

INSTITUTION
OF THE
BOSTON DISPENSARY.
FOR THE
MEDICAL RELIEF OF THE POOR.

Incorporated 1801.



BOSTON :
PRINTED BY JOSEPH T. BUCKINGHAM,
NO. 17, CORNHILL.
1817.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT
HUNDRED AND ONE.

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 labour 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.

In the House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1801, this Bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

EDWARD H. ROBBINS, Speak.

In Senate, Feb. 26, 1801, this Bill, having had two several readings passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, Pres.

Feb. 26, 1801, By the Governor approved.

CALEB STRONG.

True Copy. Attest, JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

INSTITUTION

OF THE

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

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 :

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

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

Thirdly. 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 by the subscribers to this charity, as,

RULES OF THE BOSTON DISPENSARY.

I. Each lady or gentleman, who pays annually into the hands of the treasurer *five dollars*, shall be entitled to the privilege of having two patients at one time under the care of the Dispensary. Those who annually pay *ten dollars* shall have four, and so on, in the same proportion: And those, who subscribe *fifty dollars*, shall be entitled, during life, to the privilege of having four patients attended at one time by the physicians of the Dispensary.

II. A Board, consisting of twelve Managers and a Treasurer, shall be annually elected on the second Thursday of October, by a majority of the contributors present at such meeting, and votes may at all elections be given either in person or by proxy. The Board shall meet quarterly, unless oftener convened by the Secretary. Three managers shall constitute a quorum. Their business shall be to provide medicines for the sick, and to regulate all affairs relative to the Institution.

III. Three attending and two consulting physicians and surgeons, and three apothecaries of the Dispensary, shall be annually elected by the Managers of the Institution.

IV. Every case shall be duly attended if recommended by a contributor in a written note, addressed to the attending physician, agreeably to the first rule. The attending physicians and surgeons shall have a right to apply for advice and assistance to the consulting

physicians and surgeons, when they think proper, in all difficult and extraordinary cases.

V. As soon as the funds will admit of purchasing or tenanting a suitable building for the purpose, the apothecary shall reside at the Dispensary. His business shall be to compound and deliver medicines, to keep an exact account of the names, places of abode, diseases, times of admission, discharge, &c. of the patients; for which he shall receive such a compensation as the Managers shall judge adequate to his services.

Form of a receipt given to each contributor by the Treasurer.

BOSTON DISPENSARY.

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

Form of a recommendation of a Patient, to the care of the Dispensary, and rules to be observed by the Patients.

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.

day of

18

Rules to be observed by the Patients.

1. THE physicians are at the Dispensary every day, *Sundays* excepted, between the hours of *twelve* and *two o'clock*, at which time any patient may apply there for advice.

2. Those patients, who are not well enough to come to the Dispensary, shall be visited at their own houses.

3. No persons will be deemed objects of this charity, but such as are really necessitous.

4. All such patients who, in the judgement of the physician, are well enough to go abroad, and neglect to attend at the Dispensary, for their discharge, for ten days, shall be discharged, as disorderly, from the care and benefit of the Institution.

5. All the vials must be returned to the apothecary; any patients, who neglect to return them, shall be deprived of the benefits of the Dispensary.

6. Every patient must deliver in their letter of recommendation at the Dispensary, and, when cured, take a regular discharge to the contributor who recommended them, or they must not expect to be again received.

7. No patient to continue beyond 30 days, on his first recommendation; and he must apply for a new certificate if his case require it.

Form of a Discharge.

Boston Dispensary, 18

is hereby discharged from
the care of the Dispensary.

{ *Physician to the*
{ *Dispensary.*

THE following rules for the direction of the physician and apothecary, of the Boston Dispensary, have been adopted by the Managers.

Rules to be observed by the Physician of the Boston Dispensary.

