

THE WILLIAM J. STAPLETON JR. COLLECTION

Papers 1902 - 1961
(Predominantly 1930-50)

1 1/2 linear feet

Accession Number 30

The papers of William J. Stapleton, Jr., were opened for research in January of 1974.

Dr. William John Stapleton, Jr., acclaimed "Michigan's Foremost Family Physician of 1953" by the House of Delegates of the Michigan Medical Society and awarded the Jesse Ansler Griffin Medal in 1956, was born in Detroit on Christmas Day, 1876. Raised and educated in Detroit, he received his M.D. in 1900 from the Michigan College of Medicine, his Ph.G. in 1902 from the Department of Pharmacy at the Detroit College of Medicine, and his LL.B. in 1907 from the Detroit College of Law.

Although he was certified in both pharmacy and law and became involved in medical education, he had been primarily a practising physician. As such, he had associated himself with Emergency Hospital from 1900 to 1907, Boulevard Sanitarium from 1907 to 1912, St. Mary's Hospital, and Woman's Hospital, and he remained in active practice of medicine in Detroit for over sixty years.

His association with Wayne University College of Medicine itemizes the following :

1902-03	Lecturer in Pharmacology, Material Mediae, Minor Surgery
1907-47	Lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence
1910-12	Lecturer in Post-Mortem Examination
1912-13	Assistant to the Chair of Pathology
1913-14	Legal Medicine
1914-17	Professor of Medical Jurisprudence
1917-18	Captain, Medical Corps Reserve
1935-36	Assistant to the Dean
1939-40	Acting Dean
1940-47	Associate Dean

In addition to his primary interests of medical practice and medical education, Dr. Stapleton was a frequent editor and contributor to medical

journals. Using the sobriquet of "The Medicine Man", he compiled annually for a period of twenty years "One Hundred Books for the Doctor", a series of brief book reviews covering virtually the entire field of current lay literature. He also periodically wrote a column called "The Doctor's Log", detailing his travels here and abroad and noting in particular observations of medical practices, doctors, and institutions. He was also associated with the publications Detroit Medical News and Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society. At the beginning of his career, Dr. Stapleton either wrote for or edited Postmortems and Report of the Coroners of the County of Wayne.

Because Dr. Stapleton lived through what he called "The Golden Age of Medicine", he was frequently called upon to speak of the many changes occurring in medical practices and in the medical education process. Among his most famous addresses was the one delivered at the banquet honoring him as a recipient of the Jesse Ansley Griffin medal in 1956.

Over the long period of his career, he had chaired and held many offices in professional societies, chief among them being the Wayne County Medical Society. In the Michigan State Medical Society, he served as chairman of the Medico-legal Commission and originated the Radio Committee. He was president of the Metropolitan Health Committee and served for fourteen years as Medical Director of the Northern Insurance Company.

Dr. Stapleton became professor emeritus in June of 1947 and retired from private practice in the late 1960's. As of this date, he is still living, at ninety-seven years of age.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- Doctors in non-medical fields
- History of medicine
- History of St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit, Michigan
- History of Wayne University School of Medicine and its predecessors
- Medical practice in Detroit

Among the correspondents is Frederick F. Yonkman, M.D. (an index to the location of his correspondence will be found on the last page of the guide).

Contents

3 manuscript boxes

Series I, Box 1, Folders 1-8

The series prefaces the collection because of its biographical content, and it consists of a tribute program, correspondence that is personal in nature, and newspaper clippings that range from personal to miscellaneous. Correspondence in folder 4 indicates gifts of books and papers to other libraries.

Series II, Box 1, Folders 9-16; 17-25

This series comes under the general heading of his association with Wayne. Records fall predominantly into two categories: 1.) history of the School of Medicine and 2.) an abbreviated office file that covers activities at Wayne State School of Medicine from 1935 to 1952. The first section consists of notes, legal transaction copies, write-ups, building plans, chronologies, and a project report. The second part of the series reflects only partially his years as acting dean and associate dean. In it are correspondence, course schedules, committee minutes, reports, and brochures. Folders in both sections are arranged alphabetically.

Series III, Box 1, Folders 26-39

This series, comprising association programs, correspondence, admission rules, souvenir booklets, catalogs, addresses, clippings, and articles of association, by-laws, and regulations, tells of his association specifically with the medical profession. The amount and nature of material on hospitals vary. Of special note are the five folders concerning the history of Detroit's oldest hospital, St. Mary's, whose centennial he helped celebrate. Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series IV, Box 1, Folders 40-47; Box 2, Folders 1-14

This series is mainly Dr. Stapleton's speeches, arranged alphabetically by title. At times, folders also contain the notes and background material he used. It is not always evident where or when a speech was delivered. Varying introductions indicate that some were given more than once and to different groups. Correspondence folders precede talks.

Series V, Box 2, Folders 15-30

This series is supplementary to the above, listing a number of topics that could very likely have been subjects for talks and/or articles. The first ten folders are under one general heading, the history of medicine. Folder 20 in the series contains information on the Johns Hopkins University's Institute of the History of Medicine which Dr. Stapleton attended. Three other topics are listed in this grouping: immortality, insanity, and medical ethics. The origins and use of the notes on immortality are unknown.

Series VI, Box 2, Folders 31-37; Box 3, Folders 1-14

The series comprises journals that Dr. Stapleton edited or contributed to. There is no evidence that the collection is complete. Slips of paper indicate the location of his articles or references, if such appear in the journal. Folders are arranged alphabetically, and dates range from 1902 to 1961.

Series VII, Box 3, Folders 15-22

The last series reflects his memberships in three fraternities: Alpha Omega Alpha, Mu Kappa Phi, and Phi Rho Sigma. Folders are arranged alphabetically by fraternity.

