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LIBRARIES OF SOME TWENTIETH-CENTURY
AMERICAN BIBLIOPHILIC PHYSICIANS¹

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PROGRESS in the medical sciences is dependent, more than is generally realized, upon past knowledge. The experience gained thereby has been accumulating through the centuries, and much of it has been preserved in private medical libraries. These libraries, for the most part, are eventually deeded to public and university collections, and in this way many important contributions are made available to the general fund of knowledge. The medical world, therefore, is indebted to physicians who collect books. Medical librarians, especially, are grateful to bibliophilic physicians who spend a considerable number of years and not inconsiderable funds in quest of significant books, to the enrichment of library collections. In this paper we shall describe some of the outstanding American medical collections and their collectors.

THE WARREN LIBRARY²

Among the several historical collections at the Harvard Medical School Library there is one of special interest because it represents the results of careful selection of books and pamphlets on scientific and medical subjects by five generations of physicians. The collection, numbering about two thousand books and pamphlets, was bequeathed to the

¹ This paper, in slightly different form, appears in an unpublished *Festschrift* presented to Nathan van Patten, former librarian of Stanford University.

² Anna C. Holt, "The Warren Library of the Harvard Medical School," *Harvard University Library Notes*, IV (March, 1942), 89-94.

Harvard Medical School by Dr. John Warren, a member of its faculty from 1901 until his death in 1928. The volumes cover a span of several centuries, ranging from 1476 through 1928.

The first John Warren (1753-1815) of this group was appointed professor of anatomy and surgery in the new medical school at Harvard in 1782. A few of his books have survived, and it is interesting to note that several of these volumes contain also the ownership inscriptions of four succeeding Warrens. Important volumes include Thomas Bartholin's *Anatomia reformata* (1658), *Pharmacopoeia collegii regalis Londini* (1677), Christopher Plantin's *Vivae imagines partium corporis humani* (1579), William Salmon's *Ars chirurgica*, William Smellie's *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery* (1766), and John Morgan's *Discourse upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America* (1765).

The second Warren, Dr. John Collins Warren (1778-1856), the surgeon who, in 1846, demonstrated the practicability of ether anesthesia, added considerably to the library. He collected many volumes written by the older medical men as well as those written by contemporaries. Among the interesting volumes he acquired were Bernhard Siegfried Albinus' *De sceleto humano* (1762), Charles Bell's *Anatomy of the Brain* (1802), Thomas Elyot's *The Castle of Health* (1541), Albrecht von Haller's *Primaevae lineae physiologiae* (1751), William Harvey's *De motu cordis . . .* (1639), John

Hunter's *Natural History of the Human Teeth* (1771), Ambroise Paré's *Opera chirurgica* (1582), Andreas Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica* (1543), and Thomas Willis' *Opera omnia* (1681).

Dr. Jonathan Mason Warren (1811–67), a grandson of Dr. John Warren, continued to augment the collection. One of the interesting historical volumes he added was Gasparo Tagliacozzi's *De curatorum chirurgia per insitionem* (1597).

J. Collins Warren (1842–1927), the grandson of the first John Collins Warren, continued to add to the library. The collection now reflects the great progress made in surgery through the advent of ether anesthesia and the development of antiseptic and aseptic methods. This Dr. Warren added many more important historical volumes.

The last of the family to add to the library was John Warren (1874–1928), who, like his great-great-grandfather, taught anatomy at Harvard Medical School. His books reflect not only an interest in recent medical problems but a profound historical interest as well. He added nine medical incunabula and many other treasures, including Gasparo Asselli's *De lactibus* (1627), with the famous plates of the lacteals printed for the first time in color; William Hunter's *Anatomia uteri humani gravidi . . .* (1774); and Joannes de Ketham's *Fasciculus medicinae* (1513).

THE OSLER LIBRARY

Medical bibliophiles have a patron saint, Sir William Osler (1849–1919), who still exists through memories, books, and contributions to knowledge. He retained his interest in books and libraries throughout his life and contributed financial and moral support to several libraries, notably that of McGill University, the Army Medical Library, the li-

brary of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and that of his old preparatory school, Trinity College. To many others he made important gifts. While in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, he was a member of the library committee of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. He rejuvenated the library and saw it grow to fifteen thousand volumes before his departure for England in 1905. As regius professor of medicine at the University of Oxford, his first official duty was to act as curator, ex officio, of the Bodleian Library, a task, we may assume, from which he derived much pleasure.

Macalister has written a delightful fantasy on a mythical Osler Library, and it contains some startling observations and sound suggestions for librarians.³ Sir William Osler bequeathed the greater part of his library to the medical faculty of McGill University, Montreal; it numbers almost 7,600 bound volumes. In addition, Osler had collected two other groups of books. One of these, a modern collection of medical monographs, he left to the Johns Hopkins Hospital; the other, an important collection on English literature, was deposited with the Tudor and Stuart Club founded at Johns Hopkins University in memory of Osler's son, Edward Revere (1896–1917), who was to have inherited these volumes.

