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1859

STITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF

The New York Sanitary

ASSOCIATION.

Instituted 1859.

"Public Health is Public Wealth."

"SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX."

NEW YORK:

R. CRAIGHEAD, PRINTER,

Carton Building,

41, 83 & 85 CENTRE STREET.

1859.

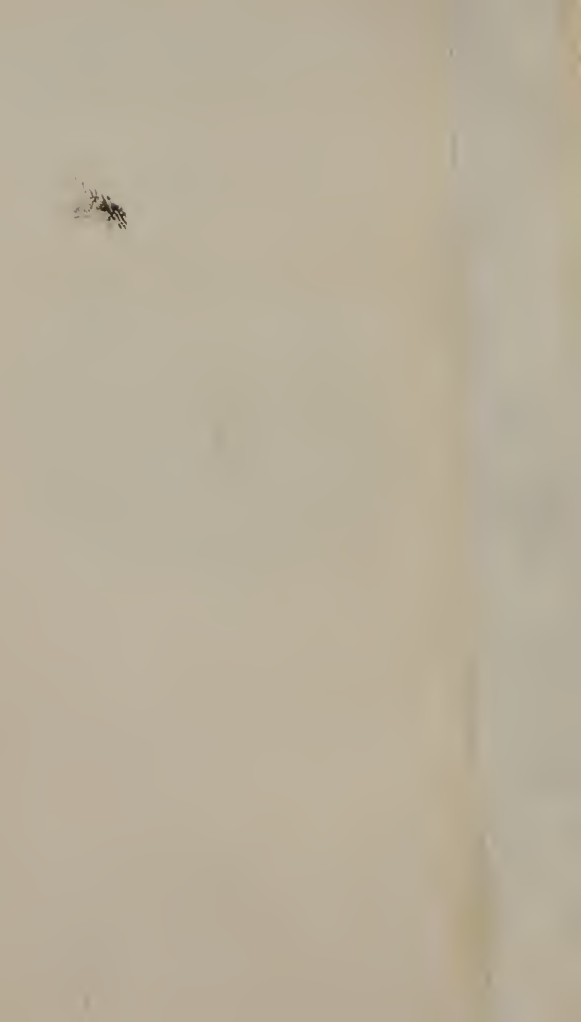
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Officers of the Association.

FREDERICK E. MATHER, PRESIDENT.

JOHN H. GRISCOM, M.D., 1ST VICE PRESIDENT.

FREDERICK S. WINSTON, 2D " "

ELISHA HARRIS, M.D., CORRESPONDING SECRET'Y.

C. R. AGNEW, M.D., RECORDING SECRETARY.

CHARLES W. ELLIOTT, TREASURER.

Elected Members of Council :

TO SERVE ONE YEAR.

PETER COOPER,	JOHN WATSON, M.D.,
EGBERT L. VIELÉ,	ALFRED C. POST, M.D.,
C. C. SAVAGE,	JOHN TORREY, M.D.

TO SERVE TWO YEARS.

WILSON G. HUNT,	JOSEPH M. SMITH, M.D.,
PROSPER M. WETMORE,	EDWIN R. PEASLEE, M.D.
BENJ. R. WINTHROP,	STEPHEN SMITH, M.D.,

THE NEW YORK SANITARY ASSOCIATION.



THE design of the NEW YORK SANITARY ASSOCIATION is fully stated in Article II. of its Constitution. The work it has undertaken is not only a labor of love, but it is one of self-preservation and defence against evils that threaten the lives, and jeopard the happiness, of the people.

This voluntary Association had its origin in the peculiar necessities of the times. For several years, many of our fellow-citizens, especially among those connected with the management of charitable institutions in this city, have carefully observed and studied the causes and relations of disease, want, and vice. In various ways has public attention been called to the urgent necessity of sanitary improvement, as an indispensable means for the elevation of the masses in their social and moral relations, as well as for the promotion of their physical well-being.

During the Autumn of 1858, several physicians and other friends of humanity, whose attention had been particularly drawn to the investigation of this subject, deeming it desirable that their efforts to promote the health and welfare of the people should be definitely and efficiently directed, organized for this purpose the **NEW YORK SANITARY ASSOCIATION.**

The present condition of our city, its alarmingly high death rate, the rapid increase and over-crowding of the population, the increasing prevalence of diseases that indicate widely-acting causes of insalubrity; and, lastly, the absence of a rational Sanitary Code, and the imperfect execution of the existing laws relating to the Public Health, combine to demonstrate the necessity of such an Association.

The following tables exhibit in a striking manner the excessive mortality and the high death rate in New York.