First. **THE** physician shall attend all such patients regularly recommended, as are under confinement, and choose the physician of the Dispensary, at least once a day, and shall also call at the Dispensary every day (Sundays excepted) between the hours of 12 and 2, P. M. if necessary, to see if any persons are there waiting for medical advice, and to be informed what new patients are recommended to the care of the Dispensary.

Second. He shall keep a record of the names of the patients under the care of the Dispensary of whom he is the physician, of the disorders under which they labour, their age and occupation, and with respect to those whose disorders shall prove fatal, of the time of their death and the number of his visits to each, which record shall be laid before the Managers semi-annually, or oftener, if demanded.

Third. It shall be the duty of the physician, to suggest and lay before the Managers for their consideration any new regulations or improvements that may occur to him, which will have a probable tendency to promote the usefulness of this Institution, and make it more extensively beneficial.

Rules to be observed by the Apothecaries of the Boston Dispensary.

First. The apothecaries shall deliver no medicines to any person on the account of the Dispensary, who is not recommended by a contributor, agreeably to the adopted printed form.

Second. When any person brings or sends a recommendation as aforesaid, the apothecary shall separate said recommendation from the rules to be observed by the patient; the former he shall keep on file, and the latter shall be delivered or sent to the patient.

Third. Each apothecary shall keep a fair record, in a book to be provided for that purpose, in separate columns, of the names of each patient, the contributor by whom said patient is recommended, the date of the recommendation, the physician attending him or her, the time when discharged, and the amount of medicines delivered for his or her use, which book shall be laid before the Managers at each of their meetings.

Fourth. No patient shall be furnished with any medicines from the Dispensary, unless from the advice or prescription of the physician of the Dispensary, or some one of the regular physicians belonging to the town of Boston.

Fifth. No medicines shall be delivered to any patient recommended by a contributor, if the said contributor has, previous to said recommendation, his or her assigned number of patients under the care of the Dispensary,

agreeably to the constitution; and for the apothecary's information herein, he shall be furnished by the treasurer with an attested list of the subscribers, and of the sums respectively paid by them.

Sixth. Each apothecary shall semi-annually report to the Managers the state of his accounts against the Dispensary, and oftener if thereto required.

At a meeting of the Managers of the Boston Dispensary, December 11, 1807.

Voted, That the foregoing rules be adopted for the government of the physicians and apothecaries of said Dispensary, and that they be furnished with fair copies of the same.

Attest. JOSEPH ECKLEY, *Chairman.*

At the Annual Meeting, October 9, 1817, the following Gentlemen were chosen Managers, viz.

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

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

***Consulting Physicians.*
Dr. Aaron Dexter,
William Spooner.**

***Visiting Physicians.*
Dr. Asa Bucknam, *for the Southern District,*
Samuel Clark, *for the Middle District,*
Pliny Hayes, *for the Northern District.***

***Apothecaries.*
Mr. William B. White, *for the Southern Dist.*
Mr. Terence Wakefield, *for the Middle Dist.*
Mr. Robert Fennelly, *for the Northern Dist.***

List of Subscribers to the Boston Dispensary.

- Mrs. Elizabeth Amory,
 Mr. Thomas Amory, 50 dollars.
 Jonathan Amory,
 Thomas C. Amory, donation \$10 dead.
 John Amory,
 John Andrews, (*first secretary, and for
 many years.*)
 E. T. Andrews, dona. 10 dollars.
 Nathan Appleton, dona. 20 dollars.
 Benjamin Andrews, dona. 10 dollars.
- Hon. James Howdoin, 50 dollars. *Dead.*
 Mr. Peter C. Brooks, 50 dollars.
 Ebenezer L. Boyd, 50 dollars.
 John Brown, 50 dollars.
 William Brown, jun. 50 dollars.
 John C. Brown, 50 dollars.
 Caleb Bingham, 25 dollars. *Dead.*
 Kirk Boot, dona. 20 dollars. *Dead.*
 Andrew Brimmer, dona. 20 dollars.
 John Bartlett, 10 dollars.
 John Bellows, dona. 5 dollars.
 John Breed,
 John Bumstead,
 Isaac Boyle,
 George Brindley,
 George Bond,
 Samuel Bradford,
 Josiah Bumstead,
 Benjamin Bussey,
 John Belknap,

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

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 ev.