As Osler developed his library, he conceived of its possible educational value and its literary and historic interest. He therefore classified the library in broad general terms and grouped the books in the following divisions: (1) *Bibliotheca prima*: Really an epitome, in chronological order, of the evolution of science, in-

³J. Y. W. Macalister, "The Osler Library," in *Contributions to Medical and Biological Research Dedicated to Sir William Osler, Bart., in Honour of His Seventieth Birthday, July 12, 1919* (New York: Paul B. Hoeber, 1919), pp. 111–21.

cluding medicine, as illustrated by the important contributions; (2) *Bibliotheca secunda*: The works of men who have made notable contributions or whose works have some special interest; (3) *Bibliotheca literaria*: The literary works written by and about medical men; (4) *Bibliotheca historica*; (5) *Bibliotheca biographica*; (6) *Bibliotheca bibliographica*; (7) Incunabula; (8) Manuscripts.

It was Osler's expressed desire that a catalog of his library be printed. Dr. W. W. Francis, librarian of the Osler Library, R. H. Hill, of the Bodleian Library, and Dr. Archibald Malloch, former librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, at Lady Osler's suggestion carried out his wishes in an admirable manner.⁴

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF
DR. LE ROY CRUMMER⁵

Dr. Le Roy Crummer (1872-1934), who built up a noteworthy private library and gave the books he acquired to the libraries with which he became associated, spent the larger part of his active years in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended the University of Michigan, where he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1893. His training in medicine was obtained from Northwestern University Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1896, and the following year he began the practice of medicine in Omaha with his father. Until 1906 Dr. Crummer interrupted his practice by many trips to Europe, where he studied and observed at the leading medical cen-

⁴ Sir William Osler, Bart., *Bibliotheca Osleriana: A Catalogue of Books Illustrating the History of Medicine and Science, Collected, Arranged, and Annotated by Sir William Osler, Bt., and Bequeathed to McGill University* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1929).

⁵ A. G. Beaman, *A Doctor's Odyssey: A Sentimental Record of Le Roy Crummer: Physician, Author, Bibliophile, Artist in Living, 1872-1934* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1935).

ters. After 1906 he settled in Omaha and continued his practice until 1929, when for reasons of health he moved to Los Angeles.

Dr. Crummer gathered together a fine collection of sourcebooks in medical history, including medical incunabula and manuscripts. In 1929 he presented a large part of this collection to the University of Michigan, and after his death in 1934, Mrs. Crummer sent many more items to Michigan. Other institutions to which he made significant gifts included the University of Nebraska,⁶ the University of California, the British Museum, the Grolier Club, the John Crerar Library, the Academy of Medicine (Richmond), the Royal College of Physicians (London), the College of Physicians (Philadelphia), the Pierpont Morgan Library (New York), the Army Medical Library (Washington, D.C.), and the Wellcome Museum of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (London).

THE MEDICAL BOOKS OF
DR. HARVEY CUSHING

Yale University has one of the foremost medical libraries in the country, and the Historical Library of its School of Medicine is built around the collections of three bibliophilic physicians: Drs. Harvey Cushing, Arnold C. Klebs, and John F. Fulton. The responsibility for bringing together the three collections at Yale lay initially with Dr. Cushing, who willed his own library to Yale, persuaded Dr. Klebs to leave his collection of twenty-two thousand items there, and hoped from the beginning that Dr. Fulton's books would reach the same destination. Cushing, moreover, was responsible for

⁶ *A Catalogue: Manuscripts and Medical Books Printed before 1640, in the Library of Le Roy Crummer, Omaha, Nebraska* (Omaha: [Privately printed], April 15, 1927).

Yale's acquisition of a new building for its medical library. He had promised his books and those of some of his friends on condition that the authorities provide a new library building. When in September, 1939, after four years of planning, it seemed highly possible that the war might interfere and there was a suggestion that construction of the building be postponed, Cushing's threat to leave his books to the Welch Library hastened the decision of the Yale Corporation to break ground.⁷

After graduation from Yale University and the Harvard Medical School, Cushing served an internship at Massachusetts General Hospital and then went to the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1896. There he came under the influence of Welch, Osler, Kelly, and Halsted, all of whom, but more particularly Osler and Welch, probably helped to lay the foundation for his keen interest in his library. Cushing began to collect in earnest in 1900, after a year spent in Europe.

His special interests are reflected in the published catalog of his library, *The Harvey Cushing Collection of Books and Manuscripts*.⁸ Most important of these is his Vesalius collection.⁹ He also gathered to-

gether the earlier books on anatomical illustration, as well as the books of later authors who plagiarized and otherwise used Vesalius. As mentioned by Fulton,¹⁰ during the last year of his life Cushing spread his anatomical books and papers over the entire dining-room and began work on his biobibliography of Vesalius. On the evening of October 3, 1939, as he lifted the heavy folio of Vesalius, he suffered an attack of acute substernal pain. This portended the coronary attack that was fatal to him four days later.

Dr. Cushing had always admired Ambroise Paré, but the precious little octavo volumes were long out of his reach. Eventually, however, he obtained many of these as well as the folio editions. Another desire he developed late in life was the acquisition of the first editions of outstanding landmarks in medicine and the sciences, including the contributions of the Nobel Prize winners. Dr. Arnold Klebs had instilled an interest in medical incunabula; Cushing acquired one hundred and sixty-eight.