The population of New York by last census (1855), was....	629,810
“ London, “ “	2,362,286
nearly four times as great.	
The mortality of New York in 1857 was.....	23,196
If the mortality of London bore the same ratio to that of New York, as does its population, it would have been (in 1857),.....	92,784
But it was only.....	56,786
A saving of lives over the New York rate of.....	<u>45,998</u>

The ratio of deaths to the population in the cities mentioned below, was, in the years

	New York.	Baltimore.	Philadelphia.	Boston.
1835...one in.....	40·87	42·75	.....	43
1840.... "	39·74	50·12	.....	.....
1845.... "	37·55	41·81	.....	.....
1850.... "	33·52	36·19	46·10	37·84
1852.... " .....	.....	.....	40·45	.....
1853.... " .....	.....	.....	43·61	.....
1854.... "	22·5	.....	33·10	.....
1855.... "	27·83	.....	47·81	39·83
1856.... "	23·67	.....	44·5	.....
1857.... "	27·15	.....	.....	40·5

Were the rate of mortality in the City of New York no greater than the death rate in London, Philadelphia, or Boston, there would be an annual saving of six or seven thousand human lives. But the needless sacrifice of life in our city gives but an inadequate idea of the actual losses caused by preventable sickness and death. It has been reliably estimated that the pecuniary burdens occasioned by preventable disease and needless sacrifice of human lives in the City of New York, amount to more than *thirteen millions of dollars, annually.*

Truly has it been said, that "*Preventive Medicine* will effect infinitely more for Mankind than all the *Curative* skill which has ever been exerted for the alleviation of disease."

CONSTITUTION

OF

The New York Sanitary Association.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the **NEW YORK SANITARY ASSOCIATION.**

ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Association shall be, the improvement of the sanitary condition of the people, and, so far as connected therewith, the advancement of their economic and moral interests:—

First, By promoting the investigation of facts and principles relating to personal, domiciliary, and public Hygiene ;

Second, By diffusing information on the

laws of health and life, and the best means for their application ;

Third, By such other influences and agencies as may be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE III.

§ 1. Every person who at a stated meeting shall have been proposed as a Member, the fact being entered in the Minutes, and who shall have been approved at a subsequent meeting, may, upon signing the Constitution, and paying the initiation fee, become a Member of this Association ; but such Membership shall be subject to an observance of all prescribed rules and regulations, and the payment of all dues and assessments.

§ 2. Honorary and Corresponding Members may be elected at any stated meeting, provided the name and residence of the person proposed, with the name of the member proposing, shall have been submitted in writing, announced, and entered in the Minutes, at a prior stated meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

§ 1. There shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

§ 2. There shall be a Council, composed of the President, Senior Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, and twelve Members specially elected thereto.

Any eight members of such council shall constitute a quorum.

The duties of the council shall be, to consider and present to the Association such subjects, and to recommend such measures and proceedings, not inconsistent with Article Second, as they shall deem expedient.

ARTICLE V.

The President, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall be elected for the term of one year, and until their successors shall be elected. One Vice-President and six Members of Council shall be elected annually, for a term of two

years, and until their successors shall be elected. Such elections shall be by ballot.

ARTICLE VI.

The Annual Meeting and Election shall be held on the first Thursday of December.

Other meetings, stated and special, may be provided for.

Any number present, not less than twenty-five, shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII.

This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, or by unanimous consent, at any stated meeting, provided the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been submitted in writing, announced, and entered in the Minutes, at a prior stated meeting, within four months next preceding the meeting at which the vote on such amendments is taken.

ARTICLE VIII.

At the first election, there shall be elected a President, one Vice-President, the two Secretaries, a Treasurer, and six Members of the Council, for a term to end at the next annual election; also, one Vice-President, and six Members of the Council, for a term to end at the second annual election.

The Vice-President serving on the last year of the term, shall ever be deemed the senior. 112

BY - LAWS

OF

The New York Sanitary Association.



ARTICLE I.

MEETINGS.

§ 1. Stated meetings shall be held monthly, on the first Thursday, at half-past seven o'clock P.M., excepting in the months of June, July, August, and September, when the meetings shall be held at 8 o'clock P.M.

§ 2. The meeting so held in December shall be the Annual meeting.

§ 3. Special meetings may be called by the President, and in his absence from the city, by either Vice-President, upon request in writing of five members, and shall be called upon

like request of ten members, or of five members of the Council.

But no business not specified in the request shall be acted on at any such meeting, except by unanimous consent.

ARTICLE II.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

§ 1. At stated meetings, the Order of Business shall be :

1. Reading and approval of the minutes.
2. Reports from Standing Committees.
3. Reports from Select Committees.
4. Treasurer's Monthly Report.