Folder Inventory

Box 1

1. Tribute Program, 1954
2. Correspondence - Personal, 1903, 1926, 1954, 1957, 1958
3. Correspondence - Personal, 1946, 1950
4. Correspondence - Gifts, 1906, 1950
5. Clippings - Biographical
6. Clippings - Bow, Warren E.
7. Clippings - Miscellaneous
8. Homespun Verse
9. Detroit College of Medicine, 1885-87
10. Articles of Association of Detroit Medical College and Michigan College of Medicine, 1868, 1885
11. College of Medicine, 1868-1933
12. Building Plans for Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery
13. Wayne University College of Medicine, 1865-1940
14. Industrial Health Project, c.1945
15. Physiology Department - Chronology, 1869-1950
16. Medical Library
17. Admission Procedures, 1944
18. Army Training under Board of Education - World War II
19. Correspondence, 1935-37
20. Course Evaluation, 1938
21. Continuation School of Medicine of Wayne County, 1939-42
22. International Week, May 3-7, 1937
23. Interns and Internships, Committee of, 1940
24. Legislative Report on Wayne University, 1947
25. Medical Students, Association of, 1939, 1952
26. Associations - Programs, 1950, 1961, 1962
27. Boulevard Sanitarium - Outdoor Clinic Staff
28. Emergency Hospital - Souvenir Booklet, Admission Procedures for Training School for Nurses
29. Harper Hospital - Hudson's 60th Jubilee Year Cover
30. Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery: Announcements, Lecture Schedules, Obituary Address, 1901-08
31. Receiving Hospital and its Development as a Center for Medical Education, c.1936
32. St. Mary's Hospital - History
33. St. Mary's Hospital - Centennial Clippings, 1945
34. St. Mary's Hospital - Centennial Celebration, 1945
35. St. Mary's Hospital - Banquet Address, 1945
36. St. Mary's Hospital - School of Nursing - Lecture Schedules, 1909-11; Prospectus, c.1926
37. 36th General Hospital - Banquet Tickets, 1942; Flag Ceremony
38. Wayne County Medical Society - Centennial Publication, 1949
39. Woman's Hospital - Articles of Association, By-laws, and Regulations, 1926

40. Speech Correspondence, 1933-58
41. "Albert Schweitzer, M.D."
42. "Doctors Also", 1948
43. "Doctors as Missionaries"
44. "Early Physicians of Detroit"
45. "Exercise for the Middle Aged"
46. "Fifty Years in the Control of Tuberculosis in Michigan",
"Tuberculosis", 1934
47. "How Shall the Medical Society Best Reach the Public
Regarding the Physician's Problem?"
48. "Ideals in Medicine", 1937

Box 2

1. "Medical Jurisprudence for Nurses"
2. "Obstetrics and Gynecology and the General Practitioner
Fifty Years Ago in Detroit, Michigan"
3. "Opportunities in Medicine"
4. "Opportunities in Nursing"
5. "Progress of Medical Education in Detroit during the Last
Twenty-Five Years", 1936
6. "Seventy Years of Progress"
7. "Sixty Years of Medical Practice", 1960
8. "Should Health End at Forty?"
9. "Twenty-Five Years of Medical Education in Detroit", 1936
10. "What We Put Into Ourselves"
11. "What's a Health Examination Anyway?"
12. "Why Grow Old at Forty?", 1937
13. "Why the Layman Should Be Interested in Health Activities"
14. "Young Folks and the Church"
15. Adventures in Medicine from Sorcery to Salk
16. Arabian Medicine
17. Babylonian and Persian Medicine
18. Egyptian Medicine
19. Evolution of Anatomy
20. Greek Medicine
21. History of Medicine
22. Johns Hopkins University - Institute of the History of
Medicine
23. Medieval Medicine
24. "More About Osler", Maude E. Abbott, 1937
25. Paracelsus
26. Pathology, History of
27. Roman Medicine
28. Immortality
29. Insanity
30. Medical Ethics
31. Publications - Correspondence, 1935, 1956-61
32. Book Reviews
33. By the Way - "A Little Pilgrimage to the Mayos"
34. Doctor's Log
35. "One Hundred Books for the Doctor"
36. "Plea for the Study of Medical History with a List of
Books of Interest for Medical Men"
37. Postmortems, 1906, 1920

Box 3

1. Report of the Coroners of the County of Wayne, 1907, 1908
2. Reprints - "Notes of Life Insurance Examinations", 1913;
"Treatment of Alcoholism", 1904
3. Reprints (other authors) - "Some Cases of Brain Surgery",
1898; "Malpractice, Let's Face It", 1946
4. Alumnus, October 1902
5. The Bulletin - Wayne County Medical Society, September 28,
1925
6. Detroit Emergency Hospital Reports, 1905-07
7. Detroit Medical News, December 11, 1933
8. Detroit Medical News - Dedication Number, September 27,
1958
9. Detroit Medical News, 1959-61
10. Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society, 1925-36
11. Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society, September
1958
12. Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society, April 1961
13. Journal of Phi Rho Sigma, 1956-60
14. Leucocyte, December 1920
15. Alpha Omega Alpha, 1943, 1947
16. Mu Kappa Phi - Program, undated
17. Phi Rho Sigma - Initiation Banquet Programs, 1905, 1907,
1908, 1909
18. Phi Rho Sigma Directory, 1937
19. Phi Rho Sigma - Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the General
Chapter, June 18-21, 1956
20. Phi Rho Sigma Correspondence, 1935-56
21. Jesse Ansley Griffin Award Address, 1956
22. Phi Rho Sigma - Jesse Ansley Griffin Address, 1956

Index to Correspondence

Yonkman, Frederick F., 1-19