MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES
OF
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL

1300 York Avenue # 34
New York, NY 10065

Finding Aid To

THE EDWARD WILKES, MD (1899-1983) PAPERS

Dates of Papers:
1921-1974

7 Linear Inches
(2 Boxes)

Finding Aid Prepared By:
The Archival Staff
Undated

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Provenance

Dr. Wilkes' papers were donated to the Medical Center Archives on June 28, 1984 by his widow, Lillian Genn Wilkes.

Biographical Note

The son of Dr. Morris J. Wilkes, a physician on Manhattan's Lower East Side, Edward Theodore Wilkes was educated at CCNY and received his M.D. from Cornell University Medical College in 1921. At the urging of Graham Lusk, a professor at Cornell University Medical College, Dr. Wilkes entered the then new field of pediatric medicine. He interned at Bellevue and Johns Hopkins Hospitals and did post-graduate work in Germany.

Returning to New York, Dr. Wilkes established a practice in Queens but remained involved in pediatric research. He and his associates were the first in the U.S. to prove that irradiated ergosterol (Vitamin D) cured rickets in infants. Along with researchers from the N.Y.C. Department of Health, he developed a whooping cough vaccine that soon became a standard medical requirement.

Dr. Wilkes was best known, however, for his popular publications in the field of pediatrics. His Baby's Daily Exercises (1927) was popular enough to be translated into several languages, including Russian. This was followed by Mother's Guide When Sickness Comes (1934) and Family Guide to Teenage Health (1958). He wrote numerous articles for popular journals and was medical editor of Redbook Magazine in the 1950s.

Dr. Wilkes was traveling with his family aboard the Athenia when it was sunk on September 3, 1939 by a German submarine. His wife and son died but Dr. Wilkes was rescued by a Norwegian freighter. He was credited with saving the lives of many of the survivors. He later married Lillian Genn. Dr. Wilkes died on October 20, 1983.

Scope and Content

The Wilkes Collection contains articles, notes, reprints, drafts, correspondence (including three letters from Graham Lusk), publishing contracts and monographs. The bulk of the material relates to his career as an author; there is little pertaining to his many years running a successful pediatric practice in Queens or to his contributions to pediatric medicine.

Non-Manuscript Material

Three photographs of Dr. Wilkes and one of Roger H. Dennet have been removed from the collection and integrated into the Photographic Collections.

Subjects

Lusk, Graham
Nutrition
Pediatrics
Reprints

Box List

Box 1

f.l	Appointments to academic positions, 1934-1972
f.2	Biographical data
f.3	Baby's Daily Exercises: notes and drafts
f.4	Certificate of Membership, Queens County Medical Society, 1935
f.5	Correspondence, 1921-1971
f.6	Family Guide to Teenage Health: reviews, publicity, etc., 1958
f.7	Magazine articles, 1943-1974
f.8	Notes and Drafts for articles re nutrition and diet
f.9	Drafts for a history of pediatrics
f.10	Publishing contracts, royalty statements, etc., 1934-1957
f.11	Reprints, 1924-1967
f.12	Sex education: notes, articles, c. 1960
f.13	Miscellaneous notes and drafts

Box 2

Monographs: Baby's Daily Exercises, 1927
Mothers' Guide When Sickness Comes, 1934
Family Guide to Teenage Health, 1958