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Archive resources for the History of Medicine

Last updated February 2018

RESOURCES IN CADBURY RESEARCH LIBRARY: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

We welcome enquiries from potential researchers at any level, and are pleased to offer advice and assistance in using our collections in one-to-one or small group sessions by appointment.

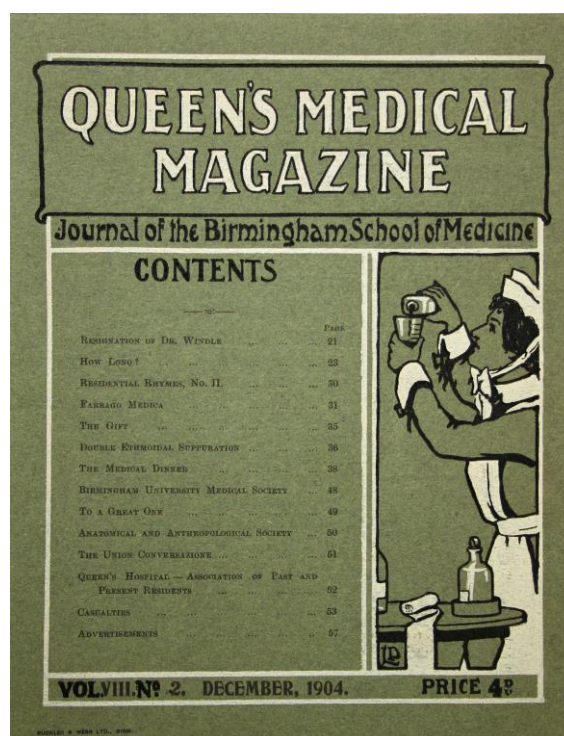
The following listing highlights a selection of book and archive material relevant to the study of the history of medicine, including collections relating to medical institutions in Birmingham and other institutional archives, personal papers, 14th-18th century manuscript accounts of treatments, and seminal publications from the rare book collections dating back to 1543. The list is by no means comprehensive, but is intended to illustrate the range of material available; it will be updated to include new acquisitions.

Further details of the archival records described below can be found through the online archive catalogue (go to <http://calmview.bham.ac.uk/> and select 'Advanced Search'). Items in our rare book collections, including the examples highlighted below, are listed on the UoB library catalogue (<http://libcat.bham.ac.uk/TalisPrism/>).

University Archive

In addition to records of the University of Birmingham from 1900, the University Archive includes records of predecessor and associated institutions which also played a significant role in the training and practice of medicine in Birmingham, namely Birmingham (later Royal) School of Medicine and Surgery 1828–1843 and Queen's College 1843–1892; the records of Mason Science College 1880–1900 (under the name, 'Mason University College' from 1898) are another potentially useful source with material relating to the Faculty of Medicine from 1892. As well as the official University Archive, Cadbury Research Library also holds papers of some former members of staff and students which include papers relating to Queen's College and Mason Science College.

Within the University Archive there are, for example,



minutes of Birmingham School of Medicine, Mason Science College, University of Birmingham Faculty of Medicine, and Birmingham Clinical Board; transactions of Queen's College Debating Society 1851-1852, and various student registers. Other examples are illustrated below but researchers interested in finding out more are advised to get in touch before visiting, as the cataloguing of the very extensive University Archive is not yet complete.

Papers of Bertram Coghill Alan Windle (1858-1929), Professor of Anatomy at Josiah Mason College and then University of Birmingham

Diaries, scrapbooks and other papers 1877-1927.

Windle played a leading role in negotiations which resulted in the transfer of Queen's College Faculty of Medicine to Mason College in 1892 and was first Dean of the University of Birmingham's Medical Faculty 1900-1905. He went on to become Professor of Archaeology at University College, Cork (President, 1905-1919) and Professor of Cosmology and Anthropology, University of Toronto. As a prominent Roman Catholic scientist, he wrote extensively on religion and science and his publication, 'The Church and Science' (1917) was awarded the Gunning Prize of Victoria Institute in 1919 as the best book published in support of revealed religion.

