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
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.

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.

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.

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**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:**

None

**ACCESS POINTS:**

**RELATED MATERIAL:**

**BOX AND FOLDER LIST:**

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

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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

Folder: Description:

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 Sulphonamide 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

Folder: Description:

1 "Arsenic," Lecture Notes, 1941
2 "Atropine," Lecture Notes, n.d.
3 "Barbituates," Lecture Notes, n.d.
4 "Bioassay," Lecture Notes, n.d.
5 "Caffeine," 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
"Drugs Acting on Peripheral Vascular System," Lecture Notes, 05/12/1958

"Electric Eel" - charts and graphs, ca. 1944

"Energetics of Muscular Contraction," Lecture Notes, n.d.

"Epinephrine," Lecture Notes, n.d.

Hydrostatic Pressures, Research Notes, 1936

"Influence of Acids and Bazeo on Blood Potassium Following Asphyxia," Lecture Notes, n.d.

Intro of Dr. Lundsgaard-Harvey Society, Lecture Notes, n.d.

Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, 09/21/1939

Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, 09/15/1948

Intro Lecture to Study of Pharmacology, n.d.

Insulin, Lecture Notes, n.d.

Miscellaneous, n.d.

"Morphine," Lecture Notes, n.d.

Nicotine Acid, Research Notes, n.d.

"On the Site of Action of Acetylcholine and Its Significance," 1935

Pharmacology Exam, n.d.

"Pilocarpine," Lecture Notes, 09/26/1938

"Pressor Amines," Lecture Notes, 01/10/1958

Cats, Research Notes, 1939


Unid Lecture or Research Notes on Dogs, 12/06/1933

Untitled Lecture on Proteins, n.d.

"Use & Abuse of Stimulants," 10/02/1952

"Use of Drugs in Peripheral Vascular Failure," 05/07/1947

Box 2: Series III, Reprints, 1915-1962

Folder: Description:

37 Reprints, 1915-1928

Box 3: Series III, Reprints, 1915-1962

Folder: Description:

1 Reprints, 1930-1935

2 Reprints, 1936-1962