Mrs. Catharine Codman, 50 dollars.
 Right ~~William E. Channing~~ John Cheverus,
 Rev. Samuel Cary, *Dead.*
 William E. Channing,
 Mr. Samuel Coverly, *donat. 10 dollars.*
 Nathaniel Call, *donation 10 dollars.*
 John Coates, *donation 10 dollars.*
 Uriah Cotting, *dona. 10 dollars.*
 Gardner L. Chandler,
 Joseph Coolidge,
 Joseph Coolidge, jun.
 Miss Margaret Coffin,
 Mr. Edward Cotton,
 Jonathan Chapman,
 Samuel Cobb,
 Cornelius Coolidge,
 Aaron P. Cleaveland,
 David W. Child,
 Richard Chamberlain.
 John G. Coffin,
 Henry Chapman.

Mr. Joseph Callender,
 Samuel Cook,
 John Cotton,
 George Cabot,
 Joseph Chapman,
 Henry B. Curtis,

Mrs. Mary Doubt, 50 dollars.

Mr. Isaac P. Davis, 50 dollars.

John Dorr, 50 dollars.

Hon. John Davis,
 Thomas Dawes,

Mr. Richard O. Derby, *don. 5 dollars.*

Charles Davis,

Jonathan Davis,

Richard Derby,

Aaron Dexter,

George Deblois,

Thomas Dennie,

Joshua Davis

Rev. Joseph Eckley, D. D. *Dead.*

Mr. Simon Elliot,

Otis Everett,

Mrs. Eben Francis, 50 dollars.

Mr. Nalbro Frazier, 50 dollars. *Dead.*

Benjamin Fessenden,

Samuel Fales,

Joseph Field,

John Fleet,

Robert Kennelly,

John B. Fitch,

**Mr. James H. Foster,
Ebenezer Farley,**

Gardner Green, 50 dollars.

John Grew, 50 dollars.

William R. Gray, \$10, dona. 30 dols.

Samuel P. Gardner, dona. 10 dols.

Gilbert and Dean, 20 dollars.

Miss Sarah Green,

Mary Green,

Rev. John S. J. Gardiner,

Mr. Samuel Gore,

Richard Greene,

Jeremiah Gore,

Ozias Goodwin,

Robert H. Gardner,

Oliver C. Greenleaf,

Thatcher Goddard,

Frederic W. Geyer, jun.

William Greenough,

Henry Gassett,

Moses Grant, jun.

George Higginson, 50 dollars. Dead.

Henry Homes, 50 dollars.

Mrs. J. P. Hall,

Rev. Joshua Huntington,

Mr. Stephen Higginson,

Joseph Head,

Joseph Head, jun.

Joseph Howe,

John Hancock,

Ralph Haskins,

Mr. Jonathan Hunnewell,
 Henry Hill,
 Galen Holmes,
 George Homer,
 John Hubbard,

Miss Susan Inches,

Mrs. Hannah Joy, 50 dollars.

Mr. Thomas K. Jones, 10 dollars.

John C. Jones,

Dr. James Jackson,

Mr. Edward Jones,

William Jackson,

Oliver Keating, 50 dollars.

Josiah Knap,

Jonathan Kilham,

Mrs. Rebecca Lowell, 50 dollars. *Dead.*

Rev. Charles Lowell, 50 dollars.

Miss Catharine Smith Langdon, 50 dollars.

Mr. Joseph Lee, jun. 50 dollars.

Joshua B. Langdon, 10 dols. *Dead.*

John Lowell,

James Lloyd, jun.

Ensign Lincoln,

Joseph Lovering,

Josiah Loring,

William Lawrence,

Mrs John M'Lane, 50 dollars.

