

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

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

**Finding aid to the  
THE RECORDS OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY TO  
THE SOCIETY OF THE LYING-IN HOSPITAL**

**Dates of Records:  
1897-1985**

**35 Linear inches  
(7 document boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
Patricia Glowinski  
Assistant Archivist  
November 12, 2013**

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## **PROVENANCE:**

Boxes 1-5 of this collection were donated to the Medical Center Archives by the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital in 1975. In 2013, The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center (formerly the Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital) donated 10 linear inches of material which now forms Series II of this collection. The 2013 addition was part of a larger donation from The Auxiliary which included an additional 25 linear inches of material. This material now forms Series IV of the Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital Records.

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## **ADMISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital was formally established in 1897 to undertake work in connection with the outpatient department of the Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York. The Lying-In Hospital was "established to afford an asylum to pregnant women destitute of the means of support, and unable to procure proper medical assistance and nursing during the period of their confinement in childbed." Under the direction of the Board of Governors of the Lying-In Hospital, the Ladies' Auxiliary's work focused on raising money to provide care for low-income or destitute women discharged from the Hospital. They helped to supply "scrub-women" to clean the rooms of outpatients in tenements, to supply trained nurses to visit special need outpatients, they provided linens and baby clothes for the Lying-In Hospital, they helped to ensure that outpatients had visitors to check in on them, and they provided the means to train nurses to gain on-the-job experience assisting in the care of tenement outpatients.

The first meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1897 at the home of Mrs. Frederick Bronson at 174 Madison Avenue and nine members were in attendance. Soon after, the organization appointed its first executive officers consisting of a president and a treasurer/secretary. It would also soon appoint nine chairpersons, each heading a committee. In 1898, the Ladies' Auxiliary printed its first constitution and in May of that same year it held its first gala fund raising event at the Waldorf Astoria. Ladies' Auxiliary financial reports for 1898 show that the organization raised \$25,288 during that year. In 1899, the Ladies' Auxiliary hired its first "paid investigator" (who today would be something like a social worker) to visit families being assisted by the organization. By 1904, in addition to the paid investigator, the Ladies' Auxiliary had also employed seven scrub women to clean the homes of outpatients. The next year, in 1905, two more investigators had been hired. To put the social service work of the Ladies' Auxiliary into context, in 1905, Massachusetts General Hospital began

establishing what would become the first Social Service department in the country, ushering in the era of modern social work. Mass General's Social Service Department was formally established 1914.

In its annual report to the Lying-In Hospital in 1916, the Ladies' Auxiliary detailed that it had 150 members and its agents made 21,555 visits, distributed 20,123 garments, and aided 3,475 families with food or assistance in household duties. Also in 1916, the organization filed its first Babies' Class report. The Babies' Class was part of the outpatient work supported by the Ladies' Auxiliary. At these classes mothers were taught how to wash, feed, and clothe their babies by a trained "agent" (another early term for a social worker). Model layettes were sold cheaply or given to the mothers free of charge. Many of the mothers who participated in the Babies' Class were new immigrants to New York City, many of whom resided in tenements in Manhattan and the Bronx.

The efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary led to the establishment of the Lying-In Hospital's Social Service Department in 1932. In the 1932 annual report of the Lying-In Hospital, Henricus J. Stander, MD, Obstetrician and Gynecologist-In-Chief wrote, "Through the splendid assistance of the Ladies' Auxiliary Board a very complete department of Social Service has been developed, consisting of four workers and two secretaries. This department is now an intimate part of the Lying-In Hospital and the social workers come in close touch with all the patients in the out-patient clinics, in the hospital wards, and with a certain number in their homes. For the excellent help from the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, which has made this possible, I wish to express my appreciation."

Also in 1932, the Lying-In Hospital merged with New York Hospital (now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center), becoming its Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. After the merger, the Ladies' Auxiliary continued its fund raising work to support the Hospital, especially in the care of mothers and babies. To further its support of medical social service relief, the Babies' Alumni Fund was established in 1934. Babies born at the Hospital could join the Alumni for an annual subscription fee of one dollar. By 1943, 1,021 new members had enrolled in the Babies' Alumni. Each baby born at the Hospital who joined the Alumni received an etching of the hospital with the baby's name and date of birth. Beyond its fund raising efforts and operating the Social Service Department associated with the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department (New York Hospital also had a separate Social Service Department that served the main hospital), the organization also provided sewing classes for mothers, supplied volunteers for the Hospital, and created a circulating library for inpatients and outpatients, among other projects. In 1977, the Ladies'

Auxiliary merged with the Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital, becoming the organization's Lying-In Committee.