At the Annual meeting the Treasurer shall present a report, embracing a statement of the finances for the preceding year.

5. Reports and Communications from the Council.

At the Annual meeting the Council shall present a report, embracing a summary of the proceedings of the Association during the preceding year.

6. Unfinished Business.
7. Approval or rejection of proposed members.
8. Reception and reading of names of proposed members.
9. Motions, resolutions, and miscellaneous matters.
10. At the Annual meeting, the election of officers, including members of Council, shall be in order next after Unfinished Business.

ARTICLE III.

PROPOSING MEMBERS.

§ 1. The name of each proposed member shall be accompanied by a designation of his place of residence, and the name of the member who proposes.

ARTICLE IV.

INITIATION FEE, ETC.

§ 1. The initiation fee shall be one dollar.

§ 2. Each member shall pay annually, before February, the sum of one dollar.

§ 3. This Article shall not apply to Honorary or Corresponding members, nor to gentlemen connected with the editorial department of the public press.

ARTICLE V.

RULES OF ORDER.

§ 1. Nothing political or professional, of a partisan character, shall be permitted.

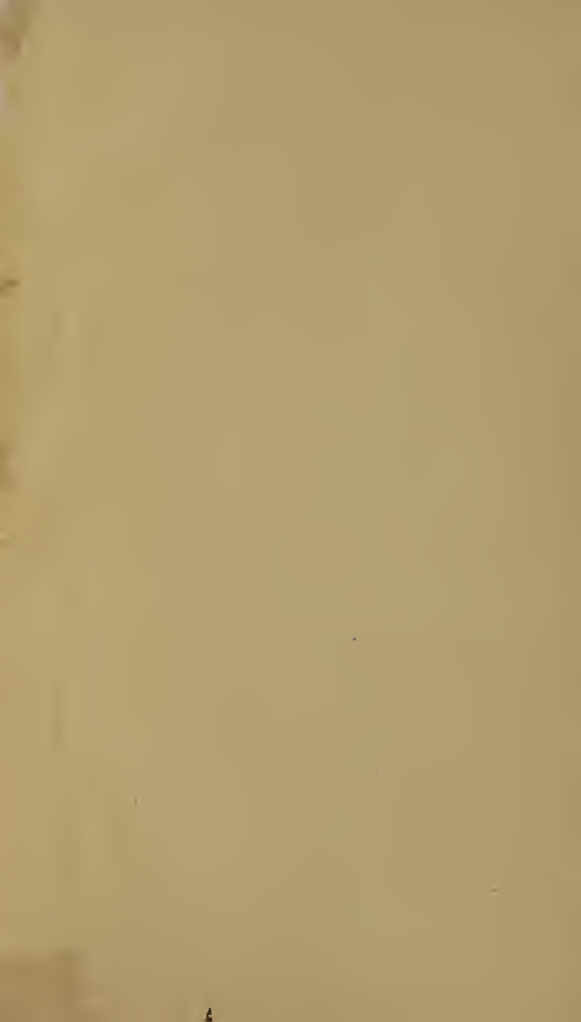
§ 2. The Manual of Parliamentary Rules, as generally adopted in this country, shall be the Rules of this Association, when not inconsistent with its Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI.

ALTERATIONS, AMENDMENTS, ETC.

§ 2. Article II. may be altered, amended, or suspended, at any stated meeting.

§ 2. No other Article, or part of an Article, shall at any time be suspended, except by unanimous consent, nor shall it be altered or amended, except at a stated meeting, and in such manner as shall have been proposed in meeting, announced, and entered in the minutes at a prior stated meeting.



"WE BELIEVE that within this city every thousands of lives are lost which might be saved; that tens of thousands of cases of sickness occur which might be prevented; that a vast amount of unnecessarily impaired health and physical debility exists among those not actually confined by sickness; that these *preventable* evils cause an enormous expenditure and loss of money, and impose upon the people unnumbered and immeasurable calamities, personal, social, physical, mental, and moral, which might be avoided; that means exist within our reach for their mitigation or removal; and that measures for prevention will effect infinitely more, than remedies for the cure of disease."

"Ignorant men may sneer at the pretensions of Sanitary Science; weak and timorous men may hesitate to commit themselves to its principles; and wicked men may turn indifferently from considering that which concerns the health and happiness of millions of their fellow creatures; but in the great objects which it proposes to itself, in the immense amelioration which it proffers to the physical, social, and indirectly to the moral condition of an immense majority of our fellow-beings, it transcends the importance of all other sciences; and, in its beneficent operation, seems to embody the spirit, and to fulfil the intentions of practical Christianity."

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