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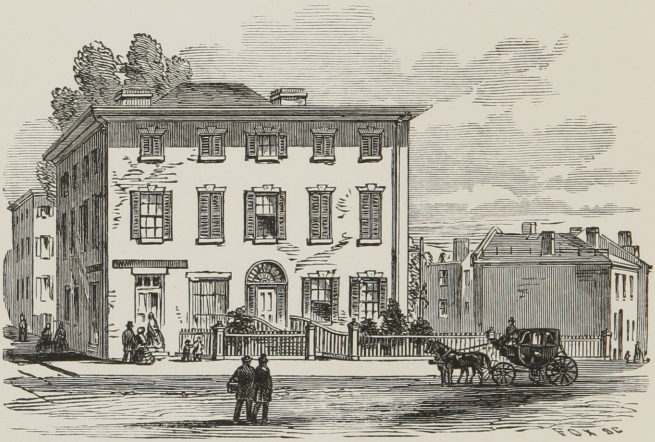

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

1859.

Boston. Dispensary

A

HISTORY

OF

THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

COMPILED BY ONE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

By
William R. Lawrence, M. D.

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"Medicine and every other relief, under the calamity of bodily disease, no less than the daily necessaries of life, are natural provisions which God has made for our present indigent state, and which he has granted in common to the children of men, whether they be rich or poor; to the rich, by inheritance or acquisition, and by their hands to the disabled poor. Nor can there be any doubt that PUBLIC DISPENSARIES are the most effectual means of administering such relief."

BISHOP BUTLER.

TO

SAMUEL MAY, ESQ.,

Present Chairman,

AND DURING THIRTY-TWO YEARS A MEMBER,

OF

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE BOSTON DISPENSARY,

This Volume is Respectfully Inscribed

BY THE COMPILER.

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PREFACE.

An examination of the Records of the Boston Dispensary, undertaken by the Editor in an official capacity, has led to the preparation of the present volume for the use of the Board of Managers. It seemed desirable that the details relating to the past history of the Institution should be collected, as some of the documents consulted are perishable, or may be lost. In the course of a few years, it might not be possible to rescue from oblivion the facts which are now obtained.

The experience of our predecessors is, at the present moment, of special interest. Many of the details contained in the Records would, if printed, be of no value; and therefore only such entries are given as will throw light on the history of the Dispensary.

For the statistical tables at the end of the volume, we are indebted to Dr. John B. Alley, Medical Superintendent of the Institution; and to Dr. Samuel

A. Green, Physician of District Number Six. The engraving of the "Good Samaritan" is from the original plate executed in 1802. The portrait of Benjamin Dearborn is from a plate engraved at Philadelphia in 1803, and kindly furnished by Henry Plympton, Esq.

The examination of documents and the arrangement of materials, the results of which are here presented, have occupied the early hours of each day during several months; but, however dry and uninteresting the task, the Editor will not regard his labor as entirely useless if it shall merit the approval of his associates.

W. R. L.

Boston, July 21, 1859.

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HISTORY

OF THE

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

CHAPTER I.

Montesquieu's Opinion of Hospitals. — Franklin's. — Establishment of Hospitals. — Abuses. — Reasons for creating Dispensaries.

The learned author of the "Spirit of Laws" has written, "Malheur au pays qui a beaucoup d'hôpitaux;" or, as he would have expressed himself in English, "I pity the country which has many hospitals." From the prominence of the institutions of this class in the principal cities of Europe, and from the various and open abuses attending their operations in times past, we cannot be surprised that Montesquieu should have visited upon them the odium which, in strict justice, pertained to the whole political and ecclesiastical administration of the communities in which they were situated. The abuses which exist at the present time were more strongly marked at that early period; and it too often happened, that, from fancied motives of economy or convenience, the hospital and poorhouse were made

identical in purpose. Not only the aged, the decrepit, and the helpless, but the idle, the profligate, and the drunkard, have sought shelter in the former, and have thus given a character to institutions which should be set apart for the sole relief of the sick poor, who, when in health, can, under ordinary circumstances, maintain themselves; but who, in time of sickness and helplessness, deserve our sympathy and assistance. Montesquieu himself, while discouraging the efforts made to establish public institutions with permanent foundations for the relief of the sick, advocates, in another portion of his writings, the necessity of administering temporary relief, in certain cases, to the same classes.

Dr. Franklin writes, while in England, —

"In my youth, I travelled much; and I observed, in different countries, that, the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and, of course, became poorer; and, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer. There is no country in the world where so many provisions are established for them, so many hospitals to receive them, when they are sick or lame, founded and maintained by voluntary charities; so many almshouses for the aged of both sexes, together with a solemn general law made by the rich to subject their estates to a heavy tax for the support of the poor. Under all these obligations, are the poor modest, humble, and thankful? and do they use their best endeavors to maintain themselves, and lighten our shoulders of this burthen?

On the contrary, I affirm that there is no country in the whole world in which the poor are more idle, dissolute, drunken, and insolent. The day you passed that Act, you took away from before their eyes the greatest of all inducements to industry, frugality, and sobriety, by giving them a dependence on somewhat else than a useful accumulation, during youth and health, for support in age and sickness."

That, in these remarks, Dr. Franklin did not intend to discourage a proper provision for such of the poor as, in crowded commercial and manufacturing communities, become disabled by wounds or sickness, may be inferred from the fact of his having made very active personal efforts in 1751 to establish the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. He not only used his influence to procure an Act of Incorporation, and a grant of two thousand pounds from the Legislature, but was one of the first contributors to its funds. He served as one of its Managers for several years, and also as its Secretary. He corresponded, while abroad, with the officers of the institution, and occasionally sent them accounts of the rules and management of the hospitals which he visited in Europe. He writes in after-life: —

"I do not recollect any of my political manœuvres, the success of which, at the time, gave me more pleasure, or wherein, after thinking of it, I more easily excused myself for having made some use of cunning."

It is but justice to the memory of Dr. Franklin to state, that the word "cunning" can hardly be applied to the measures resorted to by him; he having used only such as are constantly and honorably employed at the present day for the promotion of public objects.

Hospitals for the cure of the sick have existed for many centuries, and are the legitimate offspring of Christianity. We are informed that scarcely a trace of the modern hospital can be found among the nations of antiquity. The whole system of paganism tended to sensuality and selfishness, rather than to the cultivation of sympathy with suffering, and a desire to promote the well-being of the less-favored classes. With the growth of Christianity, hospitals under various forms have been established for the relief of all classes; and now no system of public charity is considered complete without them. Whatever abuses may attend the administration of charitable institutions created for the benefit of persons in health, we cannot conceive, that, with ordinary discrimination, there should be any danger of abuse in making provision for the sick. Common instinct prompts the patient, in his hours of sickness and dependence, to seek the care and soothing attentions of his own household; and destitution or homelessness would, in most cases, be the sole motive for intrusting himself to the care of strangers. Even the poorest and most abandoned will rarely feign sickness in order

to get medical treatment, however ready he may be, when in health, to resort to dishonest devices for the purpose of sustaining himself in idleness. With the growth of cities, and the extension of arts and manufactures, the numbers disabled by accidents and sickness called for increased hospital accommodations. With the necessarily increased expenditures, and the consequent burdens upon the public, originated the plan of treating the sick at their own dwellings. It was found that a very large class could, by gratuitous medical aid, be cared for in their own homes at a comparatively trifling expense; and thus the system of public dispensaries was inaugurated from mixed motives of economy and humanity.

CHAPTER II.

Dispensaries established. — Public Approval. — General Plan. — Dr. Lettson's Opinion. — Hospitals and Dispensaries compared. — London Dispensaries. — New-York Dispensaries. — Advantages of Dispensaries.

The first institution of the kind was established in London, under the auspices of Dr. Hulme, afterwards assisted by Dr. Lettson. It was situated in Aldergate Street, and commenced operations in 1770, under the title of the General Dispensary.

The results were so satisfactory, that several institutions were soon founded upon the same plan both in Europe and America. The date of the inauguration of several of these was as follows: —

Westminster General Dispensary in London	1774
London Dispensary in London	1777
Finsbury Dispensary in London	1780
Eastern Dispensary in London	1782
Philadelphia Dispensary	1786
City Dispensary in London	1789
New-York Dispensary	1790
Boston Dispensary	1796
Bloomsbury Dispensary in London	1801

The Duke of Bedford was Patron of the Bloomsbury Dispensary; and the Marquis of Huntley, President. The Prince of Wales was Patron of the City

Dispensary, and the celebrated Dr. Jenner was Superintendent of the vaccine department. The objects of these institutions seem to have excited a considerable degree of public interest; and two of the royal dukes are mentioned as having presided, on different occasions, at the annual dinners of the subscribers. Dispensaries have found so much favor in Great Britain, that they have been established by order of Government, under the care of native physicians and surgeons, in Bengal and other parts of India.

All these institutions were founded on the same general principles, and were mainly supported by private subscriptions of one guinea each. The London City Dispensary, however, early received aid from the municipal authorities. Noblemen, members of Parliament, and lady-subscribers, were allowed to vote by proxy. Patients were required, on their discharge from the care of the dispensary, to return thanks by letter to the subscriber who recommended them. Each patient discharged from the lying-in department was expected to return thanks to God for her recovery, at her usual place of public worship. Soldiers and sailors were treated gratuitously; but no other persons, unless necessitous, were entitled to the same privilege.

At one of the dispensaries, baths were kept for the use of the subscribers, or, as they were then called, governors. All such are notified that they can indulge in "a bath as often as agreeable."

In 1796, 125,316 poor persons had received medical aid from the General Dispensary in Aldergate Street.

In speaking of London in 1801, Dr. Lettson says, —

"Fifty thousand poor persons are relieved annually, one-third of whom are attended at their own dwellings; a mode of relief which keeps the branches of the family from being separated, and affords the wife an opportunity to nurse the sick husband or child, or the husband to superintend and protect a sick wife. By this mode of conveying relief to the bosoms and houses of the poor, the expense is trivial indeed; as one guinea, which is the annual subscription of a governor, affords the means of relief to at least ten patients. Hence 50,000 patients are annually relieved for £5,000, — a sum not exceeding one-third of the revenue of a single hospital in London, which scarcely relieves 6,000 patients a year."

We do not suppose that the last paragraph was written by Dr. Lettson in disparagement of hospitals, but rather to present in a striking manner the economical advantages of dispensaries. The two institutions are equally important, though entirely distinct; each standing upon its own merits, and differing entirely in the amount of care and expense required, and therefore rendering it impossible to institute a just comparison in regard to their respective economical advantages.

In 1850, there were in London thirty-five public dispensaries, affording relief annually to 140,860 poor patients. Their annual income amounted to

£14,424; of which there was furnished, by annual subscriptions, the sum of £11,470. The largest number of patients treated by any one institution was 14,591, as shown by the Report of the General Dispensary.

In New York, there are five dispensaries, covering nearly the whole city, and each having a certain section assigned to it as its field of operations. They are as follows: —

The New-York Dispensary,	founded	in	. . . .	1790
The Northern Dispensary,	„	„	. . . .	1827
The Eastern Dispensary,	„	„	. . . .	1832
The DeWitt Dispensary,	„	„	. . . .	1851
The North-Western Dispensary,	„	„	. . . .	1852

These institutions are sustained by private subscriptions, and by an annual grant to each of $1,000 by the State, and the same amount by the city of New York.

The following statistics, showing the number of patients treated by these institutions, with various other facts of interest, are taken from an elaborate and carefully prepared Report of the Eastern Dispensary, for the year 1859, by its President, William P. Coolidge, Esq. We are indebted to that gentleman for this as well as for other valuable information relating to the New-York institutions; also for important suggestions respecting the adoption of some uniform system of recording statistical facts by the dispensaries of our principal cities.

COMPARISON

OF

THE LEADING STATISTICS OF THE FIVE DISPENSARIES OF NEW YORK,

OF THE YEARS 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, AND 1858;

With the Annual Cost, the Annual Estimated Value of the Medical Service, and the Estimated Saving to the Public effected by the Dispensary System.

LEADING STATISTICS.	FOR THE YEAR 1854.	FOR THE YEAR 1855.	FOR THE YEAR 1856.	FOR THE YEAR 1857.	FOR THE YEAR 1858.
Number of Male Patients treated	41,387	45,296	43,693	50,711	60,243
Number of Female Patients treated	61,597	64,374	60,622	70,974	88,697
Total per Annum	102,984	109,670	104,315	121,685	148,940
Number treated at their Dwellings	20,588	20,629	20,196	23,698	30,135
Number treated at the Dispensaries	82,396	89,041	84,119	97,987	119,005
Number of Primary Vaccinations	‡ 9,460	‡ 7,564	11,298	11,168	12,461
Number of Revaccinations	‡ 818	‡ 654	976	1,615	6,929
Whole Number of Vaccinated	10,278	8,218	12,274	12,783	14,390
Whole Number of Adult Patients	‡64,690	‡68,890	65,527	68,866	83,696
Number of Children under fifteen years of age	‡38,294	‡40,780	38,788	54,819	65,442
Number of Patients of American Birth	32,493	38,002	40,374	48,685	65,955
Number of Patients of Foreign Origin	70,491	71,668	63,941	73,000	83,185
Number of Patients sent to Hospital	‡ 2,979	‡ 3,173	3,018	3,502	4,116
Number of Patients who died	809	846	835	978	1,212
Number of Prescriptions dispensed	207,349	217,038	211,320	237,564	292,436
Average Number of Prescriptions to each Patient*	‖2.24 cts.	‖2.14	‖2.28	‖2.20	2.17
Average Cost of each Prescription	‖3.35 cts.	‖3.87 cts.	‖3.63 cts.	‖3.70 cts.	—
Average Cost of Medicine per Patient*	3.80 cts.	4.80 cts.	4.37 cts.	4.60 cts.	—
Average Cost of Medicine and Dispensing it, per Patient*	7.50 cts.	8.30 cts.	8.34 cts.	8.10 cts.	7 cts.
Average Cost of the whole service to each Patient	16.50	18.26 cts.	18.28 cts.	17.80 cts.	14 cts.
Average Number of Medical Visits made to each Patient†	2.24	2.14	2.28	2.20	2.17
Average Number of Patients, excluding Vaccinees	92,706	101,452	92,041	108,902	134,750
THE SERVICE; ITS COST, VALUE, &c.					
Aggregate Value of the Medical Service to the several Patients, at 50 cts. per Visit, for 1854, '55, '56, '57, & '58	$103,674	108,519	105,660	118,782	146,218
Aggregate Value of the Medicine dispensed, at 25 cts. per Prescription	51,837	54,259	52,830	59,391	73,109
Aggregate Value of the Vaccinations performed, at 50 cts. per Vaccination	5,139	4,109	6,137	6,392	7,095
Total Value of Service	$160,650	166,887	164,627	184,565	226,422
Annual Amount of Expenditures incurred in the Service	16,992	20,032	19,070	21,504	20,907
Excess of the Value of the Service over its Cost	$143,658	146,855	145,557	163,061	205,515
Aggregate Amount of Donations per Annum to the Dispensaries by the City and State, for the same time	9,000	10,000	7,000	14,000	9,000
Net Amount saved to the Public annually by the Dispensary System	$134,658	136,855	138,557	149,061	196,515
Aggregate Value of the Vaccinations performed by the Dispensaries, at 50 cts. per Vaccination	$5,139	4,109	6,137	6,392	7,095
Aggregate Amount of Donations per Annum from this City to the five Dispensaries, for five years	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Excess of Value returned to this City in Vaccination alone	$1,139	. . .	1,137	1,392	2,095
Diminution of Value rendered to the City in Vaccination in return for its Donations	. . .	$891			
General Average yearly Excess of Value returned in Vaccination for five years	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	$974

* The averages marked thus (*) exclude Vaccinees, who usually neither need nor receive Prescriptions.

† The number of Medical Visits is found to be identical (very nearly) with the number of Prescriptions dispensed.

‡ All the statistics of 1854 and 1855 marked (‡) are estimates based upon known proportions, those items not having been made a matter of general record in those two years.

‖ These amounts are cents and decimals of cents, or whole numbers and decimals.

There are other striking facts in the statistics of the New-York dispensaries, which serve to illustrate the benefits derived from the system. Some of the advantages are thus alluded to: —

"Were there no dispensaries, and the destitute sick to be left free to throng hospitals and alms-houses, and the expense of maintaining the inmates of these institutions to remain the same as now, or ten dollars *per capita*, the cost would be fearful to the city, even if only one-fourth of the present number of the dispensary-sick were to obtain admission. One-fifth is now too sick to leave their beds while under treatment; and that proportion would doubtless increase if the prompt and preventive dispensary system were abolished. One-fourth is thus doubtless within, rather than without, the true proportion: hence a quarter of a million of dollars would be required annually to be spent until a better plan could be devised; which is thirteen times more than is now spent to provide for four times the number of sick. . . . . .

"Dispensary physicians are really, though not officially, health-wardens to the city; and, from their constant presence in the abodes of the destitute sick, are the first to sound alarm in the case of epidemics, or to discover those causes which so often lead to the spread of infectious diseases in crowded cities. . . . . .

"Dispensaries, by administering relief to the bodily ailments of the poor, enable them to pursue their labors, and thus remove one great source of pauperism. They also remove the necessity for individual and independent effort in behalf of the sick, which would otherwise rest upon every citizen. . . . . .

. . . . . .

"Dispensaries, by the employment of well-educated physicians, obtain the confidence of the poor, and prevent them from exhausting their slender means by purchasing the nostrums of irresponsible practitioners; while the relief afforded is not of a character to corrupt the mind, or diminish the self-reliance of the recipient."

CHAPTER III.

BOSTON DISPENSARY. — FIRST MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS. — OTHER MEETINGS. — REPORT AND BY-LAWS ADOPTED. — MANAGERS CHOSEN. — EARLY RECORDS FOUND. — BY-LAWS PUBLISHED. — LIST OF ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS.

THE first meeting of the subscribers to the Boston Dispensary was held in September, 1796. The day on which the meeting was held is not given; though it must have been early in the month, as it was "*Voted*, That this meeting be adjourned to Wednesday next (Sept. 11), at five o'clock, P.M.; and that the Committee advertise the same accordingly."

At the preliminary meeting, James Sullivan, Esq., was called upon to preside; and Dr. Oliver Smith and William Tudor, Esq., were appointed a Committee to report regulations for the Institution. The adjourned meeting was held, according to appointment, at the Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, Sept. 11; and the Rev. Dr. Parker, Rector of Trinity Church, was chosen Chairman.

The Committee appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the Dispensary submitted the following Report, which was read and unanimously accepted: —

"It having been found by experience, both in Europe and in several of the capital towns in America, that dispensaries for the medical relief of the poor are the most useful among benevolent institutions, a number of gentlemen propose to establish a public Dispensary, in the town of Boston, for the relief of the sick poor; which they presume will embrace the following advantages: —

"1. The sick, without being pained by a separation from their families, may be attended and relieved in their own houses.

"2. The sick can, in this way, be assisted at a less expense to the public than in an hospital.

"3. Those who have seen better days may be comforted without being humiliated; and all the poor receive the benefits of a charity, the more refined as it is the more secret.

"For the promotion of the design, the following regulations are established."

This first code of By-laws provided that "each lady or gentleman who paid five dollars annually into the hands of the Treasurer should be entitled to the privilege of having two patients at one time under the care of the Dispensary." Four patients at one time were allowed by the payment of ten dollars; and the sum of fifty dollars entitled the donor to the privilege of having two patients during life. Provision was made for the annual election of twelve Managers and a Treasurer on the second Thursday of January; and the Board of Managers were to elect annually three Attending and two Con-

sulting Physicians and Surgeons, and an Apothecary. The Apothecary was to reside in some suitable building purchased or hired for the purpose, whenever the state of the finances should admit; and his business was to compound and deliver medicines, and to keep an accurate account of the names of patients, their abodes, diseases, and times of admission and discharge.

The following gentlemen were chosen Managers, to continue in office until the annual election: —

Stephen Gorham, Esq.	Mr. William Shattuck.
Rev. Dr. Parker.	Capt. Samuel Dunn.
Mr. John Parker.	John Andrews, Esq.
John Coffin Jones, Esq.	John Codman, Esq.
Deacon William Brown.	Jonathan Amory, 3d.
Rev. Dr. Stillman.	Rev. Samuel West.

Mr. William Smith, *Treasurer.*

In the Sixty-second Annual Report of the Managers of the Dispensary, published in 1858, a sketch of the early history of the Institution was given; and the statement was made, that the Committee specially appointed to prepare such an account were unable to perform the duty, owing to the fact that the records of the Secretary for the years prior to 1827 could not be found. These records having been discovered, we are enabled to correct several inaccuracies existing in that Report as to the time of the election of certain officers.

At a meeting of subscribers, held Sept. 15, Dr. Smith reported that he had "conversed with all the gentlemen elected as Managers at the last meeting, excepting Messrs. Jones, Codman, and Amory, who were out of town; and that all with whom he had conversed had consented to serve." At this meeting, Dr. Smith was appointed a Committee to publish the rules and regulations, with a list of the subscribers, and to furnish a copy to each Manager to enable him to obtain further subscriptions.

As no list of the original subscribers can be found among the records, it is fortunate that we were enabled to find a copy, and, so far as we know, the only existing copy, of the pamphlet above alluded to. It may be found in the library of the Boston Athenæum, in the volume of tracts marked C 115.

The following is the list of subscribers there given: —

List of Contributors to the Boston Dispensary in 1796.

Hon. Samuel Adams, Esq.
Mr. Seth Adams.
Jeremiah Allen, Esq.
Mr. Jonathan Amory.
Mr. John Amory.
Mrs. Elizabeth Amory.
Mr. John Amory, jun.
Mr. Jonathan Amory, jun.
Mr. Francis Amory.
Mr. Thomas C. Amory.
Mr. Jonathan Amory, tertius.
John Andrews, Esq.
Mr. John T. Apthorp.

Nathaniel Balch, Esq.
Capt. Tristram Bernard.
Mr. Thomas Bartlett.
Mr. Samuel Blagge.

Mr. Kirk Boott.
Mrs. Elizabeth Bowdoin, $10.
Mr. Thomas Brewer.
Mr. Peter C. Brooks.
Mr. William Brown.
Mr. Benjamin Bussey.

Mr. Joseph Callender, jun.
Mr. Gardner L. Chandler.
Mrs. Mary Coffin.
Mr. Joseph Coolidge.
Mr. James Cutler.

Mr. George Deblois.
Mr. Thomas Dennie.
Mr. Ebenezer Dorr.
Mr. Samuel Dunn.

Mr. Joshua Eaton.
Major-General Simon Elliot.

Mr. Joseph Field.

His Honor Moses Gill, Esq., $10.
Mr. Nathaniel Goodwin.
Mr. Samuel Gore.
Mr. John Gore.
Stephen Gorham, Esq.
Mr. John Gray.
Mr. Richard Green.
Mr. Benjamin Greene.
Mr. Joseph Greene.
Mr. David Greene.

Mr. John Huskins.
Mrs. Elizabeth Huskins.
Mr. Moses M. Hays.
Stephen Higginson, Esq.
Mr. Stephen Higginson, jun.
Mr. Oliver Holden.
Mrs. Abigail Howard.
Mr. Jonathan Hunnewell.

Henry Jackson, Esq.
Hon. John C. Jones.
Mr. Thomas J. Jones.

Mrs. Susanna Kneeland.

Mr. William Lambert.
Hon. John Lowell, Esq.
John Lowell, jun., Esq.

Thomas McDonough, Esq.
Mr. John Marston.
Rev. Jedediah Morse, D.D.

Mr. William Newman.

Rev. Samuel Parker, D.D.
Mr. John Parker.
Samuel Parkman, Esq.
Mr. Gorham Parsons.
Mr. William Payne, $30.
Miss Sarah Payne.
Mr. David Peirce.
Mr. Levi Peirce.
Mr. Samuel Penhallow.
Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, $10.
Mr. Joshua Pico.
Mr. William Pratt.

Mr. Joseph Roby.
Mrs. Hannah Rowe.
Estate of Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq., $20.

Mr. Samuel Salisbury.
James Scott, Esq.
Mr. William Shattuck.
Mr. Wiliam Shaw.
Mrs. Anne Smith.
William Smith, Esq.
Mrs. Elizabeth Sparhawk.
Rev. Samuel Stillman, D.D.
Mr. Benjamin Morgan Stillman.
Hon. James Sullivan, Esq.

Mr. Joseph Taylor.
Mrs. Elizabeth Temple.
Mr. Joshua Thomas.
Mr. Samuel Torrey.
William Tudor, Esq.
Mr. Edward Tuckerman.

Charles Vaughan, Esq.
Mr. James Vila.

Mr. Henry Wainwright.
Hon. Oliver Wendell, Esq.
Rev. Samuel West.
Mr. David West.
Mr. Robert Wier, jun.
Mr. William Woods.

CHAPTER IV.

Rules. — Form of Recommendation. — Discharge and Receipt. — Subscription. — Election of Officers. — Oliver Smith. — Opening of Dispensary. — Investment of Funds. — Locality of Dispensary.

1797.

At a meeting of the Managers, held Sept. 21, various rules were adopted for the guidance of physicians and patients.

Physicians were to be at the Dispensary every day, excepting Sunday, at eleven, A.M., where all patients who were able to go abroad might attend. Patients able to go abroad, who absented themselves during ten days, were to be discharged; while those not well enough to leave home were to be cared for in their own dwellings.

No person not really necessitous was to be treated. Every patient, when cured, was to deliver up his letter of recommendation, and be regularly discharged. The letter of recommendation adopted was as follows: —

"*To the Physician of the Boston Dispensary.*

"I recommend ..... to the care of the Dispensary, believing ..... to be a proper object of this charity.

....., *Contributor.*

Boston, ..."

This form was never changed, but continued in use during sixty years, or until the year 1856; when the use of such tickets was discontinued, and the whole system of affording medical relief to the poor modified to meet the wants of the increased population. Specimens of these tickets, printed at various times and in different styles, have been preserved. That issued in 1802 is surmounted by an engraving which represents the Good Samaritan. It is copied from the original sign, hereafter alluded to, which was adopted as the symbol of the Dispensary. The copperplate has been preserved, and is now in the hands of the Secretary. The form adopted for the discharge of patients, when cured, was as follows: —

"Boston Dispensary, ... 1796.

"A. B. is hereby discharged from the care of the Dispensary.

(Signed by) .....

Physician to the Dispensary."

The form of receipt adopted for contributors was as follows: —

"Boston Dispensary.

"A. B. is entitled to all the privileges of a contributor to the Boston Dispensary, having paid ..... subscription for the year."

The Treasurer was thenceforward to be considered as one of the Board of Managers, and was accordingly requested to attend their meetings. This meeting was adjourned to the 29th September; and, in the mean time, each Manager was requested "to furnish himself with one of the printed subscription-papers, and that each undertake to obtain as many subscribers to this useful Institution as possible."

One of these subscription-papers, or circulars, is still found among the records. It sets forth the privileges of contributors; states that none but the really necessitous are objects of the charity; and closes with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." It is signed by Samuel Adams, Moses Gill, Thomas Russell, Thomas H. Perkins, Hannah Rowe, Elizabeth Amory, and sixty-one others.

At the meeting of Managers, held Sept. 29, Dr. —— Jackson* was elected Physician and Apothecary to the Institution. Messrs. Dr. Oliver Smith (not a

* The Christian name of this gentleman is not given.

Manager) and the Treasurer were appointed to confer with the Apothecary on the purchase of medicines, and subscribers were authorized to recommend patients to the Dispensary from and after the tenth day of October. Mr. Jonathan Amory, 3d, was elected Secretary of the Board; who, we infer from the handwriting, had acted as Secretary at former meetings, though no formal choice of such an officer had been recorded.

At a meeting of Managers, held Oct. 18, the vote which authorized the opening of the Dispensary was reconsidered, probably on account of the state of health of Dr. Jackson, which compelled him to decline the office of Physician and Apothecary.

Oct. 21. — Messrs. Smith (Dr. Oliver Smith) and Bartlett were elected Apothecaries, and Dr. John Fleet, Consulting Physician, to serve until the annual meeting on the first Thursday in January.

Dr. Oliver Smith, the senior partner of the firm of Smith and Bartlett, would seem, from the records, to have taken an active interest in the establishment of the Dispensary. Though not elected a Manager, he appears to have been present at the meetings, and to have been placed upon the committees of the Board. From such evidence as can be gathered, we believe that to him, more than to any other individual, the public are indebted for the establishment of the Boston Dispensary. Besides the evidence furnished by the

records of the Society, we find this claim publicly acknowledged, in an address delivered on the seventeenth anniversary of the Institution, by one of the Managers (John G. Coffin, M.D.). Extracts from that address may be found in the Sixty-second Annual Report of the Managers, lately published.*

Nov. 4. — A Committee reported that the arrangements for opening the Dispensary were so far completed as to authorize the reception of patients; and the Treasurer was permitted to invest all moneys, received prior to the 15th instant, in such public stock as in his judgment might be productive of benefit to the charity.

Nov. 18. — The vote passed at the last meeting was so far amended as to authorize the Treasurer to invest six hundred dollars in the stock named. From

* "About twenty years ago, when the plan of the Boston Dispensary was first proposed, several benevolent and exemplary citizens of this place gave it their early approbation and decided support. If among them any individual can be regarded as the founder of the Institution, this distinguished honor must be awarded to the name of Oliver Smith. His exertions were first in time, and foremost in zeal and perseverance. . . .

"But this Association is not the only monument of his productive benevolence. He has ornamented our city, and repaired the ravages of war. His noble humanity was not confined to deeds of a public nature: many individuals who survive him still retain grateful remembrance of his numerous acts of kindness and friendship. Mr. Smith had not the happiness of being a parent; but he had the great happiness of possessing a heart which led him to consider every son and daughter of affliction as children of his family. . . .

"For much of the beauty and improved state of the Mall and Common in this town, one of the most pleasant public walks and prospects in the United States, the inhabitants of Boston are indebted to Mr. Smith. During the late war, several of the trees were dismantled and destroyed: these he replaced, and added largely to the original number. The gravelled way, too, is almost entirely the result of his public spirit, love of order and improvement. For several years he acted as Secretary to the Agricultural Society of Massachusetts." — *Report for* 1858.

an inspection of the books of that officer, it would seem, by a cash entry of Dec. 8, that he purchased $700 in United-States six-per-cent stock at a cost of $603.75.

Dec. 2. — The Chairman and Secretary were directed to insert an advertisement of the opening of the Dispensary in the "Columbian Centinel," "and also in other newspapers whose editors (being charitably disposed) would publish the same free of expense." The records of the Society do not inform us of the locality of the Dispensary at its commencement. The last two meetings of the Managers had been held at No. 61, Cornhill; and in the first pamphlet issued by the Society, to which allusion has already been made, we are informed that this was the place chosen for the commencement of operations.

CHAPTER V.

Dr. Fleet. — Annual Meeting. — Election of Officers. — Monthly Meetings. — Rules. — Sign for Dispensary. — Good Samaritan adopted. — History of Sign. — Privilege awarded to Physicians of Town.

1797.

At a meeting of Managers, Jan. 5, Dr. Oliver Smith was appointed to wait on Dr. Fleet, to learn of him what sum would be deemed satisfactory for his services during the term for which he was chosen.

It was *Voted*, "That the annual meeting for the choice of officers be held in the Senate Chamber, on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock; being the second Thursday in January, prescribed in the Constitution for such purpose."

The meeting was adjourned to the next Thursday, at half-past eleven o'clock, A.M.

A meeting of the Managers was held at the Senate Chamber, at half-past eleven, A.M., on the second Thursday of January (the 12th); the Rev. Dr. Parker in the chair. Twenty dollars were awarded to Dr. Fleet as a compensation for his services for the time for which he was chosen Physician to the Dispensary.

A meeting of the subscribers was held in the same place, at the close of the Managers' meeting. Rev. Dr. Parker was chosen Chairman; and Mr. Jonathan Amory, 3d, Secretary. The Constitution was read, and it was voted to proceed to the choice of Managers. The Rev. Dr. Morse was appointed a Committee to receive and count the votes for Managers for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were elected: —

William Smith, *Treasurer.*

Rev. Dr. Parker.	Rev. Dr. Stillman.
Stephen Gorham, Esq.	Rev. Samuel West.
Mr. William Shattuck.	John Coffin Jones, Esq.
Capt. Samuel Dunn.	Mr. Thomas Brewer.
John Andrews, Esq.	Deacon William Brown.
John Codman, Esq.	Mr. John Parker.

At a meeting of the Managers, held on Friday evening, the 3d February, 1797, the Rev. Dr. Parker was chosen Chairman *pro tem.*; John Andrews, Secretary. Dr. Fleet was chosen Physician, and Messrs. Smith and Bartlett, Apothecaries, for the ensuing year.