Finding number US73

Papers of Richard Hill Norris (1830-1916), Professor of Physiology, Queen's College, Birmingham

Including papers relating to his research into blood and physiological physics, and teaching notes.

During the late 1870s and 1880s, Norris' main work involved a proposed 'third corpuscular element of the blood' to explain the origin of the red disc and formation of fibrin.

Finding number US41

Warneford Prize Essays, 1847-1862

Samuel Warneford, benefactor of Queen's College and Queen's Hospital, instituted the Warneford Prize Essay in 1839 to help impose a more Christian character on the medical school and its students. The essays were to demonstrate 'the pathway of God's wisdom, power and goodness as revealed by their anatomical and other studies'. Topics included, for example, the anatomy and mechanisms of the vertebral column and venous circulation of the brain and spinal cord.

Finding number University Archive 2/11-37

Scrapbook of papers relating to Birmingham General Hospital, 1780-1980



Printed pamphlets and reports, newscuttings, drawings, postcards and ephemera; with some items concerning other medical organisations.

The General Hospital admitted its first patients in 1779. It was founded by John Ash (1723-1798), a local physician, who proposed that there should be a hospital, funded by subscriptions, to provide medical care to the poor of Birmingham, as an alternative to the town workhouse. It had an important role as a teaching hospital, and had its own medical school, Sydenham College, from 1851 to 1868 (see below). In 1995, the services of the General Hospital were transferred to Selly Oak Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Children's Hospital.

Finding number MS131

Minutes of Sydenham College, Birmingham, dated 1851-1866

A volume of minutes of meetings of the college Council giving details of Council business and including printed reports of the Committee of Sydenham College which was established to deal with matters concerning students and lecturers at the college.

Sydenham College was established as a training school for students of the General Hospital in 1851. When it was dissolved in 1868, its students transferred to Queen's College. In 1873 a joint clinical board was set up for both the Queen's Hospital and the General Hospital and, in 1892, the Medical Faculty of Queen's College became the Medical Faculty of Mason College which, in turn, became the University of Birmingham. (Sources: Ives, Drummond and Schwartz 'The First Civic University: Birmingham 1880-1980', Birmingham 2000; University of Birmingham Medical School <http://www.medicine.bham.ac.uk/history.htm> Accessed 22 May 2003; A Short History of the Medical School, published by the Medical Faculty of the University of Birmingham, 1957)

Finding number MS128

Personal papers of William Sands Cox (1802-1875), surgeon, lecturer, co-founder of Birmingham School of Medicine and founder of Queen's Hospital, Birmingham

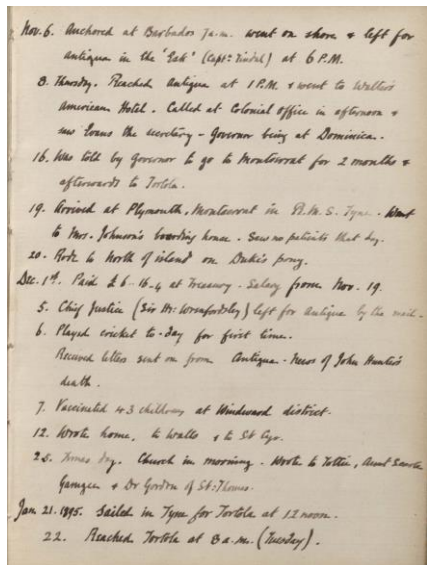
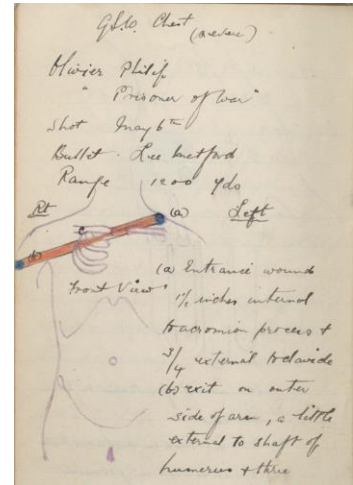
Largely correspondence relating to the Birmingham School of Medicine, ('Queen's College' from 1843) and Queen's Hospital.

