

# THE WATERMARK

**Newsletter of the Archivists and Librarians  
in the History of the Health Sciences**

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## News from the History of Medicine Division

The National Library of Medicine recently acquired a collection of about 2500 nursing postcards from Michael Zwerdling. These formed the basis for Zwerd-

ling's classic book, *Postcards of Nursing: A Worldwide Tribute* (2003). The collection and book depict nurses at work and illustrates their place in twentieth-century culture generally, for example, as symbols of caring, at war, and in advertising. Although focused on the United States, the collection depicts nurses from more than seventy countries. *The American Journal of Nursing* named *Postcards of Nursing* its 2004 Book of the Year.

NLM has also acquired through donation 10,000 postcards from William Helfand. While Zwerdling's collection is focused on a single subject, Helfand's encompasses medicine in its widest sense: portraits, get-well wishes, buildings, scenes of war, vignettes, dime novel covers, pharmacy, HIV/AIDS, nursing, doctor/patient relations, humor, public health, advertisements, medical museums, and drug stores, to name a few subjects. Like the Zwerdling collection, it ranges from the nineteenth century to the present. Helfand's collection is phenomenal in both scope and size. Electronic access is in its early planning stages, but meanwhile, interested scholars may view the postcards onsite by appointment with Jan Lazarus by phone at 301-435-4994 or e-mail at <lazaruj@mail.nih.gov>.

### "Visible Proofs": Major New Historical Exhibit

"Visible Proofs: Forensic Views of the Body" opens at NLM on February 16, 2006 and runs until February 2008. Physicians, surgeons, and laboratory scientists have struggled for centuries to translate images and concepts of bodies, body parts, and bodily processes into "visible proofs" persuasive to judges, juries, and the public. This exhibit explores the complex questions forensic medicine has attempted to answer. HMD historian Michael Sappol curated it. For guided tours e-mail Erika Mills at <millser@mail.nih.gov> or phone her at 301-594-1947.





## Horses and Men: A New Mini-Exhibit

"The Horse, A Mirror of Man: Parallels in Early Human and Horse Medicine," a mini-exhibit in the HMD foyer, opened on December 5, 2005. Juxtaposing human and equine images depicting anatomical, astrological, bloodletting, and humoral parallels, the exhibit demonstrates the persistence and power of analogical thinking and imaging in medicine. Curated by Michael North, the mini-exhibit continues until April 28, 2006.

## Other Exhibits

The traveling exhibit, "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature," drew large numbers of visitors in Lake Zurich, Illinois; Columbia, South Carolina; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Rock Springs, Wyoming; Worcester, Massachusetts; and Toms River, New Jersey.

"Stanley Jablonski — Beneath the Surface," a mini-exhibit about a versatile and long-time NLM employee, was on display from August 29 to November 28, 2005. Highlighting Jablonski's career as an indexer, author, and solo trans-Atlantic sailor, the exhibit has now moved to the Web at <[www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/jablonski/](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/jablonski/)>.

## Recent Acquisitions

Two unusual nineteenth-century imprints were added recently to the collection: Wilkins, Henry, *The Family Adviser, or a Plain and Modern Practice of Physic: Calculated for the Use of Families Who Have Not the Advantages of a Physician* (Philadelphia: Ezekiel Cooper, 1801); and: Smith, A. F.; and J. Merwin, *The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory, or Every Man His Own Physician*, (Hamilton, N. Y.: Wesleyan Office, 1833).

In May 2005 the NLM Board of Regents awarded the Frank B. Rogers Award to HMD's Lillian Kozuma "in recognition of exceptional contributions to the transformation of many of NLM's historical printed bibliographic tools into electronic form."

HMD has begun to select and acquire materials from the National Institutes of Health videocasting site and to improve its titling, cataloging, and preservation.

Seventy linear feet of Sheppard-Pratt Hospital records arrived recently in the Library. A Baltimore psychia-

tric hospital that stressed vocational regimens for patients, its archives include hospital, farm, patient and trustee records, as well as photographs.

HMD acquired an important incunabula by purchase, Conrad Schellig's *In pustulas malas morbum quem malum de Francia vulgus appellat ...* ([Heidelberg?]: ca. 1496), possibly the earliest German-language publication on syphilis. A physician to the Elector of the Rhenish Palatinate (now Bavaria), Schellig wrote this short tract, a ten-leaf small quarto, during a late fifteenth-century syphilis epidemic.

## Cataloging Russian imprints

NLM has awarded a contract to the VNS Group of Waldorf, Maryland to catalog 3000 Russian language titles. Expected to extend for three years, the contract will focus on the Russian pamphlet collection and dissertations from the Imperial Military Medical Academy, St. Petersburg, Russia. Project start-up and training began in early September 2005.

Phil Teigen <[pteigen@nih.gov](mailto:pteigen@nih.gov)>



Lady, You need a *lawyer* not a *doctor*!

## “A Magnificent Investment in Medical Progress”: The Library of the State Board of Health of Florida, 1889-1946

The State Board of Health of Florida was established in 1889 in the aftermath of the great Jacksonville yellow fever epidemic of 1888. Although the Board's central office, in Jacksonville, began to acquire printed materials almost immediately, a permanent library was not established until 1932. This study will provide an explanation for the protracted delay, give an account of the circumstances of foundation, and offer a description of the library and its functions during the early period of operation.

The first State Health Officer, in office from 1889 to 1917, was Dr. Joseph Yates Porter of Key West.<sup>1</sup> Porter was an energetic, progressive sanitarian with a keen interest in public health education who took a personal interest in the development of a working library for the Board of Health.<sup>2</sup> He was also a hands-on administrator who found it impossible to delegate, was intent upon imposing rigid economy and insisted upon the strict husbanding of resources.<sup>3</sup> Porter's own expertise lay in the prevention and eradication of yellow fever. It was both fitting and ironic that when systematic cataloging of the Board's collection began in January 1932, “book number one” was Dr. Henry Carter's *The History of Yellow Fever*.<sup>4</sup> Porter and Carter, of the U.S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, had long possessed a fractious professional relationship as rival authorities on this deadly disease. The consequences of Porter's enthusiastic, but amateurish, support for library collection and organization are noted below in the only

surviving narrative account of the early years of the collection. The Jacksonville fire of May 1901 destroyed the Board's offices and all the holdings then on site; the only material which survived was that in Porter's personal possession. Later, Porter would sadly describe the loss by this fire of “the nucleus of a library worthy of an institution of this [important] character and work.”<sup>5</sup> The collection was rebuilt, piecemeal, once again under Porter's personal supervision. When planning for a new and enlarged office and laboratory building in Jacksonville was underway in 1911, a separate room was designated for the library. Porter's enthusiasm was displayed in his arrangements for the furnishing of the new headquarters: “The offices of the State Health Officer, the Assistant State Health Officer, the library and the senior bacteriologist are each to be furnished with ‘mission’ style, early English finish, furniture, all other offices to have golden quartered oak.”<sup>6</sup>

In February 1913 the first librarian to the State Board of Health was employed. This was Miss F. Dormaris Herndone, an untrained, but willing, personal acquaintance of Dr. Porter. Her mother, Mrs. Lillie L. Herndone, a widow, was a clerk in the Board's office and Porter for a time lodged at her Jacksonville residence, located a few blocks from the headquarters. He patronized several members of this family, and in 1904 assisted Mrs. Herndone's son Clyde, who had been arrested for a diamond robbery in Jacksonville.<sup>7</sup> Later, in 1946, a professionally trained librarian passed over Miss Herndone's tenure with the observation that her “struggle” with the Dewey Decimal System was still discernable in the collection (see below).

Porter's era of frugal fiscal management was followed by a more damaging decade of reduced state appropriations and retrenchment.<sup>8</sup> In a period when the Bureau of Venereal Diseases, for example, suffered a budget cut of 75%,<sup>9</sup> the library was not a priority. In the official history of the State Board, the years from 1917 to 1932 were characterized as “an era of retarded growth”

<sup>1</sup> W.T. Sowder, “Joseph Yates Porter, M.D.: The Merchant's Son Who Became Florida's First State Health Officer,” *Journal of the Florida Medical Association*, 54 (1967): 801-808; “Joseph Yates Porter,” *Florida Edition. Makers of America*, 4 vols. (Atlanta: Caldwell, 1911), v. 4, pp. 498-500; Florida State Board of Health, *Our Early Days* (Jacksonville: Florida State Board of Health, 1959), unpaginated.

<sup>2</sup> Albert V. Hardy and May Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones: Florida's Public Health from 1889* (Jacksonville: Florida State Board of Health, 1964), pp. 25, 96.

<sup>3</sup> This statement is based upon a study of Porter's extensive correspondence and memoranda retained by the Florida State Archives, Tallahassee.

<sup>4</sup> Henry Hanson to John Ferrell, 25 January 1932: Rockefeller Archives Center (RAC), New York: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

<sup>5</sup> Florida State Archives (FSA), State Board of Health (SBH): record group 810, series 902, box 3, folder 44.

<sup>6</sup> Florida State Board of Health, *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the State Board of Health of Florida, 1911* (Jacksonville: Painter, 1912), p.59.

<sup>7</sup> FSA, SBH: record group 810, series 902, box 3, folder 44, and box 5, folder 5; record group 894, series 900, box 3, folder 42.

<sup>8</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, pp. 30-38.

<sup>9</sup> R.N. Greene to E.S. Matthews, 26 July 1921, and R.C. Turck to C.T. Young: FSA, SBH: record group 894, series 46, box 37, folders 3 and 8.

and missed opportunities.<sup>10</sup> Herdone had already departed, upon marriage; she was not replaced and the library disappeared as a budget item. Later, the professional librarian Mrs. Elizabeth Bohnenberger portrayed this period, 1917-1932, as one of profound neglect: in essence, she inherited the collection that Porter had worked to create up to 1917; in the interim nothing was bound, nothing was cataloged, little was purchased.<sup>11</sup> Relegated to attic storage, "the Library" had no organization, no oversight, and no patrons.