It was resolved to hold monthly meetings hereafter; and Stephen Gorham, Esq., was appointed a Committee to confer with Dr. Smith respecting "the improvement of his chamber for the future meetings of the Managers, and to make arrangements for the supply of fuel and candles."

March 10. — Certain rules prepared by Dr. Parker for the regulation of the Physician and Apothecary were adopted, and recorded by the Secretary. It was also —

"*Voted*, That the Apothecary (Mr. Bartlett) be requested to procure a board, to be placed at the front of his shop, with the words *The Boston Dispensary* painted thereon; with such other device as may be congenial to the Institution, and correspondent with his ideas and fancy."

As, in our belief, this vote was providentially destined to exercise an important influence on the future prosperity of the Institution,* we enter into more details respecting it than its importance would otherwise warrant.

We find on the files of the Treasurer's bills the following items: —

"1797. Dr. Thos. Bartlett to Thos. Clement, *Dr.*

June. To —— Nails, making a sign, the molding worked out of the solid iron; screws putting up do. at your shop for the Dispensatory . . . . . $7.

Received payment,

Thos. Clement.

Boston, July 10, 1797."

* "It would not require a great flight of imagination to suppose some connection between the adoption of this favorite symbol of Benjamin Dearborn by our predecessors, and the munificent bequest which connects his name indissolubly with our Institution." — *Annual Report for* 1858.

"Boston, May 10, 1797. — Received of Dr. Thomas Bartlett the sum of thirty dollars, in full for painting a sign of the Good Samaritan.

John Johnston."

From this period, the Good Samaritan became the symbol of the Boston Dispensary.* In January, 1815, Messrs. Bartlett and Smith (Amos Smith) declined a re-election as Apothecaries of the Institution. It was thereupon voted by the Managers to remove the sign to the front of the shop of the new Apothecary.

For some reason, — probably from old and pleasant recollections connected with the sign in the mind of the senior Apothecary, — the order was not executed at once: for we find, that, at a meeting of Managers held on the 17th April, the Good Samaritan had withstood the storms of another winter in his old place; and that Messrs. Snelling and Mackay were directed to renew their application to Messrs. Bartlett and Smith, or, if more agreeable to them to pay fifty dollars for the same, the Committee were authorized to accept that sum.

The result was, that the sign remained in the possession of the first Apothecaries, and still retains its

* "Tradition says that the artist, in his anxiety to illustrate the full import of the scene described in Luke x. 32, painted the Levite in the act of passing by on the other side. When the work was finished, the Managers detected in the Levite so striking a likeness to a certain clergyman of the town, that the figure was effaced." — *Annual Report for* 1858.

old place, surmounting the door of their successors, the Messrs. Brewer, No. 92, Washington Street. It is an interesting relic, though weatherworn and faded; and we are happy to state that its present proprietors have very liberally expressed a desire that it should become the property of the Dispensary, whenever they shall remove from their present situation, and shall no longer require it as a landmark to their customers.

April 15. — The privilege of drawing upon the Apothecary for medicine, in favor of all necessitous persons, was awarded to all the regular physicians of the town.

CHAPTER VI.

VINTNER. — SUPPLY OF WINE TO PATIENTS. — COST OF WINE. — EXPLANATION. — PRICES OF WINE IN DIFFERENT YEARS. — QUANTITY ALLOWED. — DR. WARE'S OPINION. — WINE DISCONTINUED.

SEPT. 8. — It was voted —

"That Mr. Andrews be a Committee to agree with Mr. Dennie, or any other person, in case he should decline to supply such quantities of wine as Dr. Fleet may recommend, and draw an order for, for the use of such patients under the care of the Dispensary as may stand in need *of that aliment;* they (the patients) to provide a bottle or vessel to hold the same."

On the first examination of the accounts of the early Treasurers, nothing created so much surprise as the amount of the annual bills paid for wine.

We give a statement of the sums thus paid during several years, when the largest quantity of wine was furnished, with other details more minute than the importance of the subject might warrant, were it not, that, without some such explanation, blame might be attached to our worthy predecessors in office, which they in no wise deserve. To omit the subject

altogether, would not, we think, be consistent with an impartial historical account of our Institution; and the question might be brought up in future years, when the materials necessary to a proper understanding of the subject could not be found.

The proper supply of wine to patients was considered of so much importance, that the office of Vintner was created in 1801; and Capt. Thomas Dennie was elected to that post, by the same vote which elected the Physician and Apothecary.

The amounts of Thomas Dennie's bills were for —

1799	$85.33	1815	$584.79
1800	81.95	1816	465.49
1801	100.66	1817	435.34
1810	146.77	1819	462.19
1814	477.13		

These bills constituted a very large proportion of the whole expense of the Institution during these years. It will thus be seen, that the Dispensary, while adopting the Good Samaritan as an emblem and guide for benevolent action, adopted no less fully his mode of therapeutics — so far, at least, as regarded the article last named — in his treatment of the wounded man.

It must be remembered, that the class of patients treated fifty years since was very different from that which exists at the present time. An inspection of the lists shows that a great proportion were our own

countrymen: many of them had seen better days, and had been accustomed to what are considered the ordinary comforts of life. Many were afflicted with chronic diseases for which there was no hope of cure, and in alleviation of which a nutritious diet was more necessary than medicine. The Dispensary early adopted a large and benevolent system for the treatment of such cases, by the distribution of nutritious food; and has continued the same practice, so far as its means would allow, until the present day. The temperance reform had not been commenced; and wine was considered not so much a stimulant as an "aliment," — as may be seen by reference to the vote of the Managers, passed Sept. 8, 1797, which has been already quoted, and by which provision was made for such patients "as may stand in need of that aliment."

When attention was first directed to the amounts thus expended, the idea was suggested, that our predecessors of those antidyspeptic days,* when less squeamishness as to food and drink (provided there was enough of it) was felt than at the present time, must have indulged themselves in some of those harmless annual social entertainments, on one of the islands or elsewhere, which are said to have quickened

* Dr. James Jackson, who was Physician to the Dispensary in 1803, in his return of patients of that year, says, "One died of that disease of the stomach and other organs of digestion called *dyspepsia*, after lingering a long time the subject of this disease."

the pulse of charitable effort in other associations, and which have been so often, and we trust so groundlessly, laid to the charge of certain municipal bodies, in order to lighten the cares and labors of public life.

All such suspicions have, however, been happily dispelled by a careful examination of the various bills rendered by the Vintner. Each person to whom wine was prescribed is named; and the kind, quantity, and price of the article delivered, specified. Further than this, the bills are approved by a special Committee appointed for the purpose, and are afterwards indorsed, with an order for payment on the Treasurer, by the Chairman of the Board of Managers.

We deem it but an act of justice to the memory of those who have occupied our places for considerably more than the last half-century, to state, that, after a careful investigation of the accounts and various documents connected with the administration of the Dispensary, we may safely hold up their example for imitation by their successors. Great prudence and foresight have been exercised in the management of the expenditures and funds of the Society; abuses have been speedily checked, when made apparent; the meetings of Managers have been well attended; much harmony seems to have pervaded their discussions, and a degree of enlightened interest shown for the wants of the beneficiaries of the Institution, well worthy of commendation.

As a matter of mere curiosity, we may state that various kinds of wine were distributed, the preference being given to the cheapest.

A circular now on file, without date, addressed to the physicians, says —

"That the strictest economy is recommended in the distribution of medicines and wine. One quart only of the latter shall be ordered at one time; and that to be Lisbon or Sherry, or some other not exceeding their value. Port may sometimes be ordered, if thought to be peculiarly beneficial; giving preference to the cheapest that will suit the case."

In December, 1806, a circular was issued to the physicians, stating the decision of the Managers, that the quantity of wine allowed in future to any patients *who may absolutely need it* shall not exceed two quarts during the whole of their sickness, and that to be Sherry only. They are also informed —

"That the Managers find themselves under the necessity to adopt this measure in consequence of the great amount (upwards of seven quarter-casks) of the Vintner's bill, which far exceeds the limits of the treasury of the Institution." *

* The prices of the different wines, as shown by the Vintner's bill for different years, were as follows: —

WINES.	1798.	1804.	1809.	1813.	1815.	1817.
Sherry, per quart . .	33 cts.	38 cts.	38 cts.	50 cts.	56 cts.	Not used.
Madeira, " " . . .	66 "	75 "	75 "			44 cts.
Port, " " . . .	33 "	38 "	50 "	50 "	50 "	56 "
Lisbon, " " . . .		38 "	38 "	45 "	50 "	

The issue of wine by the Vintner had become so large and so regular an item of expense in 1818, that doubts were entertained by some of the Managers as to the expediency of continuing it, unless with restrictions. Viewed also in a moral as well as medical light, a different opinion from that which existed at the close of the last century seems to have gained ground. Dr. John Ware, who was Physician to the Dispensary during that year, gives his testimony as follows: —

"I find that I have issued, in the whole, one hundred and thirty orders for a quart of wine each. Of this quantity, more than one-half was allowed to consumptive patients, and to the very old, merely as a cordial, — a luxury, — not with the expectation of answering any beneficial effect as to the cure of the disease. Of the remaining quantity, the greater part was administered to patients with other diseases, nearly in the same way; and I may fairly say, of the whole quantity consumed, not one-quarter was necessary to the recovery of patients. Indeed, when looking over the list of patients who have had wine, I cannot find more than one or two in which it appears to have essentially contributed to the favorable issue of the case."

The opinions of Dr. Ware so far coincided with testimony received from other quarters, that the issue of wine was discontinued, by a vote of the Managers, after the 31st of December, 1818.

CHAPTER VII.

Contributors' Meeting notified. — Bills paid. — Meeting. — Officers elected. — Physician paid for each Patient. — Monthly Reports. — Annual Meeting of 1799. — Treasurer's Account. — Vote of Thanks to Mr. Lucas. — Vote to pay Bills. — Annual Meeting of 1800. — Thanks to Miss Byles. — Mrs. Anne Smith. — Secretary Solus. Legacy of Thomas Smith. — Clause of Will. — Character of Mr. Smith.

1797.

Nov. 10, 1797. — It was voted, that patients removed to the Alms-house should cease to be supplied with wine or medicine from the Dispensary.

Dec. 8. — It was voted to notify the contributors, in "all the papers," that a meeting be held on the 11th of January, at the hall of the Union Bank, where a general and punctual attendance is requested. The Treasurer was also requested to "send the messenger round to the contributors, to acquaint them with the annual meeting agreed upon as above."

1798.

At the Managers' meeting, held Jan. 11, 1798, the Treasurer was authorized to pay —

Thomas Bartlett's bill, drugs for the year	$144.16
Dr. John Fleet, for attendance on patients	80.00
Capt. Thomas Dennie, for wine supplied	13.16

At the annual meeting of contributors, held after the above, the Rev. Dr. Parker was called upon to preside; and David Green, Esq., and the Rev. Dr. Morse, were appointed a Committee to collect and count the votes. Messrs. Jonathan Amory, jun., and Thomas Davis, were elected to the Board of Managers in place of Messrs. John Coffin Jones and John Parker, who retired.

At three successive meetings of Managers, held on April 13, May 11, and June 8, an adjournment took place, there being no business before the Board.

By a vote passed July 13, the Treasurer was directed to make a report of delinquents, "if any there be, that have not paid in their annual subscriptions for the second year."

From a vote passed Sept. 14, authorizing payment to Dr. Fleet of fifty-four dollars for attendance on forty-three patients, it would seem that a plan of paying the Physician of the Dispensary a dollar and a quarter for each patient, instead of a fixed sum per annum, had been adopted.

Nov. 9. — The Apothecary and Physician were instructed to make monthly reports of patients under the care of the Dispensary.

1799.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held at the Boston Library, Franklin Place, Jan. 10, Messrs. William Tudor and Nathaniel Smith were elected Managers in place of Messrs. William Brown and William Shattuck. Col. Tudor, and John Andrews, Esq., were made a Committee to examine the accounts of the Treasurer. This duty they seem to have attended to on the spot, and reported that the accounts were "perfectly right," — with a balance of fifteen dollars remaining in the Treasurer's hands, together with seven hundred dollars of the six-per-cent funds of the United States, and four hundred and forty-four dollars forty-four cents in State notes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

April 12. — A vote of thanks was passed to John Lucas, Esq., for his generous donation of twenty dollars, by the hands of the Rev. Dr. West, for the benevolent purposes of the Institution.

Sept. 13. — It was voted to pay —

Dr. Fleet's bill, for attendance on eighty-five patients . .	$87.00
Capt. Thomas Dennie's bill, for supply of wine from 1798 to 9th of July last	85.33
Thomas Bartlett, for drugs from 11th of August, 1798, to 13th of September, 1799	200.55

1800.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held at the Boston Library, in Franklin Place, on Friday, Jan. 10,

1800, all the officers of the preceding year were re-elected.

March 13. — The thanks of the Managers were voted to Miss Byles for a donation of two dollars.

May 9. — Mrs. Anne Smith, who afterwards became a benefactress to the Institution, was admitted to the privilege of recommending four patients for life; she having contributed fifty dollars.

The following entry is of rare occurrence in the records of the Institution: —

"At a meeting designed for the 11th of July, 1800. Present, the Secretary *solus*."

Some apology for official neglect, by non-attendance at the last meeting, might be drawn from the Secretary's record of the next monthly meeting of Managers, held in August; where he says, that, —

"Not any thing offering for their consideration, they accordingly adjourned."

Sept. 19. — A special meeting was held, at which the Chairman (Rev. Dr. Parker) announced that a legacy had been left to the Institution by Mr. Thomas Smith. The clause of his will is as follows: —

"To the Boston Dispensary I give and bequeathe three hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, to be paid to the Managers thereof, and by them to be laid out in such manner as will most effectually promote the

design of said benevolent Institution; the aforesaid legacy to be paid out of the money due to me from Mr. Edward C. Howe, as soon as the same can be received."

The note of Mr. Howe was, at the request of the Managers, subsequently assigned by the executors of the will to Mr. Benjamin Greene, Treasurer of the Episcopal Charitable Society, — to which institution a like legacy had been left, — upon his giving the obligation of his society to pay the amount to the Dispensary when received.

In a statement appended to an address delivered before the contributors in 1813, the Managers remark as follows with regard to this early benefactor of the Society: —

"In order duly to estimate the character and magnitude of Mr. Smith's benevolence and liberality, it should be remembered that he was not a man of wealth or notoriety. He possessed but little property, and was hardly known in society. This Institution, too, was but in its infancy at that period; and its tendency and effects were not fully unfolded. These circumstances considered, we think nothing but the most pure and disinterested charity could have produced the offering which we acknowledge with admiration."

CHAPTER VIII.

Annual Meeting of 1801. — Election of Managers. — Act of Incorporation obtained. — Copy of the Act. — Contributors' Meeting. — Election of Officers. — New Certificate of Recommendation.

1801.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held on the 8th of January, Benjamin Bussey was elected a Manager in place of John Codman, resigned.

Feb. 13. — It was voted to make application to the General Court, at their present session, to procure an Act of Incorporation for the Society; and Rev. Dr. Parker, and Messrs. William Tudor and John Andrews, were appointed a Committee for the purpose. This Committee was successful in their effort; and the Act of Incorporation was approved by the Governor of the Commonwealth, Feb. 26, 1801, and was as follows: —

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

"*An Act to Incorporate Samuel Parker and others into a Society, by the name of the Boston Dispensary.*

"Whereas certain persons did, in the year 1796, associate and establish a charitable Institution in the town of Boston, for the purpose of affording medical advice and relief to the sick poor of said town, under the name of the

Boston Dispensary: And whereas said Institution has been of general and essential service to such persons as are not of ability to procure medical advice and aid for themselves; and the Managers of said Dispensary have represented to this Court the difficulties under which they labor for want of an Incorporation, and have petitioned for an Act remedial of those difficulties: And inasmuch as the intentions of said persons appear to be deserving of encouragement, —

"SECT. 1. — *Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That the Rev. Samuel Parker, Samuel Stillman, and Samuel West, Doctors in Divinity; William Tudor, John Andrews, Thomas Davis, Stephen Gorham, and Samuel Dunn, Esquires; Jonathan Amory, jun., Thomas Brewer, and Benjamin Bussey, Merchants; and Nathaniel Smith, Physician, all of said Boston, the Managers of said charitable Institution, together with their associates, be, and they hereby are, incorporated and made a body politic for the purposes aforesaid, by the name of the Boston Dispensary; and that they, their associates and successors, have perpetual succession by the said name, and have power to make By-laws for the preservation and advancement of said Institution not repugnant to the laws of this Commonwealth.

"SECT. 2. — *Be it further enacted,* That the said Boston Dispensary be, and it is hereby, authorized and empowered to make, appoint, and have a common seal, and is hereby made liable to be sued, and enabled to sue and defend, in its corporate capacity, in any of the Courts of Record of this Commonwealth; and is hereby licensed and empowered to make purchases and to receive grants and donations of real and personal estates, and to hold the same for the charitable purposes aforesaid; provided the rents and profits of

the real estate, together with the interest of the personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, and to manage and dispose of such estates as to the said Corporation shall appear fit.

"SECT. 3. — *Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the contributors to said Institution shall meet at Boston on the second Thursday in October, annually, for the purpose of electing by ballot twelve Managers and a Treasurer; public notice of the time and place of holding such meeting being given once at least in two of the newspapers published in said town, seven days before the day of meeting; and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy.

"SECT. 4. — *Be it further enacted*, That the business of said Managers shall be to appoint the Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecary of said Dispensary; to provide medicines for the patients recommended by the contributors; and to regulate all affairs relative to the Institution, — any three of whom shall constitute a quorum. And all instruments, which the said Managers shall lawfully make and execute, shall, when signed by their Chairman, Treasurer, or Secretary, and sealed with their common seal, bind the said Corporation, and be valid in law.

"SECT. 5. — *And be it further enacted*, That the Rev. Samuel Parker be, and hereby is, authorized, by public notice in two of the Boston newspapers, to call the first meeting of said contributors at such time and place as he shall judge proper; at which meeting the said Corporation shall have all the power vested in them at their stated annual meetings in October; but the officers then chosen shall not continue in office longer than the next meeting in October, unless elected anew.

"Feb. 26, 1801. — By the Governor approved,

CALEB STRONG."

At a meeting of the contributors, legally called under the Act of Incorporation, held at the library in Franklin Place, on Thursday, the 26th of March, 1801, the following officers were chosen: —

MANAGERS.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Parker.	Samuel Dunn.
Rev. Dr. Samuel Stillman.	Jonathan Amory.
Rev. Dr. Samuel West.	Thomas Brewer.
John Andrews.	Nathaniel Smith.
Stephen Gorham.	Benjamin Bussey.
William Tudor.	Henry Hill.

William Smith, *Treasurer.*

April 10. — The Rev. Dr. Parker was chosen Chairman, and John Andrews, Secretary of the Board, under the Act of Incorporation, until the annual meeting to be held in October.

John Lucas, Esq., was thanked for a donation of ten dollars, by the hand of Rev. Dr. West.

Aug. 14. — The Treasurer was requested to ascertain the expense of procuring a supply of new certificates with a plate of the Good Samaritan. A copperplate engraving was afterwards purchased and used by the Dispensary. For some reason, — probably on account of the inconvenient size of the ticket, — a new form was adopted. A copy of the ticket, from the original plate, is here given.

At the annual meeting of the contributors, held on Thursday, Oct. 8, Henry Hill was elected a Manager in place of Thomas Davis.

To the PHYSICIAN of the BOSTON DISPENSARY.

I recommend _____
to the Care of the Dispensary, believing ___ *to be a proper object of this Charity.*

_____ *Contributor.*

Boston, _____

CHAPTER IX.

Question as to Privilege of prescribing Medicines. — Committee appointed to obtain Physicians. — Town divided into Three Districts. — Physicians appointed. — Annual Meeting of 1802. — Dispensary removed. — Election of Managers. — Dr. Fleet's Bill. — Obstetrical Cases. — Apothecaries appointed. — Encouraging Prospects. — Physicians' Returns. — Quarterly Meetings. — Subject of Vaccination. — Circular from Physicians of Philadelphia.

1802.

Feb. 12. — "The question whether medicine should be delivered to the Physicians of the Dispensary only, to the exclusion of the other physicians of the town, being put, did not obtain; the gentlemen being equally divided on the subject."

April 9. — Rev. Dr. Parker and Mr. Bussey were appointed a Committee to ascertain whether they could obtain two young physicians to attend the patients of the Dispensary *gratis*.

June 11. — The Committee above alluded to, with Rev. Dr. Stillman, who had been added by a vote passed at a meeting held May 14, reported in favor of dividing the town into three separate districts, and of placing each district under the charge of a distinct Physician, who should attend patients gra-

tuitously. The report was accepted; and Dr. John Fleet was chosen for the Southern District, comprehending all that part of the town from the Neck to Summer and Winter Streets. Dr. James Jackson was chosen for the Middle District, extending from the north side of Summer and Winter Streets to the Mill-pond and Creek; and Dr. Samuel Hunt, for the Northern District, including all the part of the town to the northward of the Mill-creek.

Drs. James Lloyd and Isaac Rand were chosen Consulting Physicians; and it was announced —

"That they had, with their accustomed benevolence, consented to afford their advice *without fee or reward*, whenever their attendance is requested."

1802.

The annual meeting of the contributors, for this year, was held on the 14th of October, at the Dispensary Room, No. 13, Cornhill; by which, in the absence of other record to that effect, we are informed of the removal of the office from No. 61, Cornhill, where it was first established. Samuel Salisbury was elected a Manager to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Nathaniel Smith.

"*Voted*, That Dr. John Fleet's account, for attending a hundred and nine patients of the Dispensary up to July last, and for delivering five women by permission, — amounting to one hundred and nine dollars, — be passed."

As the question whether the Dispensary should undertake the care of obstetrical cases, or decline them altogether as in New York, has been discussed, the usage adopted in the first years of the Dispensary is a matter of some interest at the present day.

By the vote here recorded, it is somewhat difficult to understand whether the " by permission " applies to the five patients, to the Board of Managers, or to the contributors. Dr. Fleet's bill, taken from the files of the Treasurer, does not make the matter entirely clear. The bill is as follows : —

BOSTON DISPENSARY to JOHN FLEET, Jun.

To attending one hundred and nine of their patients . .	$109.00
To delivering five women by orders from Nov. 1801 to July 1802	10.00
	$119.00

BOSTON, Oct. 15, 1802.

Nov. 22. — Dr. Stephen Thayer was appointed Apothecary to the Southern District, Dr. Thomas Bartlett to the Middle, and Dr. Robert Fenelly to the Northern District. Fifty dollars were allowed to each for medicines supplied during the year, be the quantity more or less.

1803.

March 11. — The Secretary states, in regard to this meeting of Managers, —

"The returns from the Physicians and Apothecaries of the several districts were laid before them, from which the state of the Dispensary appeared in a very pleasing light. The new organization, having got into fair operation, had produced the most happy effects, particularly in reducing the annual expenses to less than half their former amount, and the patients equally as well supplied and attended to; and, as an evidence of the present healthy state of the town, only thirty-three were under the care of the several Physicians."

April 8. — Returns from the Physicians showed the number of patients under treatment to be forty-three.

June 10. — A rule was adopted establishing quarterly instead of monthly meetings.

The Rev. Drs. Parker and Stillman, with Mr. Andrews, were appointed a Committee to draw up and publish in the several newspapers "a recommendation of the vaccine practice of inoculating for the small-pox."

This step was probably taken in response to a circular which had been issued, a few weeks before, by the Philadelphia Dispensary, and which is still found on the files of our Institution. It is entitled "A comparative View of the Natural Small-pox, the Inoculated Small-pox, and Vaccination, in their Effects on Individuals and Society." The peculiarities of each disease are set forth, in three parallel columns; and the statements confirmed by Drs. Rush, Dewees, Wistar, and nearly fifty other physicians of Philadelphia.

If the whole community did not at once submit to vaccination, it was certainly through no lack of information respecting the terrors of small-pox and the advantages of the new system. The circular states,—

Natural Small-Pox.	Inoculated Small-pox.	Vaccination
For twelve centuries this disorder has been known to continue its ravages, destroying every year an immense proportion of the population of the world. It is in some few instances mild, but for the most part violent, painful, loathsome, dangerous to life, and always CONTAGIOUS. One case in three, dangerous; ONE IN SIX DIES. At least half of mankind have it; consequently one in twelve of the human race perish by this disease. In London 3,000 die annually; 40,000 in Great Britain and Ireland. The eruptions are numerous, painful, and disgusting. Confinement, loss of time, and expense, are certain, and more or less considerable. Precautions are for the most part unavailing; medical treatment necessary, both during the disease, and afterwards. It occasions pitts, scars, seams, &c.; disfiguring the skin, particularly the face. The subsequent diseases are scrofula in its worst forms : diseases of the skin, glands, joints, &c., and loss of sense, sight, or hearing frequently follow.	For the most part mild, but sometimes violent, painful, loathsome, and dangerous to life. Always CONTAGIOUS, and therefore gives rise to the Natural Small-pox ; and has actually, by spreading the disease, increased the general mortality 17 in every 1,000. One in forty has a dangerous disease ; ONE IN THREE HUNDRED DIES ; and, in London, one in 100. Eruptions are sometimes very considerable ; confinement, loss of time, and expense, certain, and more or less considerable; preparation, by diet and medicine, necessary; extremes of heat and cold, dangerous. During ill health, teething and pregnancy to be avoided. Medical treatment usually necessary. *When the disease is severe*, deformity probable, and subsequent disorders as in the Natural Small-pox.	Is an infallible preventive of the Small Pox; always mild, free from pain or danger, NEVER FATAL, NOT CONTAGIOUS. No eruption but where VACCINATED. No confinement, loss of time, or expense necessary. No precaution, no medicine required. No consequent deformity. No SUBSEQUENT DISEASE.
It is attempting to cross a large and rapid stream by swimming, when one in six perish.	It is passing the river in a boat, subject to accidents, where one in 300 perish, and one in 40 suffer partially.	It is passing over a safe bridge.

CHAPTER X.

Annual Meeting of 1803. — Managers Re-elected. — Appropriation for Medicines. — Condition of Dispensary. — Annual Meeting of 1804. — Resignation of Rev. Dr. Parker. — Vote of Thanks. — Rev. Dr. Stillman elected Chairman. — Election of Physicians. — Annual Meeting of 1805. — Prescription of Wine. — Trusses furnished. — Benefits of a Truss Fund. — London Truss Societies. — Enlargement of Southern District. — Sign Repaired. — Annual Meeting of 1806. — Appropriation to Apothecaries. — Annual Meeting of 1807. — Revision of Rules.

1803.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held Oct. 13, the whole Board of Managers was re-elected.

Dec. 2. — The Apothecaries having complained of insufficiency of pay for medicines, three hundred dollars were appropriated, to be apportioned among the three for the ensuing year, according to the number of patients supplied by each.

1804.

In recording the proceedings of the meeting of Managers held March 9, 1804, the Secretary adds: —

"By the returns exhibited from the several Apothecaries, the number of patients appeared to be smaller than usual, which indicated a good state of health in the town;

and, from the judicious arrangements made, the Institution goes on in a way perfectly satisfactory to the Managers, and conducive to the aid and assistance of many persons whose situation in life renders an application to the town for medical aid totally inadmissible."

At the annual meeting of contributors, Oct. 11, Adam Babcock was chosen a Manager in place of the Rev. Dr. Parker, resigned.

"The thanks of the society were voted to the Rev. Bishop Parker for his constant and unremitting attention to the Institution from its first commencement, in the formation of which he took an active part, and continued to render it essential services in every stage of its progress to maturity, by obtaining subscribers, improving the plan, and procuring donations. With regret they accepted of his resignation, and *only* in compliance with his positive wishes that they acquiesced in the loss of him as a Manager."

Dec. 13. — The Rev. Dr. Stillman was elected Chairman of the Board of Managers in place of Bishop Parker, who had filled that post every year during his term of service.

Drs. Isaac Rand, jun., and John G. Coffin, were elected Physicians to the Dispensary, instead of Drs. John Fleet and James Jackson, who declined a re-election.

1805.

Oct. 10. — At the annual meeting of contributors, the whole Board of Managers was re-elected.

Dec. 13. — Dr. John Dixwell was chosen Physician in place of Dr. J. G. Coffin, who took the place of Dr. Isaac Rand, jun., resigned.

Dec. 19. — It was voted, —

"That the Physicians be requested not to issue orders for wine of a larger quantity than one quart, and that the quality shall be confined to Sherry, Lisbon, or red Port."

Dr. Horace Bean was elected Physician in place of Dr. Samuel Hunt, "to attend the patients of the Dispensary on the benevolent principles of the others; i.e., without fee or reward."

1806.

March 14. — "*Voted*, That Mrs. Abigail Smeak be furnished with a truss, and that the same be paid for by the Treasurer."

This is the second mention of expenditure for the article named, found among the records; the first being an order passed in December, 1803, to pay Thomas Bartlett eight dollars for two trusses furnished to patients. Since that period, the Dispensary has adopted the practice of furnishing trusses in pressing cases to poor persons whose power of earning a subsistence depended on their wearing this instrument. The cost, at that period, was four dollars each; and now, we are informed, they cannot be afforded, of a good quality, at less than three dollars.

There are many poor persons in Boston who suffer

from ruptures, and are unable to perform any but the lightest work, who, with the aid of a truss, would be able to perform any kind of labor. It will be readily seen that the Dispensary, with its present responsibilities and limited means, cannot meet this demand. In London, there are three societies for this special object; and we hope the day is not distant when our Institution shall be endowed with a fund of five or six thousand dollars, designated as the "Truss Fund," the interest of which shall be used for a similar object.*

June 27. — Dr. John Gorham was elected Physician in place of Dr. John G. Coffin, resigned.

The Report of a Committee was adopted, by which the Southern District, previously bounded by Summer Street, was extended to the south side of School and Milk Streets down to the water.

"*Voted*, That the President, Secretary, and Mr. Salisbury be a Committee to get the sign of the good Samaritan repaired; who have agreed with Mr. Johnson to do the same, in the best manner, for twenty dollars."

* These are the National Truss Society, the Rupture Society, and the City of London Truss Society. The first-named Institution was founded in 1796, the same year with the Boston Dispensary. Statistics drawn from the experience of those societies are valuable to us, as showing the extent to which this infirmity exists among the poorer classes. The London Truss Society, in the course of twenty-eight years, relieved 83,584 patients. Of these, there were males, 67,798; females, 15,786; children under ten years of age, 7,299. Mr. Turnbull, the surgeon of this society, states that, after diligent and general inquiry, it is estimated that the proportion of ruptured persons in Great Britain is one in fifteen of the population. Juville, a Parisian trussmaker, estimates the number in Germany and North of Europe as one in thirty; in France and England, one in twenty; and in Spain and Italy, one in fifteen.

Mr. Johnson, it will be remembered, was the artist who originally painted the sign.

Dr. Thomas I. Parker was appointed Physician in place of Dr. John Dixwell, resigned.

At the annual meeting, Oct. 9, Messrs. Samuel Cobb, Samuel Snelling, Henderson Inches, and Eben Little Boyd, were elected in place of Messrs. Stephen Gorham, William Tudor, Thomas Brewer, and Benjamin Bussey.

Dec. 18. — Four hundred and fifty dollars were appropriated as the annual allowance to the Apothecaries of the three districts, to be divided in proportion to the number of patients supplied with medicines by each.

1807.

Aug. 14. — Dr. Cyrus Perkins was appointed Physician in place of Dr. John Gorham, resigned.

At the annual meeting of contributors held at the Dispensary Room, No. 13, Cornhill, the Rev. Joseph Eckley, D.D., and Gideon Snow, were elected Managers in place of Rev. Drs. Stillman and West.

"*Voted*, That Mr. Eben L. Boyd, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Eckley, and Henry Hill, Esq., be a Committee to revise the rules first established by the Society, and make such useful alterations as they may deem expedient and necessary, and to procure a new edition of the same, to be printed for the use of the subscribers."

Dec. 11. — The Rev. Dr. Eckley was elected Chairman of the Board of Managers.

The Report of the Committee on revising the By-laws was adopted, and ordered to be printed and distributed. It may be found among the Society's documents, in a pamphlet printed in 1817.

CHAPTER XI.

Annual Meeting of 1808. — Election of Managers. — History of the Dispensary. — Subscription in Aid of Funds. — Copy of Circular. — Annual Meeting of 1809. — New Treasurer elected. — Purchase of Furniture. — Quarterly Meetings adopted. — Appropriation to Apothecaries. — Annual Discourse. — Electrical Machine. — Arrangements for Annual Celebration. — Death of Rev. Dr. Eckley.