Finding number MS220/A

Medical case book of H[erbert] J[ohn] Orford, University of Birmingham graduate and surgeon

Illustrated, manuscript case notes relating to Orford's work in the Surgical Division, Number 3 General Hospital, Kroonstad, South Africa towards the end of the Second Boer War, 1902-1904.

Finding number MS704



Diary of James Benjamin H. Davson, medical officer, 1893-1915

The brief, daily entries give a picture of his home and work life whilst serving overseas in the West Indies and West Africa.

James Davson (b 1868) graduated from Queen's Faculty of Medicine, Birmingham in 1893. After a stint as House Surgeon at Birmingham General Hospital, he left for an appointment in the Leeward Islands, West Indies in 1894; from 1898, he worked as a medical officer in West Africa.

Finding number MS708

West family papers, including papers of, and relating to, Birmingham surgeon, James Fitzjames Fraser West (1833-1883), FRCS

A rich source of material concerning West's medical education in London, and career as a surgeon at Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

Finding number MS804

Minutes of the Birmingham Institution for the Relief of Deafness, 1844-1878

William Dufton (1803-1859), Birmingham surgeon, established the Institution 'for the relief of Poor Persons afflicted with deafness' in 1844. The charity was amalgamated with the Birmingham Ear and Throat Infirmary in 1871.

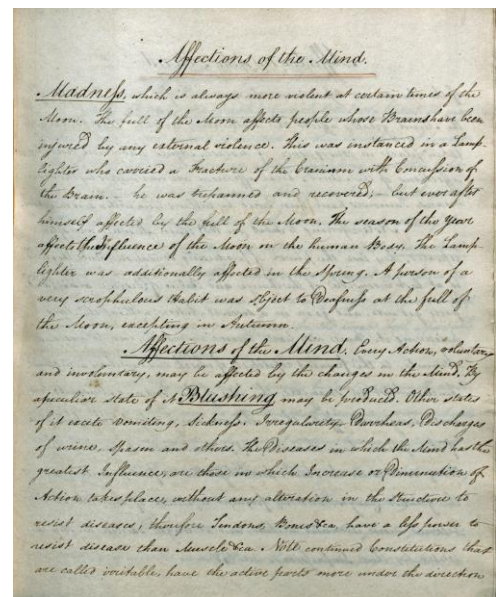
Finding number MS130

Manuscript volume of notes entitled, 'Mr John Hunter's lectures on the principles of surgery', [late 18th-early 19th century]

Probably once owned by John Badley

John Hunter (1728-1793), surgeon, anatomist and lecturer in anatomy and the theory and practice of surgery, was an active participant in coffee house discussion groups whose members included Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), Sir Charles Blagden (1748-1820) and Dr George Fordyce (1736-1802). He founded the 'Society for the Improvement of Medical and Chirurgical Knowledge' in 1783 and the 'Lyceum Medicum Londinenses for the Advancement of Medical Knowledge' in 1785. His students included John Abernethy (1764-1831), a surgeon who in turn taught John Badley (see below, MS715).

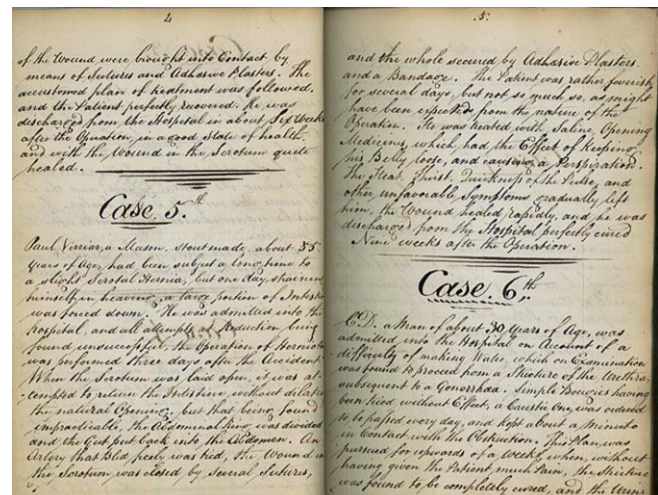
Finding number MS701



Medical and surgery case book of John Badley (1783-1870), FRCS, dated 1802-1803

Compiled whilst Badley was working under the supervision of John Abernethy (1764-1831) at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London 1802 and later in Dudley and Worcestershire 1803.

