

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE
BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.
[DOCUMENT 80-1879.]**

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CITY OF  BOSTON.

FIFTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE CITY HOSPITAL,

WITH REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF, RULES FOR ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES, ETC.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 1878-9.

Alderman — J. A. Tucker,	} Elected January, 1878.
Councilmen — J. J. Barry,	
P. F. McGaragle,	
At Large — George W. Pope, <i>President</i> ,	
H. H. Sprague, <i>Secretary</i> ,	
Timothy J. Dacey,	
John Goldthwait (term expires May 1, 1879),	
Francis F. Emery (term expires May 1, 1879),	
J. H. Upham.	

BOARD OF CONSULTING PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

Edward Reynolds, M.D.	Fitch E. Oliver, M.D.
Benj. E. Cotting, M.D.	Benj. Cushing, M.D.
J. Baxter Upham, M.D.	A. D. Sinclair, M.D.

THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

Resident Physician and Superintendent.

Edward Cowles, M.D.

Visiting Physicians.

John G. Blake, M.D.	George J. Arnold, M.D.
Hall Curtis, M.D.	Frank W. Draper, M.D.
Geo. H. Lyman, M.D.	O. W. Doe, M.D.
C. Ellery Stedman, M.D.	A. L. Mason, M.D.

For Diseases of the Nervous System.

R. T. Edes, M.D.	S. G. Webber, M.D.
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Visiting Surgeons.

Chas. D. Homans, M.D.	W. C. B. Fifield, M.D.
David W. Cheever, M.D.	William Ingalls, M.D.
Wm. H. Thorndike, M.D.	George W. Gay, M.D.

Ophthalmic Surgeons.

Henry W. Williams, M.D.	Oliver F. Wadsworth, M.D.
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Physicians to Out-Patients.

A. M. Sumner, M.D.	Geo. B. Shattuck, M.D.
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Surgeons to Out-Patients.

Thomas Dwight, M.D.	W. P. Bolles, M.D.
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Out-Patient Department for Diseases of Women.

W. E. Boardman, M.D.	J. R. Chadwick, M.D.
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Out-Patient Department for Diseases of the Skin.

Edward Wigglesworth, M.D.

Out-Patient Department for Diseases of the Ear.

J. Orne Green, M.D.

Out-Patient Department for Diseases of the Nervous System.

James H. Denny, M.D.

Out-Patient Department for Diseases of the Throat.

E. W. Cushing, M.D.

Pathologist.

E. G. Cutler, M.D.

House Physicians.

L. H. Plympton,
H. W. Broughton,
M. H. Prince,
C. W. Haddock,
H. Hun.

Medical Externes.

W. B. Platt,
H. L. Burrell.

Ophthalmic Interne.

S. E. Wyman.

House Surgeons.

W. W. Seymour,
W. H. Holmes,
G. T. Keene.

Surgical Externes.

A. S. F. Chisholm,
E. F. Dunbar.

Ophthalmic Externe.

G. C. Clement.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

CITY HOSPITAL, BOSTON, April 30, 1879.

TO THE HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL:—

The Board of Trustees of the City Hospital, in compliance with the Ordinances, respectfully present herewith their Fifteenth Annual Report.

Number of patients remaining in the Hospital, April 30, 1878	308
Admitted during the year—	
Medical	2,686
Surgical	1,543
Ophthalmic	94
	4,323
Treated during the year	4,631
Discharged	3,981
Died	347
	4,328
Remaining in Hospital, April 30, 1879	303
Largest number in Hospital at any time	370
Smallest number in Hospital at any time	228
Daily average number of patients	289½
Average length of stay of each patient (days)	24½
Number of patients treated in the out-patient department, classified according to their diseases:—	
Medical diseases	2,276
Surgical “	4,594
Diseases of the Eye	1,741
“ “ Ear	327
“ “ Skin	896
“ of Women	240
“ “ Nervous System	55
“ “ the Throat	290
Total	10,419

Number of visits to the Hospital made by each class:—

Medical diseases	3,980
Surgical "	11,715
Diseases of the Eye	10,720
" " Ear	1,748
" " Skin, 12 months	1,670
" of Women	712
" " Nervous System	470
" " the Throat	807
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	31,822

The report of the Superintendent and Resident Physician, presented herewith, contains, besides other information, a statement of the expenditures of the year, and is accompanied by the reports of the medical staff. These reports give details in regard to the number of patients treated in the Hospital and as out-patients during the year, with classified statements of their diseases and the results of treatment.