1808.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held Dec. 23, 1808, the following gentlemen were elected as Managers: —

Rev. Dr. Joseph Eckley.	Henry Holmes.
Samuel Snelling.	Dr. John G. Coffin.
Samuel H. Walley.	Samuel Dunn.
Joseph Coolidge, jun.	Eben L. Boyd.
Henry Hill.	Stephen Higginson, jun.
Gideon Snow.	William Mackay.

William Smith, *Treasurer.*

Dec. 28. — Samuel H. Walley was chosen Secretary of the Board in place of John Andrews, to whom a vote of thanks was passed for his long and useful services.

1809.

Jan. 12. — Dr. Samuel Russell Trevett was elected Physician in place of Dr. T. I. Parker, resigned; and Dr. John Warren, Consulting Physician, in place of Dr. James Lloyd, resigned. William B. White was elected Apothecary to the Southern District in place of Stephen Thayer. Messrs. Boyd and Coolidge were made a Committee to revise and reprint the account of the Institution, and to distribute it among subscribers.

Messrs. Stephen Higginson, Samuel Snelling, and Samuel H. Walley, were chosen a Committee to prepare and put in circulation a subscription-paper, in order to increase the fund and number of subscribers to the Institution. This circular was as follows: —

"Boston, January, 1809.

"Sir, — At a period like the present, when the poorer classes of society are suffering extreme depression; when many are compelled by hard necessity to seek, from the bounty of others, those comforts and supports which, till recently, they have been enabled, with the blessing of Providence, to command by their own labors, — it becomes a duty peculiarly incumbent on those who know not the distresses of poverty, and who feel but remotely the pressure of the times, to impart of their abundance toward raising up and comforting the sons and daughters of penury.

"No Institution, perhaps, has been more useful, none

more immediately serviceable to the indigent of this town, than the Boston Dispensary; and, as yet, it has not, in the view of the Managers, been patronized in proportion to its merits.

"The present address, for your additional aid, originates in a late vote of the Managers, passed with a view to obtain "not only new subscribers, but an increase of the funds." And to whom can we better apply than to those known for their liberality?

"The number of poor this season, in consequence of the situation of the country, has considerably augmented, and probably will continue to increase. To afford them seasonable and judicious medical aid, when sickness and pain are added to the catalogue of their sufferings, must yield to the feeling heart inexpressible pleasure.

"The within paper and book will be left with you for two days, and will then be called for by the bearer.

"With respect, we are your most obedient servants,

"STEPHEN HIGGINSON, jun.,
SAMUEL SNELLING,
SAMUEL H. WALLEY,
Committee of the Managers of the Boston Dispensary."

The result of the effort was an increase of the subscription-list that year to $1,990, and an addition of $410 to the permanent fund.

At this meeting, the Apothecaries were authorized to furnish, on the prescription of the Physicians, the articles of sago, oatmeal, barley, arrowroot, salop, and Iceland moss.

Dr. Asa Bullard was elected Physician in place of Dr. Samuel R. Trevett, resigned.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held Dec. 22, 1809, Messrs. James White and Joseph Tilden were elected Managers in place of Messrs. Henry Hill and Henry Holmes. Mr. William Smith, who had served as Treasurer during thirteen years, or since the establishment of the Dispensary, was elected a Manager in place of Mr. Eben L. Boyd. Mr. Edward Phillips was elected Treasurer.

Dec. 22. — At a meeting of Managers, held on the same day after the meeting of contributors, the Rev. Dr. Eckley was chosen Chairman, and Joseph Tilden, Secretary of the Board. Dr. William Gamage, jun., was appointed Physician in place of Dr. Perkins, resigned.*

1810.

March 16. — It was voted that the Secretary be requested to purchase eight chairs for the accommodation of the Managers at the Dispensary Room.

At this meeting, the arrangement for meetings of the Managers on the second Friday of January, April, July, and October, which is still in force, was adopted.

July 13. — It was voted, "That the Managers be

* For some reason not evident, no annual meeting of contributors was held in 1810.

We do not think it necessary to mention the names and dates of the appointments made after this period. For a list of the various officers of the Institution, with the date of their election and term of service, we would refer to the table, at the end of this volume, prepared by Dr. J. B. Alley.

requested to attend any meeting that may be called hereafter, precisely at the time named in the notification."

1811.

Jan. 10. — At the annual meeting held this day, which should have been held on the second Thursday of October previous, the Rev. Dr. Baldwin and the Rev. Charles Lowell were chosen in place of Messrs. Higginson and White.

Mr. Edward Phillips was chosen Treasurer.

Jan. 11. — At the meeting of Managers, the annual appropriation to the Apothecaries was increased to five hundred dollars.

Jan. 25. — At this meeting, the system of remunerating the Apothecaries for the supply of medicines was changed by the acceptance of the report of a Committee, recommending that the sum of one dollar for each patient should be paid. It was voted, —

"That hereafter, on the day of the annual meeting, a public discourse shall be delivered, setting forth the advantages of the Institution; and a collection made, to be added to the funds."

The Rev. Drs. Eckley and Baldwin, and the Rev. Mr. Lowell, were appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the celebration of the next anniversary.

It was also decided that an electrical machine for the use of patients should be purchased, the cost not to exceed fifty dollars.

April 12. — An order was passed by which no physician should be authorized to prescribe for a Dispensary patient, unless said physician were a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society or a member of the Boston Association of Physicians.

At this period, it will be remembered, the Apothecaries were allowed to deliver medicines to poor patients, on the order of any physician of the town, at the expense of the Society.

The Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of the next anniversary recommended, —

"That the services should be performed in the King's Chapel, and that the Rev. Mr. Freeman be requested to assist by prayer and reading, and that endeavors be made to obtain the singers of the different religious societies, to attend and perform in sacred music only."

The Rev. Dr. Eckley, Chairman of the Board of Managers, was requested to deliver the annual discourse.

July 12. — At this meeting, it was resolved that the annual celebration, for which arrangements had been made, should be omitted, in consequence of the death of the Chairman who had been appointed to deliver an address, and also on account of the

numerous demands which had been lately made on the charity of the public.

At the Managers' meeting held on Oct. 10, Mr. William Phillips was elected Chairman of the Board; and Dr. Aaron Dexter was elected Consulting Physician in place of Dr. Rand, resigned.

CHAPTER XII.

Legacy from Mrs. Esther Sprague. — Extract from Will. — Letter from Physicians. — Circular to Physicians. — Annual Meeting of 1812. — Invitation to Governor and Council. — Annual Celebration. — Privileges accorded to Physicians. — Report of Rev. Mr. Lowell on Annual Celebration. — Dr. Coffin's Address. — Thanks to Orator, and Choir of Singers. — Annual Meeting of 1813.

1812.

Jan. 10. — It was announced that a legacy of fifteen hundred dollars had been made to the Institution by the late Madam Esther Sprague, of Dedham; whereupon it was voted, —

"That the Managers receive, with respect for the memory of the testatrix, this benevolent donation; and that a copy of this vote be handed to the executors of her will by the Secretary."

The following is an extract from Mrs. Sprague's will: —

"I give to the Trustees of the Boston Dispensary fifteen hundred dollars, to be added to the fund of that Institution, and the interest arising therefrom to be applied to the uses and purposes thereof." *

* As yet no entry has been found among the Treasurer's accounts, showing the receipt of this legacy. Further research, we doubt not, will furnish the necessary

April 10. — A communication was received from the Physicians, asking whether they should give orders on the Vintner for wine, when prescribed by other physicians than themselves. Messrs. Coffin, Walley, and the Rev. Mr. Lowell, were thereupon chosen as a Committee to inquire into the state of the Dispensary, so far as related to the Physicians and patients.

April 24. — At a meeting called at the request of the Committee above named, a report was submitted, to the effect that a considerable degree of inconvenience and injury had resulted from the loose manner in which the medical duties of the Dispensary had been conducted. They therefore recommended that the duty of issuing orders for wine and medicine be confined to the Attending Physicians of the Institution. They also recommend that a circular be addressed to the present Physicians, and to their successors as they shall come into office; of which the following is an abstract: —

"Whenever the Physician shall think it necessary or useful, or the patient shall request it, he shall avail himself of the presence and advice of one of the Consulting Physicians, or of any other physician of the town, whom the

information. Through the kindness of J. H. Cobb, Esq., Register of Probate for Norfolk County, we have the following facts: Dr. John Sprague died at Dedham in 1797. Madam Esther Sprague, his widow, died in 1811. Her will was probated, Nov. 5, 1811. In the account of the executors, Messrs. William Stedman and Samuel Swett, settled Jan. 9, 1812, is the following item: "Dec. 3. To cash paid Boston Dispensary per will, $1,500." Samuel Swett, Esq., the last surviving executor, died at Dedham in 1854.

patient shall prefer, — said physician being a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

"As the funds are very limited, and as there are always to be found a sufficient number of deserving individuals to exhaust the means of the Society, the Physician is requested to erase from his list the name of any person whom he shall deem unworthy the charity, after obtaining the consent of one of the Managers, who, if necessary, shall visit the patient.

"Notice is given that an electrical machine and syringes, for the use of the sick, are deposited with the Physician of the Middle District.

"The Physician is authorized to supply any surgical apparatus, in an emergency, required for the relief or safety of the sufferer, provided the cost do not in any instance exceed five dollars.

"The strictest economy is recommended in the distribution of medicine and wine. One quart only of the latter shall be ordered at one time. Physicians are permitted to order sago, salop, oatmeal, arrowroot, barley, and Iceland moss.

"Physicians are requested to keep an accurate account of the number and disease of their patients, and also to communicate to the Secretary any suggestions which in their opinion would be useful to the Institution."

At the annual meeting held at the Hall of the Massachusetts Bank, Oct. 8, 1812, the whole Board of Managers of the preceding year was re-elected.

At a meeting of Managers held the same day, his honor William Phillips was chosen Chairman, and Joseph Tilden Secretary, for the ensuing year.

It was voted, —

"That an invitation be sent to the Governor and Council to attend at the celebration to be held at the Rev. Mr. Channing's meeting-house to-morrow."

The annual celebration took place on the day succeeding the annual meeting of subscribers. Rev. Charles Lowell was Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements. A procession was formed at three o'clock, P.M., which marched to the church in Federal Street, where a discourse was delivered by the Rev. William E. Channing. The "Columbian Centinel" of the 10th October, 1812, states that —

"At the celebration, yesterday, of the anniversary of the Boston Dispensary, after a most excellent discourse by the Rev. Mr. Channing, the liberal sum of three hundred and fifty-eight dollars was collected."

A vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. Mr. Channing for his discourse, and a copy was requested by the Committee of Arrangements for the press. Search has been made for a copy of this discourse, but thus far without success.

Dec. 8. — A rule previously adopted was so far modified as to permit any two of the Managers to direct the Apothecaries and Vintner to issue medicine and wine in certain cases, in conformity to prescriptions and orders of physicians not belonging to the Institution. Consulting Physicians were also authorized to prescribe for patients in all cases where they may choose to act as Attending Physicians; and par-

ticular care is recommended to the latter in giving to patients plain and written directions for taking medicines.

1813.

July 16. — The Rev. Mr. Lowell, as Chairman of a Committee of Arrangements to celebrate the coming anniversary of the Institution, submitted a report. From that report and the records of the Secretary, we learn that Dr. John Warren was invited to deliver the annual address, but declined. Dr. J. G. Coffin was therefore appointed orator for the occasion, and delivered an address in King's Chapel, to which allusion has been already made, and of which a copy has been preserved. The Rev. Dr. Freeman and Rev. Mr. Carey were invited to perform the devotional exercises.

Oct. 21. — The thanks of the Managers were voted to Dr. Coffin for his appropriate address, and a copy solicited for the press.

Thanks were also offered to Mr. Stockwell for his performance on the organ at the annual celebration; and also to the gentlemen composing the choir of singers.

At the annual meeting of contributors, held Oct. 14, 1813, Isaac Winslow was elected a Manager in place of Gideon Snow, who was chosen Treasurer of the Institution.

CHAPTER XIII.

PHYSICIANS' TERM OF SERVICE. — EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES. — RESIGNATION OF MESSRS. BARTLETT AND SMITH. — PHYSICIANS OF TOWN ALLOWED TO PRESCRIBE. — ANNUAL MEETING OF 1815.

1814.

JAN. 21, 1814. — The following preamble and vote were passed : —

"As it is understood to be the wish of the contributors to the Dispensary, and presumed to be desirable to the junior physicians of the town, that the latter should have an opportunity of benefiting by the practice which the institution affords, therefore —

"*Voted*, That after the present Dispensary year, ending October next, no Physician of the Dispensary be continued longer in office than three years in succession, provided other accessible applicants should express a desire to act in such capacity."

At the same meeting, authority was given to individual Managers to authorize the employment of nurses for the sick, provided the daily compensation should not exceed thirty-five cents.

Soon after this arrangement was made, the following bill was presented to the Treasurer, and paid, as

coming within the intention of the vote passed January 21: —

The Managers of the Boston Dispensary *Dr.* to M. P.

To eight and a half weeks' attendance on my mother, H. P. . . . . $17.00.

Received Payment,

M. P.

Boston, Aug. 8, 1814.

The subject of employing nurses for the sick poor forced itself upon the attention of the Managers at an early period; but the means at their disposal have at no time enabled them to adopt any systematic plan for furnishing this kind of charitable aid. The Visiting Physicians have been allowed, in certain cases and to a limited extent, to engage persons to take care of the sick; but, when the emergency has arisen, it has often been a difficult matter to find persons at all fitted for or competent to the task. The Dispensary has for a long period been a valuable practical school for the physician, and many now occupying prominent posts in the profession acquired in its service their first important lessons. Why could not the same Institution be made available for the training of nurses, whose services are so important in alleviating the pains of sickness?

If a fund, yielding an income of two or three hundred dollars, could be placed at the disposal of the Managers, for the support of "Dispensary Nurses,"

we believe that a system could be adopted by which a sufficient number of respectable persons could be found who would always be ready to respond to the call of the District Physician. By the experience acquired in such a school, these nurses would in time become valuable to other classes in the community; and their places could be filled by other candidates.

Oct. 28. — The vote, authorizing the employment of nurses on certain occasions, was for some reason rescinded.

1815.

Jan. 13. — A letter was received from Messrs. Bartlett and Smith, resigning the office of Apothecary to the Institution; a post which they had held since its first organization in 1796.

April 17. — The vote passed Dec. 8, 1812, authorizing any two Managers to allow physicians of the town, not belonging to the Dispensary, to prescribe for patients in certain cases, was so far amended as to allow the same thing to be done on the authority of one Manager.

Oct. 19. — At the annual meeting, John Green was elected a Manager in place of Dr. John G. Coffin.

1816.

April 19. — A special meeting of the subscribers was held to fill three vacancies in the Board of Mana-

gers, caused by the death of Messrs. William Smith and Samuel Dunn, and the resignation of Mr. John Green. The vacancies were accordingly filled by the election of Messrs. Edward Tuckerman, jun., Edward Phillips, and Benjamin West.

July 12. — *Voted*, That the meeting of the Managers in October be held in future on the same day with the annual meeting of contributors, instead of the second Friday of October, as heretofore.

CHAPTER XIV.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1816. — CIRCULAR TO PUBLIC. — LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS AND OFFICERS.

AT the annual meeting of contributors, held on Thursday, Oct. 10, 1816, there not being a sufficient number to transact business, the meeting was adjourned to Friday, the 15th of the month.

Oct. 15. — At the adjourned meeting held this day, the whole Board of Managers was re-elected.

At a meeting of Managers, held on the same day, leave was given to the Treasurer to destroy such useless papers as might have accumulated in his hands.

During this year, a circular was issued, setting forth the merits and the wants of the Dispensary. It was attached to a pamphlet containing a list of subscribers, and the code of By-laws adopted by the Managers, Dec. 11, 1807. This pamphlet is still found among the records. The list of managers and subscribers and the circular are given below: —

Managers.

His Honor William Phillips.
Rev. Dr. Baldwin.
Rev. C. Lowell.
Mr. William Mackay.
Mr. Joseph Coolidge, jun.
Mr. Isaac Winslow.
Mr. Samuel H. Walley.
Mr. Joseph Tilden.
Mr. Samuel Snelling.
Mr. Edward Tuckerman, jun.
Mr. Edward Phillips.
Mr. Benjamin West.

His Honor William Phillips . . . . . *Chairman.*
Benjamin West, Esq. . . . . *Secretary.*
Gideon Snow, Esq. . . . . *Treasurer.*

Consulting Physicians.

Dr. Aaron Dexter. | Dr. William Spooner.

Visiting Physicians.

Dr. Asa Bucknam . . . . . for the Southern District.
Dr. Samuel Clark . . . . . for the Middle District.
Dr. Pliny Hayes . . . . . for the Northern District.

Apothecaries.

Mr. William B. White . . . . . for the Southern District.
Mr. Terence Wakefield . . . . . for the Middle District.
Mr. Robert Fennelly . . . . . for the Northern District.

List of Subscribers to the Boston Dispensary.

Mrs. Elizabeth Amory.
Mr. Thomas Amory, $50.
Mr. Jonathan Amory.
Mr. Thomas C. Amory, donation $10. Dead.
Mr. John Amory.
Mr. John Andrews, first Secretary, and for many years.
Mr. E. T. Andrews, donation $10.
Mr. Nathan Appleton, donation $20.
Mr. Benjamin Andrews, donation $10.

Hon. Jas. Bowdoin, $50. Dead.
Mr. Peter C. Brooks, $50.
Mr. Ebenezer L. Boyd, $50.
Mr. John Brown, $50.
Mr. William Brown, jun., $50.
Mr. John C. Brown, $50.
Mr. Caleb Bingham, $25. Dead.
Mr. Kirk Boot, donation $20. Dead.
Mr. Andrew Brimmer, donation $20.
Mr. John Bartlett, $10.
Mr. John Bellows, donation $5.
Mr. John Breed.
Mr. John Bumstead.
Mr. Isaac Boyle.
Mr. George Brindley.
Mr. George Bond.
Mr. Samuel Bradford.
Mr. Josiah Bumstead.

Mr. Benjamin Bussey.
Mr. John Belknap.
Mr. Abraham Bazin.
Mr. Jeremiah Belknap.
Mr. Thomas Bartlett.
Mr. Tristram Barnard.
Rev. Thomas Baldwin, D.D.
Mr. Samuel Bradlee.
Mr. Thompson Baxter.
Mr. Lemuel Blake.
Mrs. Sarah Blake.
Mr. John Baker.
Mr. John Bradford.

Mrs. Catharine Codman, $50.
Right Rev. John Cheverus.
Rev. Samuel Cary. Dead.
Rev. William E. Channing.
Mr. Sam. Coverly, donation $10.
Mr. Nathl. Call, donation $10.
Mr. John Coates, donation $10.
Mr. Uriah Cotting, donation $10.
Mr. Gardner L. Chandler.
Mr. Joseph Coolidge.
Mr. Joseph Coolidge, jun.
Miss Margaret Coffin.
Mr. Edward Cotton.
Mr. Jonathan Chapman.
Mr. Samuel Cobb.
Mr. Cornelius Coolidge.
Mr. Aaron P. Cleaveland.
Mr. David W. Child.
Mr. Richard Chamberlain.
Mr. John G. Coffin.
Mr. Henry Chapman.
Mr. Joseph Callender.
Mr. Samuel Cook.
Mr. John Cotton.
Mr. George Cabot.
Mr. Joseph Chapman.
Mr. Henry B. Curtis.

Mrs. Mary Doubt, $50.
Mr. Isaac P. Davis, $50.
Mr. John Dorr, $50.
Hon. John Davis.
Hon. Thomas Dawes.
Mr. Richard C. Derby, donation $5.
Mr. Charles Davis.
Mr. Jonathan Davis.
Mr. Richard Derby.
Mr. Aaron Dexter.
Mr. George Deblois.
Mr. Thomas Dennie.
Mr. Joshua Davis.

Rev. Jos. Eckley, D.D. Dead.
Mr. Simon Elliot.
Mr. Otis Everett.

Mrs. Eben Francis, $50.
Mr. Nalbro Frazier, $50. Dead.
Mr. Benjamin Fessenden.
Mr. Samuel Fales.
Mr. Joseph Field.
Mr. John Fleet.
Mr. Robert Fennelly.
Mr. John B. Fitch.
Mr. James H. Foster.
Mr. Ebenezer Farley.

Mr. Gardner Green, $50.
Mr. John Grew, $50.
Mr. William R. Gray, $10; donation $30.
Mr. Samuel P. Gardner, donation $10.

Messrs. Gilbert and Dean, $10.
Miss Sarah Green.
Miss Mary Green.
Rev. John S. J. Gardiner.
Mr. Samuel Gore.
Mr. Richard Greene.
Mr. Jeremiah Gore.
Mr. Ozias Goodwin.
Mr. Robert H. Gardner.
Mr. Oliver C. Greenleaf.
Mr. Thatcher Goddard.
Mr. Frederic W. Geyer, jun.
Mr. William Greenough.
Mr. Henry Gassett.
Mr. Moses Grant, jun.

Mr. Geo. Higginson, $50. Dead.
Mr. Henry Homes, $50.
Mrs. J. P. Hall.
Rev. Joshua Huntington.
Mr. Stephen Higginson.
Mr. Joseph Head.
Mr. Joseph Head, jun.
Mr. Joseph Howe.
Mr. John Hancock.
Mr. Ralph Haskins.
Mr. Jonathan Hunnewell.
Mr. Henry Hill.
Mr. Galen Holmes.
Mr. George Homer.
Mr. John Hubbard.

Miss Susan Inches.

Mrs. Hannah Joy, $50.
Mr. Thomas K. Jones, $10.
Mr. John C. Jones.
Dr. James Jackson.
Mr. Edward Jones.
Mr. William Jackson.

Mr. Oliver Keating, $50.
Mr. Josiah Knap.
Mr. Jonathan Kilham.

Mrs. Rebecca Lowell, $50. Dead.
Rev. Charles Lowell, $50.
Miss Catharine Smith Langdon, $50.
Mr. Joseph Lee, jun., $50.
Mr. Joshua B. Langdon, $10. Dead.
Mr. John Lowell.
Mr. James Lloyd, jun.
Mr. Ensign Lincoln.
Mr. Joseph Lovering.
Mr. Josiah Loring.
Mr. William Lawrence.

Mrs. John M'Lane, $50.
Mr. Samuel May, $50.
Rev. Francis Matignon, $10.
Rev. Joseph McKean.
Mr. Jonathan Mason.
Mr. Elijah Mears.
Mr. Thomas Melville.
Mr. William Mackay.
Deacon Thomas McClure.
Mr. Edward Munroe.
Mr. Israel Munson.

Mr. E. H. Newton.

Mrs. Samuel A. Otis.
Mr. John Odin.
Mr. Francis J. Oliver.
Mr. John Osborn.

His Honor Wm. Phillips, $50; donation $100.
Mr. James Perkins, $50.
Mr. Samuel G. Perkins, $50.
Mr. Samuel Parkman, $50.
Mr. William Payne, $50.
Rev. Francis Parkman, $50.
Mr. Samuel J. Prescott, $50.
Mr. John Peck, $50.
Mr. Eben. Preble, donation $20. Dead.
Mr. John Prince, jun., donation $20.
Mr. Edward Phillips, donation $10.
Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, $10.
Mrs. Catherine Prescott.
Mr. John Parker.
Mr. William Pratt.
Mr. Jonathan Phillips.
Dr. Phelps.
Mr. John Perry.
Mr. John Parker, jun.
Mr. William Parsons.
Mr. Nehemiah Parsons.

Mr. Abraham Quincy.

Mr. Daniel D. Rogers, $10.
Mr. Nathaniel P. Russell.
Mr. Samuel Rogers.
Dr. Isaac Rand, sen.
Mr. Henry G. Rice.
Mr. Paul Revere.
Mr. Joseph Richards.
Mr. Andrew Ritchie.
Mr. John T. Reed.
Mr. William Ropes.

Mrs. Esther Sprague, $1,500, a legacy.
Mrs. Hannah Smith, $50. Dead.
Mr. Samuel Smith, donation $30. Dead.
Mr. Samuel Salisbury, $50.
Mr. Samuel Spear, $50.
Mrs. Elizabeth Sumner, donation $30. Dead.
Mr. Sam. Swett, donation $10.
Mr. Josiah Salisbury, $10.
Mrs. Sprague, $10.
Mr. William Smith, first, and for many years, Treasurer. Dead.
Mr. Ebenezer Seaver.
Mr. Samuel Snelling.
Mr. Gideon Snow.
Mr. Daniel Sargent.
Mr. Samuel Salisbury, jun.
Mr. Joseph Sewall.
Mr. George Storer.
Mr. Prince Snow.
Mr. Standfast Smith.
Mr. Caleb Stimpson.
Mr. Henry Sigourney.
Mr. Ignatius Sargent.
Mr. Andrew Sigourney.
Mr. Robert G. Shaw.
Mr. Isaac Stevens.
Mr. James Savage.
Mr. John L. Sullivan.
Mr. Richard Sullivan.
Mr. William Sturgis.

Mr. Richard D. Tucker, $50.
Mr. David Tilden, donation $10. Dead.
Mr. John E. Tyler, donation $10.
Mrs. Turell.

Mr. Edward Tuckerman, jun.
Mr. John Tappan.
Mr. Abraham Touro.
Mr. Joseph Tilden.
Mr. Bryant P. Tilden.
Mr. Silas Tarbell.
Mr. Gustavus Tuckerman.
Mr. Peter O. Thatcher.
Mr. Israel Thorndike, jun.
Mr. Lewis Tappan.
Mr. Beza Tucker.

Mr. Bill Vose.

Mr. Samuel H. Walley, $50.
Mr. Charles Walley, $50.
Mr. Thomas Walley.
Mr. Benjamin West.
Mr. John D. Williams.
Mr. William Walker.
Mr. Thomas Williams.
Mr. Thomas Wigglesworth.
Mr. John Wells.
Mr. Isaac Winslow.
Gen. John Winslow.
Mr. William B. White.
Mr. David West.
Mr. Henry Wainwright.
Mr. James White.
Mr. Thomas B. Wales.
Mr. Edmund Winchester.
Mr. Benjamin Winslow.
Mr. Benjamin Weld.
Mr. Redford Webster.
Mr. Charles White.
Mr. Terence Wakefield.

N.B. — Those without any sums affixed to their names are subscribers of five dollars per annum.

"The Managers of the Dispensary take this opportunity to express their thanks to the contributors to this charity. At the same time, they feel solicitous to bring this excellent Institution more fully before the public, and, if possible, excite a more general interest in its favor.

"Among the numerous charities for which the citizens of Boston are distinguished, perhaps there is none more active, and which exerts a more constant and salutary influence in alleviating the distresses of the poor of every description. Nor is there in this, as in some others, danger of imposition. No one, it is presumed, will ask for medicine unless he is sick.

"If gentlemen of the Faculty are willing to bestow their services *gratis*, the Managers have full confidence

that a generous public will cheerfully furnish them with the means of supplying the poor with medicine.

"It must be a pleasure to a sympathizing benevolent heart to do good in any way; but to send relief to the sick, and comfort and health into the abodes of wretchedness and poverty, must be a luxury of no ordinary kind. Besides this high gratification, may we not hope, that, in some instances at least, it will be said by our final Judge, 'I was sick, and ye visited me. Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

"B. West, *Secretary.*"

CHAPTER XV.

Annual Meeting of 1817. — Annual Meeting of 1818. — Circular to Subscribers. — Issue of Wine discontinued. — Charges against Apothecaries. — New Dispensary Districts. — Dispensary Signs. — Electrical Machine. — Prescribing limited to Dispensary Physicians. — Donation from Boston Theatre. — Report of Committee on the Dispensing of Medicines.

1817.

At the annual meeting of subscribers, held at the Hall of the Massachusetts Bank, Oct. 9, the old Board of Managers was re-elected.

1818.

At the annual meeting held Oct. 8, the same Board was re-elected.

Messrs. Joseph Tilden, Samuel H. Walley, and Rev. Henry Ware, were chosen a Committee to address a circular to gentlemen who had withdrawn their subscriptions during the year, stating to them —

"The great and increasing benefit of the Institution, the continual need of an increase of the subscribers, and requesting them to reconsider the subject before they finally decide; and also to address such part of the circular as they may think proper to gentlemen who have never

yet been solicited, and whose aid may be reasonably expected."

At a meeting of Managers held on the same day, it was finally decided that the issue of wine to patients should be discontinued after Dec. 31, and that the request of the Apothecaries for an increase of compensation could not at that time be granted.

1819.

April 9. — A Committee was appointed to investigate the charges made by individuals, that bad medicines were issued by the Apothecaries; and the Physicians were requested to "pay attention and examine the medicines furnished by the Apothecaries."

Oct. 21. — At this meeting it was decided to create four Dispensary Districts; viz.: —

Northern District. That part of the town north of the Mill Creek.

Western District. Bounded by the Mill Creek, Hanover Street, Tremont Street, and Beacon Street, to the water.

Eastern District. Bounded by the Mill Creek, Hanover Street, Tremont Street, and Beacon Street, West Street, Pond Street, by Church Green, and Summer Street, to the water.

Southern District. All that part of the town south of the last-mentioned bounds.

Dr. John Ware was appointed Physician to the Northern District; Dr. Samuel Clarke, to the Eastern; Dr. Enoch Hale, to the Southern; and Dr. Gamaliel Bradford, to the Western. The Physicians were requested to put upon their signs the words "Dispensary Physicians."

1820.

July 14. — The Treasurer was authorized to sell the electrical machine, and give credit for the amount.

1821.

Jan. 12. — The vote passed April 17, 1815, authorizing the attendance upon patients by any physician of the town, upon the consent of one of the Managers, previously obtained, was reconsidered.

The Apothecaries were also instructed not to answer the prescriptions of any other physicians than those of the Consulting and Visiting Physicians of the Dispensary.

April 13. — A vote of thanks was passed to the Managers of the Boston Theatre for their donation of $550, accruing from the sale of box tickets on the 24th of February, 1821.*

* This performance took place on Feb. 26, 1821. Mr. Kean appeared in the tragedy of "King Lear," after which was performed the farce of "The Weathercock." The "Columbian Centinel" of Feb. 28 says, "The premiums offered for the choice of boxes on Saturday last, for Monday evening, amounted to $563.50; which, after deducting some small expenses, has been presented to that highly beneficent Institution, the Boston Dispensary. The highest bid was $30, and the Box No. 4 was chosen, having nine seats; the cost of each seat being $4.33. The lowest premium was $6."

July 13. — Messrs. Tilden, Snelling, and Tuckerman, who had been appointed at a previous meeting a Committee to consider the propriety of changing the mode of dispensing medicines, made a Report. They state that —

The cost of medicines for 1817 was	$1,145.05
" " " " 1818 "	1,345.29
" " " " 1819 "	1,547.10
" " " " 1820 "	1,739.93

The number of patients for 1821, 1,615.

"In four years the expense for medicines has increased more than fifty per cent. From the death or inability of old subscribers, the subscription-list does not increase. The friends of the Institution are obliged, by their personal exertions, to keep up the present amount. In the New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore Dispensaries, the expenses for medicines are not one-fifth the amount of those in Boston, compared with the number of patients; which must be accounted for by their finding their own medicines, instead of paying a certain sum per head, as is done here. In those cities it appears that one apothecary establishment is sufficient, where the population is greater than in Boston."

The following vote was passed by recommendation of the Committee: —

"*Voted*, That Messrs. Tilden, Snelling, and Tuckerman be a Committee to contract with a suitable person, who shall be established in some central part of the town to supply the Dispensary with medicines."

CHAPTER XVI.

History of Apothecary's Department. — Central Apothecary appointed. — His Plans of Improvement. — Bath-Tub procured. — Bath and Wash Houses in Paris, London, and New York.

The dispensing of medicines to the poor has always been attended with difficulties, and has occupied much of the time and attention of the Managers. From 1796 till 1802, orders for medicine were drawn upon an apothecary of the town, who charged for every prescription. As this plan was found to be an expensive one, the town was divided into three districts, with an Apothecary in each, to whom fifty dollars were awarded, without reference to the number of patients or prescriptions. This plan operated so unequally, and there was so much complaint of the insufficiency of the remuneration, that the sum of three hundred dollars was appropriated in December, 1803, to be paid to the three Apothecaries in sums proportionate to the number of patients supplied by each. In December, 1806, this sum was increased to four hundred and fifty dollars. It was augmented, from time to time, at the request of the Apothecaries; who, in support of their demand, furnished some

curious details respecting the quantity of medicines dispensed to patients.

One of the Apothecaries says, —

"Among them, many have taken largely of the article *opium;* particularly S. J. Two dollars' worth have been ordered at once; some of the others had one and a half to two dollars of laudanum prescribed at once. Some patients have had from ten to fifteen dollars' worth during the year."