A collection equal in importance to Cushing's Vesalius library is that on Jenner and the literature of inoculation. Interest in this sphere probably was fos-

⁷ J. F. Fulton, "On Being a Literary Executor," *Journal of Neurosurgery*, IV (1947), 1-6.

⁸ *The Harvey Cushing Collection of Books and Manuscripts*, compiled by Margaret Brinton and Henrietta T. Perkins for Yale University, School of Medicine, Yale Medical Library (New York: Henry Schuman, Inc., 1943).

⁹ There is an apt story concerning Dr. Cushing, Dr. E. C. Streeter, and Vesalius which Cushing described in his "'Apologia' from an Unfinished Bibliography of Vesalius," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, VIII (1940), 390, published shortly after his death, and also included in Harvey Cushing, *A Bio-bibliography of Andreas Vesalius* (New York: Henry Schuman, Inc., 1943), p. xxii. It seems appropriate to repeat it here: "As December 1914 approached my friend Dr. E. C. Streeter, who had a far better collection of books than I, proposed that we call attention to the date by an exhibit of Vesaliana for the spring meeting of the American Medical

Association in Atlantic City. For this purpose we were allotted a booth and had a small pamphlet printed with a description of the books we had selected for display. It aroused little if any interest. We had arranged to alternate as showmen, Streeter in the morning hours, I in the afternoon. We met at lunch after the first morning and on my enquiring 'How did it go?' he replied, 'Well, only one old codger stopped long enough to read the sign *Vesalian Exhibit* and said, 'Got any samples?' Streeter asked, 'Samples of what?' He pointed to the sign and said, 'Samples of Vaseline, of course.' Sadder and wiser we returned to Boston with our 'samples' at the end of the week."

¹⁰ J. F. Fulton, *Harvey Cushing: A Biography* (Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas, 1946), p. 713, and J. F. Fulton, "Harvey Cushing and His Books: An Address Read before the Abernethian Society on July 10th, 1947," *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, LII (1948), 80-82.

tered by his father's collection of pre-Jennerian inoculation tracts. Another interest, medical Americana, is said to have stemmed from the collection of eighteenth-century literature which he had inherited from his great-grandfather. Medical quackery is represented by the inclusion of the works of Nicholas Culpeper in more than one hundred editions.

THE LIBRARY OF DR.
ARNOLD C. KLEBS¹¹

Arnold Carl Klebs was born in Bern, Switzerland, on March 17, 1870. His father was associated over the years with many universities, and, in consequence, young Klebs had his early schooling in Prague, was graduated from the Gymnasium at Zurich in 1888, took his examinations in medicine in 1894, and in 1895 received his medical degree from the University of Basel. From 1896 to 1909 he practiced medicine in Chicago, where he specialized in the treatment of tuberculosis. Except for the years 1914-19 and 1926-27, he lived in Switzerland from 1909 until his death, devoting his time to the study of medical history, with special emphasis on the scientific and medical literature of the fifteenth century. At his villa at Les Terrasses on the shore of Lake Geneva, scientists and medical historians were always made welcome. He numbered Osler, Cushing, Welch, and Fulton among his closest friends and thought that Karl Sudhoff and William Osler had the greatest influence on his career.

Klebs's father left a collection of classics in philosophy and art, as well as a library in pathology and bacteriology. After 1909, Klebs began to collect the bibliographic tools of historical medicine,

which were of considerable aid in tracing the progress of medicine through the centuries. His first efforts were in the field of his specialty, tuberculosis, in which he accumulated more than three thousand items. Next he collected extensively on the subject of his "inherited" interest, infection, and especially the role of contagion in the spread of disease. This in turn led him to a search of the important works on prevention and therapy. His library includes about one thousand items on the history of vaccination and smallpox, and there is also a large group of the early plague tracts. His greatest interest by far, however, is reflected by his extensive holdings of the bibliographic tools for the study of medical and scientific incunabula.¹²

For many years Klebs was uncertain as to what he would do with his library. At one time he hoped to endow it and his villa, so that future students of the history of medicine and science might come there to study. Dr. Cushing, aware of Klebs's indecision, proposed in 1934 that he leave his books to Yale, for by thus combining their two libraries and persuading other friends to do likewise, they would be able to establish at New Haven a humanistic center for the study of medicine. Klebs warmed to this suggestion, and shortly after the new medical library building was erected, he drew up a deed of gift bequeathing his entire medical collection to Yale University.

Dr. Klebs died on March 6, 1943, and because of the war the books, consisting of some twenty-two thousand cataloged items, were kept three years in Geneva before they were shipped to New Haven, where they arrived in December, 1946. The gift also included extensive files of

¹¹ Leona Baumgartner, "Arnold Klebs as Humanistic Scholar," *Medical Library Association Bulletin*, XXXII (1944), 85-95.

¹² J. F. Fulton, "The Library of Arnold C. Klebs," *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, XIX (1947), 883-86.

correspondence and the manuscript of Dr. Klebs's colossal projected catalog of all medical and scientific incunabula. It is to be hoped that some means will be found to publish this most valuable material, the check list of which was published in *Osiris* in 1938.¹³

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF DR.

