

J. HENRY CARSTENS, M.D., COLLECTION

Papers 1868-1920, 1958  
(Predominately 1902-1920)  
.25 Linear Feet  
5 Scrapbooks

Accession Number 126  
L.C. Number

The papers of J.H. Carstens, M.D. were deposited with the University Archives in June, 1972 by Dr. Henry R. Carstens.

Dr. J. Henry Carstens, a faculty member of the Detroit Medical College and the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery, was born in Kiel Germany, June 1848. He immigrated with his family to Detroit in 1850. Carstens' early education was at the Detroit German-American Seminary. From age 13 he continued his education as a chemist apprentice in Detroit drugstores. In November 1868, Carstens enrolled in the first class of the Detroit Medical College, receiving his degree in 1870.

As a practicing physician in Detroit for fifty years, Dr. Carstens served the community and the profession in a number of capacities including president of the Detroit Board of Health in 1877, chief of staff at Harper Hospital, 1895 to 1920, an organizer and director of the Detroit Life Insurance Company. J. Henry Carstens was a member of several local, state and national medical societies, serving as president of the Wayne County and Michigan Societies, and was a founding member and president of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (organized in 1888).

Dr. Carstens maintained a close connection with his alma mater, the Detroit Medical College. He accepted a faculty position in 1871, teaching bandaging and the application of plaster of paris. Teaching and practicing in a number of medical specialties, Carstens predominate influence was in obstetrics and gynecology, as one of the more innovative and foremost authorities in abdominal surgery and disease. Carstens was appointed professor of obstetrics and gynecology in 1881. With the reorganization of the Medical College to form the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery in 1913, Carstens served as president of the faculty until his death in 1920.

In addition to his medical career, Carstens was active in community political affairs as a school inspector, elected in 1875 and 1879, chairman of the Republican City Committee in 1879 and as a delegate to Republican State and National Conventions. Nominated mayor of Detroit by the Republicans, he was defeated by William Maybury in 1902 and was defeated for the Republican nomination in the Detroit Mayorial race of 1906 and 1908.

The papers and scrapbooks of J. Henry Carstens, M.D. reflect an active life in community and medical affairs as well as the development of the Detroit Medical College.

Important Subjects covered in the collection are:

- City Transit Controversy
- Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery
- Detroit Education Board
- Detroit Health Board
- Detroit Medical College
- German Community in Detroit
- Harper Hospital
- Mayorial Election of 1902, 1906, 1908
- Medical Theory
- Republican Politics

Among the correspondents are: (an index to the location of these letters  
will be found on the last page of the guide)

- O'Reilly, R.M., U.S. Army, Surgeon General
- Pingree, Hazen

Non-Manuscript Material

Two photographs and one postcard were transferred to the Archives' Audio-Visual Collection. One photograph is of Dr. J.H. Carstens' father, John H. Carstens and his home, ca 1900. The second photograph is of the home and office of Dr. J. Henry Carstens and family ca. 1898. The postcard, ca. 1897-1902 is of Detroit looking north on Woodward in the neighborhood of the J. Henry Carstens home.

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Contents

1 Manuscript Box  
5 Scrapbooks

The major feature of the J. Henry Carstens, M.D. Collection are the five scrapbooks which consist primarily of newspaper clippings and occasional programs, reports, and certificates. Most of the clippings are in English although many are in German and several are in other languages. The remaining material in the collection includes lists and reprints of publications by Dr. Carstens, limited correspondence, and miscellaneous items.

Box 1.

1. Chronology of Publications, 1869-1914
2. Chronology of Publications, 1882-1909, 1901-1915
3. Correspondence, 1899, 1908
4. Detroit Medical College Notebook, 1868
5. Family Tree, Carstens-Mordhorst, Rohnert-Sickler Families
6. Harper Hospital Brochure, 1902
7. Honorary Banquet-Reply to Toast, 1911
8. Letters of Reference, R.E. Sickler, 1866
9. Reprints, Undated, 1881-1891
10. Reprints, 1892-1897
11. Reprints, 1898-1901
12. Reprints, 1902-1916

The material in the scrapbooks are in chronological order.

Box 2.

Scrapbook #1, 1868-Oct 1902  
Detroit Board of Education, 1897-1881  
Detroit Board of Health, 1876-1877  
German Community in Detroit  
Harper Hospital, 1897-1899, 1901  
Mayorial Elections 1895-1899, 1902  
Medical Meetings and Issues  
Republican Politics

Scrapbook #2, Oct-Nov, 1902  
Detroit Mayorial Election

Box 3

Scrapbook #3, Nov. 1902-Aug. 1908  
City Transit Controversy  
Harper Hospital, 1903-1908  
Mayorial Campaign, 1904, 1906, 1908  
Medical Meetings and Issues  
Merger of Detroit Medical College with University of Michigan  
Politics

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Box 3 cont.

Scrapbook #4, Aug. 1908-Aug. 1913

City Transit Controversy and the Committee of 50  
Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery Opens, 1913  
Detroit Life Insurance Company  
Harper Hospital, 1909-1913  
Mayorial Campaign, 1908  
Medical Meetings  
Medical Theory

Scrapbook #5, March 1914- Aug. 1920

Anti-Prohibition, 1916-1920  
City Assumes Control of Medical College, 1918-1919  
Medical Theory  
Merger of Medical College with University of Michigan, 1917  
Obituaries for Dr. J. Henry Carstens, 1920  
Plea by Carstens for Continuation of Medical College, typewritten,  
ca 1918  
War Effort, 1917-1919

Index to Correspondence

O'Reilly, R.M., Surgeon General, U.S. Army, Box 1, Folder 3  
Pingree, Hazen, Box 1, Folder 3