

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

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

**Finding Aid To  
THE MCKEEN CATTELL, PHD (1891-1983) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:  
1909-1981**

**12.5 Linear Inches  
(3 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
Elizabeth Shepard  
Assistant Archivist  
May 29, 2008**

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**PROVENANCE:**

The materials were transferred from Harvard University, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, on June 12, 1983. A finding aid from Harvard indicates that there are still materials related to his work at Cornell University Medical College at Harvard University.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

McKeen Cattell was born in 1891 in Garrison, NY. After studying at Cambridge University and University of Berlin, he received a B. S. from Columbia University in 1914. He continued his studies at Harvard University, where he earned a M. A. degree in 1917. During World War I, he served at the Central Laboratories Medical Department in Dijon, France under his Harvard mentor, Walter Cannon. At Dijon, he studied shock victims response to anesthetic and narcotic drugs. He returned to Harvard where he received a PhD in Medical Sciences in 1920; and a M.D. in 1924. While studying at Harvard, he was a teaching fellow in the physiology and pharmacology departments.

After his studies in 1924, he was appointed an instructor in physiology at Cornell University Medical College. He rose to associate professor of pharmacology and acting chairman of the department in 1936. He was officially appointment as chairman of Department of Pharmacology in 1943 and given the rank of professor. He stepped down from the chairmanship in 1956. He retired in 1959. He died on February 8, 1983.

His research contributions were in the area of muscle physiology. He collaborated with Harry Gold on effect of digitalis drugs on the heart muscles. In 1963, Drs. Cattell and Gold co-founded the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This small collection only provides a glimpse of Dr. Cattell's work at Cornell University Medical College. The collection has been organized into three series: Correspondence (1909-1981), Lectures and Research Notes (1930-1958), and Reprints (1915-1962). The bulk dates are 1930-1958.

His income tax statements were discarded.

**Series I: Correspondence, 1909-1981 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, includes correspondences regarding his committees and professional activities with the American Society of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, Biology War Committee, Insect Control Committee, National Research Council, New York Academy of Science, and World Health

Organization. The personal correspondence is mostly regarding land owned by his family in Garrison, NY.

### **Series II: Lectures and Research Notes, 1930-1958 (Box 2)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, includes notes for lectures on various drugs. Two small folders contained information on his digitalis research.

### **Series III: Reprints, 1915-1962 (Boxes 2-3)**

Reprints, arranged chronologically, indicate his research interests in the physiology of muscles (especially the heart) and his digitalis studies. Some of the earlier reprints focused on his WWI traumatic shock research.

### **ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:**

None

### **ACCESS POINTS:**

### **RELATED MATERIAL:**

### **BOX AND FOLDER LIST:**

#### **Box 1: Series I, Correspondence, 1909-1981**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	American Society of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, 1942-1943
2	Biology War Committee, 1940-1942
3	Graduate Students, 1938-1942
4	Insect Control Committee, National Research Council, 1945-1946
5	International Physiological Congress, 1935, 1950
6	List of Memberships
7	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1931, 1963-1966
8	National Research Council, 1942
9	New York Academy of Science, Symposium, 1945
10	Osler, William (2) and William Welch (1) to J. McKeen Cattell, father of McKeen Cattell 1909 -1914
11	Peiping Union Medical College: offer of chair in pharmacology to Dr. Cattell, 1939
12	Peripatetic Pharmacologists Meeting, 1949
13-14	Personal Correspondence, 1947-1981

15	Personal Correspondence, Cattell Reality Co., 1917-1978
16	Trip to England, 1951
17	Trip to Japan, 1958 -1961
18	World Health Organization: Asian Mission, 1951

**Box 1: Series II, Lectures and Research Notes, 1930-1958**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
19	Abstracts, 1930-1933
20	"Aconite," Lecture Notes, 10/23/1936
21	"Alcohol," Lecture Notes, 1936
22	Annual Report-Dept. of Pharmacology, Notes, 1942-1943
23	Annual Report-Dept. of Pharmacology, Notes, 1943-1944
24	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Drugs Used in Treatment of Syphilis," 01/22/1943
25	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Drugs Used in Allergies Diseases," 08/1944 and 04/1945
26	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Pencillin," 10/07/1944
27	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Use of Sulionamide Drugs," 05/04/1945
28	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Untoward Reactions-Arsenicals, Sulphonamide & Pencillin," 05/21/1948
29	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Drug Reactions, Conference on Therapy," 03/28/1956
30	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Antidotes to Poisons," 04/19/1958
31	Applied Pharmacology Lecture on "Pharmacology of Insulin," 01/08/1958

**Box 2: Series II, Lecture and Research Notes, 1930-1958**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	"Arsenic," Lecture Notes, 1941
2	"Atropine," Lecture Notes, n.d.
3	"Barbituates," Lecture Notes, n.d.
4	"Bioassay," Lecture Notes, n.d.
5	"Caffine," Lecture Notes, n.d.
6	Carbylamine, Research Notes, n.d.
7	Caapi, Research Notes, 1938
8	Co2 & Recovery Heat, Research Notes, 1934-1936
9	Cornell Research, Lecture Notes, n.d.
10	Digitalis Research, 1930s
11	Digitalis, Lecture Notes, 10/07/1957
12	Drugs, Lecture Notes, 1932, 1936

13	"Drugs Acting on Peripheral Vascular System," Lecture Notes, 05/12/1958
14	"Electric Eel" - charts and graphs, ca. 1944
15	"Energetics of Muscular Contraction," Lecture Notes, n.d.
16	"Epinephrine," Lecture Notes, n.d.
17	Hydrostatic Pressures, Research Notes, 1936
18	"Influence of Acids and Bazeo on Blood Potassium Following Asphyxia," Lecture Notes, n.d.
19	Intro of Dr. Lundsgaard-Harvey Society, Lecture Notes, n.d.
20	Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, 09/21/1939
21	Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, 09/15/1948
22	Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, n.d.
23	Insulin, Lecture Notes, n.d.
24	Miscellaneous, n.d.
25	"Morphine," Lecture Notes, n.d.
26	Nicotine Acid, Research Notes, n.d.
27	"On the Site of Action of Acetylcholine and Its Significance," 1935
28	Pharmacology Exam, n.d.
29	"Pilocarpine," Lecture Notes, 09/26/1938
30	"Pressor Amines," Lecture Notes, 01/10/1958
31	Cats, Research Notes, 1939
32	"Structure Activity, Relationships of the Sympathomimetic Amines," Lecture Notes, n.d.
33	Unid Lecture or Research Notes on Dogs, 12/06/1933
34	Untitled Lecture on Proteins, n.d.
35	"Use & Abuse of Stimulants," 10/02/1952
36	"Use of Drugs in Peripheral Vascular Failure," 05/07/1947

**Box 2: Series III, Reprints, 1915-1962**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
37	Reprints, 1915-1928

**Box 3: Series III, Reprints, 1915-1962**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Reprints, 1930-1935
2	Reprints, 1936-1962