JOHN FARQUHAR FULTON

John Fulton grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. His insatiable curiosity found him often prowling in libraries and book-stalls in that city, and he thought nothing of entering a library and loading up with reading materials by the armful, carting the books home, and returning them only to exchange them for a new supply.

After a year spent at the University of Minnesota, Fulton attended Harvard University, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1921 and his Doctor of Medicine degree from Harvard Medical School in 1927. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University from 1921 to 1923 and a Christopher Welch scholar from 1923 to 1925, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1923 and his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in 1925. Later he became a fellow in Magdalen College, Oxford (1928-30).

In 1929 Fulton was appointed professor of physiology at Yale University, at the comparatively early age of twenty-nine, and three years later he was given a Sterling professorship. He has been at Yale since that time, and in 1951 he was named to fill the newly created position of Sterling professor of the history of medicine.

In 1934, Harvey Cushing proposed to Fulton that he leave his personal medical library to Yale to join that of Cushing.

¹³ A. C. Klebs, "Incunabula scientifica et medica," *Osiris*, IV (1938), 1-359.

As already stated, a similar invitation was sent to Arnold Klebs. Thus Yale acquired the libraries of the three distinguished bibliophilic physicians, Fulton presenting his collection in 1940.

Fulton's medical library is composed of historical works in the field of physiology and experimental medicine. By 1930, he had acquired most of the basic works, and from his own personal library he was able to prepare for publication his important *Selected Readings in the History of Physiology* (Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas, 1930).

Fulton's special interests, neurophysiology and neurology, are particularly well emphasized. He has an especially fine collection of seventeenth-century and many eighteenth-century items. Authors who are well represented are Robert Boyle, Sir Thomas Browne, Sir Kenelm Digby, Joseph Priestley, and Thomas Willis.

Dr. Fulton does not rest with the acquisition of volumes on particular subjects. Part of his method of collecting consists of preparing important bibliographies and lists of books. Thus, in preparation for a centennial exhibit at the Yale University School of Medicine, in October, 1946, Dr. Fulton and Madeline Stanton compiled *An Annotated Catalogue of Books and Pamphlets Bearing on the Early History of Surgical Anesthesia* (New York: Henry Schuman, Inc., 1946). This remarkable catalog, with its important listings, not only is of inestimable aid to libraries and scholars but indicated to Fulton gaps in the Yale collection, which have since been or are now in process of being filled.

Although Fulton has achieved great distinction as an experimental neurophysiologist and a medical historian, his reputation among scholars and librarians lies in his many endeavors as a humanis-

tic bibliographer. He describes the duties of the bibliographer as follows:

A modern bibliographer must "anatomize" his books: he dissects them with infinite patience, lifting their epidermis to find what lies beneath; he is concerned with their joints and ligaments, and has great delight in discovering parts which have been artificially replaced; he seeks for errors in the hand of the maker, but he reviews with charitable amusement all signs of human frailty. Bibliography is indeed an all-absorbing occupation, but its devotee is frequently face to face with those who fail to understand the source of his enjoyment. A mere list of bibliographical idiosyncrasies with mistaken signatures, pagination, and gatherings, has little appeal to anyone not a collector of books; . . . a bibliographer . . . has difficulty in justifying his existence if he fails to make himself useful to those not pursuing his specialized field. He must reveal something more than the mechanics of bookmaking. He can endeavor to assess the importance of a book; he may say how the author came to write it, or investigate the influence which it exerted upon his contemporaries.¹⁴

THE LOGAN CLENDENING LIBRARY¹⁵

Dr. Logan Clendening, of Kansas City, internist, medical writer, and professor of medical history at the University of Kansas, had a profound interest in medical history. After his death on January 30, 1945, his library, which he had informally presented to the department of medical history at the University of Kansas, was formally given to the institution he had served for so many years.

The collection had been used by Dr. Clendening as a basis for his class in medical history, which he taught for more than twenty years. To accompany the books, Dr. Clendening had many inter-

esting museum pieces which at the same time were objects of art. His library contains the outstanding contributions of classic and oriental medicine. Also included are many of the fundamental works in the basic sciences, in the field of medicine, and in the specialties. His collections of Vesalius, Harvey, Paré, and Auenbrugger are worthy of special mention.

A valuable part of the library is the material on anesthesia. It brings together two outstanding collections, one of a Southern admirer of Crawford Long and one of a Bostonian who was interested in Morton, Wells, and Jackson. Clendening added many other items to round out the collection and described it in the *Medical Library Association Bulletin*.¹⁶

Since Dr. Clendening thought it important that research in medical history in the United States should emphasize American contributions, he also secured important works in this field.

Clendening was an artistic bibliophile who possessed a remarkable ability to make his books live. An evening spent in the Clendening home in the basement, where the rarissima were kept in a locked safe, was an unforgettable occasion. After Clendening had opened the safe, each treasure would be carefully lifted from its hiding place, extolled, its story given, and the book gently replaced. Anecdotes would accompany some of the showings. The writer can remember one such occasion. Dr. Clendening was caressing a manuscript of Sir Charles Bell. It was a diary kept of a holiday that Sir Charles and Lady Bell had taken in Scotland. Lady Bell would visit the castles, and Sir Charles would sketch

¹⁴ J. F. Fulton, "A Bibliography of the Honourable Robert Boyle, Fellow of the Royal Society," *Proceedings and Papers of the Oxford Bibliographical Society*, III (1932), 6.