Finding number MS715



Copies of lectures by John Abernethy, surgeon, 1802-1803

'Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Surgery by John Abernethy' written out by his pupil John Badley, 1802; and 'Abernethy's Surgical Lectures'

Finding number MS716

Surgical lectures by Sir Astley Cooper, given at St Thomas's Hospital, 1806

Finding number MS713

Diaries of Charlotte Anne Bagot (1835-1925) of Oxfordshire, dated 1852-1925

A 75 volume collection, with daily entries recording the life of Charlotte and her family. Although not medical records, Charlotte's personal diaries are interesting for their references to her own, and her children's health, over a continuous period of time. Two of her sons were treated for mental ill-health and Charlotte experienced long standing heart problems and other ailments. The diaries also make mention of Charlotte and her daughter, Mary, engaged in hospital visiting and committee work.

Finding number MS51

For similar, see the diaries of Louisa Martin 1885-1886 (MS657) and of William Aldous (MS133)

Papers of Laurence Cadbury relating to his service with the Friends Ambulance Unit during the First World War

Laurence's letters to his parents, written between 1914 and 1919, describe in detail the work of the ambulance convoys. As well as letters, the collection includes diaries, maps, magazines, photographs, drawings, books, and ephemera.

The Friends Ambulance Unit was a voluntary service, staffed mainly by men from Quaker families, which provided an ambulance service and ran ambulance trains, undertook civilian relief work, and set up several hospitals in



Belgium and France during the First World War.

Finding number MS327

Church Missionary Society Archive

The CMS sent qualified medical missionaries overseas from the early 1830s and was at the forefront of medical mission agencies operating during a time of significant advance in tropical medicine. The archive includes records relating to the evolving work of the Society's medical missions, the health of its missionaries, papers of missionaries who were pioneers in their field and brief references to health beliefs and practices in the many countries in which the Society operated. It is an important source for the study of medical mission as a form of evangelism as well as the history of medicine. The collection is notable for the range of material it includes, from professional building plans for hospitals and dispensaries to a complete sequence of the Society's medical journals 1892-1940.

A separate guide to the records of the CMS Medical Department is available online (see Finding number CMS/M).

Medical notebook of Dr J. Howard Cook (1871-1946), Mengo Hospital, 1903-1913

A manuscript, medical manual with newscuttings and printed inserts, presumably used by Dr Cook whilst working as CMS medical missionary in Uganda. Largely comprising descriptions of medical conditions, treatment methods and medical formulae. The printed papers include items from a series of Mengo Hospital 'hints' on treatments.

The CMS collection also includes records relating to John's brother, Albert Ruskin Cook, another CMS missionary who in 1932 was knighted for his pioneering medical work in Uganda.

Finding number CMS/ACC163 F1

Papers of Dorothy Jewitt (1896-1982), CMS nursing missionary 1924-1955

Including photographs and a manuscript of her autobiography.

Dorothy Jewitt was instrumental in the development of midwifery and maternity services in remote areas of Nigeria and in establishing training centres for midwives.

Finding number CMS/ACC908



Copies of albums compiled between 1906 and 1920 by Eveline ('Evelyn') Wauchope, nurse

The albums largely date from the time when Eveline was in training and nursing in Birmingham, at the General Hospital 1912-1914 and, from 1914, at the '1st Southern General [military] Hospital' which was established at the University of Birmingham during the First World War.

The collection includes informal photographs of patients and staff and illustrations and inscriptions written by patients and others. It is of particular note for those interested in the history of the work of the 1st Southern General Hospital, the University of Birmingham and the First World War; the autograph album has numerous signed entries in which servicemen give the name of their regiment and the place and date they were wounded.