Reform awaited the arrival of Dr. Henry Hanson, late of the National Health Department of Peru, who was State Health Officer in 1929-1935 and 1942-1945. Hanson enjoyed a distinguished international reputation in public health and, most importantly for Florida, a long and intimate connection with the Rockefeller Foundation.<sup>12</sup> For decades, the relationship between the Foundation and the State Board of Health of Florida had been characterized by suspicion, cool detachment, and professional jealousies. Hanson reversed this pattern, and to this was owed, among other developments, the creation of a permanent, professional library for the Board of Health. In August 1931 Hanson approached Dr. John A. Ferrell, Director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, on the subject of assistance in re-establishing the Board's library. The two agreed to discuss the topic at the upcoming September meeting of the American Public Health Association in Montréal.<sup>13</sup> By November of that year the two had established a formal agreement on behalf of their respective agencies. The agreement stated that there was at present "no central library in public health subjects in Florida for health workers or physicians," and that Dr. Hanson was anxious that the Board provide this new service in order to improve the relationships between the state and local health departments and the medical profession in Florida. In particular, the Board was engaged in a new training plan for local health workers and embarking upon a cost-sharing endeavor with receptive Florida counties for the creation of

county health units, all of which would benefit from access to a central, specialized library.<sup>14</sup> A systematic and readily accessible library service for health workers necessitated the employment of a full-time, qualified librarian. The Rockefeller Foundation, therefore, agreed to pay seventy-five percent of a librarian's salary for eighteen months (at \$1,800 a year), beginning on 1 January 1932. Hanson agreed to provide the remainder of the start-up salary from within his existing budget, to approach the Florida legislature for a permanent allocation, and to provide the necessary space for a library and the required physical alterations of the rooms.<sup>15</sup> In a private letter to Ferrell, Hanson wrote: "We have a very good nucleus of books and journals to start out with but will be unable to make any complete statement until the librarian has had a chance to go over the material and get it in such shape that we actually know what we have."<sup>16</sup> He also observed that the state's physicians were very interested in the project and had promised to support it. The re-establishment of the Board's library as a general medical reference library was publicly announced in January 1932.<sup>17</sup>

The selection of a librarian proved to be an easy task, even though the Board was offering a salary at the bottom end of the range (\$1,800-\$2,400) that Hanson initially thought would be necessary to attract a qualified employee.<sup>18</sup> Ferrell had advised that the Board seek guidance from the Director of Library Service at Columbia University or from the Pratt Institute's Library School in Brooklyn.<sup>19</sup> However, the successful recommendation came on 19 November 1931 from Helen Bayne, Librarian of the Robert Lefevre Memorial Library, University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York University. She strongly recommended a friend, Mrs. Elizabeth Haswell Bohnenberger. The two had worked together for two years at the Engineering Societies Library where the work, "taxes the ingenuity, the resourcefulness, and the judgement of the attendants. Mrs. Bohnenberger, without previous work in engineering subjects[,] became oriented quickly." Bayne had also employed Bohnenberger as her assis-

<sup>10</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, p. 30.

<sup>11</sup> Elizabeth Bohnenberger, "The State Board of Health Library," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 3. See also below, Appendices I and II.

<sup>12</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, p. 40; T.Z. Caason, "Biographical Sketch of Dr. Henry Hanson" (unpublished typescript, 1959): FSA, SBH: record group 894, series 900, box 1, folder 18.

<sup>13</sup> Ferrell to Hanson, 4 September 1931, RAC: record group 2, series 1931, box 51, folder 423.

<sup>14</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 23 November 1931, *ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 21 October 1931, Ferrell to Hanson, 24 October 1931, and Resolution I. H. 31139, 18 December 1931: RAC: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

<sup>16</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 21 October 1931, *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 1 (January 1932): 4.

<sup>18</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 21 October 1931: RAC: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

<sup>19</sup> Ferrell to Hanson, 24 October 1931, *ibid.*



tant on contract work at the library of the Research Laboratory of the United States Steel Corporation: "Her judgment is clear and her straight thinking is shown by her consistent cataloging" in this demanding, detailed subject area.<sup>20</sup> By 23 November Hanson had decided to offer the position to Bohnenberger, sight unseen, subject only to the anticipated formal approval in December of the eighteen-month grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.<sup>21</sup>

Bohnenberger, subsequently Mrs. Elizabeth Fretwell, began work on 2 January 1932. She is the author of the sole, two, surviving accounts of the early library of the State Board of Health. They are both printed, in full, below. The first is a narrative account of the library from 1889 until 1946, composed in March 1946. It is unique; only a very brief portion of the narrative has hitherto been published.<sup>22</sup> The second is her detailed librarian's report, dated 23 June 1932, for the first six months of her employment, including future plans and recommendations. This report was forwarded by Hanson to the Rockefeller Foundation. No subsequent report has been located among the archives of either the Florida State Archives or the Rockefeller Archives Center. Although briefer, less formal, information was subsequently published in *Florida Health Notes*, the official organ of the State Board of Health, from time to time, the report of June 1932 is of unique value.

The June 1932 report drew attention to the obsolete nature of much of the existing library collection, and its haphazard character. The Board of Health soon budgeted \$500 for the purchase of books and periodicals. In March 1932 the Board issued a public appeal for monetary donations from Florida's citizens, and commented favorably upon the suggestion from local physicians that they each contribute one dollar a month for the duration of the present economic depression.<sup>23</sup> Even though Hanson's overall approach to the financial crisis of the depression was "to continue to hold our own with the reduced means at our disposal," he enthusiastically supported an enhanced library service.<sup>24</sup> When Bohnenberger's report reached the Rockefeller Foundation, someone (Farrell?) wrote a note on Han-

son's covering letter stating that every publication in the Foundation's library not needed should be offered to Florida.<sup>25</sup> By the end of 1932 subscriptions to current journals had risen to fifteen titles.<sup>26</sup> By January 1933 Hanson could report on substantial progress, including the donation of 300 titles from the medical library of Colonel Raymond C. Turck, M.D., Florida's State Health Officer, 1921-1925. Hanson wrote with enthusiasm: "I feel that the library has increased the efficiency of the local [headquarters] staff fifty to seventy-five percent."<sup>27</sup> If true, that was a very considerable accomplishment.

Bohnenberger was diligent in keeping the library and its development before the eyes of Florida's health care community. Almost every issue of *Florida Health Notes* during 1932 and 1933 contained updates on recent acquisitions and news. The tone was chatty. In April 1932 she quoted with approval Sir William Osler, "Patients without books and journals were a chartless sea," and observed that Osler's "daily round was from patient to laboratory to library."<sup>28</sup> In August 1932 she contributed a short paragraph on Howard Haggard's recently published *The Lame, the Halt, and the Blind*, which she recommended to every layman and physician for its humorous attention to the everlasting credulity of patients and the willingness of every man to offer free advice on how to cure his neighbor.<sup>29</sup> In May 1933 *Spyglass* was featured: a new but short-lived (1933-1935) eight-page newspaper for children published by the American Child Health Association.<sup>30</sup> The range was expansive: She drew attention to the historical acquisitions and holdings of the library, the latest specialist publications on tuberculosis, diphtheria, industrial chemistry, and child health and welfare, and "good reads" such as Sir Frederick Treves' *The Elephant Man* and the critically successful novel of the Scottish physician A.J. Kronin, *Hatter's Castle*. She also provided lists of missing issues needed to complete the library's runs of major periodicals. For these years, her brief re-

<sup>25</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 2 July 1932: RAC: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

<sup>26</sup> These are listed by title in, *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 12 (December 1932): 177.

<sup>27</sup> RAC: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

<sup>28</sup> Elizabeth Bohnenberger, "Library Books and Notes," *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 4 (April 1932): 49.

<sup>29</sup> Elizabeth Bohnenberger, "Library Books and Notes," *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 8 (August 1932): 116. She expanded upon this assessment in 24, 11 (November 1932): 162.

<sup>30</sup> Elizabeth Bohnenberger, "Additions to the Library," *Florida Health Notes*, 25, 5 (May 1933): 52.

<sup>20</sup> Bayne to Hanson, 19 November 1931: RAC: record group 2, series 1931, box 51, folder 423.

<sup>21</sup> Hanson to Ferrell, 23 November 1931, *ibid*.

<sup>22</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, pp. 96-97.

<sup>23</sup> *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 3 (March 1932): 33.

<sup>24</sup> Henry Hanson, "Carrying On," *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 5 (May 1932): 63.

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ports in the *Florida Health Notes* demonstrate that library acquisitions numbered between five and ten titles a month. Many, it would appear, were donations. The expansion of the medical periodical holdings was especially worthy of note: examples include the donation of the first seven volumes of *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, 1926-1932, in May 1933, and a complete set of *Annals of Medical History*, 1919-1932, in November 1932, as well as the decision in June 1934 by the Rockefeller Foundation to donate six journals for the years 1932 and 1933, including *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine*, *The American Journal of Hygiene*, and *Annals of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology*.<sup>31</sup>

In July 1936 the new State Health Officer, Dr. W.A. McPhaul, stated with evident pride that the library "now is one of the finest [of its kind] in the South." Donations of publications and the recent award of funds for new purchases had seen (as Bohnenberger stated in 1946, below) the collection rise to 3564 volumes, with cur-

rent subscriptions to twenty medical periodicals.<sup>32</sup> McPhaul noted that the distribution of health pamphlets to the lay public had been added to the functions of the library.<sup>33</sup> This development presaged a structural alteration during the early months of 1937 whereby the State Board created a Bureau of Health Education to oversee both the distribution of printed material and the library. Its first director was Dr. George Cross, later Chairman of the Florida Public Health Association. In February 1938 he was succeeded as director by Bohnenberger.<sup>34</sup> This was a rare distinction at that time for a woman in the employment of the State Board of Health, and one, moreover, without medical credentials. However, the event passed almost without notice at the time and remains unstated in the organization's official history.<sup>35</sup>

The library moved into new, purpose-built, and spacious quarters in 1937 in the annex to the Board's headquarters building in Jacksonville. New steel shelving provided twice the space for the collection, providing needed room for growth.<sup>36</sup> In time, the holdings grew to 20,000 volumes by the early 1960s.<sup>37</sup> The January 1938 edition of *Florida Health Notes* was devoted to the library. Dr. Edward Jelks, President of the Florida Medical Association, contributed an essay which praised the contribution of the library to the medical profession as "a great credit to Florida, a help to its citizens and a valuable institution for the doctors."<sup>38</sup>

Ruth Mettinger, R.N., Director of the Bureau of Public Health Nursing and the most senior woman in the organization, wrote of the State Board of Health Library's "infinite value to the public health nurse working alone in a county where there is no public library within three or four hundred miles." Mettinger demonstrated in her contribution her knowledge of both the library and her audience, the public health nurses. She focused upon practical advice — the exact manual which would in-

<sup>32</sup> W.A. McPhaul, "Brief Outline of Present Functions of the State Board of Health," *Florida Health Notes*, 28, 7 (July 1936): 99.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Florida Health Notes*, 29, 5 (May 1937): 68; 30, 1 (January 1938): 14; 30, 2 (February 1938): 32.

<sup>35</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, pp. 96-97. The authors chart the development of the library within the context of health education and, indeed, briefly quote from Bohnenberger's 1946 report, without ever mentioning her name or her contribution.