¹⁵ Logan Clendening, "The Library and Museum of the Department of Medical History at the University of Kansas," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, VIII (1940), 742-48.

¹⁶ Logan Clendening, "Literature and Material on Anaesthesia in the Library of Medical History of the University of Kansas Medical Department, Kansas City, Kansas," *Medical Library Association Bulletin*, XXXIII (January, 1945), 124-38.

them. This led to Dr. Clendening's reminiscing about some of his European travels to medical shrines. On one such occasion Clendening was spending the day in Cambridge, armed with a trusted guidebook. He had searched this guidebook in vain for information regarding the college where Harvey studied. Finally he went into a bookshop for assistance. He opened the door, ringing a little bell in the shop, whereupon, according to his description, a very small, wizened man came out. Dr. Clendening informed him that he was looking for the college where William Harvey studied, and, although he had been able to find in his guidebook the colleges where the various bishops, deans and prebendaries had been graduated, he had found nothing about Harvey. The little gentleman asked leave to glance at the guidebook; in a moment he placed his finger on a page and remarked, "Here it is, Keys College." Dr. Clendening looked at the item for a moment and then answered, "So that's Keys College! In America, we would call it Caius College." The little man hesitated and then said with a slight note of sarcasm in his voice, "Why, I suppose you *would*."

At his death Dr. Clendening left his estate for maintenance of the library, and Mrs. Clendening has made further additions from time to time.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF
DR. HIRAM WINNETT ORR

Besides Dr. Crummer, whose library has been considered earlier, another Nebraskan who has an excellent private library and who, like Dr. Crummer, has given away many of his noteworthy volumes, is Dr. Hiram Winnett Orr, of Lincoln. Dr. Orr is an orthopedist, and his library has been built around his specialty as well as around the history of surgery. Although many of Dr. Orr's books

are housed in his own library at Lincoln, he has also given collections to the American College of Surgeons Library, to the University Hospital Library (Ann Arbor), and to the Winnett Memorial Library, Lincoln General Hospital, Lincoln, Nebraska. He has given books to many other institutions, including the Mayo Clinic.

A sampling of Orr's 1945 catalog¹⁷ shows the following rarities: Nicholas Andry's *L'orthopédie ou l'art de prévenir et de corriger dans les enfans, les difformités du corps* (2 vols.; 1741) (also the 1743 English translation); Albrecht von Haller's *Deux mémoires sur la formation des os* (1758) and his *Bibliotheca chirurgica* (2 vols.; 1774); John Jones's *Plain Concise Practical Remarks on the Treatment of Wounds and Fractures* (1775); Dominique-Jean Larrey's *Observations on Wounds and Their Complications* (1st Amer. ed.; 1832); an important collection of Listeriana; Marcello Malpighi's *Opera omnia* (1687-90) and also his *Opera posthuma* (1698); Richard Mead's *Monita et praecepta medica* (1752); Giovanni Battista Morgagni's *The Seats and Causes of Diseases . . .* (1st Amer. ed.; 2 vols.; Boston, 1824); Ambroise Paré's *Œuvres* (2d ed.; Paris, 1579) also the first English edition (1634); and Hugh Owen Thomas' *Diseases of the Hip, Knee, and Ankle Joints* (Liverpool, 1876).

As a member of the American Expeditionary Forces in Brittany in 1917 and 1918, Dr. Orr became interested in the life of Anne of Brittany (1476-1514), the lame princess who twice became Queen of France (as wife of Charles VIII and of Louis XII). Dr. Orr began to collect

¹⁷ H. W. Orr, *A List of Books and Pamphlets on the History of Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery, with Supplement, Additions and Corrections Beginning on Page 195* (2d ed.; Lincoln, Neb.: Jacob North & Co., 1945).

books, pamphlets, souvenirs, guides, and photographs relating to Anne and to Brittany. A catalog¹⁸ of this material was published in offset in 1944 and revised in 1948. The collection is now housed as the Anne of Brittany Collection in the Browsing Room at the Love Memorial Library in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska.

THE ELMER BELT LIBRARY

Dr. Elmer Belt, of Los Angeles, a urologist, has collected and made available a magnificent library for scholars and serious students. Although it is primarily devoted to works by and about Leonardo da Vinci, as well as to the sources of Leonardo's learning in the editions of the works he used, it is even more inclusive. Dr. Belt's aim has been to make the collection a worker's library for the study of the Italian Renaissance.

Dr. Belt has long been interested in the arts, and, indeed, his devotion to Leonardo extends back to his Freshman days in medical school. One afternoon Dr. Belt left the dissection laboratory to spend his time in an old bookshop in Berkeley. There he perused several volumes. One of these was *Dell'anatomia, Fogli B*, by Leonardo da Vinci, published by Sabachnikoff. Here lay page after page of living drawings—anatomy made real by one of the greatest of masters. Thus began a quest for books and other materials that is still continuing. Dr. Belt is building up this extensive library so that the following questions can, at some later date, adequately be answered: "What made this man so great an observer, so appealing a draftsman, so clear a thinker? What did he actually

¹⁸ H. W. Orr (comp.), *Anne of Brittany (1476-1514)* and *A Catalogue of the Dr. H. Winnett Orr Collection at the Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska, 1949).

write; which writings are original? Where could these writings be found? What was his influence upon the men of his time, and upon us? What were his sources of inspiration? What value does modern science place upon him?"