Finding number MS871

Diary of William Hinds of Birmingham, 1838-1850

Though Hinds was at this time working as a cabinet maker in Birmingham, the entries largely comprise a record of Hinds' studies in the field of science, in particular in medicine. He describes his passion for study and further education, demonstrating his utter commitment by rising early in order to study before his time had to be given over to business. Significantly the first mention of his studying botany comes in May 1841: he was later to become, as well as a surgeon, Professor of Botany at Queen's College, Birmingham.

The volume is a useful resource for researchers interested in reflections on the times as revealed through the single-minded determination of a young man to change his profession, entailing hours of study in addition to his fulfilling his business commitments. Hinds is shown as an individual driven by a desire to attain knowledge and qualifications to fit him for professional life as a medical man. Even when he has completed his studies, he sees before him 'a boundless field for improvement'.

Finding number MS896

Manuscript volume of medical (and other) recipes, late 17th-early 18th century

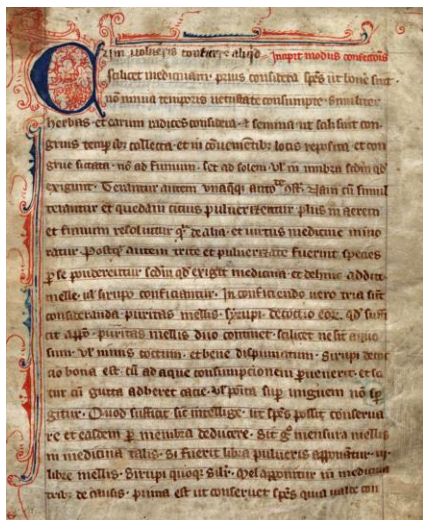
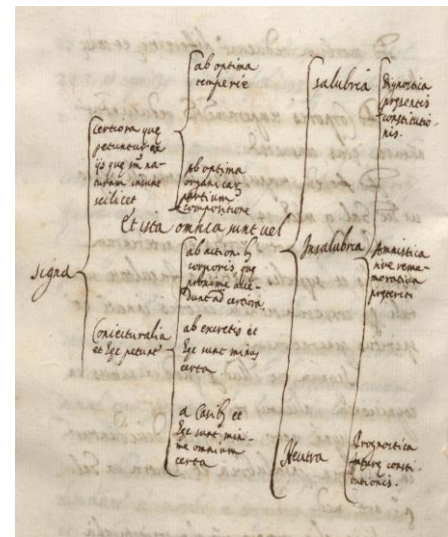
Detailed notes describing remedies from 'Rubarb' [sic] and salt of wormwood for 'feavours' to carrying a 'Glow Worm sewd up in bit of fine Rag or Silk' for 'Hooping cough'!

Finding number MS709

Medical manuscript entitled 'De Medicina', [17th century]

Accounts of diseases and their treatments, written in Latin.

Finding number MS702



Manuscript volume of medical prescriptions entitled, 'Modus confectionis', c 1350

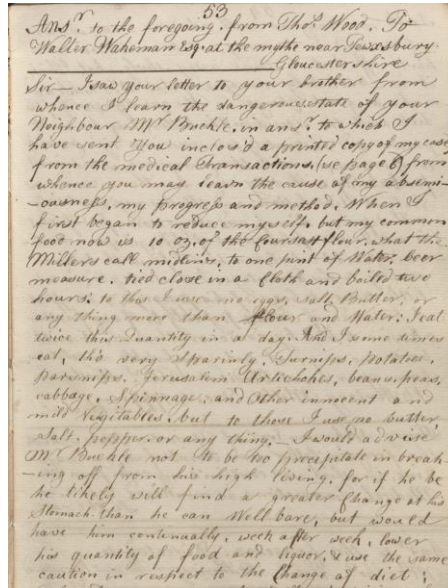
This volume, in Latin, was once the property of John Hatfield, monk of Worcester.

Finding number MS668

Letterbook of Thomas 1781

Largely copies of response to a medical 'Universal Magazine' July Thomas Wood's health giving up alcohol and then his diet until he was eating and not drinking at all.

