

**MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES
OF
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL**

**1300 York Avenue #34
New York, NY 10065**

Finding Aid to the

**THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN
(WILLIAM POLK, G. CANBY ROBINSON, NILES)
CORNELL UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE**

Dates of Records:

1903-1934

7.5 Linear Inches

(2 Boxes)

Finding Aid Prepared By:

Archival Staff

1984

Background

The Cornell University Medical College was created in 1898. At that time the President of Cornell University requested Dr. William Mecklenburg Polk to serve as the first Dean (see Box 6, 13, The Records of the Office of the Dean (Hinsey) for a copy of the letter President Schurman wrote to Polk): As the Head of one of the schools of Cornell University, the Dean's responsibilities are outlined in the By-laws of the University. Today, as in the early years, the Dean is charged with the administrative responsibility over the Medical College, its personnel and the teaching programs and research therein. The Dean is appointed by the Board of Trustees, after consideration of the faculty's opinion, and serves at the Board's pleasure. The Dean is in control of the expenditures of the Medical College and is to keep these within the bounds of the amounts appropriated by the Board.

The first 50 years of the Medical College saw five different men as Dean: William M. Polk, 1898-1918 (he died 6/23/18); Walter L. Niles, 1918-1928; G. Canby Robinson (Head), 1928 -October 1934; William S. Ladd, 1934-1941; Walter L. Niles July -Dec. 1941; and Joseph C. Hinsey, 1942-July 1953.

Dr. Robinson was the head of the Medical College but not given the title Dean. He was also the Director of the newly formed New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College Association. At his retirement in October 1934, William S. Ladd stepped up to serve as Dean. Ill health forced Ladd's retirement in July of 1941 and Walter Niles returned and served until his death Dec. 22, 1941. At this time, Joseph Hinsey, Professor of Anatomy, was appointed Dean. He held this post until July of 1953 when he became the Director of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Succeeding Hinsey as Dean were: E. Hugh Luckey, 8/1953 -1957; John E. Deitrick, 1957-1969; J. Robert Buchanan, 1969 -1/1977; Theodore Cooper, 1977-1980; and Thomas H. Meikle, Jr., 1980 to the present (1984). Dr. Meikle also served as Acting Dean before the appointment of Dr. Cooper in 1977.

Scope and Content

These papers represent the extant files of the Office of the Dean for the years when Drs. Polk, Niles, and Robinson served in that position. They contain material relating to the Cornell Clinic (Annual Reports 1926/27 and 1928), the Departments (Annual Reports 1928/29-1933/34), the faculty, and the affiliation with the New York Hospital in 1927. There are also Annual Reports of the New York Hospital Laboratories (1928, 1932-1934) and departments (1932-1934) which were sent to Dr. Robinson in his capacity as Director of the Medical Center. Of special note is the file on James Douglas' Last Will and Testament in which he bequeathed money to Memorial Hospital and Cornell Medical College (Box 2, f. 11), and correspondence regarding the reaction of the faculty of the Department of Surgery to the implementation of the full-time system in 1932 -a plan which many of the faculty felt left them out.

Subjects

Affiliations
Anatomy
Annual Reports
Bacteriology
Biochemistry
Bellevue Hospital
Bequests
Camac, C. N. B.
Cornell Clinic
Columbia University 2:8
Curriculum
Dermatology
Douglas, James, and Deeds of Trust
DuBois, Eugene 2:10
ENT
Endocrinology
Equipment

Ewing, James
Faculty
Guion, Connie M. 1 :1-2
Heuer, George
Laboratories
Lusk, Graham
Medicine, Department of
Memorial Hospital
Neurology
OB/GYN
Ophthalmology
Orthopedics
Otological Clinic
Pathology
Payne, Oliver Hazard
Pediatrics
Pharmacology
Physiology
Psychology
Public Health
Radiology
Schurman, J .G.
Stimson, Candace 2:16
Surgery
Urology

Non-Manuscript Material

Several photographs of Oliver H. Payne were removed from Box 2, 15. They were all informal shots given to Cornell by Candace Stimson. They are now in the Archives' Photo Collection.

Container List

Box 1

- 1 Annual Reports, Cornell Clinic, Depts. 1926-1927
- 1a Annual Report, Dean to President, Cornell University, 1927-1928
- 2 Annual Reports, Cornell Clinic, Departments, 1928; Cornell University Medical College, Departments, 1928/1929; Laboratories, New York Hospital, 1928
- 3 Annual Reports, Cornell University Medical College, Departments, 1929/1930

Box 2

- 1 Annual Reports, Cornell University Medical College, Departments, 1930/1931
- 2 Annual Reports, Cornell University Medical College, Departments, 1931/1932, includes Annual Report, Labs, New York Hospital, 1931
- 3-4 Annual Reports, Cornell University Medical College, Departments, 1932/1933 -1933/1934
- 5 Annual Reports, New York Hospital, Departments, 1932/1933 -1933/1934
- 6 Agreement with New York Hospital, Proposal of Association, Reports of Committees Regarding Agreement, Abstract and Printed Copy, 1920-1927
- 7 Bellevue Hospital, Reorganization of, Correspondence and Legislation, 1914
- 8 Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center/New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College, Proposed Unification of, Letter of President Schurman to Nicholas M. Butler of Columbia University, 1/27/1914
- 9 Correspondence Regarding Examination of Eye Medicine Done by Pharmacology Department for Out Patient Department, 11/1921
- 10 Course Evaluations, Letters from Walter Niles and Eugene DuBois, 11-12/1914

- 11 Douglas, James, Last Will and Testament Regarding Memorial Hospital, 5/25/1914
- 12 Equipment, Correspondence with Westinghouse and G. E. Regarding Purchase, 2-6/1932
- 13 Ewing, James, Correspondence with Dr. Camac Regarding Disposal of Pathology Material (1903) and Ewing's' Refusal to Give Mutter Lecture (1910).
- 14 Medical Service of Other Hospitals, Arrangement of, Correspondence Regarding Johns Hopkins and Presbyterian Hospitals, 1914-1915
- 15 New York Hospital-Cornell Medical College Association, Reports on Organization and Policy and Statistical Studies, c. 1930.
- 16 Payne, Oliver Hazard, Correspondence with Candace Stimson and others Regarding Photos of O.H.P., Copy of Deed of Gift to Cornell, 1920, 1924
- 17 Salaries of the Staff, Listed according to Department, 1915-1916.
- 18 Second Cornell Division, Bellevue Hospital Medical and Surgical Clinics, Correspondence regarding Establishment of, 1914-1915.
- 19 Secretary's Office/Dean's Office Responsibilities, Correspondence from Andreson, Secretary to Dean to Niles, 7/20/1920.
- 20 Staff Evaluations by Department, Cornell University Medical College, 12/1913 -1/1914
- 21 Surgery Department of, Correspondence, Memos, and Reports regarding Full Time/Part Time Staff Problems, 1930-1933