Mr. Samuel May, 50 dollars.

Mr. Jonathan Hunnewell,
 Henry Hill,
 Galen Holmes,
 George Homer,
 John Hubbard,

Miss Susan Inches,

Mrs. Hannah Joy, 50 dollars.

Mr. Thomas K. Jones, 10 dollars.

John C. Jones,

Dr. James Jackson,

Mr. Edward Jones,

William Jackson,

Oliver Keating, 50 dollars.

Josiah Knap,

Jonathan Kilham,

Mrs. Rebecca Lowell, 50 dollars. *Dead.*

Rev. Charles Lowell, 50 dollars.

Miss Catharine Smith Langdon, 50 dollars.

Mr. Joseph Lee, jun. 50 dollars.

Joshua B. Langdon, 10 dols. *Dead.*

John Lowell,

James Lloyd, jun.

Ensign Lincoln,

Joseph Lovering,

Josiah Loring,

William Lawrence,

Mrs John M'Lane, 50 dollars.

Mr. Samuel May, 50 dollars.

Rev. Francis Matignon, 10 dollars.
Joseph Mc Kean,
Mr. Jonathan Mason,
Elijah Mears,
Thomas Melville,
William Mackay,
Deacon Thomas Mc Clure,
Mr. Edward Muuroe,
Israel Munson,

E. H. Newton,

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

His Honour Wm. Phillips, \$50, dona. \$100.
Mr. James Perkins, 50 dollars.
Samuel G. Perkins, 50 dollars.
Samuel Parkman, 50 dollars.
William Payne, 50 dollars.
Rev. Francis Parkman, 50 dollars.
Mr. Samuel J. Prescott, 50 dollars.
John Peck, 50 dollars.
Eben. Preble, dona. 20 dollars. Dead.
John Prince, jun. dona. 20 dollars.
Edward Phillips, dona. 10 dollars.
Thomas H. Perkins, 10 dollars.
Mrs. Catherine Prescott,
Mr. John Parker,
William Pratt,
Jonathan Phillips,

Dr. Phelps,
 Mr. John Perry,
 John Parker, jun.
 William Parsons,
 Nehemiah Parsons,

Abraham Quincy,

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

Mrs. Esther Sprague, 1500 dols. a legacy.
 Hannah Smith, 50 dollars. Dead.
 Mr. Samuel Smith, dona 30 dols. Dead.
 Samuel Salisbury, 50 dollars.
 Samuel Spear, 50 dollars.
 Mrs. Elizabeth Sumner, dona. \$30. Dead.
 Mr. Samuel Swett, dona. 10 dollars.
 Josiah Salisbury, 10 dollars.
 Mrs. Sprague, 10 dollars.
 Mr. William Smith, first, and for many
 years treasurer. Dead.
 Ebenezer Seaver,
 Samuel Snelling,
 Gideon Snow,

Mr. Daniel Sargent,
Samuel Salisbury, jun.
Joseph Sewall,
George Storer,
Prince Snow,
Standfast Smith,
Caleb Stimpson,
Henry Sigourney,
Ignatius Sargent,
Andrew Sigourney,
Robert G. Shaw,
Isaac Stevens,
James Savage,
John L. Sullivan,
Richard Sullivan,
William Sturgis,

Richard D. Tucker, 50 dollars.
David Tilden, dona. 10 dols. Dead.
John E. Tyler, donation 10 dols.

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

Mr. Bill Vose,

Samuel H. Walley, 50 dollars.

Charles Walley, 50 dollars.

Thomas Walley,

Benjamin West,

John D. Williams,

William Walker,

Thomas Williams,

Thomas Wigglesworth,

John Wells,

Isaac Winslow,

Gen. John Winslow,

Mr. William B. White,

David West,

Henry Wainwright,

James White.

Thomas H. Wales,

Edmund Winchester,

Benjamin Winslow,

Benjamin Weld,

Redford Webster,

Charles White,

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 favour.

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.