The Elmer Belt library of Vinciana numbers over 4,500 entries¹⁹ and still continues to grow, since Leonardo is being written about continually and his drawings and writings are ever appearing in new editions.

In addition to the Vinciana collection, the Belt library is strong in the history of medicine, with many editions of Vesalius and Paré. Other important medical authors who are well represented include Boyle, Boerhaave, Charles and John Bell, Haller, Harvey, Eustachius, Morgagni, Swammerdam, Lower, and Tagliacozzi. The Belt library also has a good collection of Osleriana and a collection of works by and about Florence Nightingale. In addition, there is a reference collection of more than one thousand volumes.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF DR. JOSIAH C. TRENT²⁰

On December 10, 1948, one of the outstanding American bibliophilic physicians of the present generation died at the age of thirty-four. He was Dr. Josiah C. Trent, of Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Trent acquired an interest in books early in life, and this interest was stimulated throughout his career. As an undergraduate at Duke University he developed a remarkable interest in English literature and in general history, and this

¹⁹ "The Elmer Belt Library of Vinciana: Finding List," prepared by Kate Trauman Steinitz and Margot Archer, with a Preface by Elmer Belt (December, 1946) (mimeographed).

²⁰ J. F. Fulton, "Josiah C. Trent, 1914-1948," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, III (1948), 467-70.

interest continued during his medical schooling at the University of Pennsylvania. It was only natural for him to turn his historical bent to medicine, and after his graduation in 1938 this interest continued unabated. Trent interned for a year at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. In browsing for old medical books in Detroit he met Mr. Henry Schuman, an antiquarian bookseller who specialized in medical historical material. A close friendship developed between them, and most of the important items in Trent's medical collection were secured with the assistance of Schuman. After his internship, Trent returned to Duke and worked in the university hospital the rest of his life, except for a year at Ann Arbor, where he was an assistant to Dr. John Alexander, the thoracic surgeon.

The Josiah C. Trent Medical Library comprises approximately 4,000 books and 2,000 manuscripts.²¹ It consists chiefly of materials in the following fields or categories: general history of medicine and science (about 200 items); history of particular phases of medicine and science (about 200 items); medical biography (about 400 items); medical bibliography (about 100 items); medical incunabula (15); almanacs and books on popular medicine (30); anesthesia (250 items); vaccination (about 75 items); military surgery (about 75 items); Sir Thomas Browne (about 30 items); Benjamin Rush (about 125 manuscripts and 75 books); S. Weir Mitchell (about 125 manuscripts and 60 books); Oliver Wendell Holmes (25 items); yellow fever (about 100 items); Andreas Vesalius (about 25 items); anatomical fugitive sheets (about 15 items); William Harvey (about 20 items); Galen and Hippocrates

²¹ Howard Dittrick, "Josiah Charles Trent," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, XXIII (1949), 95-97.

(about 25 items); *Regimen sanitatis Salernitanum* (about 50 items); obstetrics and gynecology (about 40 items); thoracic diseases and surgery (about 25 items); and one of the most complete collections of Benjamin Waterhouse books, pamphlets, and manuscripts extant.

In addition to the books and manuscripts, there are about twenty-five early pharmacy jars and seventeen miniature ivory manikins. Early microscopes and many types of surgical instruments are also well represented in the collection.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF DR.
HENRY BARTON JACOBS²²

The Henry Barton Jacobs Room of the Welch Medical Library at the Johns Hopkins Hospital was opened on January 14, 1932.²³ The room was especially designed to house the magnificent historical collection of books and pamphlets, prints, autographs of physicians, and medals donated to Johns Hopkins University by Dr. Jacobs. The collection includes more than five thousand books, about twenty-five hundred prints relating to medicine, about one thousand medical medals, and some four hundred autographed letters of physicians. The donor likened the development of his library to his growth as an individual; it was an "objective autobiography" during the forty years spent in assembling it.

Dr. Jacobs (1858-1939) was born in Assinippi, Massachusetts. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and later Harvard University and the Harvard Medical School. He interned at Massachusetts General Hospital, practiced medicine for

²² H. R. Viets, "Henry Barton Jacobs (1858-1939)," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, VIII (1940), 1073-78.

²³ "Dedication of the Henry Barton Jacobs Room," *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, L (1932), 305-17.

a short time in Boston, and then gave up his practice to become a personal physician to Mr. Robert Garrett, a former president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Jacobs continued as Garrett's personal physician until the latter's death in 1896.

Dr. Jacobs had a younger brother to whom he was closely attached. The brother was trained at Harvard Law School, and a promising career was in the offing. He was attacked by tuberculosis, however, and, in spite of care under Drs. Osler and Trudeau, died in the summer of 1896. In that year, Dr. Jacobs went to Johns Hopkins University Medical School and continued his studies. Because of the nature of his brother's death, he became interested in tuberculosis and devoted considerable effort to building up a collection of books on this subject.