<sup>36</sup> FSA, SBH: record group 810, series 902, box 3, folder 44.

<sup>37</sup> Hardy and Pynchon, *Millstones and Milestones*, p. 97.

<sup>38</sup> Edward Jelks, "The Library and the Medical Profession," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 5.

<sup>31</sup> *Florida Health Notes*, 24, 11 (November 1932): 162; 25, 5 (May 1933): 52. RAC: record group 1, 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.

## Books on the History of Medicine

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form nurses how to organize a committee of community volunteers, the best work on mental hygiene for public health nurses, the most authoritative and appealing account of syphilis written for lay persons (each available on loan from the Library for the cost of postage).<sup>39</sup> In similar vein, the librarian of the Florida State Dental Society wrote of the library's importance to his profession; in 1936 this society had agreed to deposit its book collection in the Library, where it was now available for consultation or borrowing.<sup>40</sup> Current periodicals received by the library now numbered forty-seven, ranging from *American Heart Journal* to *Waterworks Engineering*. Moreover, through the benevolence of the Florida Medical Association, the library received *gratis* the exchange publications of every state medical society in the Union.<sup>41</sup> Bohnenberger was justifiably proud of her fledgling institution, resurrected from "a pile of books" in the midst of the Great Depression. She noted how each year the demand for its services had increased, from public health workers, nurses, physicians, and dentists in every part of a far-flung state struggling to

meet critical health challenges. Bohnenberger's final words in 1938 were: "The use of the Library has long since justified its existence, and its service as an instrument of health education is unquestioned."<sup>42</sup>

In 1943 Bohnenberger married the historian Mark E. Fretwell. She later resigned as Director of Health Education and subsequently took up residence with her husband at West Point, Georgia.<sup>43</sup> Her two typewritten reports, of 1932 and 1946, remain the best evidence for her leading role in the creation and development of a health sciences library, and they are crucial surviving first-hand narratives of these events. They are each reproduced in full here:

### Appendix I: Bohnenberger's Report on the Establishment of the Library<sup>44</sup>

June 23, 1932

Dr. Henry Hanson, State Health Officer  
Florida State Board of Health  
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit the report of the State Board of Health Library for the first six months of 1932.

As this is my first report since the establishment of the library, it would seem appropriate that a brief resume be included concerning the creation of the State Board of Health Library in 1932, and also the earlier efforts to found a library.

When the State Board of Health was created in 1889, there was no provision made for a library, but under the administration of the late Dr. Joseph Y. Porter, a fair sized collection was gathered together in the hope of forming the nucleus of a library. Books were added to the collection from time to time by various members of the staff. In 1913 an attempt was made to arrange the library, classify it under the Dewey Decimal system, and catalog it for the use of the health officials. This work was begun, but never finished. Early in 1918, the majority of the accumulated periodicals were bound.

<sup>39</sup> Ruth E. Mettinger, "The Library and the Public Health Nurse," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 6-7.

<sup>40</sup> Bryant S. Carroll, "The Value of the Medical and Dental Library to Dentistry," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 9-10.

<sup>41</sup> "Paper Covers," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 8.

<sup>42</sup> Elizabeth Bohnenberger, "The State Board of Health Library," *Florida Health Notes*, 30, 1 (January 1938): 3-4.

<sup>43</sup> FSA, SBH: record group 810, series 902, box 3, folder 44.

<sup>44</sup> RAC: record group 1.1, series 211, box 1, folder 1.



After this nothing more was done toward an organized library until 1932, when with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation, the State Health Officer secured the services of a librarian.

### *The collection and housing*

The collection consisted of over two thousand bound volumes and magazines, together with a large assorted group of pamphlets, bulletins, state health reports, etc. A large portion of these were on shelves in the third floor attic.

The two rooms which had been planned for the library were put in shape to house the collection. The State Health Officer secured suitable shelving, consisting of wall and center bookcases. The library is located very strategically for the use of all staff members and the public. However, it is already apparent that more shelving will be necessary in the near future.

Every book and pamphlet was examined to ascertain which should be retained in the collection and just how much should be removed from the third floor to the library. As a consequence the cataloguing of the collection has progressed slowly, but is now nearing completion. The books were arranged at first according to their best use and expediency, and then re-arranged as the collection began to assume classified shape.

### *Classification*

After a careful examination of the field of medical classification, the Library of Congress system was decided upon. The system in popular use in public libraries, the Dewey Decimal, is too general and too restricted to serve adequately the best interests of a collection as sharply specialized as this. The Library of Congress system is the most scientific yet evolved and is in use in many special libraries.


### *The catalog and accessions*

To date the catalog contains 2,582 typed cards, and a total of 934 volumes have been catalogued. There is also a pamphlet file containing to date 1,384 pamphlets arranged alphabetically according to subject.

There remains to be catalogued, the file of bound magazines, the file of bound annual reports from states other than Florida, all the reference material and 67 books. Also there are some 500 pamphlets still on the

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third floor which must be listed by subject and included in the pamphlet file.

### *Arrangement*

The main room of the library is used as the general reading room for the staff and patrons, and contains the catalog, medical directories, Florida reports and material, the A. M. A. Journal bound and unbound, the pamphlet collection in filing cases, and magazines currently received.

### *Binding*

An important gap has been filled by the binding of the A.M.A. [American Medical Association] Journals, bringing our file down to date, although we are still lacking a few to complete the file.

As a large portion of our magazines are still unbound, I have suggested under "Recommendations" as to their future binding.

### *Periodicals*

The library is very fortunate to have a collection of nearly 600 bound volumes of various medical peri-

odicals which in many cases begin in the 1890's and continue through to 1916. There are also *nearly three thousand* unbound magazines.

The entire periodical collection is now filed in correct order in the library.

#### *Material received and gifts*

We receive through the mail a large number of bulletins on health and related subjects from other states and many organizations. These are for the most part of permanent value and do much to make the library a source for current information.

A number of doctors throughout the state have shown their interest by donating back numbers of magazines needed for our files.

The Florida Tuberculosis and Health Association voted on April 29<sup>th</sup>, to turn their collection of books and magazines over to us. To date they have given some 200 books, and a number of magazines to the library. In this gift is the current file of the American Review of Tuberculosis, American Heart Journal, Journal of the Outdoor Life, and the Survey. This is indeed a valuable addition to our library.

It is hoped that, from the interest shown, other medical organizations will consider this library as a focal point for the preservation and use of books on all medical phases.

From our Representative [to Congress], we have also been able to secure the Third Series of the Index Catalog of the Surgeon General's Library. This makes a most valuable and necessary addition to our reference room.

#### *Some special material in the library*

As this library was first started over forty years ago, we have on file a number of early health reports from other states, most of which have long been out of print and are unavailable. A number of the books in the collection are of considerable interest, including the accounts of the yellow fever epidemic of 1888 in Florida, some early Treasury Department bulletins of Surgeon H.R. Carter on yellow fever. The library also has a file of scrapbooks containing clippings concerning public health in Florida from 1888 to date.

All the material on Florida has been filed separately from the rest of the collection and is thus more readily available for reference.

#### *Total contents of the library*

The following is a brief statistical summary of the contents of the library:-

Bound books.....	1681
Bound magazines.....	567
Unbound magazines.....	2714
Pamphlets on shelves.....	155
Pamphlets in filing cases.....	1384
Pamphlets not yet classified.....	500
Duplicates.....	Not yet counted

#### *Service and use of the library*

The library has received very little publicity preferring to progress slowly in order to secure the best results and render the most effectual aid as it is organized and rounded out more fully. But the response during these first six months indicates the vital need for such a library. All sorts of questions have been answered. We have received calls for books and bibliographies from various parts of Florida. The medical profession has shown its interest by visits, donations of magazines and books, etc. The following will indicate briefly the type of question answered and reference help rendered:

Material on safety education

A bibliography on fatigue in industry

A loan of "Proceedings of the World Narcotic Defense Association"

Has there been a state-wide dental survey in Florida, and if so what did it accomplish?

Adolescent psychology

Bibliography on medical inspection of school children

Material on the effects of tin poisoning

The plan of mailing the book requested to the borrower at his own expense has thus far been satisfactory. However, as the service of the library increases it may become necessary to alter the plan somewhat.

Respectfully submitted,  
[signed] Elizabeth H. Bohnenberger  
Librarian

### PROPOSED PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Book Collection.* The book collection is frankly inadequate to meet the demand. A large portion of the books, in spite of many recent gifts are of historical interest and outdated. Therefore we need a small grant of money to allow us to make purchases of immediate importance. We also need several reference tools and indices in order that the library may be able to use every facility.
2. *Binding and Periodical Files* In most cases our files of bound magazines break off abruptly during the war years. Our unbound magazines number nearly three thousand. These should be bound and the sets completed as fast as possible. It is respectfully suggested that the sum of five hundred dollars would enable us to do this.
3. *Cooperation and New Material* There are a number of book collections in the immediate vicinity of the State Board of Health. It is our hope that before a year has passed they will see fit to turn over their libraries to us, in order that we may serve as a central point for medical literature. Such collections could be deposited with the State Board of Health as *loans* subject to withdrawal whenever desired by the agency loaning them. The books could be specially designated so as to avoid any danger of their being lost in our collection. Only by the progress of this library and the efficiency that it displays, however, can we hope to secure these collections. Hence, recommendations #1 and #2 are specially valuable in furthering this matter.
4. *Exchanges* We hope before the end of this year to have assembled all our duplicate material so that we will be in a better position to begin an extensive exchange with other libraries.
5. *Current Periodicals* We need a live list of current medical periodicals, both to carry on our sets and to start new ones.

#### Appendix II:

#### Bohnenberger's History of the Library, 1946<sup>45</sup>

One morning in the year 1889, Dr. Joseph Y. Porter sat down at a desk in newly opened offices in Jacksonville and assumed his duties as Florida's first State Health Officer. From what is known of Dr. Porter, it may be

taken for granted that on that very same day he carefully laid at least one medical reference book on the new desk — and as he did so, the Florida State Board of Health Library was begun.

The book on the desk that first day grew into two books, then into a pile of books. Medical journals, reprints, pamphlets and news clippings found their way to the desk, until finally Dr. Porter found it necessary to get a bookcase for the books, and a large package of manila envelopes in which to store the pamphlets. The news clippings he pasted in a big scrapbook.

Several years passed, and the bookcases lined the walls of Dr. Porter's office. The stacks of manila envelopes containing reprints and pamphlets grew higher, the unbound medical journals spilled over in unsightly heaps on the floor. A desk drawer was filled with news clippings waiting to be pasted in the newest scrapbook. Dr. Porter had accumulated a very important and valuable collection of printed material. Unfortunately, its very size decreased its value, because the collection was neither catalogued nor indexed. Dr. Porter discovered that he was not only preserving valuable information — he was burying it.