In 1811, one of the Apothecaries charges Mary —— $43.67 for 16 lbs. 6 oz. of laudanum; and, in the year 1812, a charge is made for $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. to the same woman. In 1808, one of the Apothecaries proposed that a dollar and a half should be charged for each patient during the year; and, in 1810, another proposed the charge of one dollar as a fair equivalent.

In 1817, one of the District Physicians suggested to the Managers, that the Physicians themselves should furnish the medicines, and see that they were taken on the spot. He gives various reasons for the adoption of this plan; and, among others, he says, —

"Dispensary patients are mostly of that class who are very capricious in their notions of medicines: any excuse will serve them for neglecting it; such as that the dose appeared too large, or they were afraid it was not the right medicine, or they had forgotten how or at what time it was to be taken, &c., &c.

"Besides this, there is a set of gossips who find no difficulty in obtaining access to the ordinary subjects of

this charity, and who, — from what motives I know not, — without the least pretensions to medical knowledge, frequently try all their eloquence to thwart the Physician's plan of cure ; often, for this purpose, resorting to the most terrifying predictions of the evil consequences of complying with his directions."

On account of increasing expenditures, and complaints from various quarters, the Managers adopted the plan marked out by the vote of July 13, 1821, and appointed as sole Apothecary Dr. Samuel Clarke, who had once served as one of the District Physicians. He contracted to furnish medicines at the wholesale prices, charging in addition twenty cents for each new patient, as a compensation for his own time and services. This sum was increased to twenty-five cents for each patient, in 1822. Dr. Clarke continued in the service several years, and seems to have been very systematic and efficient in his modes of business. He suggested sundry plans for checking abuses and promoting economy. Among the former he classes the plan of loaning phials to patients, with the promise that they should be returned, as he says had always been the custom of the Dispensary. He took pains to keep an accurate account of the number loaned during nine months. Of the three hundred and fifty-three thus loaned, he found that there were but eighty-two returned; leaving two hundred and seventy-seven to be paid for by the Institution. He writes, —

"If patients will not take the trouble to return phials, why should the Dispensary take the trouble to loan, record, and clean them to loan again?"

At this meeting (July 13, 1821), the first step was taken towards procuring bathing facilities for the poor; and it is a matter of regret that so many years have been allowed to pass without an extension of the plan, in imitation of what has been accomplished towards the same end in other large cities. It was voted, —

"On application of Dr. Chandler Robbins, jun., that a bathing-tub be purchased, and deposited in some central place, for the use of the patients of the Dispensary."

At the present day, bathing is considered one of the important prophylactic measures in the treatment of many of the class who apply for gratuitous medical advice. The moral effect of a clean skin is often more potent, in the treatment of ailments, than the administration of drugs; and some of the establishments in the large capitals are abundantly provided with free baths, for the use of those out-door patients to whom they may be prescribed with advantage. Mons. Horace Say has remarked, that those who are clean in their persons become economical and orderly.

The public baths at Rome, it will be remembered, were constructed on an immense scale. The great

hall in the Baths of Caracalla, it is stated, contained seats for two thousand persons. The Hospital of St. Louis, at Paris, furnishes more than 25,000 free baths annually, and during one year 180,000 patients have been served. There are in Paris 125 public establishments, of various descriptions, furnishing annually 2,116,300 baths. The *New-York Washing and Bathing Association*, established for the benefit of the poorer classes, furnished, in the year ending June, 1855, 69,325 baths, at a cost of six cents for warm, and three cents for swimming baths. This institution was started on an expensive scale, both for washing linen and bathing; and has not been successful as an investment. The number of bathers in the seven London public bath and wash houses was, in 1851, 647,242; in 1852, 800,163. In five years, the number exceeded 3,000,000.

Most of the establishments are, we believe, self-supporting; and, with the experience now obtained, we can hardly conceive a more useful and judicious use of funds, than their investment in similar institutions here.

Whenever the means of the Dispensary shall warrant the outlay, we trust that an appropriation may be made for furnishing warm and cold baths to all patients who may be recommended by the Physicians and Surgeons of the Institution.

CHAPTER XVII.

Central Apothecary's Shop opened. — Annual Meeting of 1823. — Vote of Thanks to Bryant P. Tilden. — Egyptian Mummy. — Annual Meeting of 1824. — Annual Meeting of 1825. — Circular to Physicians in regard to Abuses. — Replies of Physicians. — Order to pay Tolls of Physician to South Boston District. — Annual Meeting of 1826. — Return of Apothecary. — Increase of Patients.

1822.

Jan. 11. — A Committee appointed at a previous meeting reported that the accounts with the former Apothecaries were closed; that Dr. Clarke entered upon his duties on the first instant; and, so far as the Committee could see, the present arrangement had given satisfaction to all.

1823.

Jan. 31. — The compensation to the Apothecary, for each patient recommended, was fixed at twenty-five cents, instead of twenty cents, as heretofore; and the Treasurer was authorized to pay thirty dollars to Dr. Clarke for his sign, to become the property of the Dispensary.

At the annual meeting held Oct. 9, the entire Board of Managers was re-elected; and a vote was passed instructing the Secretary to cause a printed notification of all future annual meetings to be sent to each contributor, with an abstract of the returns of the Physicians of the Institution.

Oct. 9. — A vote of thanks was passed to Bryant P. Tilden, Esq., for his successful exertions in obtaining for the Institution the sum of $320 from the exhibition of the Egyptian Mummy, and from other sources.

From the Treasurer's books, we learn that $200 were received from N. P. Russell, Esq., Treasurer of the Massachusetts General Hospital, "being the first collection from exhibition of Egyptian Mummy. For this, indebted to Bryant P. Tilden."

1824.

At the annual meeting held in the vestry of the Old-South Church, Oct. 14, the old Board of Managers was re-elected.

1825.

At the annual meeting held Oct. 13, it was voted, —

"That the Secretary be requested to address letters to the Physicians of the Dispensary, desiring them to inform the contributors in writing, addressed to the Secretary, whether any persons, not proper subjects of Dispensary

assistance, have had medicines at the expense of the Institution, with such particulars as are necessary to enable the Managers to correct the evil."

In reply to the circular of the Secretary, the Physicians pointed out various defects in the plan of administering medical relief, as well as abuses on the part of recipients. Much fault was found with the plan of giving tickets to applicants without a due knowledge of the condition of such patients on the part of contributors. It was shown also, that the sick were often neglected for a considerable time, in not being able to find contributors to recommend them.

Another class, the type of one not unfrequently found in more elevated spheres of life, are mentioned as useless recipients of the charity. These were amateur *self-doctors*, or *periodical medicine-takers*, who, though in perfect health, were in the habit of applying for doses of medicine; and, in support of their claim, urging the practice of former Physicians, who they said "never refused them."

Another abuse pointed out was the custom of Physicians to allow their medical pupils to practise independently among the poor.

"These gentlemen, wishing to increase their practical knowledge, willingly attend all those who will accept of their skill; and each of these pupils has his own course

of practice, without the Physician having any knowledge of them, except the names which he sees on his annual return."

Another Physician mentions a singular case of abuse which occurred in his District.

"There is one case which I cannot help mentioning. A gentleman became a contributor to the Dispensary last December, and immediately recommended his wife, his wife's sister, his child, and I believe himself, to me for attendance. They were attended, one of them through a long illness, — his wife during her confinement. I cannot conceive any circumstances which can qualify a person to be a contributor to a public charity, and at the same time a recipient of its bounty."

Are we not too prone to dwell upon the salient abuses of charitable organizations, and to the occasional hard and ungrateful incidents in our own experience, rather than to endeavor to realize the daily amount of good effected by an Institution like our own? Whether this be so or not, after wading through the various details of misery and deception revealed in these letters, it is refreshing to record the kindly sentiments of the last-named writer. He says, —

"It is difficult also to judge accurately of the circumstances of an individual from external appearances, and I have been satisfied that many whose residences and furniture would have indicated some wealth were really objects

of charity. This difficulty is increased during illness; for the kindness of friends has often surrounded these with comforts who might otherwise have been destitute. For these reasons, I should hesitate in giving a very decided opinion in almost any case; fearing lest I should thus deprive those of assistance who really needed and deserved it. I have often attended, on the Dispensary, near relatives of those whom I knew to be wealthy; but, at the same time, the patients themselves might have been poor."

Oct. 13. — The Treasurer was authorized to pay the tolls of the Physician of the Southern District in passing over South-Boston Bridge; and the Physician of the Western District was requested to attend patients living on the Mill Dam.

1826.

Oct. 13.* — At the annual meeting, the Treasurer, in submitting his account, reported a list of the contributors, amounting to two hundred and six.

From a return made by the Apothecary, Dr. Clarke, in the month of July of this year, it would seem that there had been a sudden increase of patients on account of the prevalence of an influenza. Hitherto, the largest number of persons to whom he had delivered medicines in one day was forty-two; while, during the prevalence of the epidemic alluded to, from eighty to ninety applied for prescriptions. He

* As the annual meetings are recorded in 1825 and 1826, on Thursday, the 13th, there is evidently an error on the part of the Secretary.

estimates that three-fourths of the number were foreigners, whose increasing numbers in the city affect the amount of his account. He suggests to the Managers the propriety of recommending to the pupils of the Attending Physicians the strictest economy in their prescriptions. He states the number of patients in past years as follows: —

In 1822	1,130 patients.	
In 1823	1,218	„
In 1824	1,382	„
In 1825	1,666	„
In 1826	1,065	„ in six months only.

His charges for medicines delivered during the half-year are $912.48.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Resignation of Mr. Snow. — Committee appointed to consider the Condition of Dispensary. — Instructions to Apothecary. — Letter from a "Friend to the Dispensary."

1826.

At the meeting of Managers in October, the following letter was received from the Treasurer: —

"October, 1826.

"Gentlemen, — I have served the Boston Dispensary as Treasurer for thirteen years, and offer my acknowledgments for your confidence. Permit me now to ask that another Treasurer may be appointed.

"Very respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"Gideon Snow."

So far as the records show, no action seems to have been taken on the subject of this communication, as Mr. Snow was re-elected for this and many succeeding years.

1827.

Jan. 22. — It was voted, —

"That the communication of a "Friend to the Dispensary," and the subject of the number of patients recom-

mended by a single contributor, and the general state and condition of the Dispensary, be committed to Messrs. Snelling, Snow, and T. W. Phillips; and that they be requested to report to the Managers on Monday next, at eleven o'clock, at this place."

The Apothecary was directed to deliver no medicine, except on the written prescription of one of the Physicians of the Dispensary, nor to answer the prescription of any medical student.

The communication alluded to in a foregoing vote, from a "Friend to the Dispensary," was probably the following anonymous note, addressed to the Secretary, Thomas W. Phillips, Esq., now found on the files of that officer: —

"Dear Sir, — I am informed that three gentlemen are appointed to select Physicians to take care of the destitute. Heretofore, appointments have been made. A. was chosen; but he was called away to deliver lectures for two or three months. He took the liberty to appoint B. to take his place in taking care of the poor in his quarter of the city. B. wants to trot off somewhere, and he imagined he might take the same liberty which A. took, and appointed C. to take care of the sick and dying, and he entered on his practice; and so we may read on till we get to the end of the alphabet. By this time, the Physician knows about as much as a grasshopper. Now, Peter Goodintent humbly thinks all this is not quite orthodox; for the poor sick man may have practice tried upon him till his eyes are closed in death, and he travels on to tell the awful news in another world.

"Esquire Phillips has sufficient wisdom to make a *good improvement*, without putting himself to the trouble of guessing who is the informer."

Jan. 29. — The Committee, appointed at the meeting on the 22d, submitted a Report upon the matters referred to them. They state that the income of the Institution has decreased from the diminution of the number of contributors; and, from other causes, the number of patients has increased.

They therefore recommend, that hereafter —

"No student be allowed to attend a patient but in company with his instructor, the Physician of the Dispensary.

"That the Physicians be required to prescribe as economical medicines as consists with the state of our funds, having a proper regard to the state of health and necessities of the patients."

They also state that many contributors have exceeded the number of beneficiaries to which they were entitled; and, wishing to increase the number of subscribers, they recommend that a subscription of five dollars shall entitle a contributor to have thirty patients attended during a year, and no more; also that these rules be rigidly enforced, until *experience* shall point out some *improvement*.

That portion of the Report, which related to the number of beneficiaries to which each contributor should be entitled, was accepted; and the remainder

was laid upon the table, and a vote passed inviting the Physicians of the Institution to attend the next meeting of the Managers.

Feb. 1. — At this meeting, two of the Physicians were present, and replied to various inquiries submitted to them. The Report of the Committee, which was laid upon the table at the last meeting, was again submitted to Messrs. Snelling, Walley, and Phillips, together with the whole subject of the state of the Dispensary, requesting them to report upon the same at the next quarterly meeting, in April. The Secretary was requested to inform the Physicians, that, until the further direction of the Managers, the vote hitherto communicated to them should be considered as in full force; and that, whenever the pressure should be so urgent in any district as to render it impossible for the Visiting Physician to attend in person, he be requested to call in the aid of the other Physician or Physicians of the Dispensary.

CHAPTER XIX.

Letter from Physicians. — Duties. — Abuses in Foreign Dispensaries. — Dispensary Literature. — Labors of Dispensary Physicians.

1827.

April 13. — A representation from the Visiting Physicians was read, setting forth the inconveniences which would result from the late order by which students were not allowed to prescribe for the sick.

This paper, apparently in the handwriting of Dr. J. Greely Stevenson, defends the custom of employing students, on the ground of the great advantages derived by the students themselves, in obtaining practical experience of their future profession.

The Physicians state that the fees paid by students for the privilege is the only immediate advantage which they derive from their office. They defend their pupils against the charge of experimenting upon patients ; and maintain, that, in seasons of epidemic disorders, they could not get the aid of fellow-physicians in other districts, on account of the pressure upon each at such times.

It will be remembered, that the Visiting Physicians at that period did not, as now, receive compensation

for services; and it could hardly be expected that they should perform all the labors and incur all the expenses of the office, without some remuneration. The sum allowed them at the present time (two hundred dollars per annum) cannot be considered as an equivalent for the services rendered, but rather an indemnification for expenses incurred in office-rent, &c. The situation is sought by young gentlemen on account of the benefit to be derived by attendance upon the sick, and to acquire that practical knowledge which such experience only can give.

That the duties of the office have been hitherto faithfully performed, may be inferred from the few complaints of official neglect in times past, and from the character and subsequent history of many who have held the office of Dispensary Physician, and whose names are now among the most honored and well-known in the medical profession.* It is but proper, however, to state that much care has been exercised by the Managers in their selection among the various candidates presented.

* Our Institution has been more favored, in this respect, than some others, — if we may judge from the report of a Committee of Investigation into the affairs of certain dispensaries in Ireland. The report states that the physician rarely pays more than one visit, be the case typhoid fever, or any other of equal gravity.

"One physician partly resides, and has a district, in one county; attends another once a week, at a distance of eight miles, in an adjoining county. His family resides in another county, eight or nine miles further off." This physician "is unable to say whether fever has prevailed to any extent in his extensive district, except that which is near the first-named dispensary, contiguous to which he holds a large farm."

Some one connected with the Poor-Law Commission, in England, has reported "that only one, of the one thousand surgeons elected, had been dismissed on

A collection of the written applications of the candidates for the office, during the last fifty years, would be a literary curiosity. The great mass of applications are evidently from young gentlemen of good education, possessing a proper sense of the duties involved; whilst some others are from persons who seem to have formed a very imperfect notion of the responsibilities assumed by one appointed to minister to the wants of the sick poor.

We give extracts from two of these letters. One young gentleman writes, —

"Supposing that a Dispensary Physician is soon to be appointed for —— ——, and presuming the Managers will be anxious to have a regular practitioner to fill the office, I would make known to them that I am willing to accept the appointment. . . .

"I am willing to perform the duties of the office, although it cannot be of the least benefit to me, and must occasion trouble. I am not sufficiently interested in the subject, however, as to be at the trouble of procuring testimonials of my abilities, &c."

Another candidate makes application as follows: —

complaint of the poor respecting his professional character. They received plenty of medicine from him, they said; they had no complaint to make against its quantity; but they could not understand the reason, various as their diseases were, of their being all supplied, without distinction, out of one bottle."

An opposite mode of treatment is recorded of an empiric, who acquired a great reputation in a provincial town in England. He received his patients at his counter; and, as each fresh symptom was declared in answer to his interrogatories, he added a little medicine from a different bottle, until all the indications were answered; and then administered the contents of the phial with his own hands.

"It is generally thought that the advantages of attending Dispensary patients preponderates over the disadvantages; and, as you are about to make appointments, I wish to be considered one among the applicants for that appointment."

Each letter of application to the Managers is usually accompanied by written recommendations from several of the well-known and oldest practitioners of the city. Not the least interesting part of dispensary literature is the comparison of these documents, belonging to different periods, and the marked difference in style, form, and paper, existing between them. The following letter will illustrate this better than any description. It was written just fifty years ago, long before the age of railroads and telegraphs; and forms a complete contrast with the short, matter-of-fact, business documents, of a similar nature, at the present day.

"Boston, 1809.

"This certifies that Dr. —— —— has been regularly educated as a physician and surgeon, by passing through the various grades of instruction required for those offices; that he graduated at Harvard University, in this State; completed his pupilage, in the town of Boston, under my direction; passed a public examination for the degree of Bachelor of Physic; received that degree at the University in Cambridge; and has been, for several years, a practitioner in this place: and further, that, from a perfect acquaintance with his talents and improvement in the various branches of his profession, I am fully of opinion

that he is amply qualified for the duties of a Dispensary Physician, and that no person would be likely to give more general satisfaction in that capacity.

"JOHN WARREN."

The following notes may prove interesting to the Managers, and are therefore copied: —

"GENTLEMEN, — During most of this year, I've acted as Physician to the North District. If my services, as far as they may have become known to you, are acceptable, may I continue them?

"Proximity is seldom regarded by dispensary patients in choosing their physicians. Medical attendance is so subdivided by the facilities of the Dispensary, that what remains to the 'Dispensary Physicians,' so called, can be faithfully done by any individual of such leisure as falls to the lot of physicians of my standing.

"Respectfully,

"GEO. PARKMAN.

"OCT. 1, 1816."

"GENTLEMEN, — Understanding that the Physician of this District of the Dispensary is about resigning, I beg leave to offer myself as a candidate for the office; with the assurance, that, should I be elected, no exertions on my part shall be wanting to meet your approbation, and to promote the welfare of the patients.

"I am, gentlemen, with the greatest respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. W. WEBSTER, M.D.

"COMMON STREET, Oct. 5, 1821."

The work demanded of a Visiting Physician, in some of the poorer districts of the city, must require

for its performance all the motives which can be urged by philanthropy, as well as by self-improvement. Some idea of the labor performed may be inferred from the report, furnished by Dr. Enoch Hale, of his district, for the year ending in October, 1820. He writes, —

"The memorandum of the number of visits was kept originally solely for my own gratification. It is now returned, as exhibiting in some measure the extent of the duties which the Dispensary requires, and as furnishing some slight criterion by which to estimate the quantity of medicine required by the patients. Consultations at my own house are not included in the number of visits."

Number of patients	268
Number of visits	2770
Or an average of nearly eight visits daily.	
One of these patients visited	249 times.
One „ „ „ „	95 „
One „ „ „ „	70 „
Two „ „ „ „	59 „
One „ „ „ „	55 „
One „ „ „ „	53 „
Nine other patients „	more than 30 times each.

We have no returns to show the actual number of visits made by our Physicians at the present time. The number of patients visited, however, by some of them, is more than five times greater than the number quoted by Dr. Hale in 1820.

The following communication will enable the Managers to realize the amount of labor performed

by the Physician of District No. Five, and also to appreciate the amount of duty performed by the Physicians of other districts: —

"131, Tremont Street, 9th May, 1859.

"Dear Sir, — As you requested, I have gone over my books for the nine months ending April 1, 1859. The last column gives the largest and smallest numbers of visits made at any time during the month.

"Very truly,

"Robert Ware.

"Dr. Lawrence."

1858.		No. of Visits.	Patients.	
July	31 days	494	153	26 and 10
Aug.*	19 „	367	102	28 and 8
Sept.	30 „	746	185	36 and 13
Oct.	31 „	716	184	34 and 12
Nov.	30 „	672	215	30 and 9
Dec.	31 „	663	175	37 and 11
1859.				
Jan.	31 „	691	161	30 and 10
Feb.	28 „	527	147	27 and 8
March	31 „	578	150	28 and 6
	262	5454	1472	

This gives an average of 20.8 visits per day, and an average of nearly four visits to each patient during the period of nine months.

* Absent from the city twelve days.

CHAPTER XX.

Central District established. — Students allowed to sign Prescriptions. — Legacy from Mr. Phillips. — Letter from Dr. Stevenson. — Circular to Public. — Edition of By-laws printed. — Increase of Subscribers. — Medicines interdicted to Takers of Laudanum and Spirits. — Enlargement of South-Boston District. — Legacy of Mrs. Anne Smith.

1827.

April 13. — At this meeting, a new district was formed, called the "Centre District," bounded as follows: —

"Commencing at the easterly end of Cross Street; passing up Cross Street to Hanover Street; through Hanover Street to Pemberton Hill, on the westerly side; through Common Street to School Street; down School Street to Washington Street; through Washington Street to Milk Street; down Milk Street to Broad Street; through Broad Street to Wharf Street; through Wharf Street to the water; passing through the centre of said streets.

"At this meeting, also, South Boston was constituted a Dispensary district."

On the representation of Physicians, that it would be very convenient for students to have the liberty to

sign prescriptions, leave was given to do so in urgent cases, — the Physician to call at the Apothecaries' to approve the same. Students were requested to call upon the Apothecaries once in each week, that they might become acquainted with the price of medicines.

Sept. 21. — A letter was received from the Hon. Jonathan Phillips, announcing a legacy of three thousand dollars from his father, Hon. William Phillips, late Chairman of the Board of Managers. The same letter contained the following extract from the will of the testator: —

"I give to the Boston Medical Dispensary three thousand dollars."

After various bequests to different societies, he says, —

"My will is that the trustees of Phillips Academy, and that each said society above named, shall cause the amount so to it bequeathed to be constituted and for ever kept as a fund, or capital stock, and to be put to interest; the income of which shall alone be annually appropriated for the purposes of such society respectively, or added to the fund thus hereby constituted, at the discretion of its respective trustees and directors."

Oct. 21. — A letter was received from Dr. J. Greely Stevenson, Physician to the Eastern District, stating

that many of the poor were unable to procure Dispensary tickets, not being acquainted with any contributor to whom they might apply; that the Physician found it often impossible to furnish tickets, and always unpleasant to direct the applicant to gentlemen engaged in business, to whom such application may be annoying; that, in consequence of this irregularity and delay, the sufferings of the sick were increased, and their diseases protracted.

The letter was referred to Gideon F. Thayer, Esq., with directions to confer with Dr. Stevenson on the subject.

1828.

Jan. 11. — The Secretary was authorized to furnish to each Visiting Physician ten blank tickets of recommendation; and the Apothecary was authorized to answer the prescription of any Surgeon called in an emergency in a strictly surgical case, though such Surgeon should not be connected with the Dispensary.

"It having become a matter of importance that measures should be devised to increase the number of contributors to the Boston Dispensary, it was resolved, that, as an effective means of securing the object desired, a Committee be appointed to draught a circular to be distributed among such of our fellow-citizens as, in the opinion of this Board, would be likely to subscribe."

Messrs. Thayer and Snelling were appointed a Committee to prepare the above-named circular.

The petition of Dr. Robinson to have Sea Street added to the South-Boston District was granted.

April 11. — The circular prepared in compliance with the resolutions of the last meeting was read and accepted; and directions were given for its being printed and distributed.

It is as follows: —

"Sir, — The Managers of the Boston Dispensary wish respectfully to call your attention to the claims of that Institution on the benevolence of the affluent and liberal. Its list of contributors has been gradually, though slowly, diminishing of late years, owing to removals from the city, vicissitudes of fortune, and death, which renders it necessary to make this direct appeal to those who are presumed to be favorable to its objects.

"The amount of good which the Dispensary has done, and is still doing, is great; but the increasing demands upon it require an extension of means. It has no anniversary celebration, no public discourses, to enable it to gain by general contributions any increase to its funds; but it is dependent on its immediate friends for its resources. It effects its operations in an unobtrusive and quiet course, scarcely known except by the beneficial influence it diffuses among the sick and suffering poor.

"There are many excellent charities in this city, each performing its peculiar good offices; but if there is one less obnoxious to objection, less liable to suffer from impostors, than the others, that one, in the opinion of the Managers, is the Boston Dispensary. We therefore, with

respectful confidence, and we hope not vainly, present our application for the addition of your name to our subscription list.

"Your obedient servants,

"Edward Tuckerman,
Samuel Snelling,
Joseph Coolidge,
Samuel H. Walley,
Isaac Winslow,
Henry Ware, Jun.,
Benjamin Guild,
Gideon F. Thayer,
Samuel T. Armstrong,
Jonathan Phillips,
Samuel May,
George H. Snelling,
Gideon Snow, *Treasurer.*

Managers.

"Boston, June, 1828.

"N.B. — The yearly payment of five dollars entitles the contributor to have thirty patients under the care of the Dispensary during the year; ten dollars entitles to sixty patients; and fifty dollars, paid at once, entitles to the privileges of an annual subscriber during life.

"The bearer will return for an answer in a few days. A collector will call to receive the amount subscribed, and furnish a certificate of membership in the course of the ensuing month."

1829.

Jan. 9. — Mr. Armstrong reported that he, in conformity with instructions, had caused to be printed an edition of the By-Laws and List of Subscribers, and that Messrs. Crocker and Brewster had expressed their willingness to receive payment of the same by

certificates of five years' subscription. The thanks of the Managers were presented to Messrs. Crocker and Brewster for their liberal offer.

It was reported, that, in answer to the late circular, there had been added seventy-two annual subscribers, at five dollars each; two life-subscribers, of fifty dollars each; and that donations had been received, amounting to the sum of thirty-four dollars.

The Apothecaries were forbidden to deliver medicines to patients who were in the habit of taking laudanum as an habitual stimulus.

April 10. — The Report of a Committee was accepted, recommending the enlargement of the South-Boston District by adding to it —

"So much of the Southern District as will be included in a line drawn from the head of Sea Street; through the middle of Summer Street to Lincoln Street; down Lincoln Street to Essex Street; through Essex Street to Front Street; down Front Street to the water, at the termination of Beach Street."

Oct. 13. — At an adjourned meeting of contributors, held this day, a Committee to whom had been referred the duty of obtaining a copy of the will of Mrs. Anne Smith, so far as it related to the Dispensary, reported that they had obtained the following extract: —

"I give to the Boston Dispensary two thousand dollars, to be paid as soon as my executors may find it convenient;

and, in addition thereto, I hereby give and bequeath to said Dispensary the further sum of three thousand dollars, to be paid by my executors as soon as may be after my decease, provided said corporation shall pay the lawful interest of said sum — being one hundred and eighty dollars per annum — to the use of my niece, Anne Smith Erving, daughter of my sister Mary Erving; which payment shall be made to said Mary Erving during her life, or to her daughter Frances, whether married or single; and after the death of both said persons, being the mother and sister of the said Anne Smith, to any other person duly authorized to receive the same to the use of the said Anne Smith; said interest to be paid semi-annually from the time said corporation shall receive said sum from my executors, during the natural life of said Anne Smith, and a like proportion thereof for any proportion or part of time that may intervene between her death and the termination of the half-year next preceding said event; which annuity I hereby give and bequeath to the said Anne Smith, chargeable on said legacy given to the Boston Dispensary, and not otherwise on my estate. And the personal receipt of either of the persons named as aforesaid shall be a sufficient discharge to said corporation for the payment of said interest." *

At a meeting of Managers, held on the same day, —

"Mr. Armstrong, from the Committee on dividing the Southern and Northern Districts, reported in favor of a

* This legacy was deposited in the Massachusetts Hospital Life-Insurance Office on Nov. 25, 1830. Anne Smith Erving died in 1831; and the legacy, with interest, amounting to $5,225, was paid over to the Treasurer of the Dispensary, Jan. 2, 1832.

division of the Northern District into two parts, divided by a line running through Hanover Street; and of an enlargement of that portion of the South-Boston District which is north of the Free Bridge, by the addition of all the Southern District north of Boylston and Essex Streets; and that this portion thus enlarged be constituted a district of itself; and that the portion of the South-Boston District south of the Free Bridge be likewise made a separate district."

This Report was accepted, and the same Committee was authorized to carry the proposed changes into effect.

CHAPTER XXI.

New Districts. — Alleged Abuses. — Financial Condition. — Circular to Physicians. — Annual Meeting of 1830. — Anonymous Donation. — Letter from Dr. McKean. — Change in Districts. — Apothecaries reappointed. — Mrs. Smith's Legacy. — Physicians' Reports. — Donation from Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society. — Miss Belknap's Legacy.

1830.

Jan. 9. — On the recommendation of a Committee, the city was divided into the following separate districts: —

1	Wards 1, 3.	5	Ward 10.
2	Ward 2.	6	Wards 11, 12.
3	Ward 4.	7 . .	Broad-street District.
4	Wards 5, 6, 7.	8 . . .	Fort-hill „

March 4. — A Committee was appointed to consider the subject of abuses supposed to exist in the distribution of Dispensary assistance; and the Treasurer was authorized to sell stock to provide for the current expenses of the Institution.

April 21. — The Committee appointed on March 4 reported that they had prepared a circular to the

Physicians on the subject of existing abuses, but had subsequently concluded to make the necessary representations at a personal interview. The Report was accepted; and the same Committee, with the addition of Mr. Guild, were requested to transmit the circular to the Physicians, as first intended, and to enjoin upon them the observance of the rule, that the habitually intemperate and syphilitic patients are not to be attended; also that the Physician shall always attend his patient in person.

From the vote to sell stock, and from the tenor of the following circular found among the records, we infer that there was some discouragement at this time, on the part of the friends of the Institution, as to the condition of its affairs. The precautions here enjoined might be profitably considered in the present day.

"To the Physicians of the Boston Dispensary.

"Gentlemen, — In consequence of the duty assigned us, we have, as you are aware, made such investigations as we have been able of the manner in which this charity is conducted. The cause of the inquiry at this time is the unprecedented increase of persons claiming or receiving aid from the Institution; in some cases, the quantity, and in others the expensive kind, of medicine prescribed, and the inadequacy of the means to meet the demands.

"There is already a necessity for selling a portion of the invested stock; and a gradual diminution of capital will,

of course, be the ruin of the Institution. The Committee have spent much time in their inquiries, and are unanimously of opinion that the only remedial measures lie with the Physicians.

"In an interview with you, gentlemen, it was stated that patients were sought by some of the Physicians through the medium of students, and the offer made of medicines as a lure to be employed; and these were the alleged causes of the increase of patients and expense. This misconstruction of the objects of this charity, and the duties of the Physician, must have arisen from want of attention to the regulations. Any gentleman, remembering that the contributors to the annual fund are scattered through the city like its objects, will never administer to those who should rather be contributors than claimants; much less would he ever sign prescriptions availing himself of others' charity for his personal advancement. The responsibility which each Physician incurs is that of attending, when requested, those whose sickness requires a Physician, whose poverty prevents them employing one, who have no means of providing necessary medicines, and whose sickness is not the immediate consequence of their own sensual indulgence. These principles being always regarded, with the consciousness that the Physician owes to the gentlemen who appointed him a compliance with their regulations; that he has assumed a duty as a professional gentleman, as a member of society, and, above all, as a Christian, in the full and fair discharge of which he will acquire more reputation and better practice than in any other way, — it cannot be doubted that the Physicians will aid the Managers, as trustees of the bounty of others, in making this charity as effectively and extensively useful as an economical distribution of its funds will admit.

"In the hope that the knowledge of these facts, and a close adherence to the rules and principles on which the Institution was originally founded, may yet correct the abuses, and save it from ruin,

"We remain, gentlemen, very respectfully, your most obedient servants,

"EDWARD TUCKERMAN,
GIDEON SNOW,
SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG, } *Committee.*

"N.B. — Hereafter it will be the duty of the Dispensary Physicians to visit all the patients *personally*. It is not intended to prohibit students attending with the Physician; but they are in no case to be the substitute."

1830.

At the annual meeting, held Oct. 14, the Treasurer was requested to make a public acknowledgment of a donation of two hundred dollars from an unknown friend.

Oct. 26. — A Committee to whom a letter from Dr. McKean, received at a former meeting, had been referred, reported formally upon its suggestions; also that it "was highly gratifying to them to receive this evidence of his continued interest for this charitable Institution."