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## **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York Annual Reports, 1890-1898, "Report with Historical Sketch, 1893"

The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York Annual Reports, 1914-1920

The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York Annual Reports, 1932-1948

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This collection documents the establishment, administration, and activities of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital, an organization established in 1897 to support the Outpatient Department of the Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York. The collection provides insight into the development of social service departments in hospitals in the United States and records early efforts of social work in the country. As the Ladies' Auxiliary was a New York City organization established just before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the collection also documents the unique characteristics of providing maternal and infant health services for primarily low income and immigrant women in an urban setting during the peak years of European immigration to the United States. The collection also reveals the contributions Hospital Auxiliaries made to the work and growth of hospitals during a period of tremendous change in medicine and in hospital services in the United States. Included are annual reports, minutes, committee reports, Babies' Alumni reports, Treasurer's reports, subscription lists, membership lists, histories, financial records, bylaws, and a scrapbook compiled by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

### **The collection is arranged in two series:**

**Series I:** Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital administrative files, 1897-1965

**Series II:** The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center collection of Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital records, 1897-1985

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## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:**

The collection is open to researchers.

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## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:**

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## **LANGUAGE OF MATERIAL:**

English.

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## **PROCESSING NOTE:**

The collection was originally processed in 1976 by Margaret L. Shea, a volunteer at the Medical Center Archives. When received in 1975, the collection was disorganized and contained a large amount of financial records (cancelled checks, duplicate audit reports, bank statements, deposit slips, unused checks, receipts, invoices, and duplicate Treasurer's reports) many of which were discarded during the initial processing. Several Lying-In Hospital annual reports included in the original donation were separated from the collection and added to a pre-existing collection of Lying-In Hospital annual reports that are located in the Archives. In 1983, a finding aid was created by Archives' staff member Barbara St. Mary. In 2013, three financial reports (dating from 1960-1962) that were either separated from the collection or donated at a later time were added to the collection. Also in 2013, an additional 10 linear inches of material was processed by Patricia Glowinski and now forms Series II. This addition was part of a 2013 donation from The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center.

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## **ACCESS POINTS:**

Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital  
Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New-York  
Child health services  
Fund raising  
Hospitals--New York (State)--New York  
Maternal and infant welfare  
Maternal health services  
Medical social work  
Nursing services  
Volunteer workers in hospitals  
Agendas  
Bylaws  
Financial records  
Histories  
Membership lists

Minutes  
Reports

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## PREFERRED CITATION:

Item Name or Identification; Box #, Folder #; Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital Records, 1897-1985 (Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

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## RELATED MATERIAL:

Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital Records  
New York Hospital, Department of Social Work Records  
Records of the Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York  
Society of the Lying-In Hospital Annual Reports

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## BOX AND FOLDER LIST:

### **Series I: Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital administrative files, 1897-1965 (Boxes 1-5)**

#### **Series Scope and Content Summary:**

This series contains administrative files that document the activities of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital. Included are early membership lists from the organization's inaugural year, 1897. The Board of Managers minutes are particularly important as they record the organization's establishment and growth, especially for the period dating 1901-1934. The scrapbook, compiled in 1932, contains correspondence and ephemera documenting many of the Ladies' Auxiliary's fund raising efforts, including the organization's successful annual gala. Also included in this series are annual reports, subscription lists, committee reports, and material related to the Babies' Alumni.