The great Jacksonville fire of 1901 temporarily solved this problem by destroying all but a fragment of the collection.

Dr. Porter was dashed but not defeated. Seated at another desk, in temporary offices, he wrote in his annual report of 1901 that the disastrous fire had destroyed almost all the early records of the State Board of Health, including the book collection. It is not improbable that even as he wrote, at least one book lay prophetically on the desk — an omen and a promise.

The promise was fulfilled — because over the next period of eight years, the number of books and journals accumulated was equal to, perhaps greater, than that destroyed in the fire of 1901. Some of these were purchased with State Board of Health funds, to fill a definite need of Dr. Porter and his assistants, many was [*sic*] given by private physicians, as well as by Dr. Porter. In an old wooden box up in the attic of the present State Board of Health building, there is a file of letters and hastily scribbled notes exchanged between Dr. Porter, his staff and other physicians, telling of various "finds" of new and old medical books which were added to the collection. The letters indicate a lively

<sup>45</sup> FSA, SBH: record group 810, series 902, box 3, folder 44. The notation on this undated typescript states that the account was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Fretwell on 11 March 1946 at the request of Dr. Webster Merritt of Riverside Hospital, Jacksonville.



interest in “rare” editions of medical and public health volumes. It is to be regretted that with the years, most of these “finds” have disappeared from the collection.

In 1912 the offices of the State Board of Health were moved to a permanent home built on land given by the City of Jacksonville. Dr. Porter was still State Health Officer, Dr. Henry Hanson was Senior Bacteriologist. The combination was a happy one for the fortunes of the book collection. Both were outstanding public health administrators — both were convinced of the value of books to their profession.

A special room in the new building was set aside to house the books, and over the door the word LIBRARY was inscribed in letters of gold. In his annual report of 1913 Dr. Porter writes that a librarian had been employed to put the book collection in order, to catalogue and to classify and index.

The librarian employed by Dr. Porter was untrained, but she was willing, industrious and courageous. She “indexed” everything. Traces of her struggle with the Dewey Decimal system are still discernible and bear testimony of the battle waged.

For a few years the Library flourished. Its patrons were the public health physicians and personnel employed to assist Dr. Porter with the increasing public health activities of Florida. Little mention of the Library is made in the annual reports, but occasional paragraphs in *Health Notes*, the monthly bulletin of the State Board of Health, cite books added to the collection, or carry a review of new books published.

In 1917, Dr. Porter retired — Dr. Hanson and the few others interested in the Library had sought greener fields — the librarian had married. For a few years, the books stood neglected on the shelves. One corner of the room became an office, another desk was brought in, then another. The gold letters over the door faded, the Library was forgotten and the books were relegated to the attic.

The number of trips those books make to the attic is in itself an index to the political ups and downs of public health activity in Florida. A competent State Health Officer appointed — down came the books. A political appointment — up they went to the attic. There was just time enough between trips to make a few additions to the collection, which were never noted in the “catalogue”

so diligently compiled by that first librarian. And it has even been rumored that during one political regime a considerable number of the books were burned — but this is only a rumor and should not be repeated.

In 1929 Dr. Henry Hanson returned to Florida as State Health Officer. In 1931 he had completed careful and long-range plans for the re-establishment of the State Board of Health Library. He had discussed the plans with officers of the Florida Medical Association, and the Duval County Medical Society, the home county of the State Board of Health. He had won the interest and approval of the three Board of Health members. He had talked with librarians, had visited medical libraries in other states. This time, he was determined, the Library should be established on such a proper and firm basis that it would survive any and all ill winds, whether they arose from political change, indifference, or a low point in state finances. The Library would also [sic: also], it was planned, be not only a public health library for the limited use of health personnel, but a general medical library, its services and its material available free of cost to any physician, nurse or public health worker in Florida.

In December 1931, Dr. Hanson secured a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation sufficient to pay the salary of a trained librarian for one year. On January 2, 1932, the new librarian hung her hat and coat in the old library room, glanced appreciatively at the faded gold letters above the library door, and climbed up the long attic stairway to view the book collection.

Even in the dust and disorder it was an impressive sight. Perhaps because the floor space had been needed for other purposes, a series of shelves had been built around the walls to accommodate the books. There were rows of textbooks, volumes of encyclopedias, long files of bound medical journals, and annual reports and bulletins from other state health departments. There were several “practices of medicine” in numerous volumes. Dr. Porter’s scrapbooks, their yellow clippings now an irreplaceable record of early public health in Florida were there — some of them. A file of *Health Notes* dating back to volume 1 lay beside a similarly old file of the *Journal of The Florida Medical Association* — some to prove to be the only existing copies in the state.

After weeks of sorting, discarding, the books were brought downstairs. They were accessioned (libraryized for “numbered”) classified and catalogued. Finally, all

were placed in order upon newly constructed shelves in the old library room. Once more, the old leather bindings cast a lovely light. A big library table occupied the center of the room, efficiently equipped with reading lamps, pencils, paper and ash trays. All was in readiness.

Two things were wrong — most of the books were at least twenty years old — and there were no customers.

The fault was not incorrigible. The State Board of Health voted to budget \$500 for the purchase of new books and journals. The Florida Medical Association volunteered to give all exchange journals to the Library. Gifts of books and journals were made by physicians and public health workers from many localities in Florida. There was a need and a desire for such a library on the part of many. The Library began to grow.

At the end of the first year 1,667 volumes were listed in the accession book. The Library subscribed to 15 medical journals. With the expiration of the grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the State Board of Health assumed the full cost of the librarian's salary.

Use of the Library increased as its logical patrons discovered [*sic*] it. A public health nurse, seeking information on proper equipment for a well-baby clinic, found that the Library could supply her with articles on this subject; an engineer discovered that the Library had a book on public water supplies which he needed; a stenographer, doubtful of the way to address a United States Senator's letter, found this delicate point of etiquette clearly stated in a library book; a busy physician asked for and received assistance in preparing a bibliography for his paper before a local medical society. Thus the "satisfied customers" were created and in turn did their part in advertising the library services.

In 1935, four years after its re-establishment, the Library contained 3,564 volumes, received 20 medical journals currently, and had a valuable collection of pamphlets and reprints numbering 1,776.

In 1941 the library ventured afield. In addition to the main collection in Jacksonville, "branch libraries" were started in several of the county health departments affiliated with the State Board of Health. Books and journals dealing with the major health problems of the state were first catalogued in the main library and then sent to the county health departments. This practice has been continued and most of the county units now have a small reference library for the use of the staff and also available to any physician or nurse in the area.

Also in 1941 a library bulletin, entitled *Abridging*, volume 1, number 1, was launched. The bulletin contained book reviews, lists of new books purchased, and an account of the services available from the Library. Unfortunately, the first issue of *Abridging* was also the last.

Although since 1937 the Library has occupied specially built quarters several times larger than the original "library room" — it has never been a really big library. Compared to many long-established and well endowed medical libraries, it is quite small. How then, has the Library managed to be of use to its many patrons — the physicians, public health workers, teachers, university students and citizens interested in the medical-social problems of the day? The answer lies in the judicious choice of books and journals purchased, and in the accumulation of indexes to medical literature.

## Nigel Phillips

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There are two such indexes which are important in the United States. The *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office*, and the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*. The Surgeon General's *Index* is excellent for historical reference and detailed description, the *Index Medicus*, compiled and published by the American Medical Association[,] is excellent for current as well as older material. These two reference sources, together a guide to the most important medical literature of all time, are on file in the State Board of Health Library. They are the eyes through which the librarian may view all medical literature. They are the tools with which she may reach out to the shelves of the country's great medical libraries and secure a book or a journal article for one of her patrons.

Through the years, material has been borrowed from the Surgeon General's Library, the library of the American Medical Association, Library of Congress, Boston Medical Library and many others. The cost to the borrower has been only the cost of mailing. Frequently photostatic copies of material needed have been made and sent rather than the volume itself. As microfilm equipment becomes more available, and standard for all libraries, medical literature, wherever located will be within even easier reach of library patrons.

In 1946 [the] Directory of the American Medical Association lists the State Board of Health Library as having [blank] volumes, etc. This statistical notation cannot tell of the growth of library service since its establishment. It cannot list the ways and means by which the Library will extend its services in the future. It can and does indicate a magnificent investment in medical progress in the state of Florida.

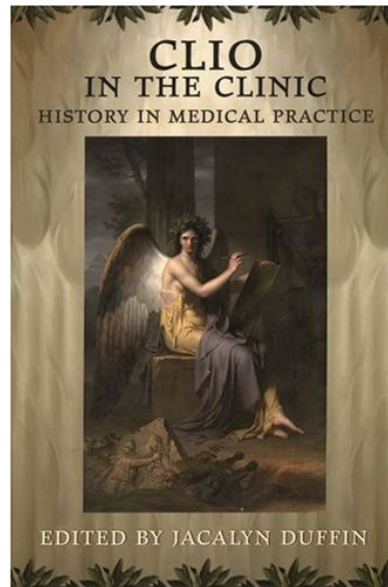
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## Book Reviews



*Clio in the Clinic: History in Medical Practice*, edited by Jacalyn Duffin. New York: Oxford University Press; Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005. xxii + 334 pages, illustrated, 24 cm. \$55.00 cloth, \$24.95 paperback. ISBN 0195161270 Oxford cloth, 0195161289 Oxford paperback, 0802038549 Toronto cloth, 0802037984 Toronto paperback.

History is immediate, as historians know and most people are inclined to overlook. Even among those who can appreciate the accounts of past events and peoples, the connection of the past to what we do in our everyday, work-a-day professional lives is deemed elusive if not illusory. The immediacy of history was illustrated tragically in June 2001 at Johns Hopkins University where the death of a research participant might have been avoided if, instead of relying solely on electronic resources, the researchers had returned to the 1950s *Index Medicus* in search of adverse reactions to a drug they were preparing to use in a clinical trial. Hindsight is not always one of perfect vision; indeed it is for the general purpose of finding clarity that we try to make sense of the past. Jacalyn Duffin became involved in analyzing the juncture between clinical practice and history in her own work, out of which grew the desire to know if others shared her interest. This collection of 23 illuminating and highly engaging essays by contributing authors grew from that interest.