At Johns Hopkins, Jacobs became associated with Osler and under his inspiring influence studied the etiology and pathogenesis of tuberculosis and means for its prevention. Osler's interest in books probably helped to stimulate Jacobs in collecting. The latter acquired the first edition of the Laennec's *L'Auscultation médiate* (2 vols.; 1819). Laennec's treatise became the nucleus of the collection, and Jacobs then searched for works of authors who had influenced Laennec. These included Corvisart, Bichat, Auenbrugger, and Hippocrates. Jacobs also collected books that showed the results of Laennec's teaching. Authors included were P. C. A. Louis, of France; S. G. Morton; W. W. Gerhard; H. I. Bowditch; Austin Flint, Sr.; and W. H. Welch, of the United States, as well as Jean-Antoine Villemin, the Alsatian physician, who, between 1865 and 1869, demonstrated that tuberculosis is transmissible by inoculation. Included also are the publications of the discover-

ers in the field of bacteriology, especially Pasteur and Koch.

Koch's hope that tuberculosis might be largely eliminated or controlled, as smallpox had been, led Jacobs to collect the works of Jenner, who discovered the efficacy of vaccination with cowpox lymph as a preventive measure against smallpox. Laennec had been Jacobs' first medical hero, and Jenner became his second. Pasteur was the third, and therefore Jacobs collected many of Pasteur's works in their original form. As Jacobs proceeded with his collecting, he became greatly interested in the whole subject of medical history, and his library is rich in material relating to this subject.

Another important interest of Jacobs was François Rabelais, and the library contains several shelves of works by or about this author. There are also many Osler items.

Dr. Jacobs once remarked that it was but a step from an interest in an author as a writer to an interest in him as an individual. He expressed this interest by collecting likenesses of the leaders of medicine, including photographs, engravings, medals and tokens, and in some cases bronze busts. He assembled autographed letters as well as manuscripts of the authors in whom he was interested.

THE MEDICAL LIBRARY OF DR.
LEWIS STEPHEN PILCHER

Born in Adrian, Michigan, on July 28, 1845, and living until December 24, 1934, Dr. Lewis S. Pilcher of Brooklyn had an exceptionally long and fruitful career. His father was a Methodist clergyman who was also interested in law and medicine. When he was sent to Ann Arbor as pastor of the Methodist Church in 1857, he gratified his desire to train in medicine by attending the state's new medical school. He received his degree in 1859.

Young Lewis Pilcher developed his interest in medicine at an early date. He entered the University of Michigan at the age of thirteen and received his Bachelor's degree at seventeen and his Master's degree at eighteen. He then entered medical school, but his studies were interrupted by the Civil War. He served as a hospital steward and after the war resumed his medical studies, graduating in 1866.

After beginning his practice in rural Michigan, Pilcher had postgraduate training in New York and then was appointed an assistant surgeon in the United States Navy. After a tour of sea duty for five years, he entered private practice in Brooklyn in 1872. There he taught a class in anatomy, and in 1878 he organized the Brooklyn Anatomical and Surgical Society. An annual volume, the *Annals of the Anatomical and Surgical Society*, representing the transactions of this society, was published in 1878 and 1879. Succeeding volumes under Pilcher's editorship appeared as the monthly publication *Annals of Anatomy and Surgery*. In 1884 Pilcher went to Europe to study surgery. Upon his return in 1885 he began the *Annals of Surgery*, the first surgical journal in the English language. He continued as editor of the *Annals* for fifty-one years.²⁴

Dr. Pilcher was a collector of important historical books in the field of medicine, and in 1918 he published an impressive annotated catalog of his books.²⁵ The first part of the catalog of some two hun-

dred pages, a result of more than forty years of collecting, is divided into nine sections, as follows: (1) incunabula; (2) *Regimen sanitatis Salernitanum*; (3) Hippocrates, Galen, Celsus; (4) Mundinus and the pre-Vesalian anatomists; (5) Vesalius and his contemporaries; (6) Ambroise Paré; (7) William Harvey; (8) Sir Thomas Browne; and (9) *Elzeviriana medica*. The second part, containing more general listings, is classified under (10) bibliography, (11) the medical life, (12) history of medicine, (13) anatomy, (14) surgery, (15) general medicine, and (16) biography.

Dr. Pilcher, as he mentions in his autobiography, had a deep devotion to medical history and a love of books. To learn more about the heroic figures in medicine of the past, he collected the works of the important leaders in the field. He also felt that these books were the most precious treasures for the less gifted of all generations who might profit by the knowledge acquired in reading them.

In commenting on his hobby of book-collecting, Dr. Pilcher wrote:

Any professional man might well indulge a hobby with which to lighten the cares and dispel the worries of his regular work. What more attractive, what more satisfactory, what more elevating and broadening a hobby than this of Bibliophilia? In my quest, antiquarian catalogues have been my daily food; I have ransacked the shelves of booksellers in many of the cities of Europe; I have made the acquaintance and enjoyed the friendship of many other men of like tastes. Each book, as it has come into my hands has awakened renewed study and research as to the character and career of its author, and the place in the development of medicine which he and his book should have.²⁶

At his death Dr. Pilcher bequeathed his library to his alma mater, the University of Michigan.

