchase of a Lot of Ground  
and Building the Dispensary,*

To Feb. 3, 1802.

A.	DOLLARS.		DOLLARS.
George Aston	100	William Crammond	25
Thomas Alibone	50	Samuel Coates	25
John Ashley	50	Cash	25
Samuel Archer	5	John Connelly	20
		Ephraim Clark	20
		Cash	20
B.		Thomas Cumpston	15
John Bleakley	100	John Cook	10
Jacob Barge	100	Cash	10
William Bingham	100	Cash	10
Elias Boudinot	100	Cash	10
Robert Blackwell	50	Cash	10
Jacob Baker	50	Cash	10
Sarah Bordley	50	Cash	10
Alexander Baring	50	Benjamin Clark	10
Paul Beck, jun.	30	Cash	10
William & A. Buckley	25		
John Bohlen	20	D.	
Charles Bancker	20	John Dunlap	50
Clement Biddle	10	William Dawson	30
M. Buck	10	John Dorsey	20
Pennell Beale	13	Thomas Dobson	20
Peter Brady	26	Samuel Denman	20
		Alexander J. Dallas	10
C.			
John Clifford	50		
L. Clapier	50	E.	
William Chancellor	50	George Emlen	50
Daniel W. Cox	50	Samuel Eldridge	25
		John	

	DOLLARS.		DOLLARS.
John Evans	20	John Inskeep	20
Nicholas Efslin	7	David Jackson	10
K.			
F.		John Kaighn	50
George Fox	100	Adam Kuhn	50
Samuel M. Fox	50	Anthony Kennedy	30
Thomas W. Francis	30	George Krebs	10
Miers Fisher	20		
Augustus Fricke	20	L.	
Joshua Fisher	10	Christopher Ludwig	100
		William Lewis	50
G.		Thomas Leiper	50
Samuel P. Griffitts	100	George Latimer	30
Samuel Gatliff	50	Joseph S. Lewis	30
John Graff	30	David Lewis	25
James Gibson	20	Joseph Lownes	20
George Guest	10	Moses Levy	10
		John Lisle, jun.	10
H.		John Letchworth	6
Godfrey Haga	50	M.	
J. C. Helmuth	25	Sarah Moore	50
Samuel Hayes	25	Thomas Miffin	50
Alexander Henry	25	Benjamin W. Morris	50
Josiah Hewes	25	I. I. Mazurie	50
James Hunter	20	Thomas L. Moore	50
Levi Hollingsworth	20	Archibald M'Call	30
J. H. Holtzbecker	10	Richard H. Morris	30
Lawrence Herbert	10	William P. Meeker	20
John Harrifon	37	John Maybin	15
John Hart	30	Magnus Miller	10
		Charles Marshall & Son	50
I.		N.	
Jared Ingerfoll	50	Joseph Norris	50
James Irvine	20	Philip Nicklin	50
		Elizabeth	

P.	DOLLARS.		DOLLARS.
Elizabeth Powel	100	T.	
Samuel Pleafants	100	James Taylor	50
Thomas Penrose	100	Daniel Thunn	50
Richard Parker	50	John Travis	25
Henry Pratt	50	Henry Toland	20
Ellifston & John Perot	30	Richard Tunis	20
George Plumstead	25	John Thompson	10
Thomas Parke	25		
William Poyntell	20	V.	
Isaac Pearfon	10	Ambrose Vasse	15
Pratt & Whitaker	25	W.	
R.		William White	50
Robert Ralston	100	Thomas Willing	50
Benjamin Rush	100	Nicholas Waln	50
William Rawle	50	John G. Wachsmuth	50
George Reinholt	50	Isaac Wharton	50
John Redman	30	Thomas M. Willing	40
Samuel Rhoads	20	Caspar Wistar	30
M. Rall	7	Robert Wharton	30
S.		William Waln	20
Lawrence Seckel	100	John Warder	20
Paul Siemen	100	John Wagner	20
Robert Smith	50	John Welsh	20
James Smith, jun.	50	Peter Woglom	20
Joshua Sutcliff	50	Samuel Wetherill & Son	10
Edward Shippen	50	B. C. Wilcocks	10
James Smith	50	Thomas Wistar	10
William Sheaff	50	Philip Wager	10
William W. Smith	15	William Wigglesworth	5
Jacob Sperry	10		
John Stille	5	Y.	
James Stokes	13	James Yard	45
Henry Schively	7	Ellis Yarnall	30
N. & D. Sellers	4	William Young	20

DECEMBER 28, 1801.