Clinicians who wish to pursue the history of medicine must overcome hurdles. As the authors note, medical education is often thought to be shaped by disease and health only, rather than the array of past social, cultural, and natural events leading to the present. Colleagues steeped in quantitative studies and clinical protocols may look askance at the mention of a historical case study or narrative, as several of the authors note ("Historical Adventures in the Newborn Nursery: Forgotten Stories and Syndromes," and "*Speculum Medicinae*: Reflections of a Medievalist-Clinician"). Some authors



are struck by the way that history of medicine can put a case at hand into a comforting or satisfying perspective ("A Wartime 'Plague' in Crotone," "Plagues and Patients," and "Coping with the HIV/AIDS Epidemic"). Others are struck by the timelessness of medicine as reflected in their patient interactions ("Timeless Desperation and Timely Measures" and "A Brief History of Timelessness in Medicine").

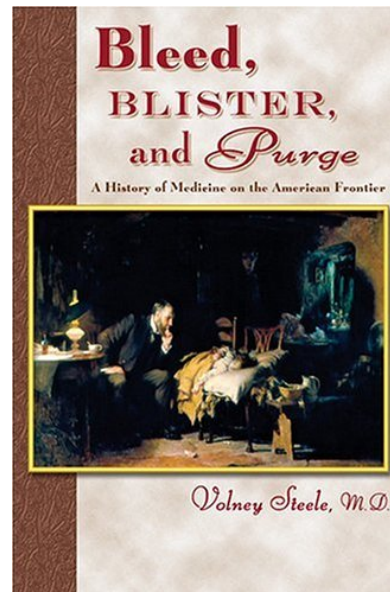
Some of the authors are historians by training. They pursue both tracks as part of their education and, in some cases, hold joint appointments in medicine and history at their institutions. For others history took root during their clinical training or practice and they pursue it out of pure pleasure. The wonder of the clinician/historian is that such a person chooses to pursue history at all. The authors in this work generally pursue their historical interests in addition to their clinical duties, which means managing schedules that are often very full. Clinicians are natural storytellers, as can be seen at any traditional morning report in the structured format for case presentation. Literature searches are a necessity for the clinician looking for an answer to a patient care question or the researcher preparing a new project or grant application. Yet few are drawn to incorporate any wider sense of the past into their current practices. The authors make the sacrifice for various reasons: some for the insight it provides, some for the love of knowing more about their specialty, and still others because it puts their work into a larger perspective that helps to make sense of the shortcomings of modern medicine.

What these essays describe in their various ways is not only what makes history interesting, but what makes it compelling for a full understanding of modern medicine. "There is no such thing as a historical emergency," one author recalls his chairman saying, yet he goes on to observe, "To see a young child with hydrocephalus and then return to a medieval manuscript which describes it ineluctably twines the two" (p. 43). "Historical exigency," he says elsewhere, "is thus a matter of training to meet a precise emergency" (p. 28).

Although each of the authors is writing at the juncture of history and medicine, the role that history plays varies and the period of history represented in this body of essays ranges from antiquity to the present day. All became historians by different routes, and all use history in their own personal ways, and all feel that history of medicine should inform clinical medicine.

*Clio in the Clinic* should be included in any medical or clinical library and is also recommended for university and college libraries.

Richard Nollan  
Associate Professor and Special Collections Librarian  
University of Tennessee Health Sciences Library



Volney Steele. *Bleed, Blister, and Purge: A History of Medicine on the American Frontier*. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2005. xxiii + 367 pages, illustrated, 23 cm. \$15.00. ISBN 0878425055.

Volney Steele, M.D., is a retired Bozeman pathologist. An Arkansas native, he came in 1959 to Bozeman, Montana, where he established Physician's Laboratory Services, a pathological and clinical business. He has also been active as a volunteer in Medico and Project Hope. He was the historic medicine consultant to the PBS production "Frontier House" and received an honorary Ph.D. from Montana State University.

He has created what we can hope is a new trend in the publication of state and local medical histories. *Bleed, Blister, and Purge* is a readable volume that places Montana medicine within the larger context of American medicine, particularly that of the post-colonial frontier. All groups of healers, including Native Americans, herb doctors, religious leaders, women, and the Chinese, in Montana's medical history have been treated with respect and the careful consideration they deserve. To quote the author, his purpose is "to shed light on and celebrate the dedication and humanitarianism of those many physicians, nurses, shamans, and people of sound practical sense who saw their patients — often friends and family — through the adversities that bedeviled them."

This not a medical history which proves to be only a list of names, membership rosters, dates, and random biographies. For the most part it is a smooth narrative

history which begins with Indian medicine and ends with the development of modern hospitals in Montana. Within the narrative we encounter medicine as practiced on the Lewis and Clark expedition, among the mountain men, among the pioneers on the trails west, in gold camps, in the Army forts, by pioneer women, and by the female physicians of the frontier. All are reviewed in a thoughtful manner.

Steele writes assuming that the reader has no knowledge of the history of medicine in general or epidemiology in particular. This book is self-contained and therefore should have great appeal to non-academics. Steele explains how diseases were spread, how they were treated in the past, and how they are now cured.

After reading only a few pages of this volume, I wished for a mailing list of all those who have asked me for a history of American medicine so that I could tell them about this book. The opening chapters are a synthesis of the scholarship of the last four decades as written by academic historians of medicine. Adding to this sophisticated viewpoint, Steele is also able to speak with the experience and assurance of a practicing physician.

Steele examines Native American medicine with the critical eye of a physician and the open-mindedness of a social historian. He has not relied only on the work of anthropologists and historians of Native Americans, but he has also sought out living Native Americans who could recount firsthand the conflict of traditional medicines and white medicine.

With equal respect, the author looks at the contributions of "granny," "yarb," and homeopathic medicine. Steele points out that the diet of the Chinese who labored under terrible conditions in Montana's mines and on railroads kept them free from the scurvy which plagued many others on the frontier.

The second half of the book focuses on Montana medicine. In this Steele has woven firsthand narratives of life on the Montana frontier. His bibliography can lead a researcher to many sources for these personal accounts. These chapters are as "politically correct" as the others. Within them are the fascinating stories of Montana doctors and patients.

The author acknowledges Todd Savitt among many others. Either through his own intent or that of Savitt,

this work is in accord with academic history of medicine. Unlike the authors of *Two Centuries of American Medicine, 1776-1976*, written nearly three decades ago, who dismissed the advice of Oswei Temkin when they "viewed medical history in the light of what we do now, emphasizing the extremes of what is far away from or what is near to our preferred way of doing things," Steele has produced a work that recognizes the skills of all healers on the frontier, whether shamans, grandmothers, church leaders, nurses, or even Calamity Jane (who nursed the sick during a smallpox outbreak in South Dakota), rather than dismissing all efforts at healing before 1900 as so much cultural trash.

The book provides numerous illustrations, although they could have been produced in higher quality. Many of these photographs will be familiar to the experts in the field, but since the book was not written for the initiated they should create interest. Steele also provides a six-page glossary for terms such as "ague," "black measles," and "ipecac." Extensive notes and bibliography support Steele's work. For the price this book should be in most collections and would make a great gift for the history of medicine non-specialist who is interested in the American West.

Nancy Eckerman  
Special Collections  
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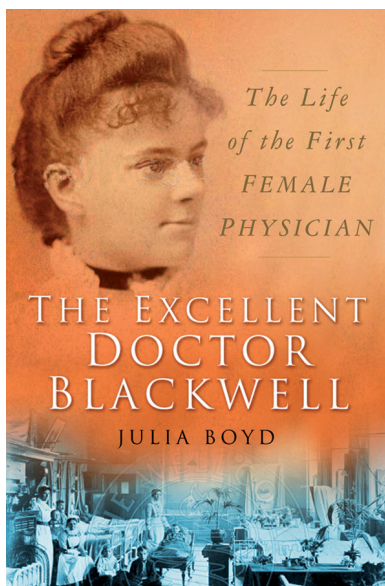
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Julia Boyd. *The Excellent Doctor Blackwell: The Life of the First Female Physician*.

Stroud, Gloucestershire: Sutton, 2005. xix + 314 pages, illustrated, portraits, genealogical table, 24 cm. £20.00 cloth. ISBN 0-7509-4140-5.

On Friday, February 11, 2000, I received a phone call out of the blue from a titled English lady at the University of Cam-

bridge who said that she was writing a book about Elizabeth Blackwell from a British perspective and would I please be so kind as to help her with a few questions. This was my first contact with Julia Boyd, whose long-gestated biography of Blackwell appeared in November 2005. Over the next few months in 2000 Julia and I discussed frequently by phone and e-mail Blackwell's time in Geneva, New York, her enemies in Boston, her supporters in Philadelphia, her legacy here at Upstate Medical University, and many other aspects of Blackwell's life and career that would eventually find their way into Julia's book.

Before I continue with this review a disclaimer is in order. I am the history of medicine specialist at the direct successor of the medical school that graduated the world's first woman physician. I have published six articles and a book chapter about Blackwell and have lectured about her seven times. Thus I am well qualified to evaluate this book. But I must mention that Julia and I soon became close friends. I stay with her and her husband Sir John when I visit England and she stays with me and my wife Diane when she visits America. Thus perhaps I should be disqualified from reviewing her work. Perhaps whatever praise I heap upon her should be taken with grains of salt. Nevertheless, it is true that Julia's book is the best biography of Elizabeth Blackwell ever written. I say this objectively, as a professional scholar of nineteenth-century intellectual and medical history, not as Julia's friend. I am proud to have had even a small role in its creation.

Julia is a meticulous researcher. She personally visited every repository in Britain and America that has primary source materials relating to Blackwell. During

these travels, she spoke on Blackwell at Upstate Medical University and the New York Academy of Medicine. Her use of the facts and images she found in these repositories is judicious, scholarly, and precise. Her narrative is abundant with quotes from diaries, correspondence, and other scarce or unique items, both manuscript and printed, all clearly documented. Each of these quotations is entirely germane to its matter at hand and most of them are quite fascinating. Every assertion Julia makes is well supported by primary sources.

The book is also a real page turner. Julia paints a vivid portrait of an opinionated, controlling, ambitious, but benevolent, idealistic, and mostly optimistic Elizabeth growing up in a large, close-knit, non-conformist, intellectual, religious, abolitionist family characterized by intensely competitive sibling rivalry and beset by sine waves of financial prosperity and despair. The story reads so much like a novel that readers could sometimes forget they are reading history.

Nevertheless, there are lacunae and ellipses. Expecting more detail in a certain section, I often felt frustrated when the narrative did not give it, but instead proceeded — not abruptly, but decisively — into another aspect of Blackwell's life. For example, Chapter Seven concerns her clinical training from March 9 to September 23, 1848, at "Old Blockley," the Philadelphia Almshouse, later Philadelphia General Hospital. Three times Julia mentions Blackwell's attending physician, "Dr. Benedict," with no first name and no further detail. Since he played a central role in Blackwell's life for six months and since she called him "the loveliest man the Almighty ever created," I would have liked to read a bit more about this "Dr. Benedict." [He was in fact Nathan Dow Benedict (1815-1871), a member of the University of Pennsylvania medical class of 1840, a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia since 1845, Amariah Brigham's successor at the New York State Asylum for Lunatics at Utica in 1849, and generally a rather interesting physician.]