This letter is found on the files of the Secretary, and contains statistics respecting his district, with the following suggestion respecting the economical ma-

nagement of the Institution, which we think well worthy of consideration: —

"But it can now be shown, that, with the increase of numbers (719 patients for the year), the actual expenses of this district for the last three years have diminished in even greater proportion. This has been effected by requiring those who were able to purchase their medicines, and only to receive gratuitously the services of the Physician: this method may be followed in very many cases, and should, I think, be established as a general rule to be observed."

The same letter contains a statistical account of the number of patients in the district for a number of years, and the proportion of those prescribed for who were furnished with contributors' tickets. Of the 619 patients in 1824, 495 presented tickets; while in 1829, of the 719 patients, only 290 were provided with them: thus showing the impracticability of the system in a large city, and the necessity of the reform which was effected many years later.

At the same meeting, Dr. Walker's district, being Ward Four, was enlarged by adding to it that part of Ward Three lying south of a line drawn through Cross Street from Commercial Street to Pond Street; thence turning westerly to Haverhill Street; thence through Haverhill Street to Warren Bridge.

A Committee on the affairs of the Apothecary reported, that, on inquiry of several physicians, cases

of negligence in that department were of rare occurrence, and recommended the re-appointment of Messrs. Smith and Clarke.

Nov. 24. — The Committee on Mrs. Smith's legacy were authorized "to subscribe to a condition, that the interest of three thousand dollars shall be paid to the use of Anne Smith Erving, from the date of the notice first given to the Treasurer by the administrator of Mrs. Smith, that he was ready to pay over the legacy."

The Physicians were requested to confer, and adopt some uniform method by which to regulate their reports of cases.

1831.

Jan. 14. — A Committee reported verbally, that Mrs. Smith's legacy had been received, and invested by them in the Massachusetts Hospital Life-Insurance Company.

1832.

Jan. 13. — The Secretary was directed to make a suitable acknowledgment to the Managers of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society for their liberal donation of two hundred dollars to the Dispensary.

In the month of September, the Managers received a letter from Messrs. John and Andrew Belknap and J. Head, jun., executors of the will of Miss Mary

Belknap, announcing a bequest of one thousand dollars, by that lady, to the Dispensary. The clause of the will relating to the subject is as follows: —

"I give to the Boston Medical Dispensary and their successors for ever one thousand dollars, to be expended in promoting the objects of said Institution."

CHAPTER XXII.

Residence of Physicians. — Memorial from Physicians, with Report on the same. — Reports of Physicians on Intemperance.

1833.

Nov. 6. — By a vote passed at this meeting, Physicians appointed after its passage were required to reside within or near their respective districts.

A Committee, to whom had been referred an important memorial from the Physicians, made a Report, which was accepted, and the resolutions accompanying it adopted.

Both these documents are here given, as they furnish information respecting the practical operations of the Dispensary, which applies as well to the present day as to the period when they were prepared: —

"The subscribers, who are or have been Physicians to your charity, — desirous of making the Institution of as much benefit as possible to the public, and of fulfilling its intentions with satisfaction to ourselves, the contributors, and the beneficiaries, — would present the following —

"MEMORIAL.

"The Dispensary Physicians have lately established a monthly meeting, in order that, by co-operation, more good

might be obtained. Our common doubts and difficulties have been made known, both as to the intentions of the contributors and the management of the patients; some of which are the following, which we, as in duty bound, submit for your consideration and counsel: —

"1. The manner in which diseases are now entered renders our reports of very little value for medical or statistical purposes. Some are entered in English, some in Latin, and some partly in both. It is certain, that, in a majority of cases, no entry can be made in English, which shall accurately describe a disease, without great circumlocution. Those who employ Latin names do not all follow the same system; which renders the tables incongruous. We therefore desire that we be instructed to adopt some uniform nomenclature, to be designated by you or selected by ourselves.

"2. We desire more definite instruction as to the manner in which the parentage of the patients shall be designated. By inspecting the reports of the past year, it will be perceived that much diversity has obtained on this point. For instance, under the head of COUNTRY, —

"Are all born on this continent to be entered Americans, whether Canadians, Mexicans, Indians, &c.?

"Do you wish to know how many are Bostonians?

"How is an Irish child, born in America, to be entered? &c.

"3. Delay, and sometimes hazardous delay, occurs in consequence of the difficulty of finding a contributor from whom to obtain a ticket, which must be obtained before medicine can be had. But this is not the most important evil which attends the present mode of distributing tickets. There is not a careful examination made into the circumstances of the patients recommended; and consequently a great number receive tickets, who, by their competency, or

by their vices or follies, are unworthy of private charity; and thus discredit is thrown upon benevolent operations in general. Justice to the Physicians, on whom the chief labor and toil devolve, and whose services are gratuitous, requires that such abuses of charity should be remedied. They have thought that some of the following measures might be of service to this effect: —

"A Committee might be appointed in each ward, for the distribution of tickets; who would certify themselves of the merits of an applicant in all cases, and to whom patients might at all times be directed, with the prospect of an immediate supply.

"Each Physician might be supplied with a number of tickets, to be used in cases of emergency.

"No ticket should in any case be given, without a prescription, signed by a Physician, being presented; which may be looked upon as his certificate of the necessity of their case. Though this is now the custom of many, yet it is by no means the general practice.

"4. Are domestics, receiving good wages, to be considered objects of Dispensary charity?

"5. Is it, or is it not, the intention of the contributors, that drunkards should enjoy their charity? Some difference of opinion prevails on this point. At present, the great majority of adult patients are intemperate. The reports for the past year sufficiently exhibit the inclination to forego the common comforts of life, sooner than deny themselves in their morbid appetite for ardent spirit. At the present period, all facts connected with this subject are interesting. We hope that some tables or questions may be furnished, in the manner adopted by the State Temperance Society, according to which we may exhibit the habits of each patient. For instance, we might mark —

A. Moderate drinker.
B. Drunkard.
C. Drunken parents; &c.

"It is our daily lot to see this vice and its consequences, under its most disgusting, most pitiful, and most horrible aspects; and, when constantly witnessing the alliance of intemperance with disease, misery, and vice, we cannot, with any pretensions to the commonest feelings of humanity, but stand ready to adopt any suggestions which shall conduce to expose its extent and virulence, and aid in its suppression.

"6. We desire, also, another scale, to represent the degree of misery and wretchedness as connected with poverty. It cannot but be observed, by those accustomed to the distribution of charity, that the greatest misery is not always, nor even commonly, connected with the greatest poverty. Many, whose income is more than sufficient, by prudence and temperance, for the support of their families, regularly apply for Dispensary aid in sickness. Is not this affording encouragement to improvidence? And if, by a collection of facts, the number of such patients shall appear large, will it not become incumbent on the contributors, as philanthropists, to withhold tickets from them?

I. Comfortable.	1. Competent.
II. Miserable.	2. Needy.
III. Unworthy; &c.	3. Destitute.

"7. In what cases is a Physician justified in refusing further attendance on a patient? This has been done, when a patient has utterly neglected prescriptions; where he has dissented from the Physician's opinion, and refused to abide by his advice; for abusive conduct, &c.; and yet

the Physician is complained of, and censured by a contributor or a neighborhood.

"8. Much difficulty has been experienced by the current idea, that the Physicians receive pay for their services. Many apply to them, who would not otherwise consider themselves justified in calling for gratuitous attendance and medicine; and many unseasonable and unnecessary visits are demanded, and the Physician is regarded as impertinent in refusing them. It is hoped that some measures will now be adopted to disabuse patients of this idea. The subject has already been before you, and some steps were taken towards a remedy; but nothing has as yet been carried into effect.

"In presenting this memorial, we feel that we are actuated by the best of motives, and not from personal considerations merely. We believe the topics mentioned — most of them, certainly — are important, and worthy your consideration. We trust that they will receive your immediate attention; that, under your instructions, we may be enabled to commence with this Dispensary year to fulfil the intention we have formed, — of making the Institution a source of greater information, to yourselves and the public, than it has hitherto been.

"John Dixwell, } *Consulting Physicians.*
John Randall, }
Joseph W. McKean.
J. G. Stevenson.
Augustus A. Gould, Wards 1 and 3.
Ezra Palmer, Jun., Ward 2.
Joseph Roby, Wards 5, 6, and 7.
Edwd. J. Davenport, Ward 10.
J. B. S. Jackson, Ward 12.
Paul Simpson, Jun., Broad Street.
James Wood, Fort-Hill District.

"Oct. 8, 1833."

After the reading of the foregoing memorial, Dr. Stevenson submitted the following Report: —

"The first topic in the memorial is the incongruousness of the tables of disease, as they are at present made up. This is an important matter; since the tables are quite useless for statistical purposes, unless they are uniform. The Medical Association of this city have adopted a nomenclature of diseases, which is thought to combine conciseness, and plainness of terms. As that is limited to fatal diseases, the list of names in the Dispensary tables should be more comprehensive, so as to include those diseases which are not fatal to life. Your Committee are of opinion, that the Attending and Consulting Physicians can but make the necessary additions to the nomenclature of the Medical Association; and recommend that they be requested to give their attention and action to this matter. When the list is completed, a uniformity in the annual reports of the Physicians might be obtained, by furnishing to every Physician, on his appointment to office, a copy of the nomenclature, and requesting him to enter the names of diseases in his tables in accordance with it.

"The second topic is the country of the patients. It is thought that a knowledge of the extent to which the charity is bestowed upon foreigners would be useful and interesting. Some doubt arose respecting the designation of foreigners: some are born here in families, which, while they reside among us, continue alien in all their individual and social habits. Your Committee thought that the children in such families should continue to be marked by the country of their parents; since the necessities which send these children for aid to the Dispensary are of foreign origin, and belong to them on account of their birth and

parentage. The following division is accordingly recommended: —

American.	Hibernico-American (including hybrids of American and Irish).
British (includ^{g} English, Scotch, and those from British Provinces).	French, Swedes, &c.
Irish.	Bostonians.

"Your Committee propose to confine the last name to persons born in Boston of American parents. Persons who have been for a long time steadily resident in the city, but were born elsewhere, may be designated as Bostonians five years, Bostonians ten years, and so on.

"Thirdly, your Committee recommend that the Visiting Physicians be requested to keep and use a scale, which may enable the contributors to know how much of the call upon their charity is made by intemperance; not with the view of denying aid to those whose need of it is caused and increased by this vice, but because all facts are interesting 'which show the alliance of intemperance with disease and misery.' The scale may include —

Temperate.	Sots.
Moderate drinkers.	Children of intemperate parents.

"Fourthly, it is desirable, as is said by the memorialists, 'to know the degree of misery and wretchedness as connected with poverty,' or as arising from extravagance or vice or carelessness; to know how the means of life correspond with the manner of life. It cannot have escaped any one, who has often visited the poor, that many families, whose income is sufficient to procure the comforts of life, remain miserable and squalid; and that many who are very poor appear clean, warm, and decent. In order to express

the comparison between the means and the manner of living, your Committee propose the following tables : —

MEANS OF LIFE.

a. Have ample means, and do not require the aid of the Dispensary.
b. Have means to provide common comforts.
c. Have not means to provide common comforts.

MANNER OF LIFE.

1. Comfortable.
2. Decent.
3. Wretched.

"The Committee also recommend, that some other circumstances of the patients be noted in the annual reports of the Visiting Physicians : as, their industry or idleness ; their living wholly, or in part, by charity ; illegitimacy of children. It is further proposed to designate colored patients in the reports.

"The memorialists inquire, 'In what cases is a Physician justified in refusing further attendance on a patient?' Your Committee are aware that cases do and will arise, in which medical attendance ceases to be useful to the sick, in consequence of their negligence and perverseness, and that it ought to be withheld. No rule can be made, precisely fixing the degree of this negligence which may justify the Physician's refusal to visit. It is thought that this matter may safely be left to the humanity and wisdom of the Visiting Physicians, who are appointed to office with the character of humane men. In the discharge of their duties, they need protection against injustice and abuse ; or rather they should be able to avoid these. When, in the exercise of his discretion, the Physician thinks it necessary to decline further attendance on a patient, the fact and its reasons should be communicated to the contributor who

issued the ticket to said patient. In this way an examination of the case may be had, and the right may be obtained.

"In connection with this subject, your Committee think that the patients ought to understand the relation which they bear to the Dispensary and to the Physicians, and that the services of these gentlemen are gratuitous. It is recommended that a notice of this fact, and of the consequent duties of the patient, should be attached to each ticket, and be delivered to each patient.

"In accordance with the views set forth in the preceding remarks, your Committee respectfully recommend the passage of the following votes: —

"*Voted*, That the Visiting Physicians of the Dispensary be requested to use in their annual reports a uniform nomenclature of diseases; and to adopt the nomenclature of the Boston Medical Association, as far as it extends; and to make such additions to it as may be thought proper by themselves and the Consulting Physicians.

"*Voted*, That the birth or country of the patients be designated according to the following table: —

American.	Irish.
British (includ^{g} English, Scotch, and persons from the British Provinces).	Hibernico-American.
	French, Swedes, &c.
	Bostonian.

"The last title includes only those persons who are born in Boston of American parents.

"*Voted*, That the Visiting Physicians be requested to employ the following scales, with the characters prefixed, in their annual reports; and to mark every patient with one or more of the prefixes: —

A. Temperate.	C. Drunkard.
B. Moderate drinker.	D. Child of intemperate parents.

MEANS OF LIFE.

a. Has ample means, and does not need the aid of the Dispensary.
b. Has means to provide common comforts.
c. Has not means to provide common comforts.

MANNER OF LIFE.

1. Comfortable.
2. Decent.
3. Wretched.

"*Voted*, That the Visiting Physicians be requested to notice other circumstances of the patients, in their annual reports: as, industry and idleness; attendance or non-attendance on public worship; how far supported by charity; the illegitimacy of children; and to designate colored patients.

"*Voted*, That the following notice be annexed to each Dispensary ticket, and be in every case issued with it: 'The patients of the Dispensary are hereby informed, that the Physicians do not receive any pay for their services; and that these services will cease to be given, in case of neglect or ill-conduct on the part of the patient.'

"*Voted*, That if a patient is unworthy to receive the charity of the Dispensary, and the Physician withholds his attendance, it shall be the duty of the Physician to communicate the fact, with the reasons therefor, to the contributor who issued the ticket to said patient.

"*Voted*, That —— copies of the above votes be printed, and one or more be furnished to each Dispensary Physician.

"Which is respectfully submitted.

"J. GREELY STEVENSON.
JOHN DIXWELL.
JOHN RANDALL.

"BOSTON, Oct. 30, 1833."

After the presentation of the foregoing memorial, the Physicians of the Dispensary were requested to furnish to the Managers such information respecting their districts as might be useful, and especially to present details relating to the use of intoxicating liquors by patients under their care.

The following, among the mass of details, are extracted from the various Reports.

One Physician says, —

"Of the hundred and forty patients reported by me, eighty lived either immediately upon or in yards and courts directly connected with a single continuous portion of one of our streets. This portion of a street contains fifty-four visible grog-shops. . . . . .

"Whether a connection can be traced between the excessive demand in this region upon your charity, and the excessive consumption of spirits which must here occur for the support of these numerous establishments, I leave for others to determine. The general answer to the question, 'Do you use spirits?' when directed to the males, is, 'I take none to injure me.'"

Another writes, —

"The low order of Irish laborers habitually use ardent spirits. So true is this remark, that I have rarely among my patients met with an exception; and I am disposed to ascribe it to the comparative cheapness of them in this country, which places them within the reach of the idlest among them. The riotous living and intemperate habits of

this class consume all their earnings. The future is never heeded by them, and therefore never provided for. . . .

"The extravagance of the Irish in paying the last honors to the dead is proverbial. Large sums are lavishly expended upon wakes and funeral displays, which might be more appropriately applied to the relief of the sick."

A Physician of one of the poorest and most populous districts classifies his patients as follows: —

"1. Those who are obliged to seek assistance by misfortune, and not by their own vice and imprudence. This class is extremely small.

"2. Those who view the Dispensary as a public Institution, supported by the public fund, from which they suppose the Physicians receive adequate annual salaries; and claim as a right, not as a favor, its full benefits. This class is very large.

"3. Those who by their vices have brought poverty and suffering upon themselves and families. These constitute a large portion of the persons applying for relief. Amid these vices, and, in its consequences, more productive of evil than all others, is the intemperate use of ardent spirits.

"In twenty-two families, the husbands are habitually intemperate; in seven families, the wives; in eight, both husband and wife; to which add three widows with families, and three single persons, and there is a total of forty-nine drunkards. Of these were two widows, one having two, the other five, children. One of these cases was peculiarly distressing. The woman, far advanced in pregnancy, accidently set fire to her dress while intoxicated, and was most severely burned. On the following morning,

she gave birth to a child, and, during the severest portion of the winter, was under my care, depending entirely upon the earnings of a boy aged thirteen for the support of herself and family, and often, even while sick and in want, giving up herself to complete unrestrained indulgence."

One of the District Physicians, who now holds a prominent rank in the medical profession, writes as follows: —

"How far intemperance prevails, and has been a cause of disease, I am unable exactly to say. In reviewing my list of patients, I find twenty-four whom I know to have been hard drinkers. It is painful to state that a majority of these are females; all of them, except one, being married, and have charge of a family. Two of my patients I found deeply intoxicated about the third day after their confinement. Their husbands — the one a truckman, the other a laborer — had good employment, and probably good wages; but every thing about them indicated the most abject misery.

"The diseases for which these twenty-four were treated, I may safely say, were to be attributed entirely to intemperance, and the evils attendant upon it. Some of these have been mentioned under the head of Deaths. Beside these, the most striking were the case of a man coming home late at night intoxicated, who took a copious draught from a pitcher of lye which he found in his closet; and a case of delirium tremens in a female.

"I have seen enough the last year to convince me that intemperance is by far the most fruitful source of disease and misery amongst the poor whom I have in charge."

The Physician of a district in the southern part of the city says, —

"I would state my conviction, that a large majority of the cases of severe disease occurring in male adults have resulted in the use of ardent spirits. That this odious vice should so often occur in the heads of families, increases in an especial manner the burdens of the Dispensary.

"The painful spectacle of two young children rendered totally insensible by drinking ardent spirit from an open vessel exposed within their reach by their mother, who had made herself beastly drunk before their eyes, occurred in the discharge of my duties as Dispensary Physician."

CHAPTER XXIII.

Grant to Treasurer. — Condition of Finances. — Proposed Grants. — Circular to Physicians. — Physician requested to resign. — Salaries to Treasurer and Secretary. — Report of Committee on Apothecaries' Department. — By-Laws. — Salaries. — Letter from Dr. Holmes.

1834.

At a special meeting of contributors, held April 30, the following vote was passed: —

"*Voted*, That in consideration of the general services of the present Treasurer, Gideon Snow, Esq., for upwards of twenty years, and that the Dispensary funds have increased during this period from about $11,000 to over $27,000, thus augmenting his labors and responsibility, and at the same time showing his fidelity to the interests of the Institution, there be granted to the Treasurer $300 for said general services."

A letter from the Treasurer, dated on the 28th April, shows that the income of the Dispensary from subscriptions and dividends had exceeded its expenses during every year from 1824 to 1834 inclusive. The whole sum thus added to the permanent fund during the ten years, as thus reported, is $5,557.

These seem to have been the palmy financial days of the Dispensary; for, though its means have been

enlarged, the demands upon it from the growth of the city have since increased in still greater proportion, and now (1859) there is much difficulty in obtaining the funds necessary to sustain the Institution.

At the same meeting, a Committee was appointed to consider the expediency of making a grant of three hundred dollars for the poor at the Lying-in Hospital, and also an appropriation for the support of a free bed at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Although it was considered that the resources of the Dispensary did not at that time warrant the proposed grants, it is an interesting fact, that the generous intentions of the contributors in favor of the Lying-in Hospital were rewarded by a liberal grant from that institution to our own exhausted funds, nearly a quarter of a century afterwards.

Nov. 28. — The Secretary was requested to address a circular to the Physicians, embodying the rules in regard to delegating their power to practitioners not in the service of the Dispensary, and also requesting them to sign their prescriptions with their whole family names.

1836.

Jan. 11. — At this meeting, one of the Physicians was requested to resign his office, for a violation of the rules of the Dispensary. This, we believe, is the

only occurrence of the kind in the history of the Institution; and we are happy to add, that the charges in this case, as in many similar instances, were afterwards found to be without foundation, and the request was withdrawn.

Feb. 6. — The Secretary was authorized to draw upon the Treasurer for one hundred dollars. By reference to the Treasurer's books, we find that both he and the Secretary of the Institution became salaried officers from the year commencing October, 1835. It cannot be expected that gentlemen whose time is much occupied in business should undertake the duties of these offices, — involving, as they sometimes do, many details, — without some remuneration; and it may be the true policy of the Managers to pay a small salary to such gentlemen, in order to secure a more efficient and judicious administration of their affairs. But we trust that the time is not distant when gentlemen who have retired from the bustle of business-life, and who have all the necessary qualifications, will be found willing to relieve, by their gratuitous services, all our charitable associations from unnecessary expenditure.

1837.

Jan. 13. — The Report of a Committee which had been appointed to investigate the affairs of the Apothecaries' Department was read, and its recom-

mendations, with a few amendments, adopted. Praise was awarded to Mr. Smith for his skill and fidelity in its management; and it was declared to be inexpedient to increase the number of Dispensary Apothecaries in the city, as had been requested, to obviate the inconveniences arising from the distance of the residence of patients.

In cases of emergency, Physicians were allowed to furnish to poor patients little sums for the purchase of medicines; such sums not to exceed ten dollars during the year.

Jan. 19. — The Committee on the Apothecary's accounts was authorized to renew the contract with that officer, by which the sum paid should not exceed one dollar per patient.

April 14. — At this meeting, the Report of a Committee on the By-laws was received, and adopted with a few amendments.

The Secretary was authorized to have six hundred copies of these regulations printed, and distributed among the contributors. All other rules and regulations upon the records of the Institution, not in accordance with those adopted above, were declared void.

It may not be amiss to state here, that there now exist, on the files of the Secretary, copies of the various editions of By-laws issued in and subsequent to the year 1807.

Oct. 16. — The salaries of the Treasurer and Secretary were fixed at one hundred dollars per annum.

A letter was received from Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, in which the inconveniences of the system at that time in operation, and the advantages of the *concours*, are so well set forth, that the entire document is herewith given.

"To the Managers of the Boston Dispensary.

"In compliance with one of the rules prescribed to the Physicians of this Institution, it is my duty to lay before the Managers the following suggestions: —

"I. That each Physician should be amply provided with tickets. Under the present arrangement, he is obliged either to send the patients to one of the subscribers, or to supply them with tickets which he has been compelled to solicit from his friends or others. The disadvantages of the first plan, as I have seen and felt them in the Broad-street District, are as follows: —

"1. The *Physician* has the task of directing the patient to the subscriber's residence, — a matter of some difficulty in general, and frequently, especially with newly arrived foreigners, impossible; so that neither ticket nor medicine is obtained.

"2. The *patient* has the task of hunting out the subscriber, which is often a source of delay and vexation, if not of fatigue and suffering, as in the case where those who are really ill are obliged to do their own errands.

"3. The *subscriber* has the unnecessary trouble of giving out the tickets in detail, and of being interrupted at all

hours of the day with claims which must be immediately listened to.

"But, on the other hand, it is too much to ask of the Physician to go round begging for tickets, perhaps among those with whom he is unacquainted. I have myself succeeded in obtaining a very insufficient supply from some of my friends; but I have also had the mortification of having my request refused, — a circumstance very common with those who are obliged to ask favors.

"To the best of my recollection, no patient whom I have ever sent to a subscriber has at any time been refused a ticket. The subscriber, therefore, trusts entirely to my judgment respecting the claims of the patient: in other words, I am the real distributer in my own ward. Why, then, all this superfluous machinery for wearing out the patience of all concerned?

"I would suggest, that, while each subscriber retains such a number of tickets as he supposes he may require for his own distribution, the remaining ones, or a certain part of them, be left with the Secretary by the general consent of the subscribers, and by him freely dispensed to the Physicians.

"II. I would suggest that one or more places be provided, to which such patients as can safely and conveniently leave their own residences shall be expected to resort for advice. Such has been the method pursued in the Dispensaries of London and New York. It seems to me that two advantages would result from this arrangement: —

"1. A large class of patients, with diseases of comparatively trifling importance, — as, for instance, many affections of the eye and the ear, cutaneous diseases, and other chronic complaints not requiring confinement,

— could be treated as effectually as if visited at their houses, at a far less expense of time and labor to the Physician.

"2. He would be freed in some measure from the importunities and exactions of those among his patients, who, while they are too negligent to profit by his advice, would be too indolent to seek it at the cost of a little trouble on their part; and would thus be enabled to give more attention to those who really require and deserve it.

"3. A consulting-room well attended is one of the most valuable schools for students as well as practitioners of medicine, since many cases of disease may be seen within a very limited time; and, being thus collected, may be compared with and illustrate each other. This is one of the legitimate ends of all medical charities.

"III. I will venture to ask of the Managers, whether the great and truly republican principle of the *concours*, or public competition of candidates for vacant offices, may not with advantage be introduced into the medical province of this Institution. The ground of election to the office of Physician seems at present to consist mainly in priority of claim. But is this any test of the competency or incompetency of the applicants? If there is one which is better and practicable, then it is due to those whose life and health are at stake that it should be adopted. The judges should be physicians selected by the Managers; the capacity, the knowledge, the practical skill, of the candidates should be thoroughly tested; and to these should be sacrificed the blind rule of priority, and the occasional bias of favoritism. It is probable that the mention of such a plan would at once excite a spirit of industry and honorable competition among those to whom its offers should be addressed: such has been its universal effect

wherever tested. The experience of every day in the Old World shows it to be of easy practical application. That this principle, so consonant with our institutions, will sooner or later be generally adopted, I cannot doubt. I believe this is a favorable opportunity for its introduction. To the young physician it offers a motive and a reward of industry; to the patient it gives assurance of obtaining a faithful, intelligent, and enlightened adviser.

"I offer these suggestions to the Managers, because it is expressly declared to be my duty. Should either of them be thought worthy of attention, it would be easy to add such developments as are omitted in this hasty outline.

"Very respectfully,

"Oliver W. Holmes, M.D."

CHAPTER XXIV.

NURSES. — MR. DEARBORN'S WILL. — PROPERTY DEVISED. — PRESENT INCOME.

1838.

JULY 13. — At this meeting, Physicians were allowed, in certain cases, to provide nurses for the sick; the sum expended not to exceed ten dollars in any one sickness.

The will of Benjamin Dearborn was read, as well as two letters from his executor, Henry Plympton, Esq.; and it was voted, that the Treasurer be the agent of the Board to confer with the executor of Mr. Dearborn's will, in conformity to its provisions.

As this is the most important event connected with the history of the Boston Dispensary, we will give an imperfect sketch of the life of this munificent benefactor of the Institution, as well as some details respecting a legacy which places the object of his benefaction among the most important of the charitable associations of the city.

The following are some of the provisions of the will, which bears the date of July 2, 1832: —

1st, That all just debts be paid.

2d, In conformity with a contract made previous to his second marriage, to secure to his wife and her two daughters during their lives one-third part of the income of his real estate, he directs that his house in Avon Place be reserved for their residence, or for that of his son John M. Dearborn, at the nominal rent of twenty dollars per month.

3d, That one-third part of the income of his real estate be paid to his wife during life; and be continued, after her decease, to her daughters Hannah and Helen.

4th, That the remaining two-thirds of the income from real estate be divided into ten equal shares for the benefit of the following persons; viz.,—

One share to his wife; to descend to her two daughters, if they survive her. One share to Mrs. Hannah Nye Dearborn during life; and afterwards to her husband, John M. Dearborn, if he survive her. One share to Miss Helen Maria Freeman. Two shares to his son, John M. Dearborn, during life; and afterwards to his wife Hannah, should she survive him. One share to his daughter, Mrs. Fanny Hanman, of Savannah, Ga.; and afterwards to her husband, James R. Hanman, should he survive her. One share to Mrs. Caroline Howes (formerly Miss Caroline Hooper); and afterwards to her husband during life, should he survive her. One share to his son, Nathaniel Dearborn, during life; and to his wife Mary, if she survives him. One share to Henry Plympton during his life. One share to be equally divided between his sisters, — Mrs. Ruth Crocket, of Gorham, Me.; and Mrs. Gratia Dugan, of Boston.

The will then provides, that, whenever any one or more of these ten shares shall be relinquished by the

death of the possessors, such portion shall go towards the creation of a fund of three thousand dollars for all his grandchildren.

Section 5th directs that his real estate may eventually be converted into a charitable fund for "alleviating the miseries of enfeebled and disconsolate sufferers," and that no part of it be sold by his executors.

"Having bequeathed the sum of three thousand dollars to my grandchildren, from the first proceeds of all shares which shall be relinquished, I direct, that, after said amounts shall be realized therefrom, the future proceeds of those shares and of all other shares and portions of my real estate, whenever they shall be relinquished by the decease of their respective possessors, shall be at the entire disposal of the Boston Dispensary, to be by them appropriated to the charitable purpose expressed in the first passage of this section. This bequest is made with the design, that, at some future period, the Dispensary shall become sole proprietor of my present real estate; and it is my hope and expectation, that, when any share or portion of the income of said estate shall be relinquished for the use of that benevolent Institution, the officers thereof will pursue such course with the proceeds as in their judgment shall appear best calculated to promote the comfort of suffering applicants for food, fuel, clothing, medical assistance, or any other kind of relief. Under this impression, I shall offer no restrictions respecting the estate after it shall be wholly relinquished to them, but submit to their united wisdom the decision, whether it shall be rented to tenants or be sold, for placing the

amount of sale in some productive fund, for dedicating the interest of such fund to the relief of misery.

"I also bequeath to the Boston Dispensary that specimen of beautiful sculpture, representing the Samaritan as engaged in the beneficent act recorded in the tenth chapter of Luke. It is suspended over a fire-place of my dwelling-house in Avon Place, where I wish it may remain during the time in which that house shall be occupied by my wife or either of her daughters, or by my son John M. Dearborn. After that dwelling shall be relinquished by them, either by their decease or by their removal therefrom, that statue will be at the command of the officers of the Dispensary; and it is my hope, that, by their unanimous decision, it will be suspended in one of their apartments as an appropriate emblem of charity."

After several other provisions, the document closes by the appointment of his wife, Hannah Dearborn, Benjamin Bangs, and Henry Plympton, executors. The will was presented and approved at a Probate Court held in Boston on the 23d of April, 1838.

The real estate thus devised consisted of a lot of land, with buildings thereon, situated on Federal Street and on both sides of Theatre Alley, in Boston; a house in Avon Place; and a vacant lot of land, of about ten thousand feet, in Cambridgeport: the whole yielding at that time, as stated in the will, about twenty-five hundred dollars per annum.

The estate on Federal Street, by the mutual consent of the heirs of Mr. Dearborn and the Managers of the Dispensary, and by authority of an Act of the Legisla-

ture, approved March 12, 1846, was sold for the sum of eighty thousand dollars. The house in Avon Place and the land in Cambridgeport are still held subject to the provisions of the will: the former may be valued at about ten thousand dollars, and the latter at one thousand. So that the amount to be ultimately received by the Dispensary will exceed ninety thousand dollars. The net income of the estate at the present time (1859) is about four thousand five hundred dollars; of which sum, one-fifth part belongs to the Dispensary by the death of various legatees: the remaining four-fifths are held in different proportions by the following persons; viz., —

Hannah M. Dearborn . .	$\frac{7}{15}$	James R. Hanman . . .	$\frac{1}{15}$
John M. Dearborn . . .	$\frac{2}{15}$	Henry Plympton	$\frac{1}{15}$
Mary S. Dearborn . . .	$\frac{1}{15}$		

The portion of the income now received by the Dispensary is already accomplishing its daily work; and we can hardly conceive how a greater amount of good could be conferred on so large a number of individuals, than by the mode which Mr. Dearborn has chosen.

BENJAMIN DEARBORN.

Drawn & engrd by S. Lovett Philada jan. 1802.

CHAPTER XXV.

Sketch of Mr. Dearborn's Life and Character. — His Lenient System. — His Poem.

We will now give a brief sketch of the life of one whose name is indissolubly connected with the Boston Dispensary, and for whose far-sighted philanthropy the poor of Boston must hold his memory in grateful remembrance. The extracts quoted are from the pen of Henry Plympton, Esq., who was his friend and associate for many years, and who finally acted as the executor of his will.

"Benjamin Dearborn was a native of New Hampshire: born in Portsmouth, I think, June 21, 1755. His father was a respectable physician, who died when the subject of my remarks was but four years old: thus early left an orphan, without inheriting any thing from his father, save an unsullied reputation. As he approached the state of manhood, his native powers began to develop; and with his industry, and integrity of purpose, he soon found means of supporting his kind and affectionate mother, who was left destitute at the death of her husband. . . .