**Series Arrangement:** Alphabetical by subject.

### **Box 1: Series I, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital administrative files, 1897-1965**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Annual reports, 1947
2	Annual reports, 1948
3	Annual reports, 1949
4	Annual reports, 1951
5	Annual reports, 1952
6	Annual reports, 1953, 1956
7	Audit reports, 1926-1933

8	Babies' Alumni annual reports and receipts, 1950, 1954-1965
9	Babies' Class subscription lists, 1926-1935
10	Babies' Class subscription lists, undated
11	Board of Managers minutes, 1901-1907
12	Board of Managers minutes, 1907-1916
13	Board of Managers minutes, 1917-1920

**Box 2: Series I, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital administrative files, 1897-1965**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Board of Managers minutes, 1921-1926
2	Board of Managers minutes, 1927
3	Board of Managers minutes, 1928
4	Board of Managers minutes, 1929
5	Board of Managers minutes, 1930
6	Board of Managers minutes, 1931
7	Board of Managers minutes, 1932
8	Board of Managers minutes, 1933
9	Board of Managers minutes, 1934
10	Board of Managers minutes, 1943-1948

**Box 3: Series I, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital administrative files, 1897-1965**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Clothing Committee reports and related material, 1922-1928
2	Committee reports, 1923-1926
3	Executive Committee minutes, 1919-1920, 1940-1942 and undated
4	Financial reports and related correspondence, 1923-1948, 1960-1962, 1964
5	Membership dues ledger, 1901-1910
6	Membership dues ledger, 1918-1924
7	Membership lists, 1897-1916
8	Membership lists, 1928-1930, 1949
9	Minutes and reports for annual and special meetings, 1897-1901

**Box 4: Series I, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital  
administrative files, 1897-1965**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Minutes and reports for annual and special meetings, 1901-1915
2	Minutes and reports for annual and special meetings, 1906-1922
3	Minutes and reports for annual and special meetings, 1923-1929
4	Scrapbook (copy), 1897-1932
5	Scrapbook (original; pages 1-2B), 1897-1932
6	Scrapbook (original; pages 3-5), 1897-1932
7	Scrapbook (original; pages 6-9), 1897-1932
8	Scrapbook (original; pages 10-13), 1897-1932
9	Scrapbook (original; pages 14-16), 1897-1932
10	Scrapbook (original; pages 17-19), 1897-1932
11	Scrapbook (original; pages 20-23), 1897-1932
12	Scrapbook (original; pages 24-27), 1897-1932
13	Scrapbook (original; pages 28-31), 1897-1932

**Box 5: Series I, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital  
administrative files, 1897-1965**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Scrapbook (original; pages 32-38), 1897-1932
2	Scrapbook (original; pages 39-44), 1897-1932
3	Sewing Class inventory and accounting book, 1943-1944
4	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1935
5	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1939-1940
6	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1947-1948
7	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1949
8	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1950
9	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1951
10	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1952
11	Social Service Department reports to the Ladies' Auxiliary Board, 1953
11	Treasurer's reports, 1902, 1926-1937, 1953
12	Miscellaneous correspondence and other material, 1915-1965



**Series II: The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center collection of Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital records, 1897-1985 (Boxes 6-7)**

**Series Scope and Content Summary:**

This series contains material kept by The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center (formerly the Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital) presumably obtained following the merger of the Auxiliary of the Society of the New York Hospital and the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital in 1977. The majority of the material in this series documents the administration and activities of the Ladies' Auxiliary before the merger. Included are reports, membership lists, histories, bylaws, and a cashbook.

**Series Arrangement:** Alphabetical by subject.

**Box 6: Series II, The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center collection of Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital records, 1897-1985**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Babies' Alumni, undated
2	Bylaws, 1921, 1951
3	Cashbook, 1903-1918
4	Histories and related correspondence, "Brief History of the Ladies Auxiliary Lying-In Hospital;" and "The Lying-In Hospital," 1976-1979 and undated
5	Membership lists, 1931-1932, 1981, 1983
6	Reports, various, 1931-1935, 1939, 1952
7	Reports, various, 1962-1969
8	Reports, various, 1970-1979

**Box 7: Series II, The Auxiliary, New York Weill Cornell Medical Center collection of Ladies' Auxiliary to the Society of the Lying-In Hospital records, 1897-1985**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Reports, various, 1980-1985
2	Social Service Department, 1931-1933
3	The Society of the Lying-In Hospital annual reports and related material, 1930, 1955
4	Treasurer's reports, 1897-1900
5	Treasurer's reports, 1898-1904
6	Treasurer's reports, 1903-1916
7	Treasurer's reports, 1935-1938

- 8 United Hospital Fund, 1929
- 9 Miscellaneous material, 1940-1944, 1977 and undated