The whole number of patients in the Hospital during the year was 4,631, and they were under treatment an average of 24.42 days each, making a total of 105,608 days, or 15,086.6 weeks. The entire cost of maintaining the Hospital during the year, including every expenditure, excepting the cost of additions and reconstruction of buildings, was

at the rate of \$7.85½ per week	\$117,856 45
But of the patients enumerated above, 288 paid, for 969¼ weeks' board	7,820 42

Leaving, therefore, the sum of \$110,036 03

as the cost to the city of treating 4,543 non-paying patients, for a total of 14,117¼ weeks, which is at the rate of \$7.78 per week. But, by averaging the net cost of maintaining the Hospital for the year among all the patients treated, we find the average cost to the city, of board for each patient, was \$7.20¼ per week.

The report of the Superintendent explains in detail the expenditures made during the year in maintaining the Hospital. As will be seen by the above statements and figures, and by comparison with previous reports, the Hospital has, during the past year, ministered to the wants of an increased number of persons who have been treated at a decreased cost *per capita*. This result indicates greater economy and efficiency in the management of the Hospital, gratifying to the Trustees and creditable to its officers.

During the past year the work of reconstruction of the six wards of the old medical and surgical buildings has been completed. New dining-rooms, bath-rooms, and water-closets have been built in these wards, and new ventilating shafts have been constructed, extending from the basement to the roofs, on which monitor roofs have been built, connected with the wards below by the ventilating shafts. These changes have greatly improved the sanitary condition of these buildings, and secured for them excellent ventilation. New medicine closets, linen closets, and closets for patients' clothing, all well ventilated, have been built in these wards, adding much to the convenience of the service. The greater portion of the plumbing of the six wards of the old medical and surgical buildings has been removed, and new and improved work substituted. The basement rooms of the central building have been much improved by the removal of all plastering, furring, and sheathing from the walls, and substituting plastering on the brick walls, making the place more cleanly. New dining-rooms have been fitted up for the nurses and for the employes; and work is in progress upon the new dispensary, and office of the steward, which will make these rooms more commodious and convenient, and better suited for their purposes.

Attention is called to the recommendations of the Superintendent in his annexed report, advising the taking of measures to secure additional land for future hospital purposes, and also to his report and recommendations concerning the Training School for Nurses, opened in January, 1878, under the immediate charge of Miss Linda Richards, in whose hands it has made excellent progress in accomplishing the objects for which it was established. It is the testimony of all connected with the Hospital that this school has been instrumental in raising the character and efficiency of the nurses. The Trustees regard these suggestions of the Superintendent as valuable and worthy of careful consideration.

Mr. Samuel M. Nesmith has faithfully and acceptably performed the duties of Steward, to which office he was appointed by the Trustees in October. The office of Apothecary was vacated by Mr. Charles E. Noyes last November, and the duty of the office has been satisfactorily done by the Assistant Apothecary. In March, Dr. Edward Cowles, Resident Physician and Superintendent, resigned his office, to take effect June 1, 1879. Dr. Cowles has filled this position during the past seven years with great ability and success, and in a manner which has given him a deservedly high reputation as a Hospital Superintendent. His retirement from the Hospital is sincerely regretted by the Trus-

tees and all others connected with the Hospital. His advice and knowledge of sanitary science and of the needs of the Hospital, were invaluable in the erection of the new Hospital buildings, in 1875, and in the reconstruction of the old buildings. Many improvements in ventilation, and new methods of administration, which have proved by experience to be in the highest degree successful, have been introduced by him, and the Hospital service and discipline have been greatly improved by his wise and able management. Dr. Cowles leaves the Hospital to assume the Superintendency of the McLean Asylum at Somerville.

Early in the year the Hospital suffered the loss of one of the oldest members of the Board of Consulting Physicians and Surgeons, — Silas Durkee, M.D., — who died in the month of July, 1878. The following resolutions were adopted by the Board of Trustees: —

Whereas, By the dispensation of an all-wise Providence, the City Hospital has lost by death from its Board of Consulting Physicians and Surgeons, Silas Durkee, M.D., one of its first members,

Resolved, That we, the Trustees of the Hospital, hereby express our sympathy with his family in this bereavement, and our appreciation of his early and continued interest in the Hospital, in its foundation and after success; and our sincere respect for his memory.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family.

Dr. Durkee, by his will dated December, 1864, and proved February, 1879, provided for the support of two surviving members of his family during their lives, and made the Boston City Hospital his residuary legatee by the following clause in his will: —

All the rest and residue of my estates and property, I give, devise, and bequeath to the city of Boston, to have and to hold the same to said city of Boston and its successors . . . in trust, for the benefit of the Boston City Hospital forever.

Another vacancy was made in the Consulting Board during the year by the removal from the city of J. Nelson Borland, M.D., and in April the two vacancies were filled by election of A. D. Sinclair, M.D., and Benj. Cushing, M.D.

The vacancy existing at the beginning of the year in the out-patient department for diseases of the nervous system, was filled by the election of O. F. Rogers, M.D., who afterwards resigning, J. H. Denny, M.D., was elected to the office in the month of November, 1878.

The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the many evidences of continued interest in the Hospital, which its friends have given during the past year, by gifts of flowers and books,