"At a very early age he published the 'Columbian Grammar,' of which he was the author: and I believe this was the first American grammar, of American origin, published in the United States; and, though about half

a century ago, would even now do credit to American literature.* . . .

"He came to Boston late in the last century, at the suggestion of gentlemen of the first respectability, and opened a private seminary as a teacher, which pursuit he had followed in Portsmouth.

"After passing the more early part of his life in cultivating a taste for literature, he commenced in earnest to investigate the mechanic arts; and his success in this branch is without a parallel in American history. He met with no subject too lofty, nor no problem too puzzling, with which his giant mind would refuse to grapple. His projects of invention were very numerous, and he was generally successful in bringing them to a great state of perfection. During some of the most active parts of his life, he kept employed a number of the best mechanics, constantly, in making models of his machinery and inventions, in which he involved, probably, more than fifty thousand dollars; which as yet prove unproductive: but, no doubt, in them the seeds are planted, to vegetate in the hands of some future artisan, and prove the parent of a thousand fortunes. Thus he truly lived and labored for posterity, and not for himself alone; and he contributed his money as freely, in the completion of his inventions, as if they were earning, instead of spending and exhausting his funds. As is the case with almost all great and scientific inventors, his mind would fly from one project to another, without waiting to

* "The Columbian Grammar; or, An Essay for reducing a Grammatical Knowledge of the English Language to a Degree of Simplicity which will render it easy for the Instructor to teach, and for the Pupil to learn; accompanied with Notes, Critical and Explanatory; for the Use of Schools, and of Young Gentlemen and Ladies, Natives or Foreigners, who are desirous of attempting the Study without a Tutor; being designed as Part of a General System of Education in the most Useful Branches of Literature, for American Youth of both Sexes. By Benjamin Dearborn, Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Boston: printed by Samuel Hall for the Author. 1795."

test the utility of what he had done. And this seems to me the grand cause why inventors labor so hard, and get so little for themselves: for they are always *planting*, and never stop to *reap;* consequently the following and the future generally get the crop, and he too often becomes penniless and dependent.

"It will be twenty years, in February next,* since this profound benefactor presented a memorial to Congress upon the now all-engrossing subject of running steam-carriages upon railroads. It was received and read in the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress; and then, I suppose, laid upon the table for sleep and slumber. This subject was then thought visionary, and it seemed to be treated as such; but he was sanguine in the complete feasibility of the project: and the language of the memorial, now in my possession in his handwriting, bears full and ample attestation that he had well embraced this great novelty in theory. And the period has arrived which has already tested the experiment to be one of the greatest internal improvements, both in this country and Europe; which but twenty years ago was pronounced visionary, and false in theory. On his return from Washington in the year 1819, he said all he expected to accomplish, in presenting the memorial, was to plant a good seed, and set the scientific men of the age about reflecting upon this momentous project, as the best means of producing ultimate benefits, as set forth in his memorial; and it is beautiful to see how exact the letter and spirit of that memorial is verified by the railroads and steam-carriages now intersecting and traversing the various sections of the Union. If this prophetic and gigantic project stood isolate, without being supported and sustained by any other in the whole

* This was written in 1839.

history of his long life, this alone would be sufficient to immortalize his name as one of the brightest stars of American genius: but his whole history is one blazing luminary, developing the beauties of philosophy and the arts; employing the great powers of his mind, almost without cessation, to transmit the greatest amount of good to posterity.

"This same American philanthropist has disseminated an extended knowledge of his genius throughout the commercial world by his unexampled and unparalleled productions in the science of statics, — probably the most interesting branch in the whole catalogue of mechanics, requiring greater care and nice execution for obtaining correct results. During the life of the inventor, he was permitted the satisfaction of knowing that he had probably accomplished more toward diffusing uniformity by the introduction of his *unrivalled balances*, which were applicable, and made to conform with the minutest precision, to all known commercial standards at home and abroad, embracing the whole range of the commercial world. The combined efforts of all who have studied the science of statics for the last two centuries have not done so much to advance this important department as was done by this retired genius and philanthropist. Not confined to testing the precious metals and the minutest particles to an exact standard, he embraced the most massy instruments for weighing the ponderous burdens, and testing their gravities to an ounce.

"Another great and important idea was an emanation of his mind; and that is, the useful employment of convicts in our State prisons. The original communication on the most rational mode of punishing crimes, over the signature of 'A Friend to Industry,' was first published in the

'New-Hampshire Gazette' of Saturday, Sept. 4, 1784, from which it was copied into some of the papers printed in Massachusetts; and the device was instantly adopted by the Commonwealth, previous to the establishment of a State prison. This was also considered visionary, with his railroad scheme; the height of folly and cruelty: though the system is in successful operation all over the country, which no doubt has been the immediate instrument of checking an immense number of crimes, and saving to the honest industry of the country millions of dollars.

"Another philanthropic work, of great labor and merit, reflects the sympathies of the author: I mean his 'Lenient System for adjusting Demands and collecting Debts, without Imprisonment,'— published in 1827 by the author.* It

* "A Lenient System for adjusting Demands and collecting Debts, without Imprisonment; uniting Justice with Clemency, in Coercive Measures for stimulating Debtors to fulfil their Contracts. By BENJAMIN DEARBORN. Boston: printed and published by John H. Eastburn, 25, Congress Street. 1827.

"INTRODUCTION. — It has not been decided whether cruelty or absurdity is predominant in the attempt to enforce payment of a debt by confining the debtor; but it is generally admitted that some energetic substitute is wanted, which shall be sanctioned by humanity, justice, and policy. To combine these principles in a simple, economical mode of adjusting demands and collecting debts, is the design of this system; which is peculiarly calculated to produce such reciprocal benefits to the different States as must inevitably tend to confirm and to prolong their union, if it becomes established by their patronage. When that shall take place, it will secure to society the following results: —

"1st, It will abolish imprisonment for debt.

"2d, It will protect creditors from suffering under fraudulent attempts of debtors.

"3d, It will protect debtors from suffering under fraudulent attempts of creditors.

"4th, It will protect society from suffering *repeated* deceptions by the artifices of delinquent or fraudulent debtors.

"5th, It will protect the honest unfortunate debtor from undue severity.

"6th, It will stimulate debtors to fulfil their contracts, by an influence more powerful than a *prison* ever produced.

"7th, It will provide essential relief for the poor, by entering their little claims in the public records, and demanding payment, for the small fee of fifty cents, without further charge to the creditor.

"8th, It will present a fee-table, always accessible, whereby its uniform charges will be known to both parties."

was his wish to bar the prison-doors, in future and for ever, against punishing the poor unfortunate debtor as a criminal. I have no doubt, this work did much toward hastening the period for abolishing imprisonment for debt."

In another place, Mr. Plympton says, —

"The deceased 'philanthropist' probably labored in his useful and scientific pursuits as much for the good of posterity as any other human being of whom the records of history bring down to us for the last century. Always bent upon projects for the good of society, and for meliorating the sufferings of the human family, his lamp was kept burning till late at night, and again renewed early in the morn, long before the rays of light of the approaching day. He felt, and often declared, that his whole life and labors belonged to society, and that he had a sacred duty to perform, and trust to discharge to a kind Providence; and I believe the whole actions of his life will bear testimony to the sincerity of these professions. He cherished the most implicit confidence in one great and good and eternal God, for whom he manifested uniform reverence, and hoped never to offend.

"His passions and feelings were strong and ardent, which he well knew; yet he was charitable to a fault: though at some times he would be led astray for a season; but generally patience, forbearance, and perseverance, would bring him right at last. The benevolence of his disposition often subjected him to great impositions; but in the aggregate, he said, he derived more pleasure from those who appreciated, than disappointment from such as abused, his kindness.

"To say that he was without faults, would be assigning to him a degree of perfection which does not belong to the

lot of man: but I do say, that but few men have lived, and done more towards promoting the happiness of his race; for I would hold him up as a pattern of industry, economy, benevolence, worthy of the imitation of all who knew him.

"The whole life and labors of this deceased philosopher furnish a charming theme for the scholar and historian, who could fill a most interesting volume, without tiring the mind or the pen, by dwelling upon realities and facts of moral tendency: and I do hope this subject will attract the attention of some Christian scholar, at no distant period; for, in my opinion, few better men ever lived."

The following printed effusion, found among Mr. Dearborn's papers, tells its own story: —

"The following lines, under the title of 'Singularity,' were written by Benjamin Dearborn, in the year 1808, as descriptive of the leading principles of his own character at that time. After a lapse of twenty-two years, he considers them equally applicable as at the time they were written; and therefore obtained printed copies in the year 1830, for presenting to friends of either season: —

"SINGULARITY.

"Let Zealots to the flames condemn
All souls who will not think with them:
Yet I my constant duty see
In pious SINGULARITY.

Let Patriots for place contend,
And, placed in state, the State amend:
Nor place nor state has charms for me
Like peaceful SINGULARITY.

Let Fashion rule with fickle power,
And change her edicts every hour;
Yet I would still a subject be
Of Reason's SINGULARITY.

Let Fashion's daughter win the beau
Who values merit less than show:
My heart would best with *hers* agree
Who *dares* love SINGULARITY.

Thus would I use the Reason given,
And thus enjoy that gift of Heaven;
Aiming to keep from Folly free,
In Wisdom's SINGULARITY."

CHAPTER XXVI.

Dispensary Districts made to conform to Wards. — The Good Samaritan received. — Resignation of Physicians. — Legacy from Henry Higginson. — Resignations. — Letter from one of the Physicians respecting a Case of Imposition. — Reply of Mr. Thayer. — Memorial of Physicians. — Compensation to Physicians. — Change in Districts.

1839.

July 12. — On the recommendation of a Committee, it was voted to make the Dispensary districts conform to the new arrangement of the wards of the city, as follows: —

Wards 1, 3	to constitute	District	No.	1.
Ward 2	„	„	„	2.
Ward 4	„	„	„	3.
Wards 5, 6	„	„	„	4.
Ward 7	„	„	„	5.
Ward 8	„	„	„	6.
Ward 9	„	„	„	7.
Ward 10	„	„	„	8.
Ward 11	„	„	„	9.
Ward 12	„	„	„	10.

July 19. — The piece of sculpture bequeathed to the Dispensary by Mr. Dearborn was received, with a note from his executor; and Messrs. Foster and

Thayer were appointed a Committee to procure a place suitable for its reception.

April 10. — Letters of resignation were received from the Physicians of the sixth and the twelfth district.

The following letter is found on the files of the Treasurer, although no official mention of the bequest is made on the records of the Institution: —

"Boston, Nov. 30, 1840.

"Gideon Snow, Esq., Treasurer of the Boston Dispensary.

"Dear Sir, — In conformity to the will of the late Henry Higginson, Esq., of this city, the administrators, with the will annexed (viz., John C. Brown and George M. Higginson), have deposited at the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, Boston, the sum of ten thousand dollars. The interest thereon is to be paid to the widow of the said Henry during her life, and, at her decease, the same to be paid over to the Treasurer of the Boston Dispensary for the use and benefit of that Institution; meaning thereby, that both the principal and the interest then due should thus be paid over.

"Very respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,

"John C. Brown, *Administrator*."

After the decease of Mrs. Higginson, this legacy was paid over to the Dispensary, by the Massachusetts Hospital Life-Insurance Company, on Aug. 3, 1847, principal and interest then amounting to $10,208.22.

1841.

During some years previous to this date, the service of the Dispensary seems to have become unpopular; and, during the present year, seven of the District Physicians resigned their charge. The remuneration at this time was small; and most of them, no doubt, shared the feeling of one of the number, who says, in his letter to the Managers, —

"I wish to change to some part of the town where the Dispensary practice is among a class who are more cleanly in their habits, and more attentive to the prescriptions of the Physician."

1842.

At the meeting of Managers, held July 8, a letter was presented from one of the Physicians, reporting a singular case of imposition on the part of a patient, and asking advice as to his duty in the premises. As this case is a precedent, the letter of the Physician is given, with the reply of the Chairman of the Board of Managers, to whom the communication was first addressed. No official action of the Managers on the subject appears in the records of their next meeting; so that we may infer that the reply unofficially made by one of their number was satisfactory to the Board.

"Boston, June 4, 1842.

"Dear Sir, — The following is the statement of a case in regard to which will you be so kind as to give me your

opinion? A few months since, a man applied to me for medical advice, and, at the same time, for a Dispensary ticket. Inquiring into his circumstances, he informed me that he was very poor; so much so, that he was *absolutely unable* to pay for his medicines. Judging from his appearance that his statement was correct, I gave him a Dispensary ticket, and attended him until he was well. I have since learned from his own lips that he owns the house in which he lives, and has other property besides. On hearing this, I immediately made out a bill against him of one dollar for the Dispensary ticket, and eleven dollars for medical advice; which he has refused to pay. I then put the demand in a lawyer's hands for collection; and the reason he now gives for refusing to pay is, that he has a Dispensary ticket. Now, what I wish to know is, if an individual, by misrepresentation, deceives a Dispensary Physician, stating that he is unable to pay for attendance or medicines, when it is ascertained for a fact that he is able to pay, does the possessing a Dispensary ticket, given to him by the Physician under these circumstances, protect him from the payment of a just demand, as I imagine this to be? It seems to me that this ought to be settled, as it will tend in some degree to prevent the Dispensary Physicians being imposed upon, as we are liable to be every day.

"I remain yours most respectfully.

"P.S. — An answer would very much oblige."

"Boston, June 6, 1842.

"Dear Sir, — Your communication of the 4th, stating a case of imposition practised on the Dispensary, was duly received. In reply, I would say, that, in my opinion, you cannot legally maintain a claim against the delinquent;

although, in *justice*, he is bound to pay your bill. The case is, however, the first that has been specifically reported; and I will lay it before the Managers, at their quarterly meeting in July. Meantime, you had better stay proceedings in the premises; and, after the meeting, you shall be advised of the result.

"Respectfully yours.

"G. F. Thayer."

A memorial was received from the District Physicians, asking for some remuneration for their services. The justice of the application will be best understood by reading the memorial itself, which is herewith given: —

"To the Board of Managers of the Boston Dispensary.

"Gentlemen, — The propriety of making an application to your Board for some compensation for their services has long been a subject of serious consideration among the Dispensary Physicians; and they have finally concluded that a statement of their wishes to your body is both expedient and justifiable.

"We would beg leave to remind you, gentlemen, that the duties of no physician are so arduous and engrossing, and associated with so many disagreeable circumstances, as those of the Dispensary Physician. Setting aside the inconveniences obviously inseparable from the duties of his office (of which we do not complain), he is constantly exposed to vexations arising from the want of intelligence in his patients, and their insolent bearing towards him, growing out of their mistaken belief that he receives a salary for his services.

"We would also beg leave to call your attention to a

fact of which you are probably in ignorance, and which operates much to our injury; viz., that there is a certain class of patients who call upon us for our services, who, we are satisfied, might make us some remuneration if we were not Dispensary Physicians. This we *know* from the fact that they occasionally call in other physicians, whom they pay; though, when they call upon us, they declare their inability to make *us* any compensation. Thus the very title of Dispensary Physician seems to operate in a measure to our disadvantage, preventing many from employing us who otherwise might do so.

"We feel authorized, gentlemen, in making this application for a salary, by the fact that in other cities, where dispensaries are established, the physicians receive some pecuniary reward for their services. This is the case in New York, where the salary of each physician is one hundred dollars per annum for services not more arduous than ours.

"We have thus presented to you, gentlemen, our views and wishes in relation to this subject with plainness and candor. We do not wish to be understood as making any demand, but simply as presenting to your minds considerations which may not have suggested themselves to you, and which appear to us to justify our application. Should the means in your hands be insufficient (as we have been induced to believe they are not) to enable you to comply with our request, of course our feelings of respect towards your Board, and our readiness to perform the duties assigned to us, will remain unchanged.

"Fully believing that you will give this matter a serious and attentive consideration, we subscribe ourselves, with great respect.

"May 24, 1842."

Six of the Physicians appointed at the commencement of the year had already resigned. This fact, with the arguments set forth in the memorial, seem to have satisfied the Managers of the necessity as well as the expediency of allowing a small salary to the medical officers of the Institution. It was therefore voted, that, from the first day of the month, a hundred dollars per annum should be paid to the Physician of District Eight, and fifty dollars per annum to other District Physicians; though no allowance should be made for a less term of service than one year.

Wards Four, Five, and Six, constituting Districts Three and Four, were united in one district.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Miss Hubbard's Legacy. — By-laws. — Resolution on Death of Dr. Randall. — Circular to Physicians. — East Boston constituted a District. — Vote of Thanks to Chairman. — Resignation of Treasurer. — Vote of Thanks to Mr. Snow, and Account of his Services. — Testimonial presented.

1842.

Oct. 13. — A communication was received from the executor of the will of Miss Lucretia Hubbard, stating his readiness to pay over the sum of five hundred dollars, — the legacy of that lady to the Institution. It was thereupon voted, —

"That the Dispensary accept the same with gratitude; and that the Treasurer be authorized to receive it, and to give such receipts therefor as he shall deem proper.

1843.

Oct. 12. — "*Voted*, That the additional rules of 1843, recently printed, be confirmed, and adopted in that form, by the Managers.

"*Voted*, That all the regulations of the Dispensary contained in the pamphlet printed in 1837, with the additional rules, 1843, be recorded at length, in connection, by the Secretary, and continue the rules of the Dispensary."

These regulations are found at length on the records, as well as in a pamphlet preserved upon the files of the Secretary.

1844.

Jan. 12. — After the records had been read, it was resolved, —

"That the Managers of the Boston Dispensary have heard with regret of the death of Dr. John Randall, who has done the Institution the kindness to give it his services as a Consulting Physician for the last fifteen years; and that they wish by this vote to testify their sense of the value of those services."

Every measure which has been adopted since the establishment of the Dispensary, for the promotion of economy and efficiency in its administration, is of interest at the present time, when the same necessity exists for a prudent husbanding of resources, and when the demands upon it have increased in greater proportion than its means of meeting them.

The following circular, addressed to the Physicians by the Chairman of the Board of Managers, is for this reason worthy the attention of all interested in the present management of the Institution: —

"Boston, Feb. 8, 1844.

"Dear Sir, — The present condition of the Dispensary renders it necessary to husband its resources, in every

way consistent with the welfare of the Institution and the comfort of its beneficiaries. I write, therefore, to request, that, in all cases where venesection or scarification will do as well as leeching, you will adopt the former mode of practice. And this, I trust, you will feel the propriety of my suggesting, and will readily acquiesce in, when I state, that in one case at least, during the past year, thirty leeches were ordered at once for a patient; and, in another, one of our Physicians has stated, that he had often ordered leeches, when scarification would have been better for the patient, because the person *would not have it applied.*

"The Managers cannot consent that any Dispensary patient shall dictate to the Physician what to prescribe, or what course to pursue, in his medical or surgical practice, as they consider each gentleman competent to decide for himself; and, for cases of difficulty, Consulting Physicians of experience have been provided, who will be found ever ready to afford their advice. At all events, if any patient refuses to conform to the directions of the Physician, the printed rules authorize and require him to discontinue his visits, and notify the Chairman of the Managers of the fact and the reason therefor immediately.

"Another idea which I wish to present to you is this: In many cases where children are sick, the parents are perfectly able to provide *medicines*, if they can have the attendance of a Physician gratuitously. I would therefore respectfully request, in behalf of the Managers, that, in cases where the applicant for medical assistance can, in your opinion, be thus furnished without inconvenience, you will propose to have it so furnished. It is thought that many would prefer to do it. Where there is ability, it would obviously be for the advantage and independence of the party to do it, not to speak of the requisitions of

duty and the gratification of parental love which it involves.

"I say nothing of your proposing this question when the *father* or *mother* becomes the patient, because I know that health is the poor man's means; and, when either himself or his wife is unable to work, their means are impaired, if not cut off.

"This matter is intrusted to your discretion. You will please understand the proposition, when made, to be as a *suggestion*, never as a requisition. It is presented now on account of the necessities of the treasury.

"After an experiment of two months, I should feel obliged by your communicating to me your views on the several topics of this letter, to be laid before the Managers at their next quarterly meeting.

"G. F. Thayer."

April 12. — *Voted*, "That a new district be made of East Boston until the annual meeting in 1845.

"*Voted unanimously*, That the thanks of this Board be presented to the Chairman, Gideon F. Thayer, Esq., for his valuable and efficient services in increasing the funds of the Institution, and in attending to the interests of the Dispensary."

At the annual meeting of the contributors, held Oct. 10, a letter was received from Gideon Snow, Esq., resigning the office of Treasurer, which he had held during thirty-one years; and it was voted, —

"That the resignation of Mr. Snow be accepted, and that the hearty thanks of the contributors be presented to him for his long-continued and faithful services to the interests of the Dispensary."

At a meeting of Managers, held during the January following, Mr. Snow was elected a member of the Board, and continued in office until the annual meeting in October, when he declined a re-election. He was first elected a Manager, Oct. 8, 1807; and continued in the service of the Dispensary as Treasurer and Manager, with an interruption of two months, until Oct. 9, 1845, or a period of thirty-eight years.

This instance of long, active, and faithful service, in connection with a charitable institution, is so remarkable, that the circumstances attending Mr. Snow's retirement may not be uninteresting.

His letter of resignation as Treasurer is as follows: —

"Boston, Oct. 10, 1844.

"Gentlemen, — Enclosed you have my accounts to this date, approved by your Committee. I have held the office of Treasurer to this Institution for thirty-one years, and now respectfully offer for your acceptance my resignation, my best wishes for its prosperity, and your own individual happiness.

"I am, very respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"Gideon Snow.

"To the President and Directors of the Boston Dispensary."

At a meeting of Managers, held Nov. 5, it was voted, "That the sum of two hundred dollars be appropriated to the purchase of some articles of plate

to Gideon Snow, Esq., late Treasurer of the Dispensary, as a testimonial of his valuable services;" and a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Thayer, May, and Gray, were appointed to carry the vote into effect. At a subsequent meeting, the Committee thus appointed submitted the following Report of their proceedings: —

"The Committee appointed at a special meeting of the Managers on the 5th of November, 1844, to procure 'some articles of plate to be presented to Gideon Snow, Esq., late Treasurer of the Dispensary, as a testimonial of his valuable and faithful services,' have attended to that pleasing duty, and report, that, on consultation, it was deemed advisable to submit the selection to Mr. Snow himself. Whereupon, the Chairman, as instructed, apprised Mr. Snow of the fact, and invited him to choose what would be most acceptable to him from any store in the city. To which communication, Mr. Snow returned the answer contained in the accompanying letter.

"The five pieces — a coffee-pot, tea-pot, sugar-urn, cream-pot, and slop-bowl — were engraved each with the following inscription: —

"Presented to Gideon Snow, Esq.,
by
the Boston Dispensary,
November, 1844.

A testimonial to his faithful and
valuable services
as Treasurer to the Institution
for thirty-one years.

And delivered to him by the Committee, on the 27th of November, with appropriate remarks, to which Mr. Snow made a suitable reply, expressive of acknowledgments for

the kindness and consideration of the Dispensary, with a message of friendly regard, which he requested them to convey from him to each of the Managers.

"All which is respectfully submitted.

"G. F. THAYER,

"For the Committee.

"BOSTON, Jan. 10, 1845."

Impelled by age and increasing infirmities, rather than by a lack of interest in his favorite Institution, Mr. Snow penned the following letter at the close of the year for which he had been elected a Manager.

In the word "always," we imagine there is a gentle intimation that a charitable disposition and a desire to serve one's fellow-creatures do not render their possessor immortal, even were his object to serve the Dispensary.

"ROXBURY, Sept. 21, 1845.

"GENTLEMEN, — Recent experience has shown me that it will not be in my power *always* to discharge the duties required of me as one of the Directors of the Boston Dispensary. I therefore ask your acceptance of my resignation of the office. Accept my wishes for the prosperity of the Institution, and the happiness of the President and Directors.

"Very respectfully, gentlemen, your friend and servant,

"GIDEON SNOW.

"To the President and Directors of the Boston Dispensary."

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Legacy from Mr. Parker. — Subject of Medicines. — Opinions of Physicians. — Experiment of a Physician. — Report of Committee. — Apothecary engaged. — Resignation of Mr. Thayer, and Vote of Thanks by Managers. — Investments of Funds. — Seal adopted. — Cost of Apothecaries' Department. — Diminution of Subscriptions. — Reasons for not subscribing. — District Eleven divided. — Division of Districts. — Proposition to increase Salaries of Physicians. — By-Laws. — Act of Legislature accepted. — Change of System. — Resignations of Physicians. — Application from Charlestown. — Resignations. — Financial Condition.

1845.

Jan. 28. — The Treasurer was authorized to receive and give a receipt for a legacy of $2,000, bequeathed to the Dispensary by John Parker, Esq.

April 11. — A vote was passed, that no Manager should issue more than a hundred and fifty tickets during one year.

The above vote was passed in consequence of the increased demands upon the Institution. As has been before stated, much attention had been bestowed by the Managers upon the proper regulation of the Apothecaries' Department, and various plans had been devised for lessening the growing expenditures.

During the year, letters were received from several of the District Physicians, embodying their experience, and expressing their opinions as to the best mode of checking alleged abuses.

One of those gentlemen made an experiment in his district with regard to the amount and cost of medicines actually required by his patients.

At that time, it will be remembered, medicines were furnished by an Apothecary near the centre of the city, at the price of one dollar for each patient per annum; while ten dollars per annum were allowed to each Physician, with which to purchase medicines for patients who were taken suddenly ill, or who, for any reason, could not procure them at the office of the Contracting Druggist.

He writes, —

"Some months ago, I intimated my opinion that the expenses of the Dispensary in my district were greater than they need be. How much less has been expended in years past in this ward, I am unable to say. This year, the number of patients has been more than twice the number of last year. Out of two hundred and sixty-six patients, thirteen only have received medicines from your Apothecary; making, for the six months, an expenditure of six dollars and fifty cents. A hundred and eight others I have supplied in part from —— store, and they have in part supplied themselves. The remaining hundred and forty-five I have required to procure their own medicines. The cost of medicines procured by me from Mr. ——, and charged to you, has been four dollars and three cents.

There have been treated, then, in ward ——, for six months, two hundred and sixty-six patients, at an expense of ten dollars and fifty-three cents. My records will show how many of these have recovered, and the terminations of the diseases. I am not unwilling to have them compared with those that have been treated with the drugs of your own Apothecary."

The results of this experiment are the more worthy of notice, as they show the cost of each patient treated in the district to have been about four cents; while the cost of medicines furnished in all the districts for the corresponding year, as is shown by the Treasurer's book, was not far from fifty cents per patient. This amount does not include expenses incident to the other departments of the Dispensary; and the result may very fairly lead to the consideration of the question, whether the large amount expended for mere drugs at the present day is not entirely unnecessary.

Oct. 9. — At the Managers' meeting held this day, the following Report was submitted: —

"The Committee to whom was referred the question of the expediency of establishing an Apothecary's shop, and engaging an Apothecary to take charge of it, and purchase and compound the medicines for the use of the Dispensary, having diligently and carefully considered the subject, report, —

"That, in their opinion, the experiment ought to be made, and go into operation on or before the first day of

January next, provided that a satisfactory room can be secured for this purpose at a reasonable expense. And your Committee would recommend that a room in the second story of some building centrally and conveniently situated, in the vicinity of Washington Street, be engaged for the shop; and another contiguous to it, for the use of the Physicians of the Dispensary, and for such other purposes as may hereafter be prescribed."

The Report was accepted; and Messrs. Thayer, Frothingham, Emmons, and Chadwick were appointed a Committee to carry its recommendations into execution.

1846.

Jan. 9. — The Committee on procuring an Apothecary's shop reported that they had engaged an Apothecary, with a salary of eight hundred dollars per annum; and a room in the second story of 109, Washington Street, for a shop, at a rent of three hundred dollars per annum.

April 10. — The Chairman reported verbally that the Apothecary's shop was in successful operation, and invited the Managers to call and satisfy themselves as to its condition.

At the annual meeting held Oct. 8, a communication was read from Mr. Thayer, declining a re-election as Manager; whereupon the Rev. Dr. Frothingham presented the following votes, which were unanimously adopted: —

"*Voted*, That the thanks of the contributors be presented to Mr. Thayer for his active, cordial, and most valuable services, for a long series of years,* both as a member of the Board of Managers, and as its presiding officer.

"*Voted*, That the contributors very sincerely regret that Mr. Thayer should retire from a position that he has occupied so long to the advantage of the Institution, and the gratification of his colleagues."

Nov. 6. — At this meeting, certain votes were passed concerning the sale and the investment of funds accruing from that portion of the estate of Benjamin Dearborn situated on Federal Street and Theatre Alley. It was also voted, "That the seal now presented, with the words 'Boston Dispensary' in the margin, and 'Incor. Feb. 26, 1801,' in the centre, be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the seal of the Boston Dispensary."

1847.

Jan. 8. — The Committee on the Apothecary's accounts reported, that, during the first year since the opening of their own shop, the number of patients supplied was 1,110; number of leeches applied by Miss Taylor, 603; whole expenses, including salaries of Apothecary and his assistant, $1,741.62.

1849.

Jan. 12. — A letter was received from the Treasurer, Hon. G. T. Bigelow, stating that some of the

* Mr. Thayer was elected a Manager, Oct. 13, 1826.

prominent subscribers declined paying their annual subscriptions; and also enclosing a few memoranda by the collector, stating the reason of refusal in each case. The expressions in the last-named document will seem like old acquaintances to those who have had experience in soliciting funds for charitable associations. They are as follows. The amount of the annual subscription, it will be remembered, is five dollars.

"Mr. —— wishes to make some inquiries; and will call, if he concludes to subscribe.

"Mr. —— is abroad.

"Mr. —— will do something by and by.

"Mr. —— *possibly may* do something next year.

"Mr. —— has removed to Roxbury.

"Mr. —— will *perhaps* subscribe next year.

"Mr. —— declines for the present year.

"Mr. —— thinks he will feel able some time hence: if so, he will call on Chairman.

"Mr. —— cannot subscribe this year; will next.

"Mr. —— is favorable to the object; but he does not feel able to subscribe at present: thinks he will, when he feels able to.

"Mr. —— will *probably* subscribe next year.

"Mr. —— cannot subscribe immediately.

"Mr. —— prefers to dispense his own charity.

"Mr. ——: too many calls; can't attend to them all.

"Messrs. —— and —— and —— and —— discontinue, but give no particular reason."

Oct. 11. — On the recommendation of a Committee,

District Ward Eleven was divided, the line of division being Dover Street; one to be called North District Ward Eleven, the other South District Ward Eleven.

1850.

Dec. 14. — Wards Four, Five, and Six were divided into two districts, as follows: —

South District, south of Cambridge Street, and west of Court Street; North District, north of Cambridge Street, and east of Court Street.

1851.

July 11. — It was voted, "That the districts of the Dispensary be changed, so as to conform with the wards of the city as at present established."

Oct. 29. — It was voted, "That the annual salary of the District Physicians, from and after the first day of October, 1851, be doubled, if the funds of the Society shall be sufficient therefor at the end of the year."

Nov. 21. — Rev. Dr. Frothingham, from a Committee appointed to revise the By-laws, presented a draught of a new code of rules; which, after several amendments, was unanimously adopted.

An edition of five hundred copies of these By-laws was printed, and is now preserved, with the editions of other years, on the files of the Secretary.

1852.

July 16. — The Act of the Legislature, approved Jan. 30, 1852, by which the Boston Dispensary was allowed to hold real and personal estate yielding an income of five thousand dollars per annum, in addition to the income of the property which the Institution was authorized to hold by the Act of Incorporation, was accepted by a vote of the Managers, and ordered to be recorded.

It was also accepted at the annual meeting of contributors, during the same year.

1853.

Oct. 13. — At this meeting, there was a virtual abandonment of the old system of tickets of recommendation, by the passage of a vote authorizing the Apothecary to answer the prescriptions of the Physicians, without such ticket, but requiring the name and residence of the patient to be inscribed.

In the following April, the Apothecary also, by order of the Chairman, was allowed to use his discretion, and furnish medicine gratuitously to poor patients when he deemed it necessary.

1854.

July 14. — The resignations of two of the District Physicians were presented; and, there being no applicants for the vacancies, the meeting was adjourned to such time as the Secretary might see fit.

Oct. 12. — An application from physicians of Charlestown was presented, asking for the creation of a Dispensary ~~ticket~~ district in that city. It was voted to postpone the consideration of the subject until the question of annexation should be settled.

1855.

July 13. — The Secretary reported the resignation of one of the Physicians, and that three others had intimated their intention to resign unless the salary should be raised; whereupon a Committee of three was appointed to consider whether the funds of the Dispensary admitted such an increase of salary.

The income of the Institution at this period did not permit an increase of salary to the District Physicians. From the Treasurer's Report, made at the annual meeting of contributors in the October following, it appears that the income for the year had been $4,810, while the expenses had been $4,720.68.