Finding number MS494



Wood of Billericay, 1771-

correspondence received in report published in 'The 1772 which described how improved firstly as a result of by making further changes to only a form of bread pudding

Medicinal recipe book of Jane Hussey, 1692

Volume containing recipes ('receipts') for a wide range of curative and restorative waters, syrups, electuaries, plaisters, poultices, ointments, lozenges, oils and juleps for specified conditions; with one loose recipe

This is an example of a private herbal or recipe book for medicines, in the tradition of others compiled not unusually by women. It was compiled by Jane Hussey, whose name appears on the title page and inside the back cover in a second hand, presumably comprising a fair copy of recipes and advice collected together and copied up into book form for careful preservation.

Finding number MS909

Doctor's notebook with miscellaneous notes and accounts, c 1830-1899

Contains medical notes on general practice, on materia medica, on midwifery cases attended by Mr Parker in 1853 (mothers named), other medical and chemical notes

Finding number KWH/A/149

Register of obstetrics accounts at Tewkesbury, 1832-1838

Finding number MS721

Mr Cline's Surgical Lectures, 19th century

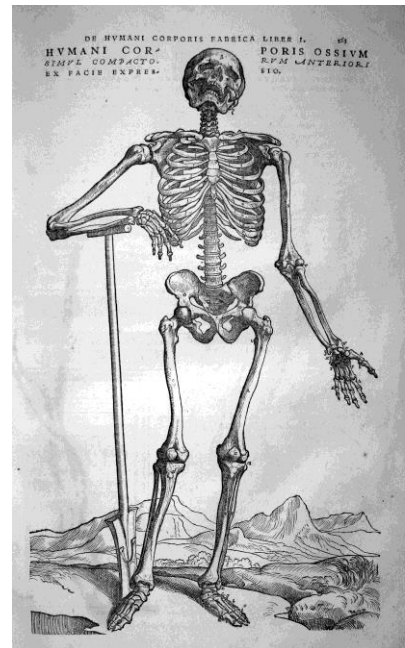
Finding number MS723

'De humani corporis fabrica' by Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)

Published in Basle, [1543]

A groundbreaking work on human anatomy. Vesalius pioneered dissection and examination of the organs and internal working and structure of the body using anatomical drawings to show how muscle is built up in layers and how veins and arteries are connected. His book opened up new ways of treating disease and exposed errors in previous medical theories. The illustrations are by pupils of Titian.

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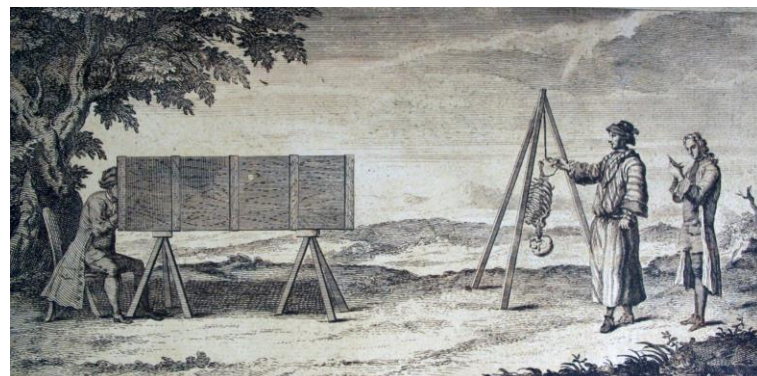


'Tractatus quatuor' by Fabricius ab Aquapendente (c 1533-1619)

Published by Typis Hartm. Palthenij, sumptibus Jakob de Zetter, Frankfurt 1634

Shelfmark r q 16.F226

'Osteographia, or the anatomy of the bones' by William



Cheselden (1688-1752)

Published in London, [sn] 1733

Shelfmark r f QM 101



'Illustrations of dissections, in a series of original coloured plates the size of life, representing the dissection of the human body' by George Viner Ellis and G.H. Ford

Published by Walton and Maberly in London, [1867]

Shelfmark r f QM 25

'The anatomy and physiology of the female body' by Hubert Elwyn Jones Biss with plates by Georges M. Dupuy, 3rd edition

Published by Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London 1921

Shelfmark r f QM 421