The book could easily — and probably should — be twice as long. Blackwell led a very exciting life which could be told in greater depth without boring readers. Julia's fluid and graceful writing style could support this extra length with no trouble. Blackwell's encounters with physicians like Benedict, Austin Flint, Clemence Sophia Lozier, and many others deserve more than just mentions and allusions.



Blackwell did not become a physician because she was attracted to medicine or even to healing or compassion. Rather, she went into this field specifically to show the world what a properly motivated woman could achieve. Unlike the Seneca Falls feminists whom she criticized, she did not blame women's subservience and low social status on men. She believed instead that women's problems came mainly from their own lack of will to say and do what they most deeply believed was right. Moreover, she held that if women only exercised their natural moral superiority, infusing the ethos with maternal values, the world would be a better place.

Julia excels at showing Blackwell's philosophical, political, and religious growth. She traces the character of Blackwell's moralism, which was woman-centered but not feminist, and the influence of François-Marie Charles Fourier and William Henry Channing on the "Christian Socialism" that became her ideology.

The scholarly apparatus is impeccable and the bibliography contains some real gems, such as Redelia Brisbane's biography of Elizabeth's sister Anna's lover, the Fourierist Albert Brisbane; John Closkey's history of Philadelphia General Hospital; and Flint's anonymous article, "Female Physicians," *Buffalo Medical Journal* 3 (1848): 494-496.

Eric v.d. Luft  
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## Collections, Exhibits, and Access

### News from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia

The Library has recently acquired:

The Jones family papers — papers of four generations of doctors in central West Virginia, from the 1850s to the 1960s.

The Otto and Gisela Fleischmann Collection — books and manuscript material relating to Otto Fleischman (1896-1963), a Hungarian psychoanalyst who was in Freud's circle in Vienna in the 1920s and 1930s, and who participated in Raoul Wallenberg's rescue of Hungarian Jews in 1944.

The Legionnaire's disease diary of Philip Graitcer, the first CDC officer to investigate the outbreak at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia.

Papers of the Health Law Project of the early 1970s at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The Health Law Project was designed to train lawyers to advocate for the health rights of the poor.

The Mütter Museum has opened a new exhibit space, the "Gretchen Worden Gallery." The current exhibits are "A Body in Parts" and a display on the life and career of the museum's late director, Gretchen Worden.

Two fully searchable eighteenth-century Pennsylvania manuscripts are available through the College's Web site: [www.collphyphil.org](http://www.collphyphil.org) or directly at [contentdm.collphyphil.org](http://contentdm.collphyphil.org):

A bilingual (German and English) formulary, the *Medicina Pennsylvania* of George de Benneville, a radical Protestant with ties to the German Pietist movement.


*Remediorum Specimina*, the record of the practice and recipes of Abraham Wagner, a Schwenckfelder practitioner from Silesia.

At the direct site, please click first on "About the Manuscripts" for instruction on how to make best use of the digitized editions.

These manuscripts can be dated roughly to the period 1740 to 1780. Both drew on numerous eighteenth-century continental European and English sources — explicitly in the case of the Wagner manuscript and unacknowledged in the *Medicina Pennsylvania* — and both offer copious and often highly technical recipes

from the armamentarium of chemical and botanical substances that were in general use at the end of the early modern period. Similar to other physician manuals of the period, they lay out medicinals and related procedures for treatment of major diseases and conditions. *Medicina Pennsylvania* is held by the College Library, and *Remediorum Specimina* belongs to the Schwenkfelder Library of Pennsburg, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The objective of this project, supported by grants from the National Library of Medicine and the Humboldt Stiftung of Germany, is to make accessible a body of writings that offer insight into some of the lesser known medical resources available to the North American colonial population. The principal investigator is Prof. Renate Wilson of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University. The work was initiated at the College of Physicians by Charles Greifenstein, now at the American Philosophical Society. After Greifenstein left the College, the technical work was completed by Laura Blanchard, executive director of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collection Libraries (PACSCL).



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### ***Wellcome Witnesses to Twentieth-Century Medicine***

The new *Wellcome Witnesses to Twentieth-Century Medicine* are now freely available online. In keeping

with the Wellcome Trust policy of open access to the published output of research, all 24 volumes of *Wellcome Witnesses to Twentieth Century Medicine* are now freely available to download at <[www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/publications/wellcome-witnesses/index.html](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/publications/wellcome-witnesses/index.html)>. These edited and annotated transcripts of meetings cover major topics in modern medical science, including monoclonal antibodies, NMR and MRI, heart transplant surgery in the UK, haemophilia, medical research and education in Africa, childhood asthma, leukaemia, several MRC research units, genetic testing, obstetric ultrasound, and maternal care.

Included are the two most recent volumes, which chart two major advances in medicine: the understanding of the role of platelets in coronary heart disease, and the introduction of a short-term chemotherapy for the treatment of tuberculosis. Both relied heavily on the outcomes of large randomized controlled trials.

As vol. 23 (ISBN 0854841032) shows, recent research on platelets started with the introduction of *ex vivo* methods which established platelets' roles in haemostasis, and thus in both thrombotic and bleeding disorders, which were furthered by Gustav Born's invention and development of his eponymous optical aggregometer. *Witnesses* explains the biochemistry and function of platelets, the platelet release reaction and the effect of aspirin on it (including Sir John Vane's Nobel Prize winning discovery of aspirin's inhibition of prostaglandins), and the results of randomized controlled trials of aspirin and other thrombolytic drugs for the prevention of thrombotic conditions.

The introduction in 1952 of isoniazid established the standard treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis: streptomycin, isoniazid, and either thiacetazone or para-aminosalicylic acid. Patients had to take treatment for eighteen or even twenty-four months under supervision. By 1970 a move towards short-course chemotherapy was made, in part due to experimental work in mice at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, and in part to experiments at the Hammersmith Hospital, London. A series of large controlled clinical trials in East and Central Africa, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, and elsewhere showed that a remarkable and quite unpredictable simplification of treatment could be made with a major cost-benefit. This *Witness* seminar brought together a group of experts who were involved in some of the significant developments in the treatment of tuberculosis (vol. 24, ISBN 0854841040).


The records and tapes from all *Witness* meetings are also on deposit in GC/253, Archives and Manuscripts, Wellcome Library, London, and can be searched online at <archives.wellcome.ac.uk/DServe/dserve.exe?&dsqIni=Dserve.ini&dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Search.tcl>.

Hard copies of vols. 23 and 24 can be ordered for £6.00 or \$10.00 plus postage from <www.amazon.co.uk>, <www.amazon.com>, and all good booksellers, quoting the ISBN.

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## World War II Hospital Films Available

In the spring of 2005, the Mount Sinai Archives undertook a project to provide images and footage for a short film celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the return of our World War II unit, the Third General Hospital. This film was shown at the Crystal Ball, a fundraising event held each year at the Medical Center to raise money for research.

The project started with our president's desire to honor remaining veterans of the unit, especially one nurse who is today a major donor and trustee. The administration contacted the Archives to see what resources were available. The archivist outlined the possibilities: hundreds of photographs; a manuscript unit history with colored pencil drawings; period uniforms; letters home; contemporary publications; and, oh yes, twelve 8-mm. films of unknown quality made by a physician in the unit. Bingo!

The idea of creating a film received immediate approval. We hired a film maker, began a script, and the ar-

chivist started making accessible these films that had not been seen in almost sixty years. The first step was finding a company to clean and transfer the reels: Vi-dipax here in New York. We decided to create DVD use copies, plus Beta SP versions as masters. We chose this format because it is "migratable," and our Media Office had the player and ability to deal with it.

The film quality was good in some sections, excellent in others, and really poor in others. The most difficult aspect was that these are silent films, with very little to indicate where or when the action is occurring. Naming the people was easier because the Archives has an extensive collection of identified photographs from the unit. We were fortunate to find many cameos of our nurse/trustee. The content was a kind of home movie to send to the immediate and hospital family. Everyday hospital life was captured, emphasizing the conditions for the doctors and nurses. Scenes around the unit were included from boot camp in Alabama to war's end in France, plus great scenes of life in North Africa, tourist visits around Italy and Paris in 1945, including dancers at the Folies Bergères. *Ooh, la, la!*

After hours and hours of work, the resulting "documentary" was a six-and-a-half-minute production that included several pieces of film, stills from the Archives, as well as images of memorabilia and documents from the collection. The nurse at the center of this was interviewed for the soundtrack, but could not attend the event.

Barbara J. Niss,  
Mount Sinai Archives

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## Family Advisor: Everybody's Own Physician

A new exhibit, "Family Advisor: Everybody's Own Physician," opened in September 2005 at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences in Newark. The exhibit features thirty-five rare books illustrating domestic or popular medicine, primarily in the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Artwork and related artifacts round out the display.

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, individuals and families often relied on themselves to treat or prevent illness, finding the information they needed in books and pamphlets. Access to trained physicians was limited, due either to distance or cost, or for both reasons. Before most people tried to see a physician, they would attempt treatment with home remedies or consult various guides to health and healing that were issued to the general public specifically for this purpose. The books and pamphlets on display were used and written by a variety of healthcare providers — allopathic, osteopathic, homeopathic, eclectic, and herbal or Thomsonian (botanic) practitioners.

For more information please visit the exhibit's Web site <[www.umdj.edu/librweb/speccoll/exhibits.html](http://www.umdj.edu/librweb/speccoll/exhibits.html)> or e-mail Lois Densky-Wolff <[densky@umdj.edu](mailto:densky@umdj.edu)>.

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## Iron Lung Exhibit on the Web

The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library at the University of Virginia is pleased to announce the opening of a new Web exhibit, "Iron Lung" <[historical.hsl.virginia.edu/ironlung/](http://historical.hsl.virginia.edu/ironlung/)>. The exhibit explores the development of the iron lung during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and considers the reasons for its success during the height of the poliomyelitis epidemics. The online exhibit, even though open to the public, is a work in progress. The site will eventually have an interactive component allowing visitors to share their memories and comments. The Web exhibit has a physical counterpart in the Library lobby, where the impossible-to-ignore iron lung on display has proven to be a catalyst for eliciting remembrances and commentary. The guest book present in the physical exhibit is an important part of the viewers' experience and this component will be replicated in the online exhibit.