CHAPTER XXIX.

MEMORIAL FROM PHYSICIANS. — COMMITTEE APPOINTED. — REPORT OF COMMITTEE, WITH PLAN OF RE-ORGANIZATION. — ADOPTION OF REPORT. — EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

1855.

AT a meeting of the Managers, held Oct. 16, the following memorial from several Physicians was read, and referred to a Committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Frothingham, Messrs. Wolcott, Kuhn, Lawrence, and Dehon, with instructions to report upon the same as early as possible: —

"The undersigned beg leave to present the following memorial to the Directors of the Boston Dispensary: —

"Since the establishment of the system at present pursued by the Directors of the Boston Dispensary, the class of patients who fall to the care of their Physicians has greatly changed; so that now it is as great an object to rid themselves of their relationship with them, as soon as the office is resigned, as it was formerly desirable to continue an acquaintance with those whom it had brought them in contact with. The inadequate pecuniary return for the demands upon their time from so ignorant and degraded a class, the disagreeable nature of the duty, the nuisance of the patients who congregate in their offices or about their doorsteps (a nuisance so great, that a young man cannot hire an office oftentimes without the agree-

ment not to become a Dispensary Physician), are a few of many reasons which render it desirable that some change should be effected in the Dispensary system, no better commentary upon which can there be than the difficulty which exists in filling the medical offices.

"It is not the object of this memorial to go into details; for it is thought that the question of a modification in the Boston Dispensary is one which does not require argument. The difficulties which exist can be obviated, and our Dispensary made the means of greater usefulness than ever before, without a larger expenditure of money than at present. The office of Physician can be made such as to become the aim of every young medical man, — the object of an honorable competition, and worthy the acceptance of those who are already, to a certain extent, established in their profession. Such is the case in New York, and certainly should be here. The system of the Dispensary in that city does away with the objections which influence the one in Boston; and that it attains one of its objects most satisfactorily, the competition for its offices, the duties of which are, with one exception, gratuitously performed, gives ample proof.

"The New-York system, the details of which, if not familiar to the Board of Directors, could be easily obtained, is briefly as follows: —

"The division of the city into districts (two, or at the most three, would probably be sufficient for Boston), in each of which is an office, consisting of two or more rooms, under care of a keeper. To each office a certain number of Physicians are attached, amongst whom are distributed the days and hours of attendance. All applications for medical advice are made at the offices; and those able to come to them are prescribed for during cer-

tain hours by the 'Attending Physician,' and these cases are by him entered in a book kept for the purpose. Cases of midwifery, and those too sick to leave home, send their names and address to the keepers at the offices, and are attended by the 'Visiting Physicians' (of whom there shall be one to each district), and who are to call at the offices at various times in the day to obtain the names left. The 'Visiting Physician' is a paid officer in New York: he receives $300 per annum. The prescriptions are put up by some apothecary near the office, according to a contract with the Dispensary. The Dispensary, during the hours of attendance, should be open to medical students.

"Your memorialists, therefore, most earnestly request that the New-York system may be adopted in this city. The proposal, it is most respectfully submitted, will meet the cordial approbation of every friend of your noble charity; and its achievement, it is also believed, is greatly desired by every physician who has at heart the interests of his profession, and who is ambitious to obtain every opportunity for perfecting himself in his studies and pursuit.

"Accordingly, your Board will find this memorial signed by a large number of the younger physicians of Boston (many of whom have been, or are now, your officers), and that their opinion is indorsed by an equally large number of those whose experience and position in their profession entitle their opinion to the greatest respect.

"R. M. Hodges.	John P. Reynolds.
C. Ellis.	S. L. Sprague.
Chas. D. Homans.	S. F. Haven, Jun.
John B. Alley.	Benj. S. Shaw.
Wm. W. Morland.	John C. Sharp.
Francis Minot.	J. Everett Herrick.
George Derby.	George G. Tucker.
D. D. Slade.	Saml. A. Green.

"The undersigned would cordially recommend the favorable consideration of the foregoing memorial by the Board of Directors of the Boston Dispensary.

"James Jackson.
Edward Reynolds.
S. D. Townsend.
Charles Gordon.
Jacob Bigelow.
J. Mason Warren.
Wm. J. Dale.
S. Cabot, Jun.
L. Parks, Jun.
Henry W. Williams.
Chas. E. Buckingham.
E. Palmer, Jun.
Henry I. Bowditch.
D. Humphreys Storer.
R. W. Hooper.
George A. Bethune.
John Homans.
Edw. H. Clarke.
Chas. G. Putnam.
M. P. Perry.
Wm. E. Coale.
George Bartlett.
Henry O. Stone.
Geo. Hayward.
Geo. H. Gay."

1856.

Jan. 11. — The Rev. Dr. Frothingham, Chairman of the Committee to which was referred the memorial of Physicians presented at the last meeting, submitted a Report in print, with a new plan of organization, and a draught of By-laws applicable thereto.

The Report is as follows: —

"The Committee appointed by the Managers of the Boston Dispensary to consider the expediency of re-organizing that Institution, beg leave to submit the following Report: —

"To test the efficiency of the present plan in operation among us, the most sure and direct method seemed to your Committee to compare it with that of similar institutions in other large cities, where the greater number

and the more urgent necessities of the sick poor had led to the adoption of effective systems for their relief. As there were no data at hand from which to gain information of the details of the dispensaries of the great cities of Europe, the surest method seemed to be to consult the Reports of the principal dispensaries in New York and Philadelphia, which, it was understood, had been copied from the systems adopted in London and Paris.

"From the Reports alluded to, it would seem that there are in New York five dispensaries, independent in action, and covering distinct sections of the city. The oldest and most important of these is called the New-York Dispensary, including within its limits some of the worst and most crowded districts of the city, and, among others, the well-known Five Points. The distinguishing features between this institution and our own are briefly as follows: —

"In addition to the plan adopted here of visiting the sick in their own houses, there is a central office, where, for several hours each day, medical and surgical relief is afforded to all who require it, and are well enough to leave their own dwellings. The importance of this department is shown by the fact, that, of the whole number relieved by the institution, rather more than four-fifths are provided for at the central office. Another feature of the New-York institution is the appointment of an executive officer, or medical superintendent, who presides over every department, and is made responsible for all that relates to the daily working of the machinery.

"In reviewing the Report of the institution at New York for 1854–5, and comparing the results with those of our own for the same year, the following facts appear: —

	Boston Dispensary.	New-York Dispensary.
Number of patients	4,040	46,052
Number of physicians	14	20
Number of prescriptions	12,462	114,245
Salaries of physicians	$1,200.00	$2,200.00
Salaries of apothecaries	1,800.00	800.00
Medicines, rent, and sundries, at apothecary-shop	1,292.03	1,500.00
Medicines furnished in distant quarters, and trusses	256.31	
Expense of apothecary's department	3,348.34	2,300.00
Cost of each prescription	$0.25\frac{1}{10}$	$0.02\frac{1}{100}$
Expense of each patient, not counting those who apply for vaccination and dental operations	1.16	$0.17\frac{6}{100}$
Whole cost about	4,725.00	5,000.00

"From Philadelphia, the returns are not so full. The number of patients in 1855 was 10,980; salaries of physicians, not given; apothecary's salary, $600; cost of medicines, $1,205.24.

"Wishing to obtain further knowledge respecting certain details, your Committee opened a correspondence with some of the officers of the institution in New York. The information sought has been cheerfully and promptly given. The results of these investigations induce the Committee to recommend to the Board of Managers a plan for the organization of the Boston Dispensary, founded mainly on that adopted by the sister-institution in New York, and yet with certain modifications adapted to the wants of our own city, and retaining certain features of our present system, which seem to be warranted by the experience of the past.

"For the purpose of carrying into effect the proposed

organization, the Committee would respectfully recommend to the Board of Managers of the Boston Dispensary the adoption of the following By-laws and Regulations."

The Rules and Regulations thus reported are those found in the edition containing the By-laws now in force. After much discussion, it was unanimously voted "to adopt the general plan reported by the Committee, as contained in their printed Report;" and Messrs. Lawrence, Wolcott, and Guild were appointed the Executive Committee under the new organization. After several amendments and alterations, it was also voted, that the By-laws reported by the Committee be adopted and take effect as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed.

CHAPTER XXX.

Code of By-laws adopted. — Report of Executive Committee. — Estate on Bennet Street purchased. — Central Office opened. — Superintendent's Report. — Resignation of Chairman. — Vote of Thanks. — Circular to Public.

The new code of By-laws was printed, and submitted to the Managers at their quarterly meeting held April 11; when it was voted, that they be received and adopted as the By-laws of the Institution, to take effect on July 1.

At the same meeting, the Executive Committee submitted a Report, from which the following extracts are taken: —

"At the meeting of the Board in January, authority was given to the Committee to make arrangements for the speedy establishment of a Central Office for out-door patients. Measures were immediately taken to carry this design into execution, and diligent search was made for a proper locality for the establishment of the necessary offices. The rents demanded for apartments in a central situation were so great, and so much beyond the amount which the funds of the Institution would warrant, that the idea suggested itself to your Committee, whether the interests of the Dispensary would not be promoted by the purchase of an estate, where the necessary offices could be

established, and the remaining portions of the building could be leased for other purposes, until the Institution, from its growing importance, might require greater accommodations.

"With this view, several estates were examined: among them, one in Essex Street, of which the refusal was obtained at eight dollars per foot; and another, at the corner of Bennet, Ash, and Jefferson Street, at two dollars and a half per foot. The estate last named contains about 6,700 feet; has upon it a large double and substantial brick house, heretofore leased for $1,050 and taxes. It is situated almost exactly in the geographical centre of the city; and, with the growth of the southern wards, must soon become the centre of population. The house requires but little repair, excepting the fitting of the Apothecary's shop; is open on all sides to the light and air; and seems in every way suited to the wants of the Dispensary. One-half of the estate can be leased probably for more than the rent now received on that portion of the building.

"After consultation with several members of your Board, and with the approval of the Executive Committee, it was secured by one of the Managers, and is now offered to the Dispensary at the cost. Although the purchase was made at the recommendation of several Managers, the present owner wishes to have it understood that he considers the Board under no obligation to take it, and wishes the subject to be decided in accordance with what may be thought the best interests of the Dispensary.

"If the purchase should be decided upon, immediate possession can be had; and the Central Office can be opened for out-door patients on or before the 1st of July, the time specified as that on which the new organization is to take effect."

At the same meeting, it was voted that the offer of the estate in Bennet Street and Jefferson Place, made to the Committee, be accepted; and that the Treasurer be authorized to sign the necessary contracts.

July 11. — The Executive Committee reported, that the estate in Bennet Street had been purchased for $17,217.20; that the two houses had been repaired, and an Apothecary's shop fitted up in the basement, at an expense of about $1,100; and that the Dispensary was in successful operation under its new organization, with the exception of the Central Office, which had not been opened on account of some legal delay in getting possession of the premises.

The Central Office was opened, for the first time, July 28, 1856. To the copies of By-laws sent to contributors was appended the following circular, explanatory of the operations of the new system: —

"The Boston Dispensary was established about sixty years since for the purposes set forth in the preamble to the accompanying By-laws.

"It will thus be seen that it is one of our oldest charitable institutions.

"On its records are found the names of many of the most respected citizens, who, during that long course of years, have occupied the walks of active life, and have taken pride and satisfaction in participating in its management, and in administering to the wants of that class for whose benefit the Institution was founded.

"With the growth of the city, and the changes which have taken place in the character of its population, it has been found necessary to enlarge the sphere of the Institution, and to adopt in its management those improvements which have been sanctioned by the experience of other populous communities.

"After having availed themselves of such information as came within their reach, the Board of Managers have adopted the accompanying code of By-laws, which will serve to show the details of the plan on which it is proposed hereafter to conduct the affairs of the Institution.

"It will be seen that the plan involves the establishment of a Central Office, where all poor patients shall, at certain hours daily, be gratuitously prescribed for and treated by gentlemen of the medical profession, whose names will insure the confidence of patients, as well as of those who are interested in the welfare of the sick poor of our city.

"The Central Office is established for those whose ailments permit them to leave their own dwellings for advice; and this class, according to the experience of other cities, includes about three-fourths of all who are treated gratuitously.

"From the reports of the five dispensaries established in the city of New York, it is seen that the cases treated at the central offices alone, during the year ending Jan. 1, 1855, amounted to 82,396. The number of patients visited at their own homes was 20,588.

"The medical staff is organized as follows: First, there are two Consulting Physicians and two Consulting Surgeons, chosen from among the older and more experienced of the profession, on whom the various medical officers of the Institution can call for assistance and advice whenever they may require it.

"Secondly, There are attached to the Central Office four Attending Physicians and four Attending Surgeons, who perform service alternately; so that patients may have either medical or surgical advice daily, excepting on Sundays, and such days as are specified in the By-laws.

"Thirdly, There are eight District Physicians residing in different parts of the city, whose duty it is to visit, in their respective sections, such patients as are confined to their own dwellings, and cannot seek aid at the Central Office.

"Fourthly, There is a Medical Superintendent, whose duty it is to attend daily at the Central Office, who has a general supervision of all the practical operations of the various departments, and who is directly responsible to the Managers for the proper administration of the affairs of the Institution.

"Two large substantial and commodious brick houses have been purchased at the corner of Bennet and Ash Street.

"The estate contains about 6,700 feet; is open on all sides to the light and air; is in almost the exact geographical centre of the city; and seems to be in every way a most favorable situation for commencing operations under the new organization, which is to take effect on the 1st of July next.

"It is not proposed for the present to occupy more than one of the buildings purchased.

"The destination of the other remains undecided; and yet, could the wishes of the Managers be realized, that unoccupied portion would soon be used in a manner to relieve much suffering, and to promote vastly the usefulness of the Institution.

"The funds of the Dispensary are, however, only sufficient to meet the demands made upon them.

"It must be remembered that the present charge is a heavy one, comprising that large class, the sick poor, — a class destined to increase with the growth of the city. The drain upon our resources will also doubtless be greater in proportion than it has heretofore been, owing to the increased efficiency of our organization, which will tend directly to enlarge the operations of the Institution.

"There are many patients who require surgical operations, where a successful result cannot be hoped for amidst the wretchedness and discomforts of the poor man's dwelling. Could a place be found where such patients could be provided for during the few days of convalescence, the amount of relief afforded would be incalculable.

"A few rooms would be sufficient; and as they would not, in ordinary cases, be long occupied by any one patient, the relief afforded during a year would be of vast importance to many, who now, for the want of proper attention, are doomed to a life of disease and dependence.

"Such an institution might be endowed for this specific purpose, and placed, as a separate department, under the government of the Managers of the Dispensary."

Oct. 9. — The Superintendent made his first Report on the affairs of the Institution, at the meeting of the contributors; which Report was accepted, and placed on file.

The Secretary announced the resignation of James W. Foster, Esq., formerly Chairman of the Board; and a vote of thanks was passed to that gentleman for his long and faithful services as a Manager during twenty years.

During this month, the following explanatory circular was issued by the Managers: —

"Boston, Oct. 15, 1856.

"Sir, — The Managers of the Boston Dispensary would respectfully call your attention to the subject of the increased usefulness of that Institution, by affording relief to a class not hitherto included within the sphere of its action. This is one of the oldest of our charitable associations; having been founded in 1796, and having enrolled upon its records, as its officers or patrons, many of the best and most honored names of the present and past generations. With the growth of the city, and the changes which have taken place in the character of its population, it has been found necessary to enlarge the sphere of the Institution, and to adopt in its management those improvements which have been sanctioned by the experience of other populous communities.

"The new organization took effect on the 1st of July last; and, during the first quarter, the number of patients relieved has exceeded, by about one-half, the numbers treated during the same term in former years. As its objects become known, a corresponding amount of good may be looked for, until all the really destitute in the city shall be systematically cared for, instead of being exposed to neglect, or, what is worse, to the treatment of those who by education and character are wholly unfit for such service. In addition to the plan hitherto adopted, of visiting the sick in their own dwellings, a Central Office has been opened in Bennet Street, where medical and surgical patients who can leave their homes are daily treated, and furnished with medicines. The estate purchased contains

about 6,700 feet of land; has upon it two substantial brick buildings; is open on all sides to the light and air; and, from its central situation, is admirably adapted to the purposes intended.

"One of these buildings is now used as the Central Office; the other remains vacant. Before leasing the latter, the Trustees have determined to make an effort to raise sufficient funds to furnish it for the reception of poor patients requiring surgical operations, who now, after treatment, have to suffer all the discomforts arising from crowded and unhealthy tenements, and are often rendered helpless for life from the want of proper care, and from the failure of the best surgical aid when counteracted by such influences. The public-hospital accommodations in Boston fall far short of those afforded in most other cities of equal population; and, while it is not proposed to create a general hospital for the reception of the sick, it is believed that a 'Surgical Infirmary' would add another and an important link to the circle of our charities. The income of the Dispensary for the past year has been about $4,800; and with this we have furnished medical aid and medicines to all who needed and have asked for them, in a population of one hundred and sixty thousand souls. The bequest of a benevolent individual will at some future time enable the Dispensary to enlarge its operations, and to fulfil its proper mission; but many years will elapse before that fund will be available. In the mean time, much suffering may be relieved; many, who might otherwise be crippled, and reduced to dependence for life, may be restored; and all this may be done for a sum which appears insignificant when compared to the benefits conferred.

"Will not some benevolent individual contribute ten thousand dollars to found a 'Surgical Infirmary,' under

the direction of the Managers of the Boston Dispensary? Or will not individuals come forward, and subscribe annually a sum which shall enable the Managers forthwith to commence this much-needed charity?

"You are respectfully invited to visit the Institution between the hours of nine and eleven in the morning, at which hours the medical officers are in attendance. Any one of the Managers will be happy to accompany you, and to explain the details and practical operation of the system adopted.

"By order of the Managers."

CHAPTER XXXI.

Resolutions in Favor of Free City Hospital. — Vote on Subject of Rotation in Office. — Committee appointed to solicit Aid. — Appropriation by Trustees of Lying-in Hospital. — Vote of Thanks. — Special Meeting. — Salaries. — Committee appointed on Act of Incorporation. — Report of Committee. — Benjamin Dearborn. — Annual Report.

1857.

Jan. 9. — A certificate, signed by ninety-eight physicians of Boston, recommending the establishment of a Free Hospital, was read; and also a memorial to the City Government, urging the subject upon its attention. After the reading of these documents, and the statement made that the object had been recommended by the Mayor of the city in his annual address, it was unanimously —

"*Resolved*, That the Managers of the Boston Dispensary heartily approve the recommendation of the Mayor, that a Free Hospital be established within the limits of the city.

"*Resolved*, That from their own experience, and from the ample testimony furnished them by various charitable associations, physicians, and individuals, they heartily recommend the object above named to the support of their fellow-citizens."

April 10. — Some discussion arose upon the subject of rotation in office under the new organization; after which it was resolved, —

"That the Executive Committee be instructed that the Board of Managers deem it expedient that appointments of District Physicians should continue to be made for the term of one year, and that the same individuals should not receive more than three successive appointments."

1858.

Jan. 8. — A Committee of three was appointed to provide ways and means to meet the anticipated increase of expenses caused by the large demands upon the Institution.

As the Lying-in Hospital had been discontinued on Springfield Street, and in view of the care bestowed upon midwifery cases by the Physicians of the Dispensary, a Committee was appointed to solicit temporary aid from the Managers of the former association.

April 9. — The Committee appointed to solicit aid from the Lying-in-Hospital Corporation reported that the Trustees of that institution had very generously made an appropriation of eight hundred dollars for the ensuing year, to be used expressly for the relief and comfort of lying-in women. Whereupon, a vote of thanks was offered for the timely and liberal donation; and the same was accepted on the proposed conditions.

June 21. — A special meeting was held to act upon the nominations of officers by the Executive Committee. No nomination was made of Apothecary at South Boston; it being left for future decision, whether patients in that district should not be sent to the Central Office for medicines.

The salaries of the District Physicians at South and East Boston were fixed at one hundred dollars each per annum.

July 9. — A Committee was appointed to recommend a course of action, should it be deemed expedient to apply to the Legislature for any change in the Act of Incorporation, by which irresponsible persons might obtain a controlling influence in the affairs of the Institution; and to report the same at the next annual meeting of contributors.

At the annual meeting held Oct. 14, Samuel E. Guild, Esq., Chairman of this Committee, made a Report, entering fully into the subject under consideration, and closing with a recommendation that the subject be referred back to the Managers, with instructions to apply to the Legislature at its next session for a modification of the present Act of Incorporation, or for an additional Act which shall guard and protect this charity against the dangers which have been now considered and pointed out.

This Report was accepted, and, as therein recommended, the whole subject referred back to the Board of Managers, with full powers.

The subject of connecting the name of Benjamin Dearborn with the Boston Dispensary, in remembrance of his munificent bequest to the Institution, was considered ; and a unanimous desire was expressed, that the object should be effected in some appropriate manner, whenever it could be done consistently.

At the meeting of Managers, held at the close of the contributors' meeting, the Report of the Committee on obtaining an Act of Incorporation was referred back to the same Committee, with full powers.

The same Committee was also requested to consider and report upon the subject of connecting the name of Dearborn with the corporate name of the Dispensary.

The Executive Committee presented the Sixty-second Annual Report of the Institution, with a sketch of its history since its foundation, and a statement respecting its operations during the last three years. This Report was referred back to the Executive Committee, and was subsequently printed, and may be found on the files of the Secretary. It contains various facts concerning the Institution, and closes with the following statistics and appeal: —

"No very important change of plan was adopted in the management of the Dispensary until 1856, although it had been apparent for several years that some more efficient

system was required to meet the wants of a large native and foreign population. It was found necessary to classify patients, and separate those who were unable to leave their homes from those who constituted by far the larger class, and who, from the nature of their disease, could make personal application for treatment at fixed hours at some Central Office. Encouraged by the example of other cities, the Managers adopted the system now in operation, and opened the present Central Office in Bennet Street on the 28th of July, 1856.

"How far the change has been effectual in promoting the usefulness, the efficiency, and the economical management, of the Institution, a few figures will show. Going back to its earlier days, we find, that, during the sixteen years ending in 1813, relief had been afforded to eight thousand five hundred patients, or to an average number of five hundred and thirty-one per annum. The amount expended during that period, as shown by the Treasurer's books, was $9,608.19, or an average cost of $1.13 for each patient.

"Coming down to a later period, including the two years preceding our change of system, we find the following facts: —

The number of patients treated during the year ending Sept. 30, 1854, was	3,479
Expenses for the year	$4,523
Average cost per patient	$1.30
The number of patients for the year ending Sept. 30, 1855, was	4,040
Expenses for the year	$5,301
Average cost per patient	$1.31

"The following are the statistics of the two years subsequent to our new arrangement: —

The number of patients treated for the year ending Sept. 30, 1857, was	8,577
Expenses for the year	$5,141.79
Average cost of each patient	60 cents.
Number of patients for year ending Sept. 30, 1858	15,191
Expenses for the year, about	$6,028
Average cost of each patient	40 cents.

"It is thus seen that the treatment afforded to a poor patient in 1855, at an expense of $1.31, was furnished in 1858 for 40 cents.

"For this result there are several reasons. In the first place, the facilities of access to medical treatment are much increased by the establishment of an office, where, at certain hours, advice and medicine can be obtained. In the second place, the poor are brought into easy contact with the Physicians and Surgeons of the Institution, who are gentlemen carefully selected for their skill and other qualifications for the performance of the necessary duties, and who have thus been enabled to command the confidence of the class who receive the benefit of their services.

"The distribution of duties among the officers of the Institution, and the consequent responsibility incurred by each, have tended to increase the efficiency and enlarge the operations of the Dispensary.

"The rapid increase of patients is exhibited by the following table, which shows the number for each quarter, commencing with that ending Sept. 30, 1856: —

1,532	2,737
1,598	2,955
2,089	4,099
2,153	3,911
And during the quarter ending Sept. 30 last	4,226

The average daily attendance at the Central Office, during the quarter, has been 70.

"We have every reason to believe that the numbers will continue to increase; and, so far as we have the means, we esteem it our duty to minister to their wants. We are not exposed to the abuses incident to many other charitable associations, and have no fear that applicants will feign sickness in order to obtain medical treatment. There may be occasional abuses of our charity by those who are not necessitous, and for whose benefit it is not intended; but against such cases we endeavor to guard.

"The result of charitable effort cannot always be seen; and, though charity has its own reward, it may not be of that tangible kind which permits the benefactor to witness the results of his bounty. His gifts may be misapplied, or his well-intended act may minister to the injury rather than to the benefit of the cause which he wishes to promote.

"In our peculiar sphere of labor, we have the daily satisfaction of witnessing the good done to those whose subsistence depends upon the full possession of health and limb. It is difficult to realize the immense amount of relief afforded to the laboring poor in their minor ailments by the simple appliances of medicine and surgery, and especially when the doors of an Institution like our own are daily thrown open to all who have a claim upon it.

"To appreciate the amount of good thus done, one has only to visit the Central Office in Bennet Street during the hours of attendance.

"The Dispensary was established for the relief of the sick poor of Boston, and any one of that class has a valid claim to its benefits.

"From a small town, our city has become an important commercial emporium, with a large population of a kind

never dreamed of in 1796 at the little office, 61, Cornhill, known by the sign of the 'Good Samaritan.'

"It is no small charge to care for the sick poor of a population of 160,000. We have all the machinery to do this most efficiently, but we have not the means. Our whole income for the past year, including a liberal appropriation from the Trustees of the Lying-in Hospital for a particular class of patients, has not sufficed for necessary expenses. We have been consequently obliged to discontinue the dispensing of medicines in the outer sections of the city, and thus compel patients to travel long distances to obtain them at the Central Office.

"The amounts received from annual subscribers were,—

In 1801	$505
In 1810	1,090
In 1816	1,115
In 1825	985
In 1845	1,065

But they have been reduced, during the present year, to $405. This deficiency arises from an impression in the community, that the Boston Dispensary is a richly endowed Institution, having no need of patronage from without. Our means would be ample were we content to remain in a condition of inefficiency, without regarding the obligation devolving upon us, — to meet the wants of an increasing population.

"It is true, that the Dispensary, as a residuary legatee, will have an addition to its funds many years hence; but those funds will be required, and more than required, to carry out the views of the benevolent testator.

"We have need of present aid, and trust that the City Government, in imitation of the example of New York

towards her five Dispensaries, will help in caring for its own poor by affording aid to an Institution which has a special claim upon its favor.

"We appeal also to individuals to sustain us in carrying on this work commenced by our fathers, and which we are bound by every moral obligation to continue.

"Boston, Oct. 14, 1858."

CHAPTER XXXII.

Measures adopted to raise Funds. — Circular to Public. — Portrait of Mr. Dearborn received. — Resolutions. — History of Portrait. — Memorial to Legislature. — Name of Dearborn in Connection with Dispensary. — Resolution. — Report of Committee on Act of Incorporation. — Report of Executive Committee. — Election of Officers. — Proposed Charge for Medicines.

1858.

At the last meeting, the Executive Committee was requested to take some active measures to raise further means to meet the expenses of the Dispensary, with authority to apply to individuals, to the City Government, or to the Overseers of the Poor, for assistance.

In accordance with this request, the Committee enclosed the following circular, accompanied by the Annual Report, to those individuals from whom they thought aid might be expected. The result of the effort was an increase of the subscription-list from eighty-one to a hundred and fifty-four members.

"Boston, Nov. 1, 1858.

"Dear Sir, — Your attention is respectfully called to the facts contained in the accompanying pamphlet.

"It has been the custom for the Managers of the Boston Dispensary, for many years past, to furnish to contributors an annual statement as to the number of patients, and result of treatment; but this, we believe, is the first Annual Report of the affairs of the Society ever submitted to the public. Our labors have been of a nature to attract little public notice; but we believe they have been none the less important to the community.

"We have endeavored to establish a system by which the sick poor can have immediate recourse to medical aid on the first appearance of disease, or on the occurrence of accident. The advantage to the poor man is twofold: first, he gets relief, so far as the case admits; and, secondly, he is prevented from falling into the hands of ignorant and irresponsible practitioners.

"More than fifteen thousand persons have been treated during the past year; and many thus relieved would, without such treatment, have been thrown upon public charity.

"During the same period, we have furnished 44,631 prescriptions to the poor, at an average expense of five cents when put up at the Central Office; and, with the increase in numbers, the costs of each will be still further lessened.

"Our present income enables us to provide physicians, and to meet the ordinary expenses of the Central Office in Bennet Street; but we have not the means to provide medicines for the poor of the city. From the stagnation of business for many months past, we have every reason to believe that the calls during the coming winter will be much increased.

"May we not look for your sympathy and co-operation in this charitable work, which strikes at the root of a very frequent though legitimate cause of pauperism?

"The payment of five dollars per annum constitutes membership of the Society.

"Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, or by any one of the Managers.

"We take the liberty of authorizing a person to call upon you, in the course of a few days, to solicit your aid.

"By order of the Managers of THE BOSTON DISPENSARY."

Among other responses to this circular, we quote from a note received from Dr. John Ware, formerly a Physician to the Institution, dated Dec. 7, 1858: —

"I enclose the amount of the annual subscription, and wish to be considered a member. Having had formerly a term of service as a Dispensary Physician, I feel as if I were competent to judge of its value; and I have always been of opinion, since acting in that capacity, that there is no institution with which I have ever been connected which does any thing nearly the amount of good, in proportion to the means employed, as the Boston Dispensary."

1859.

Jan. 14. — At the quarterly meeting of Managers, held this day, the Chairman announced the reception of the following letter: —

"TO SAMUEL MAY, Esq.

"DEAR SIR, — I take pleasure in presenting to the Boston Dispensary a portrait by Rembrandt Peale, now in my possession, of the late Benjamin Dearborn, Esq., — an

excellent man, and a generous benefactor to the Institution over which you now preside.

"Respectfully your friend,

"SAMUEL GREELE.

"BOSTON, Nov. 1, 1858."

After the reading of this letter, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted: —

"*Whereas* the portrait of the late Benjamin Dearborn, Esq., painted by the late Rembrandt Peale, has been presented to the Dispensary by Samuel Greele, Esq.; and whereas the gift has a peculiar significance from being the portrait of the most munificent benefactor of the Dispensary; therefore —

"*Resolved*, That our thanks be offered to Mr. Greele, and also to our associate, Mr. Plympton, for the valuable acquisition which the Dispensary has made through their thoughtfulness and liberality.

"*Resolved*, That the portrait be placed in the Managers' room, and that a suitable inscription shall, under the direction of the Executive Committee, be appended to it."

Mr. Plympton communicated the following interesting facts in regard to the portrait: —

"It was painted by Rembrandt Peale, at Philadelphia, in 1828, at the request of Miss Marie Antoinette Paine, the daughter of the late Hon. Robert Treat Paine, of Boston. Towards Mr. Dearborn she acted the part of a most affectionate child and dutiful daughter; scarcely a day being allowed to pass without their seeing or hearing from each other.

"Miss Paine subsequently married Samuel Greele, Esq.; and at her death, which occurred at the age of fifty-eight years, — March 26, 1842, — the portrait was placed in charge of Mr. Plympton, and it has remained with him until presented to the Dispensary."

Mr. Guild, from the Committee appointed to apply to the Legislature for a change in the Act of Incorporation, presented for the signature of the Managers a memorial which he had draughted for that purpose.

"Mr. Guild also made a verbal Report from the same Committee in regard to connecting the name of Dearborn in some manner with the Dispensary, stating that the suggestion met with the cordial approval of the Committee, but they were opposed to changing the corporate name of the Institution, for many different reasons. They thought that the name of Dearborn might with great propriety be given to some department of the charity; and if not now, perhaps at a future day, when the growing wants of the city, and increased means at the disposal of the Managers, would enable them to occupy buildings in different localities for the purposes of the Dispensary."

On motion of Mr. Rogers, it was resolved, —

"That, in the judgment of the Managers, it is due to the services of the late Benjamin Dearborn that his memory should be publicly and permanently connected with an Institution of which he has been so large a benefactor; and therefore we earnestly recommend, that, whenever a suitable occasion shall arise for fulfilling this design, the same shall be carried into effect."

April 8. — Mr. Guild, from the Committee on the Act of Incorporation, submitted a Report, together with "An Act in addition to the Acts relating to the Boston Dispensary." The Report was accepted, and ordered to be placed on file; and it was directed that the Act be laid before the corporators at their next annual meeting, for their acceptance or rejection.

It is as follows: —

"AN ACT IN ADDITION TO THE ACTS RELATING TO THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:* —

"SECT. 1. — In addition to the existing members of the corporation of the Boston Dispensary, the present and future Managers, Treasurers, and Secretaries shall be and become members, with all the rights of corporators.