## ACCOUNT OF PATIENTS ADMITTED, &amp;c. &amp;c.

The number of patients who have been under the care of the Dispensary, from Dec. 1st, 1800, to Dec. 1st, 1801, is	1312
Remaining under care since last year,	35
Admitted since last year,	1277
	<hr/>
	1312
Of whom the number cured is	1134
dead,	63
relieved,	56
removed,	23
irregular,	10
remaining under care,	26
	<hr/>
	1312

## ACCOUNT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The treasurer has received from January 1st, to December 16th, 1801,

In annual contributions and life subscriptions,	£.306	5	0
One half yearly bank dividend,		6	15
Balance in the treasurer's hands last year,		53	7
Balance due the treasurer this year,		188	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	£.554	16	5

## EXPENDITURES.

House expenses and medicines,	£.414	16	5
House rent,		40	0
Apothecary's salary,		100	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	£.554	16	5

The treasurer has received on account of the purchase of a lot of ground and erection of a building for the Dispensary.

By the sale of six shares of eight per cent. stock,	£.235	2	6
By ditto of a share in the bank of Pennsylvania,	196	10	0
Part of a legacy of Ebenezer Cresson,	100	0	0
Donation from Hugh Ferguson, chairman of the committee of arrangement,	37	10	0
Contributions solicited by the managers,	1786	5	0
Balance due the treasurer on this account,	75	10	0
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	£.2430	17	6
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### EXPENDITURES.

By fundry sums of money paid for lot of ground and building,	£.2430	17	6
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The many inconveniencies arising from the want of a proper situation, induced us to endeavour to procure a lot of ground in a central part of the city, and to erect thereon a plain commodious building, for the use of this charity. We conceived ourselves warranted to make the attempt, from a consideration that nearly sixteen years experience had so far established the utility of the institution, as to excite a general desire that it might become permanent.—We have been encouraged in this procedure by the liberal donations of our fellow-citizens, which have enabled us nearly to defray the expense of the building—A considerable part of the purchase money for the ground, has also been paid—but for the remainder, as well as to supply the annual wants of the institution, we are again obliged to solicit the aid of the benevolent.—The large increase of patients this year, and the advanced price of medicines,

point out in the most forcible manner, the necessity of this application.

Donations, subscriptions and legacies, will be thankfully received as usual, by John Clifford, Treasurer to the Dispensary, No. 39, North Front-street; by Doctor Griffiths, the Secretary, No. 62, South Front-Street, and by all the Managers.

*Form of Legacy to the Dispensary.*

I give and bequeath to the Philadelphia Dispensary the Sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid to their Treasurer for the time being, and applied towards carrying on the charitable Designs of the said Institution.

It does not seem necessary at this time, to point out to the Citizens of Philadelphia, the peculiar advantages of a Dispensary—That the poor can be provided gratis with medical attendance and remedies, and without being separated from their families, are considerations sufficiently forcible to recommend such an Institution to the attention of the benevolent mind—The mode of admission is made as easy as practicable—none are refused, whose poverty gives them a claim for assistance—and it has been fully proved that in no way can a small charitable donation go further in the relief of distress.

From the first establishment of the Dispensary in this City in 1786, to the present time, it appears, by the registers of the Institution that 17,500 indigent persons have been furnished with medical attendance and remedies—It is also grateful to observe that similar establishments have since been formed in most of the large cities of the United States.

*Published by order of the Board of Managers,*  
WILLIAM WHITE, President.

*Officers Elected, January 1802.*

M A N A G E R S.

William White,  
Samuel Pleasants,  
Robert Blackwell,  
Lawrence Seckel,  
Henry Helmuth,  
George Fox,

Robert Smith,  
Godfrey Haga,  
John Kaighn,  
Robert Ralston,  
John Bleakley,  
Samuel P. Griffitts.

*Attending Physicians and Surgeons.*

*Doctor* John C. Otto,  
John Church,  
James Proudfit,

*Doctor* Thomas Hewson,  
John Redman Coxe,  
James Gallaher.

*Consulting Physicians and Surgeons.*

*Doctor* William Shippen,  
Adam Kuhn,

*Doctor* Benjamin Rush,  
Thomas Parke.

*Treasurer,* John Clifford.

*Apothecary,* Lewis Sweitzer.





Med. Hist.

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