Andrew Sallans <[als9q@virginia.edu](mailto:als9q@virginia.edu)>, Historical Collections Specialist, researched and compiled the content for the online and physical exhibits. Steve Stedman <[sjs6e@virginia.edu](mailto:sjs6e@virginia.edu)>, Webmaster for the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, conceived and executed the design of the "Iron Lung" online exhibit.

Joan Echtenkamp Klein  
Alvin V. and Nancy Baird Curator of Historical Collections and Assistant Professor for Medical Education  
Claude Moore Health Sciences Library  
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<[www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/historical/](http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/historical/)>



## Good Listening

### First Cambridge Wellcome Lecture

On December 1, 2005, the University of Cambridge Department of History and Philosophy of Science,



supported by a Wellcome enhancement award in the history of medicine, presented the First Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine. Helen King of the University of Reading spoke on "Women's Bodies in Sixteenth-Century Medicine: Using the Classical Tradition." At a workshop earlier the same day King introduced a discussion of a paper that was pre-circulated to participants, "William Smellie vs. John Burton: Using the History of Medicine in Eighteenth-Century Obstetrics."



### Lectures at the University of Alabama

The David Hill Chestnut, M.D., Section on the History of Anesthesia, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, announces its schedule of lectures for 2005-2006. These lectures are part of the department's Grand Rounds series on Monday afternoons and are free and open to the public. All speakers are Section faculty unless otherwise noted. Information about the Section can be found at <[www.anes.uab.edu/hoasection.htm](http://www.anes.uab.edu/hoasection.htm)>.

On November 21, 2005, John W. Severinghaus, M.D., Professor of Anesthesia Emeritus at the University of California, San Francisco, and the Section's Annual Visiting Professor in Anesthesia History, gave two talks: "The Hidden Letter: The Discovery of Oxygen" and "Controversies in the Regulation of Respiration."

Further talks are: "The Chloroform Plot to Hijack the Monitor" by Maurice S. Albin, M.D., on January 16, 2006; "History of the First American Society of Regional Anesthesia" by Mark G. Mandabach, M.D., on February 13, 2006; and "Early Physician Anesthetists in Alabama" by A.J. Wright, M.L.S., on April 24, 2006. For more information contact:

A.J. Wright, M.L.S., Associate Professor  
Director, Section on the History of Anesthesia  
Department of Anesthesiology Library  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
619 19th Street South, JT965  
Birmingham AL 35249-6810  
phone 205-975-0158  
fax 205-975-5963  
<[ajwright@uab.edu](mailto:ajwright@uab.edu)>  
<[www.anes.uab.edu/libraryinformation.htm](http://www.anes.uab.edu/libraryinformation.htm)>

### UMDNJ History of Medicine Lecture Series

A History of Medicine Lecture Series is held during the 2005-2006 academic year at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences. All lectures are free and open to the public but preregistration is required. To register, please contact Lois Densky-Wolff at <[densky@umdnj.edu](mailto:densky@umdnj.edu)> or 973-972-7830. The scheduled talks are:

George J. Hill, M.D., D.Litt., "Edison and Medicine: The Great Inventor's Impact on Health, the Environment, and the Practice of Medicine" on October 11, 2005.

Fred Skvara, M.D., "Christmas Seals and Charity Stamps — The Medical Connection" on December 13, 2005.

Sandra Moss, M.D., M.A., "Up from Tuskegee in the 1920s: John A. Kenney, M.D. and the 'Race Hospital' in Newark" on February 1, 2006.

Bart Holland, Ph.D., "Clinical Trials of Unicorn's Horn: Plague Medicine at the Start of the Scientific Revolution" on a date in April 2006 to be announced.

For more information about the speakers and their illustrated lectures, please follow this link:  
<[www.umdnj.edu/librweb/news0509.html](http://www.umdnj.edu/librweb/news0509.html)>.



### History of the Army Medical Museum

Michael Rhode, Chief Archivist of the Otis Historical Archives at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, offered "The Rise and Fall of the Army Medical Museum and Library" on November 16, 2005, at the Charles Sumner School, 17<sup>th</sup> and M Streets NW, Washington, D.C. His presentation illuminated the establishment of the Army Medical Museum during the Civil War, its growth in Ford's Theater, and its merger with the Surgeon General's Library (now the National Library of Medicine), leading to the necessity of a new building.

The building that housed the Army Medical Museum and Library, designed by Adolf Cluss, opened on the Mall in Washington, D.C., in 1887. The Museum and the Library remained in the building until the 1960s when the building was demolished to make way for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Rhode

discussed the building, the history of its eighty years of existence, its designation as a national historic landmark, and its destruction.

Rhode's hour-long illustrated lecture was followed by a tour of the exhibit. For further information on the Adolf Cluss International Exhibition Project, see <[www.adolf-cluss.org/](http://www.adolf-cluss.org/)>. On its connection with the Sumner School Museum and Archives, see <[sumnerschool.adolf-cluss.org/](http://sumnerschool.adolf-cluss.org/)>. For more information about the Otis Historical Archives, see <[nmhm.washingtondc.museum/collections/archives/archives.html](http://nmhm.washingtondc.museum/collections/archives/archives.html)>.



## Miscellanea

### Bakken Library Research Opportunities

Each year, the Bakken Library and Museum of Electricity in Life (Minneapolis) offers two forms of assistance to facilitate research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, and instruments: Visiting Research Fellowships and Research Travel Grants.

Visiting Research Fellowships up to a maximum of \$1,500 are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is two weeks. Preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating with The Bakken on exhibits or other programs. The deadline for visiting research applications is February 20, 2006.

Research Travel Grants up to a maximum of \$500 (domestic) and \$750 (foreign) are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is one week. Application may be made at any time during the calendar year — there are no deadlines.

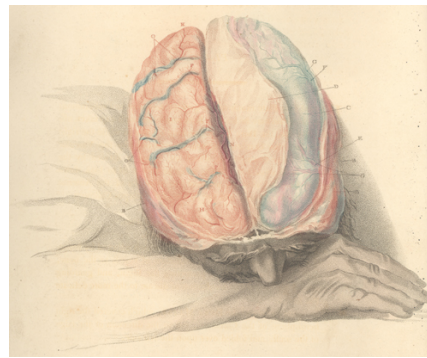
The Bakken collections include approximately 11,000 books, journals, and manuscripts, and close to 2,000 instruments and machines. The subject of the collections is the history of electricity and magnetism with a focus on their roles in the life sciences and medicine. For more information about The Bakken's collections, go to <[www.thebakken.org](http://www.thebakken.org)> and click on "Library" or

"Research" on the home page. For application guidelines or further information, please contact:

Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian  
The Bakken Library and Museum  
3537 Zenith Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
phone 612-926-3878, ext. 227  
fax 612-927-7265  
<[Ihrig@thebakken.org](mailto:Ihrig@thebakken.org)>



## Quiz Question



The physician-artist who drew this brain was:

- A. Frederik Ruysch
- B. Robert Hooper
- C. Charles Bell
- D. Harvey Cushing
- E. Jean Cruveilhier

(Answer below on page 27.)



## Security at NLM

Security has been increased at the National Library of Medicine and the entire National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland with the completion of a perimeter fence around the entire site. Improving NIH security has been an ongoing concern since 9/11. For details of current NIH security procedures, go to: <[www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm](http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm)>.

*Nothing* has been done that will block on-site access to NLM. Both NLM and the History of Medicine Division in particular recognize that its core function is to provide access to its unique collections to all who need to consult them. Some things *will* be different. Visitors will now enter the campus through a new Gateway Center, and some paths and walkways have been re-routed. However, individual patrons can still enter the campus without prior arrangements or appointments, and groups are still welcome for tours or special programs. Check with the appropriate NLM staff or see <[www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm](http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm)> for details.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Greenberg. As always, NLM looks forward to your visit.

Stephen J. Greenberg, M.S.L.S., Ph.D.  
Coordinator of Public Services  
History of Medicine Division  
National Library of Medicine  
phone 301-435-4995  
<greenbes@mail.nih.gov>



## Special Issue on the History of Medicine

Jonathon Erlen of the University of Pittsburgh writes: "I want to call your attention to a very recent publication on the history of medicine that may be of interest to you. Several years ago the Organization of American Historians contacted Todd Savitt and invited the AAHM to produce an entire issue of the *OAH Magazine of History*. Todd was kind enough to offer this responsibility to Kathleen Jones and myself as co-editors of this issue. Our selected authors have done tremendous work producing this landmark issue, with the goal of promoting the teaching of history of medicine as part of general American history survey courses, from junior high school through graduate level in university education. The topics covered in this special issue include medical/health care issues related to slavery, the Civil War, nursing, public health, human experimentation, and women.

"I encourage you to look at this special issue and pass it along to your colleagues who teach American history survey courses. This is our best chance yet to market the history of medicine and health care to a very broad audience. This issue of the *OAH Magazine of History* is volume 19, no. 5, September 2005. Kathleen and I welcome all your comments on this issue."



## ACOG Fellowships in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists announces that the recipient of the year 2006 ACOG Fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology is Carol Ann Stamm, M.D.,

FACOG, whose research project is "Sharing the Secret: the History of Emergency Contraception."

ACOG sponsors one fellowship in the History of American Obstetrics and Gynecology each year. The award carries a stipend of \$5000 to be used to defray expenses while spending a month in the Washington, D.C., area, working full-time to complete a specific historical research project on some aspect of American obstetric-gynecologic history.

Although the fellowship is based in the ACOG History Library, the fellow is encouraged to use other national, historical, and medical collections in the Washington area. The results of this research must be disseminated through either publication or presentation at a professional meeting.

Additional information is posted on the ACOG Web site under "Information"/"History Library/Archives" at: <www.acog.org>. Applications and further information about the fellowship can be obtained by contacting:

Debra Scarborough, History Librarian/Archivist  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
409 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
phone 202-863-2578 or 202-863-2518  
fax 202-484-1595  
<dscarborough@acog.org>

The application must be received by October 1, 2006. ACOG Junior Fellows and Fellows are encouraged to apply. Selection will be made and the recipient notified as soon as possible after the deadline so that the fellowship may begin as early as Winter 2006.



## The Heritage Health Index

The Heritage Health Index has nothing to do with "health" in the medical sense. It is, rather, a measure of the health of our heritage, i.e., a quantitative assessment of the preservation needs of archives, artifacts, manuscripts, scientific and cultural memorabilia, etc., in American collections.

It is the product of Heritage Preservation <www.heritagepreservation.org/>, a non-profit organization

headquartered at 1012 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005. In partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and supported by the Getty Grant Program, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Bay Foundation, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, the Peck Stacpoole Foundation, and the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Heritage Preservation conducted an extensive survey of American libraries, museums, and other repositories from August to December 2004.