"SECT. 2. — Said corporation may take and hold real and personal estate to an amount in value not exceeding double that authorized by the Acts passed Feb. 26, in the year 1801, and Jan. 30, in the year 1852.

"House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1859.
Passed to be enacted. CHARLES HALE, *Speaker.*

In Senate, Feb. 12, 1859.
Passed to be enacted. CHARLES A. PHELPS, *President.*

Feb. 15, 1859.
Approved. NATHL. P. BANKS."

A Report of the Executive Committee was read respecting various subjects connected with the Institution.

Their recommendations that no other than the Apothecary at the Central Office be employed after July 1, and that the period of service of all officers of the Institution should date from the period of the annual meeting in October, instead of from July 1, as at present, were adopted.

The subject brought before the Managers by the same Committee, as to the expediency of making a nominal charge of three cents for each prescription to patients, except those coming from East Boston, or such as are indicated by the Physicians on account of extreme poverty, was discussed, and referred to the next meeting of the Board.

July 8. — A letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Frothingham, resigning his post as Manager, on account of intended absence in Europe. A general desire was expressed that the reverend gentleman should withdraw his resignation, on account of his long and valuable services as a member of the Board since 1832; and no vote was taken upon the subject. The plan of charging a small fee for prescriptions, with certain exceptions, was considered; and it was decided to take no action on the subject till further information should be received in regard to the practical operation of the plan in other institutions. Certain amendments to the By-laws were proposed for consideration at the next quarterly meeting.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

CONCLUSION.

After perusing the foregoing historical sketch of the Boston Dispensary, one may very naturally ask whether the results accomplished since its establishment have corresponded in any degree with the hopes of its benevolent founders.

We may easily reckon the aggregate expenditures of a long course of years, sum up the number of beneficiaries, and thus estimate pecuniarily the amount bestowed on each; but we can form no perfect idea of the good accomplished by such a charity in relieving the pains, quieting the fears, and promoting the recovery, of the sick.

It is something to have ministered to the wants of a hundred and forty thousand suffering persons; and, though there may have been many unworthy recipients, the amount of good done to others is incalculable. It is difficult for one, who possesses the common comforts of life, to realize, until he is prostrated by disease, his own helplessness, and his dependence on the kind offices of others. How

much less can one appreciate the desolation which pervades the dwellings of those who by sickness are deprived of the means of earning a subsistence, and are thus driven to seek relief from strangers!

Whatever aversion we may individually feel in viewing the ignorance, the filth, and the occasional ingratitude, of the sick poor, their very helplessness is, after all, an irresistible appeal to our sympathy; and we contemplate with a feeling akin to affection the doings of a Society, which, during the past sixty-three years, has done so much for suffering humanity. To associations for supplying the wants of persons in health, many objections may be made which cannot be consistently urged against an institution conducted on the principles which govern the modern Dispensary. Abuses there may be; but, with ordinary care, they cannot be great. No person is sick from choice; and, though relief may sometimes be extended to an unworthy recipient, such aid will not be attended with the evils which follow indiscriminate charity to persons who are in health, and are competent to earn a subsistence.

The rapid increase in the number of patients since 1856 is caused in part by the fact, that the sick have now much more ready access to the means of cure than heretofore. They are now enabled, on the first appearance of disease, to seek the best medical and surgical aid; whereas, in former times, they might

have been left to suffer from their own ignorance, or from the mal-practice of irregular physicians.

It is not easy to estimate, even in a pecuniary point of view, the gain thus afforded to the public.

Whatever will add to the efficiency of the Institution, and enable it to carry the most prompt remedies to the poor, both at their own dwellings and at the Central Office, will best subserve the interests of the community at large, and will at the same time alleviate a proportionate amount of suffering.

The Managers of the Dispensary may congratulate themselves on its present condition and its future prospects. A constant oversight will be required to maintain its efficiency, and to avoid those dangers which laxity, and a want of system, have so often brought upon public charitable associations.

By a wise and faithful administration of the affairs of the Dispensary, may its Managers and Officers in all departments be enabled to transmit its interests to their successors, so that sickness, one great source of pauperism, may be relieved, suffering alleviated, and all other ends of charitable effort accomplished!

LIST OF BENEFACTORS AND OFFICERS.

Benefactors.

1799.	John Lucas	$20.00
1801.	Thomas Smith	333.33
1805.	Mrs. McLane	50.00
1811.	Mrs. Esther Sprague	1,500.00
1812.	Public Contribution	358.15
1813.	Collection at King's Chapel	161.47
1816.	Caleb Bingham	25.00
1819.	Sarah Russell	100.00
1820.	Edward H. Robbins	30.00
1821.	Boston Theatre, J. A. Dickson	500.00
1823.	City of Boston	120.00
1823.	Bryant P. Tilden	200.00
1830.	A Friend	200.00
1830.	Anne Smith	5,000.00
1832.	Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society	200.00
1832.	Gardiner Greene	25.00
1832.	Miss Belknap	1,000.00
1832.	Peter C. Brooks	50.00
1833.	Irish Charitable Society	10.00
1833.	Mrs. Sarah Jackson	200.00
1836.	Peter C. Brooks	50.00
1837.	Mrs. Sarah Green	200.00
1837.	Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society	200.00
1838.	Benjamin Dearborn (in reversion)	90,000.00
1841.	Mrs. Margaret Coffin	30.00
1842.	Lucretia Hubbard	500.00
1844.	Sarah Stocker	50.00
1845.	John Parker	2,000.00
1847.	Henry Higginson	10,000.00

1850.	John Bromfield	$10,000.00
1850.	John Redman	1,130.00
1856.	A. B.	100.00
1856.	Augustus Hemenway	100.00
1858.	Boston Lying-in Hospital	716.75
1859.	Mrs. Abbott Lawrence, sen.	100.00
1859.	A Friend	25.00

Life-Members.

Constituted.		Constituted.	
1820.	Hannah R. Amory.		Gardiner Greene.
1829.	Ebenezer T. Andrews.	1825.	Mary Greene.
1844.	Samuel Appleton.	1844.	J. S. Copley Greene.
*	Samuel T. Armstrong.	1816.	John Grew.
1844.	Amos Binney.		Henry Homer.
1844.	Samuel Blake.	1824.	Joseph Head.
1819.	Edward Blanchard.	1828.	Sarah Holland.
1831.	James Bowdoin.		Hannah Joy.
	Eben L. Boyd.	1832.	Amos Lawrence.
1856.	Samuel Bradlee.	1832.	Abbott Lawrence.
1844.	Peter C. Brooks.	1844.	William R. Lawrence.
	William Brown.		Catharine S. Langdon.
	John Brown.		Joseph Lee, jun.
1820.	Charles R. Codman.		Charles Lowell, D.D.
	Mrs. C. Codman.		Samuel May.
1818.	Margaret Coffin.		Mrs. John McLean.
1824.	Samuel Clark.		William Phillips.
	I. P. Davis.		William Payne.
	Mary Daught.		John Peck.
	John Dorr.	1828.	Jonathan Phillips.
1820.	Mrs. Catharine Eliot.	1828.	Edward D. Peters.
	Ebenezer Francis.	1828.	James Perkins.
	Nalbro Frazier.	1821.	Sarah Payne.
1820.	William R. Gray.	1821.	Mary Payne.
1828.	Horace Gray.	1816.	Francis Parkman, D.D.
1844.	John C. Gray.		Samuel G. Perkins.

* Date not recorded.

Constituted.	
1828.	Paul D. Richards.
	Samuel Salisbury.
	Catharine S. Smith.
	Hannah Smith.
1818.	David Sears.
1844.	George C. Shattuck.
	Richard D. Tucker.
1818.	Edward Tuckerman.

Constituted.	
1844.	John E. Thayer.
1844.	G. Francis Thayer.
1825.	Thomas L. Winthrop.
1831.	Samuel H. Walley.
	Charles Walley.
1831.	Edgar K. Whitaker.
	Samuel Whitwell.

Presidents.

Elected.		Resigned.
1796	Right Rev. Samuel Parker	1804
1804	Samuel Stillman, D.D.	1807
1807	Rev. Joseph Eckley	1811
1811	Hon. William Phillips	1827
1827	Edward Tuckerman	1828
1828	Samuel Snelling	1830
1830	Edward Tuckerman	1838
1838	Hon. Jonathan Phillips	1840
1840	Gideon F. Thayer	1846
1846	Nathaniel L. Frothingham, D.D.	1852
1852	James H. Foster	1857
1857	Samuel May	

Board of Managers.

1796	Stephen Gorham	1806
1796	Right Rev. Dr. Parker	1804
1796	John Parker	1798
1796	John Coffin Jones	1799
1796	William Brown	1799
1796	Samuel Stillman	1807
1796	William Shattuck	1801
1796	Samuel Dunn	1815
1796	John Andrews	1808
1796	John Codman	1801
1796	Jonathan Amory, 3d	1808

Elected.		Resigned.
1796	Samuel West	1807
1797	Thomas Brewer	1806
1798	Thomas Davis	1801
1799	William Tudor	1806
1799	Nathaniel Smith	1801
1801	Benjamin Bussey	1806
1801	Henry Hill	1809
1802	Samuel Salisbury	1808
1804	Adam Babcock	1808
1806	Samuel Cobb	1808
1806	Samuel Snelling	1830
1806	Henderson Inches	1808
1806	Eben L. Boyd	1809
1807	Joseph Eckley	1811
1807	Gideon Snow	1845
1808	Samuel H. Walley	1840
1808	Joseph Coolidge, jun.	1830
1808	Henry Holmes	1809
1808	John G. Coffin	1815
1808	Stephen Higginson, jun.	1811
1808	William Mackay	1820
1809	William Smith	1815
1809	James White	1811
1809	Joseph Tilden	1827
1811	Charles Lowell	1820
1811	Thomas Baldwin	1825
1811	William Phillips	1827
1813	Isaac Winslow	1845
1815	John Grew	1815
1815	Edward Tuckerman	1838
1815	Edward Phillips	1827
1815	Benjamin West	1826
1820	Henry Ware	1830
1820	Thomas A. Dexter	1822
1822	Thomas W. Phillips	1827
1825	Francis Wayland	1826
1826	Benjamin Guild	1833
1826	Gideon F. Thayer	1846

Elected.		Resigned.
1826	Samuel T. Armstrong	1834
1826	Jonathan Phillips	1840
1826	Samuel May	
1826	George H. Snelling	1839
1830	Otis Everett	1833
1830	Nathaniel P. Russell	1836
1830	Alonzo Potter	1831
1831	Moses Grant	1832
1832	Nathaniel L. Frothingham	
1833	Thomas B. Wales	1836
1833	J. Greely Stevenson	1835
1834	Pliny Cutler	1854
1835	Edmund Monroe	1838
1836	James H. Foster	1856
1836	William Gray	1850
1838	Uriel Crocker	
1838	Josiah F. Flagg	1839
1839	Edmund Dwight	1843
1839	Samuel T. Armstrong	1841
1840	Ebenezer Chadwick	1854
1840	Nathaniel H. Emmons	
1841	Samuel H. Walley	1842
1842	Charles Amory	1845
1843	Benjamin Howard	1844
1843	Samuel Bradlee	1856
1845	J. Huntington Wolcott	
1845	Gideon Snow	1845
1845	Jonathan Chapman	1848
1846	Francis Parkman	1853
1848	George H. Kuhn	
1850	William Dehon	1857
1852	Thomas P. Cushing	1855
1854	Henry B. Rogers	
1854	Samuel E. Guild	
1855	William R. Lawrence	
1856	H. Austin Whitney	
1856	Abbott Lawrence	
1857	Henry Plympton	

Secretaries.

Elected.		Resigned.
1796	Jonathan Amory, 3d	1798
1798	John Andrews	1808
1808	Samuel H. Walley	1809
1809	Joseph Tilden	1813
1813	Isaac Winslow	1815
1815	John Grew	1815
1815	Benjamin West	1819
1819	Joseph Tilden	1820
1820	Thomas A. Dexter	1822
1822	Thomas W. Phillips	1827
1827	George H. Snelling	1836
1836	William Gray	1850
1850	William Dehon	1857
1857	H. Austin Whitney	

Treasurers.

1796	William Smith	1809
1809	Edward Phillips	1813
1813	Gideon Snow	1844
1844	George T. Bigelow	1850
1850	Edward Blake	

Consulting Physicians.

Elected.		Retired.
1802	James Lloyd	1809
1802	Isaac Rand	1811
1809	John Warren	1815
1811	Aaron Dexter	1826
1815	William Spooner	1828
1826	John Gorham	1828
1828	John Dixwell	1836
1828	John Randall	1843
1836	Solomon D. Townsend	
1844	Jacob Bigelow	
1851	Phineas M. Crane	

District Physicians.

Elected.		Retired.
1796	John Fleet	1804
1802	James Jackson	1804
1802	Samuel Hunt	1805
1804	Isaac Rand, jun.	1805
1804	John G. Coffin	1806
1805	John Dixwell	1806
1805	Horace Bean	1811
1806	John Gorham	1807
1806	Thomas I. Parker	1809
1807	Cyrus Perkins	1809
1809	Samuel R. Trevett	1809
1809	William Gamage, jun.	1814
1809	Asa Bullard	1810
1810	Jacob Gates	1811
1811	Jacob Bigelow	1814
1811	John Revere	1816
1814	John B. Brown	1816
1814	George Parkman	1817
1816	Asa Bucknam	1819
1816	Pliny Hayes	1818
1817	Samuel Clarke	1820
1818	John Ware	1820
1819	Enoch Hale	1821
1819	Gamaliel Bradford	1820
1820	Chandler Robbins	1823
1820	George B. Doane	1823
1821	John P. Spooner	1824
1821	John W. Webster	1822
1822	David Osgood	1823
1823	John D. Wells	1826
1823	Warren Abbott	1825
1823	George W. Otis	1826
1824	Samuel Morrill	1827
1825	Winslow Lewis	1827
1826	J. Greely Stevenson	1828
1826	Edward G. Davis	1829

Elected.		Retired.
1827	Charles T. Hildreth	1830
1827	Joseph K. McKean	1830
1827	Horatio Robinson	1828
1828	Jonas H. Lane	1830
1828	Francis J. Higginson	1830
1828	John C. Howard	1831
1828	Daniel T. Coit	1832
1829	Charles Walker	1832
1829	Thomas Gray	1832
1829	John B. Stebbins	1832
1830	Martin Gay	1832
1830	Henry Dyer	1833
1830	William Grigg	1831
1830	Alexander Thomas	1833
1831	Edward J. Davenport	1834
1831	Augustus A. Gould	1834
1832	Ezra Palmer	1835
1832	Joseph Roby	1835
1832	Paul Simpson	1835
1832	James Wood	1833
1832	Caleb S. Whitman	1835
1832	John B. S. Jackson	1835
1833	Edward Warren	1836
1833	William A. Foster	1836
1833	James B. Gregerson	1835
1834	J. Howard Sargent	1835
1834	Edmund L. Cunningham	1836
1835	William G. Hanaford	1837
1835	Francis Dana	1836
1835	Henry I. Bowditch	1838
1835	William Young	1836
1835	John Odin	1838
1835	W. W. Dwight	1836
1835	Francis H. Gray	1837
1836	Henry G. Clark	1838
1836	John H. Dix	1839
1836	Alonzo Chapin	1837
1836	Hermann B. Inches	1838

Elected.		Retired.
1836	Abner B. Wheeler	1838
1836	Marcellus Bowen	1838
1837	Oliver W. Holmes	1837
1837	John M. Moriarty	1839
1837	Warren J. Whitney	1839
1838	George A. Bethune	1840
1838	Henry G. Wiley	1841
1838	John W. Gorham	1840
1838	Stephen Salisbury	1841
1838	Lewis I. Glover	1841
1838	Benjamin Haskell	1839
1838	Thomas M. Brewer	1840
1839	Charles E. Ware	1840
1839	Nathaniel S. Tucker	1840
1839	Benjamin B. Appleton	1842
1839	William Eustis	1840
1840	Samuel Parkman	1842
1840	Ephraim Buck, jun.	1842
1840	Frederic A. Eddy	1842
1840	William W. Cutler	1841
1840	Samuel Wigglesworth	1840
1840	Christopher C. Holmes	1841
1841	J. F. W. Lane	1843
1841	Robert W. Hooper	1842
1841	J. F. Tuckerman	1841
1841	William J. Dale	1843
1841	Samuel Cabot	1841
1841	Charles F. Foster	1844
1841	Henry Orne Stone	1844
1841	William Hawes	1842
1842	Ward N. Boylston	1844
1842	Samuel Trull	1843
1842	William T. Parker	1844
1842	Samuel L. Abbott	1844
1842	William P. Dexter	1844
1843	E. D. G. Palmer	1845
1843	George Hayward, jun.	1846
1843	George N. Thomson	1845

Elected.		Retired.
1844	John Spence	1845
1844	Samuel Cabot	1846
1844	Phineas M. Crane	1847
1844	Charles E. Buckingham	1845
1844	Le Baron Russell	1846
1844	William H. Thayer	1845
1844	Andrew Alexander	1845
1845	Fytche E. Oliver	1848
1845	James M. Phipps	1848
1845	Alfred A. Lane	1848
1845	John S. Carter	1847
1845	Samuel Kneeland	1847
1846	E. P. Wells	1846
1846	William E. Townsend	1847
1846	George Derby	1849
1846	Nathaniel Downes	1849
1847	H. Osgood Stone	1848
1847	Robert Davis	1847
1847	George H. Gay	1848
1847	George F. Bigelow	1850
1847	John W. Hinckley	1849
1847	James W. Stone	1848
1848	Edmund B. Moore	1853
1848	Luther Parks, jun.	1850
1848	Joseph Hagar	1849
1848	Benjamin F. Gilman	1849
1848	Moses W. Weld	1849
1848	E. A. W. Harlow	1851
1849	Henry W. Williams	1851
1849	John C. Dalton	1851
1849	Robert Greer	1852
1849	Francis Minot	1851
1849	John C. Sharp	1850
1849	Marcus B. Leonard	1854
1850	Edmund T. Eastman	1853
1850	William B. Morris	1851
1850	James M. Sharkey	1853
1850	John S. H. Fogg	1854

Elected.		Retired.
1850	Franklin F. Patch	1851
1851	Luther Johnson	1851
1851	Thomas F. Oakes	1854
1851	J. Everett Herrick	1854
1851	George F. Bigelow	1853
1851	John R. Lincoln	1855
1851	John C. Sharp	1853
1852	Daniel D. Slade	1853
1853	John F. Jarvis	1856
1853	Zabdiel B. Adams	1854
1853	William Pitt	1855
1853	Algernon Coolidge	1854
1853	William H. Page	1855
1853	Horace W. Adams	1855
1854	John C. York	1854
1854	Charles W. Moore	1857
1854	Edmund T. Eastman	1854
1854	George H. Gallup	1855
1854	O. D. Root	1856
1854	Seth L. Sprague	1857
1854	John S. H. Fogg	1858
1855	Calvin G. Page	1858
1855	Samuel B. Flagg	1855
1855	George G. Tucker	1855
1855	Zabdiel B. Adams	1858
1855	Alfred A. Stocker	1857
1856	Marcus B. Leonard	1858
1856	John A. Lamson	1859
1857	Stephen Mighill	
1857	Robert Ware	
1857	Lucius M. Sargent	1859
1858	John W. Hinckley	
1858	Henry K. Oliver	
1858	Samuel A. Green	
1858	Hugh Ferguson	1859
1859	William Osgood	
1859	Gustavus Hay	
1859	Joseph F. Gould	

Apothecaries.

Elected.		Retired.
1796	Smith and Bartlett	1815
1802	Stephen Thayer	1809
1802	Robert Fenelly	1821
1809	William B. White	1821
1815	Terence Wakefield	1821
1819	Daniel Henchman	1821
1821	Samuel Clarke	1832
1832	J. M. Smith and Co.	1841
1841	Smith and Fowle	1844
1842	Charles Mead	1857
1844	Seth W. Fowle	1846
1844	James Kidder	1851
1846	Charles K. Whipple	1856
1851	Robert R. Kent	1857
1856	John D. Taylor	1857
1857	Radford and Campbell	1858
1857	John N. M. Hill	1857
1857	Edward A. Lee	1858
1857	Charles G. Underwood	1859
1858	Henry M. Billings	1858
1858	Nathaniel S. Boyce	1859
1859	Henry M. Billings	

CENTRAL OFFICE, OPENED JULY 28, 1856.

Consulting Physicians.

Elected.		Retired.
1856	Jacob Bigelow	
1856	Phineas M. Crane	

Consulting Surgeons.

1856	George Hayward	1858
1856	Solomon D. Townsend	
1858	Henry W. Williams	

Superintendent.

1856	John B. Alley	

Attending Physicians.

1856	E. Whitney Blake	1858
1856	William W. Morland	1858
1856	Charles D. Homans	
1856	H. Osgood Stone	1857
1857	J. Nelson Borland	
1858	Algernon Coolidge	
1858	Fytche E. Oliver	1859
1858	Calvin G. Page	
1858	Calvin Ellis	
1858	Z. Boylston Adams	
1858	Buckminster Brown	

Attending Surgeons.

1856	George H. Lyman	
1856	Henry W. Williams	1858
1856	Richard M. Hodges	
1856	Daniel D. Slade	
1858	William W. Morland	

TABLE

Showing the Increase of the Permanent Fund from 1796 *to* 1859; *with a Schedule of the Property belonging to the Boston Dispensary, July* 1, 1859.

1797	$603.75	1828	18,571.15
1798	959.25	1829	19,176.80
1799	1,169.25	1830	18,680.00
1800	1,385.00	1831	23,821.98
1801	1,977.77	1832	24,506.45
1802	2,174.44	1833	26,399.96
1803	2,485.55	1834	27,016.48
1804	2,864.44	1835	27,854.98
1805	3,117.58	1836	28,775.15
1806	3,769.55	1837	30,382.00
1807	4,269.55	1838	30,938.12
1808	5,044.43	1839	30,817.07
1809	6,344.43	1840	30,982.88
1810	6,344.43	1841	31,555.51
1811	7,472.56	1842	32,008.27
1812	8,399.12	1843	32,309.04
1813	7,941.05	1844	32,556.33
1814	10,673.59	1845	34,409.33
1815	11,027.50	1846	34,559.76
1816	11,726.83	1847	43,847.53
1817	11,775.58	1848	43,768.42
1818	12,043.11	1849	48,507.47
1819	12,071.72	1850	60,112.60
1820	12,550.65	1851	60,823.85
1821	12,905.70	1852	62,235.17
1822	12,620.00	1853	63,167.88
1823	13,543.69	1854	63,343.81
1824	14,464.36	1855	63,433.13
1825	15,004.27	1856	63,613.65
1826	14,921.19	1857	63,330.25
1827	17,680.19	1858	61,776.73

Schedule of Property belonging to the Boston Dispensary, July 1, 1859.

MORTGAGES.

Charles E. Parsons	$10,700.00
Trinity Church	15,000.00
John Clifton	1,400.00

STOCKS.

Sixty shares Western Railroad	6,000.00
Sixty shares Boston and Providence Railroad	6,000.00
Ten shares Boston and Worcester Railroad	1,000.00
One share Neponset Bridge	330.00
One share Lawrence Manufacturing Company	1,000.00

REAL ESTATE.

Estate corner of Bennet and Ash Street	20,000.00
	$61,430.00

TABLE

Showing the Number of Patients, and Expense of furnishing Medical Attendance and Medicine, from 1796 *to July* 1, 1859.

Date.	Number.	Cost.	Average.
From 1796 to 1813	8,500	$9,608.19	$1.13
„ 1813 „ 1824	13,200	16,234.54	1.23
„ 1824 „ 1834	28,390	15,364.44	0.54
„ 1834 „ 1844	23,781	18,701.57	0.78½
„ 1844 „ 1854	34,012	37,750.13	1.11
„ 1854 „ 1856	12,166	14,548.64	1.22
„ 1856 „ 1857	8,577	5,141.79	0.60
„ 1857 „ 1858	15,191	6,028.00	0.40
„ 1858 „ {July, 1859} 9 mos.	10,153	2,843.27	0.28
Grand total	153,970	$126,220.57	$0.80

TABLE

Showing the Number of Patients, and Expense of Medical Attendance and Medicine, from 1824 *to* 1856; *compiled from the Returns of District Physicians.*

Year.	Number.	Cost.	Avr'ge.	Year.	Number.	Cost.	Average.
1824.	1,403	$1,297.76	.92½	1841.	2,382	$1,836.77	$0.77
1825.	2,037	1,338.12	.65½	1842.	1,957	3,002.85	1.53
1826.	2,175	1,953.66	.89½	1843.	2,660	2,408.41	0.90½
1827.	2,110	1,076.69	.51	1844.	2,317	2,470.50	1.06
1828.	3,260	1,220.07	.37½	1845.	2,282	2,797.57	1.22½
1829.	4,568	2,311.52	.50½	1846.	2,462	3,815.95	1.55
1830.	4,901	2,175.05	.44½	1847.	3,290	3,365.18	1.02
1831.	2,847	1,368.28	.48	1848.	3,642	3,262.07	0.89
1832.	3,040	1,462.96	.48	1849.	3,950	3,410.78	0.89
1833.	2,049	1,160.33	.56½	1850.	4,014	4,282.14	1.06½
1834.	2,179	1,317.51	.60½	1851.	4,055	4,583.86	1.13
1835.	2,302	1,127.30	.49	1852.	4,222	4,648.01	1.10
1836.	1,640	1,408.73	.86	1853.	3,778	5,114.07	1.35⅓
1837.	2,407	2,125.68	.88	1854.	3,479	4,523.00	1.30
1838.	3,138	1,936.12	.51⅔	1855.	4,040	5,301.13	1.31
1839.	2,665	1,746.48	.67½	1856.	4,647	4,724.64	1.01
1840.	2,450	1,791.72	.70	Total	98,348	$86,364.91	$0.88

TABLE

Showing the Number of Patients treated at the Central Office and at their dwellings between July 1, 1856, *and July* 1, 1859.

Quarter ending	Central Office.				Districts.				Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Children under 15yrs. of age.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children under 15yrs. of age.	Total.	
Oct. 1856.	114	222	192	528	223	426	355	1,004	1,532
Jan. 1857.	127	233	172	532	213	416	437	1,066	1,598
Apr. 1857.	167	302	294	763	278	560	488	1,326	2,089
Jul. 1857.	199	466	328	993	224	466	470	1,160	2,153
	607	1,223	986	2,816	938	1,868	1,750	4,556	7,372
Oct. 1857.	258	549	533	1,340	223	521	653	1,397	2,737
Jan. 1858.	298	566	444	1,308	295	673	792	1,760	3,068
Apr. 1858.	405	684	511	1,600	436	948	1,115	2,499	4,099
Jul. 1858.	389	772	775	1,936	302	785	920	2,007	3,943
	1,350	2,571	2,263	6,184	1,256	2,927	3,480	7,663	13,847
Oct. 1858.	423	817	863	2,103	333	892	855	2,080	4,183
Jan. 1859.	329	583	615	1,527	368	847	882	2,097	3,624
Apr. 1859.	394	587	466	1,447	296	722	701	1,719	3,166
Jul. 1859.	388	851	688	1,927	274	583	579	1,436	3,363
	1,534	2,838	2,632	7,004	1,271	3,044	3,017	7,332	14,336
Year ending									
Jul. 1857.	607	1,223	986	2,816	938	1,868	1,750	4,556	7,372
Jul. 1858.	1,350	2,571	2,263	6,184	1,256	2,927	3,480	7,663	13,847
Jul. 1859.	1,534	2,838	2,632	7,004	1,271	3,044	3,017	7,332	14,336
	3,491	6,632	5,881	16,004	3,465	7,839	8,247	19,551	35,555

TABLE

Showing the Number of Prescriptions dispensed, the Cost of Medicine, and the Average Cost of each Prescription, from July 1, 1856, *to July* 1, 1859.

Quarter ending	Central Office.			District Apothecaries.			Total Number.	Total Cost.
	Number.	Cost.	Average.	Number.	Cost.	Average.		
Oct., 1856.	1,745	$95.75	.05	1,632	$150.13	.09	3,377	$245.88
Jan., 1857.	2,251	132.61	.06	1,676	175.76	.10½	3,927	308.37
April, 1857.	3,494	201.45	.05⅔	2,423	234.20	.09	5,917	435.65
July, 1857.	3,952	260.61	.06⅔	2,101	134.23	.06½	6,053	394.84
	11,442	$690.42	.06	7,832	$694.32	.09	19,274	$1,384.74
Oct., 1857.	5,282	$227.33	.04	1,910	$246.51	.12⅔	7,192	$473.84
Jan., 1858.	6,787	349.51	.05	2,451	291.28	.12	9,238	640.79
April, 1858.	12,436	563.00	.04½	3,514	439.76	.14	15,950	1,002.76
July, 1858.	7,785	477.38	.06	2,461	312.21	.12⅔	10,246	789.59
	32,290	$1,617.22	.05	10,336	$1,289.76	.12½	42,626	$2,906.98
Oct., 1858.	8,774	$342.95	.04	423	$61.76	.12⅔	9,197	$404.71
Jan., 1859.	9,075	478.76	.05	383	59.85	.15⅔	9,458	538.61
April, 1859.	8,107	328.33	.04	393	66.83	.17	8,500	395.16
July, 1859.	7,247	332.93	.04½	283	40.67	.14	7,530	373.60
	33,203	$1,482.97	.04½	1,482	$229.11	.15½	34,685	$1,712.08
Year ending								
July 1, 1857.	11,442	$690.42	.06	7,832	$694.32	.09	19,274	$1,384.74
July 1, 1858.	32,290	1,617.22	.05	10,336	1,289.76	.12½	42,626	2,906.98
July 1, 1859.	33,203	1,482.97	.04½	1,482	229.11	.15½	34,685	1,712.08
	76,935	$3,790.61	.04¾	19,650	$2,213.19	.11⅓	96,585	$6,003.80

LEADING STATISTICS.

	Year ending July 1.		
	1857.	1858.	1859.
Number of Male Patients	1,545	2,606	2,805
Number of Female Patients	3,091	5,498	5,882
Children under fifteen years of age	2,736	5,743	5,649
Total per annum	7,372	13,847	14,336
No. of Patients treated at Central Office	2,816	6,184	7,094
No. of Patients treated at their dwellings	4,556	7,663	7,332
No. of Patients discharged, cured, or relieved	4,155	7,124	6,764
No. of Patients sent to Hospital	116	185	218
No. of Patients who died	157	253	283
No. of Prescriptions dispensed	19,274	42,626	34,685
No. of Prescriptions from Central Office	11,442	32,290	33,203
No. of Prescriptions from District Apotheca's	7,832	10,336	1,482
Cost of the whole Service	$3,728.24	$5,331.98	$3,888.08
Cost of Medicine and dispensing it	1,384.74	2,906.98	1,712.08
Viz., at Central Office	690.42	1,617.22	1,482.97
„ at District Apothecaries	694.32	1,291.76	229.11
Average No. of Prescriptions to each Patient	2½	3	2½
Average Cost of whole Service to each Patient	$0.50	$0.38	$0.27
Average Cost of each Prescription	0.06	0.07	0.05
Average Cost of do. at Central Office	0.06	0.05	0.04½
Average Cost of do. at District Apothecaries	0.09	0.12½	0.15⅔

By a vote of the Board of Trustees, passed June 21, 1858, the District Apothecaries were discontinued in the City Proper, July 1, 1858; and by a subsequent vote, passed April 8, 1859, were discontinued at East Boston and South Boston, July 1, 1859.

TABLE

Showing the Comparative Number of Patients, the Number of Prescriptions, the Cost of Medicine and dispensing it, the Average Cost of each Prescription, and the Average Cost of the Whole Service, for the Three Years ending Oct. 1, 1855, *and the Three Years ending July*, 1859.

Year ending Oct. 1.	Number of Patients.	Number of Prescriptions.	Cost of Medicine and dispensing it.	Average Cost of each Prescription.	Cost of Whole Service.	Average Cost of each Patient.
1853.	3,778	12,511	$2,555.15	$0.20	$5,114.07	$1.35
1854.	3,479	14,422	2,997.73	0.21	4,523.00	1.30
1855.	4,040	12,825	3,088.87	0.24+	5,301.13	1.31
	11,297	39,758	$8,641.75	$0.22—	$14,938.20	1.32+

Year ending July 1.				Central Office.	District Apothecaries.		
1857.	7,372	19,274	$1,384.74	$0.06	$0.09	$3,728.74	$0.50
1858.	13,857	42,626	2,906.98	0.05	0.12½	5,331.98	0.38
1859.	14,426	34,685	1,712.08	0.04½	0.15½	3,888.08	0.27
	35,655	96,585	$6,003.80	$0.04¾	$0.11⅓	$12,948.80	$0.36⅓

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