The basic announcement of survey results, released on December 6, 2005, is at <[www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/index.html](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/index.html)>, a PDF of the full report is downloadable at <[www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/summary.html](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/summary.html)>, and “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) are answered at <[www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/HHIFAQ.HTM](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/HHIFAQ.HTM)>.

The good news is that someone actually went out and did this work. The bad news is that the survey found: “65% of collecting institutions have experienced damage to collections due to improper storage. 80% of U.S. collecting institutions do not have an emergency plan that includes collections, with staff trained to carry it out. 190 million objects are in need of conservation treatment.”



### **Dittrick Offers Tour of Paris Medical Museums, April 1-8, 2006**

The Dittrick Museum is again offering a museum tour led by Jim Edmonson, this time featuring the medical museums of Paris during the week of April 1-8. We will team again with Sue Weir, who helped make the 2004 London tour such a resounding success.

The Paris tour will feature a gallery visit and lunch with curator Annick Perrot at the Musée Pasteur and also with Marie-Véronique Clin at the Musée de l'Histoire de la Médecine (Université René Descartes — Paris V), and dinner with both at Mme. Clin's favorite Paris restaurant. Other medical museums scheduled for curator-led tours include the Musée Dupuytren (nineteenth-century anatomy), the Musée de l'Assistance Publique et des Hôpitaux de Paris (public health and hospitals), and the Musée du Service de Santé des Armées (military medicine) housed in the beautiful Val de Grâce cloister. At the Musée National des Arts et Métiers

(technology) we will meet Professeure des Universités Dominique Ferriot, who will discuss that museum's major renovation under her guidance (1988-2000). No trip to France would be complete without a visit to Versailles and fine dining, and we've got both in store to wrap things up. The tour will include a free day for fashionable shopping on the rue de Rivoli or in the antique shops of St.-Germain-des-Prés (including Alain Brieux specializing in rare medical books and instruments!), or scale the Tour Eiffel, or visit the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay. All in all, this tour promises to be a truly memorable travel experience.

For a brochure about the tour and registration information, please see our Web site: <[www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/news/travel/paris.pdf](http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/news/travel/paris.pdf)>.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Jim at <[james.edmonson@case.edu](mailto:james.edmonson@case.edu)> or 216-368-6391. For itineraries and images of past tours, and announcements of coming tours, visit our Web site: <[www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/news/travel.html](http://www.cwru.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2/news/travel.html)>.

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<[www.case.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2](http://www.case.edu/artsci/dittrick/site2)>



### **“Good Old Doctor Mac”**

Phil Maples, Director of the Baker-Cederberg Museum and Archives in Rochester, New York, reports: “*Good Old Doctor Mac* by Father Robert F. McNamara is an anecdotal biography of his father, Dr. Thomas Alexander McNamara (1856-1927). Dr. Mac practiced in Corning, Steuben County, New York. This is a story of a rural physician who practiced from the 1880s until his death. These were the formative years for American medicine emerging from the ‘dark ages.’ Now the story is told from the country doctor's perspective. The book is 130 pages with illustrations and can be purchased for \$12.95 from Decon Press, 311 Turner St., Utica, NY 13501.”



## A Few Words from the Editor

James Alsop's article on an aspect of public health librarianship — in this issue — is the first substantive research paper to appear in *The Watermark* since Caroline Duroselle-Melish's "A Telling of Wonders: Teratology in Western Medicine" in Fall 2001. I am especially delighted with this development because it comes so soon after my "Call for Papers" in the Spring 2005 issue and my announced plans in the Winter 2004-2005 issue to beef up *The Watermark*'s content and prestige.

I hope that you all enjoy Alsop's work, and that its inclusion will encourage other scholars to submit papers concerned with — as I said in the "Call for Papers" — "librarianship, archival science, information theory, medical history, library history, biography, ethics, literature, or anything else of professional or scholarly interest to us as archivists, librarians, or intellectuals concerned with the history of bioscience."

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## Short-Term Fellowships in Medical History at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia

The Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia is pleased to announce short-term grants available for Resident Research Fellowships in 2006-2007.

All three fellowship programs carry a maximum grant of \$1000, and require at least one week's residence at the College of Physicians. Grants will be awarded to scholars engaged in projects requiring use of the Historical Medical Library or Mütter Museum between

July 2006 and June 2007. The grants are intended for travel to Philadelphia or to offset income loss and research expenses.

Wood Fellowships are general research fellowships in medical history, and may be used for work on any subject covered by the collections of the library or museum. The Wood Institute acknowledges the annual contributions of the College's Women's Committee to the Wood Fellowship Fund, and designates up to four grantees each year as "Women's Committee Fellows." Women's Committee Fellows will be selected from the general pool of Wood Fellowship applicants.

The Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine also supports up to two research Fellows in the College Library. Foundation Fellows will be selected from a separate pool and applications will be judged by a joint committee of the Wood Institute and the Foundation. Foundation Fellowships are offered specifically for research related to the history of women and medicine. Preference will be given to projects that deal specifically with women as physicians or other health workers, but proposals dealing with the history of women's health issues will be considered. Foundation Fellows are specifically invited to utilize the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine at the Drexel University College of Medicine *in addition to* the College's collections. Arrangements must be made independently with the Archives.

Anyone with a legitimate research need for the print, manuscript, or artifactual collections of the College of Physicians is invited to apply. Applicants should submit proposals of no more than one thousand words, including necessary length of residence, historical materials to be used, and a budget (with specific information on travel, lodging, and research expenses), along with a curriculum vitae and one letter of recommendation. The application deadline for the 2006-2007 cycle is April 3, 2006. *E-mail applications are encouraged.* Individuals interested in applying for this program should send pertinent materials to:

Sofie Sereda, Administrative Assistant  
Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine  
The College of Physicians of Philadelphia  
19 South 22nd Street  
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For further information on the College and its library and museum collections, please consult our Web site: <[www.collphyphil.org](http://www.collphyphil.org)>.



### Borden Book on Military Urology

The Borden Institute's latest book in the acclaimed Textbooks of Military Medicine series, *Urology In The Vietnam War: Casualty Management and Lessons Learned*, provides a thorough review of the management of urological war wounds and examines current techniques in the treatment of battlefield and civilian urological trauma.

The 260-page book, complete with case studies, offers historical, medical, and surgical considerations relating to urological injuries during the Vietnam War. Renal injuries, blunt pelvic trauma, penile injuries, anterior urethral penetrating and blunt injuries, and lessons learned in the management of casualties with genitourinary system injuries are included.

"We managed all of the Vietnam genitourinary casualties who were evacuated to the U.S. Army Hospital in Japan from 1966 to 1971, during which we maintained and kept all records on patients with urological conditions," said author and retired U.S. Army Colonel Dr. John N. Wettlaufer about his extensive work with Dr. John W. Weigel, a retired Army military surgeon who also served in Vietnam. "The data presented in this book were extracted from our multiple reviews of these case records over the many years since then."

"Although significant time has elapsed since the Vietnam War, many of the lessons learned from this war and relearned from prior wars are still applicable in both the military and the civilian trauma casualty environments," said Army Surgeon General Lieutenant General Kevin C. Kiley.

"This volume may be especially valuable and applicable in these times of increased terrorism, disasters, and mass casualty events," Kiley said.

The Borden Institute, Office of The Surgeon General, US Army, was conceived in 1986. The Borden Institute's publications are available free of charge to qualified U.S. military medical personnel. Each book

is a comprehensive reference on the art and science of military medicine, extensively illustrated, and written in an easy-to-follow narrative. The books are designed to show how military medicine has built on the lessons learned in past wars and lays out the scientific basis on which the practice of military medicine is grounded.

For more information on the Borden Institute and how to order the publications, visit the organization online at <[www.bordeninstitute.army.mil](http://www.bordeninstitute.army.mil)>.

Andy C. Szul

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## Student Support at the Wellcome

The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London is pleased to announce the availability of one or more studentships to support students enrolling for the M.A. in the History of Medicine in September 2006. The value of the studentships will be about £17,000 plus payment of fees at the "home" student rate. Details of the course may be found at <[www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/teaching/MA/index.html](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/teaching/MA/index.html)>. Enquiries and applications should be submitted to: Adam Wilkinson, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, 210 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE UK. His e-mail is <[a.wilkinson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.wilkinson@ucl.ac.uk)>. The closing date for applications is June 1, 2006.

The Wellcome is also pleased to invite applications for the Roy Porter Memorial Studentship in the History of Medicine. This award commemorates the distinguished historian and scholar who died in 2002, and is intended to support a Ph.D. candidate enrolled at the Centre. The award is for three years and is tenable from September 2006. The value of the award is about £18,000 plus the payment of fees at the "home" rate. Initial applications should consist of a curriculum vitae and a one-page outline of the proposed research topic. The closing date for applications is February 1, 2006. Please submit them also to Adam Wilkinson and visit our Web site at <[www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/)>.

Further information about support for graduate student research at the Wellcome is online at <[www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/howto/history\\_studentship\\_phd.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/howto/history_studentship_phd.html)>; <[www.wellcome.ac.uk/funding/medicalhumanities/hom/](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/funding/medicalhumanities/hom/)>; and <[www.wellcome.ac.uk/node2342.html](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/node2342.html)>.

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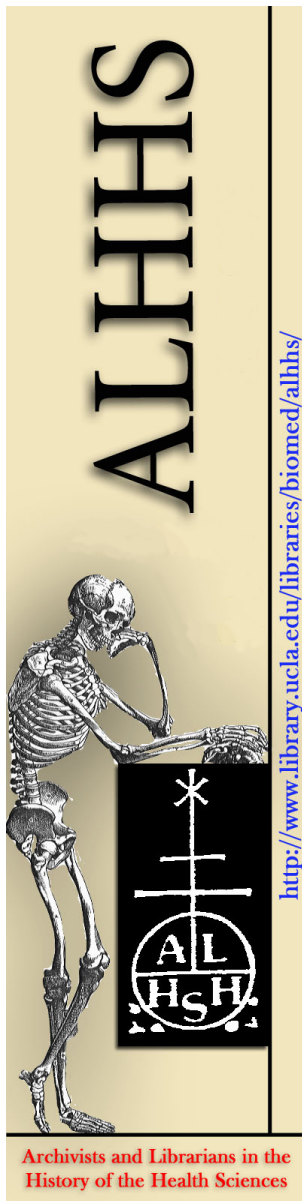
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*The Watermark* encourages submissions of news and stories about events, collections, catalogues, people, awards, grants, publications, and anything else of professional interest to the members of ALHHS. Please submit your contributions in a timely way to Eric Luft, preferably as e-mail attachments.

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