²⁶ L. S. Pilcher, *A Surgical Pilgrim's Progress: Reminiscences of Lewis Stephen Pilcher* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1925), p. 345.

²⁴ T. S. Welton, "Lewis Stephen Pilcher," *American Journal of Surgery*, XXVIII (1935), 3-4.

²⁵ L. S. Pilcher, *A List of Books by Some of the Old Masters of Medicine and Surgery Together with Books on the History of Medicine and on Medical Biography in the Possession of Lewis Stephen Pilcher, with Biographical and Bibliographical Notes and Reproductions of Some Title Pages and Captions* (Brooklyn, N.Y.: [Privately printed], 1918).

THE RUDOLPH MATAS
MEDICAL LIBRARY

On November 29, 1937, the library of the Medical School of Tulane University of Louisiana was named in honor of its most distinguished alumnus, Dr. Rudolph Matas, of New Orleans. Even if Dr. Matas had not had a compelling bibliophilic interest in the education and cultural aspects of medicine, the library probably would have been named after him because of his profound influence on the development of American surgery. But, as Dr. C. C. Bass said in his address on this occasion: "This *is* the Rudolph Matas Medical Library. It *always has been* the Rudolph Matas Medical Library."²⁷ For years Dr. Matas had donated to the medical-school library hundreds of volumes from his own private collection. As years went by, the total ran into the thousands, and Miss Marshall, the librarian of the medical school, has estimated that Dr. Matas has already given the library more than fifteen thousand volumes. Consignments of several hundred volumes at a time are still being delivered to the library, and Dr. Matas' home is still overflowing with books.

Dr. Matas has collected not only medical books and journals but also much material on medicine and art. The library also has a file of more than fifteen hundred mounted portraits of physicians, largely as a result of his interest.

Born in New Orleans in 1860, Dr. Matas grew up during the time when Pasteur and Lister were making their discoveries known. Before attending medical school in 1877, he assisted as an intern

²⁷"The Rudolph Matas Medical Library," *Medical Library Association Bulletin*, XXVI (1938), 259-61, and Rudolph Matas, "Response to the Addresses at Testimonial Dinner Tendered to Dr. Rudolph Matas," *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*, XXV (1940), 163-66.

at Charity Hospital. In 1880, before he was twenty-one, Dr. Matas was graduated from the Medical School of the University of Louisiana, now Tulane University. After five years of clinical work he was appointed demonstrator of anatomy. At the age of thirty-four he was appointed professor of surgery at Tulane. He participated in the transition from the chemical antiseptic techniques to the more effective methods of steam sterilization. He pioneered in the field of local, regional, and spinal anesthesia. He was early in adopting the intravenous use of saline solutions and the use of other fluids to combat shock and hemorrhage. To thoracic surgery he contributed methods of providing positive pressure and an apparatus to prevent unintentional surgical pneumothorax. His contributions to intestinal surgery were legion, as were his pioneering efforts in urologic surgery.

These and many other developments of modern surgical techniques and procedures have made Dr. Matas one of the world's great surgeons. In spite of his many professional activities, he has found time to enjoy his contacts with books and librarians and has twice addressed the Medical Library Association, of which he is an honorary member.²⁸

THE BARKAN LIBRARY AT STANFORD

The Lane Medical Library of Stanford University is an outstanding example of the results of co-operative planning, especially with regard to its historical collections. Since Dr. Adolph Barkan played a significant role in its development, his contribution will be described. The following account is abstracted from the paper by C. D. O'Malley, "The

²⁸Rudolph Matas, "An Evening with Gayarré," *Medical Library Association Bulletin*, XX (1931), 45-50, and "Torn Leaves from the Dead Foliage of Medical Louisiana," *ibid.*, XXX (1942), 433-52.

Barkan Library of the History of Medicine and Natural Science Books: An Account of Its Development."²⁹

Adolph Barkan (1845–1935) was a Hungarian who received his medical education at the universities of Vienna and Zurich. He had the desire of emigrating to California and realized his ambition shortly after the completion of his medical studies, arriving in San Francisco in 1869. He at once established himself as a specialist in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. In 1872 he became a member of the faculty of the Medical College of the Pacific, later to become the Cooper Medical College. He continued as a faculty member, after Cooper became the medical department of Stanford University, until his retirement in 1912.

Although Dr. Barkan was a continuous and generous benefactor of the library, he at first disapproved of historical donations. But as time went on, he developed an interest in the history of medicine, possibly because of the revival of the study of that subject in Europe and the new emphasis placed on medical history in the eastern universities of the United States. Moreover, after his retirement he had returned to Germany and had been impressed, in reading the early periodical literature, by the debt of gratitude the profession owed to the great men of medicine.

Dr. Barkan's first thoughts were to add important historical volumes to the ophthalmological collection of the Lane Library. Barkan early conferred with Dr. Friedrich von Müller (1858–1941), then of Munich, whom Garrison considered "perhaps the most scientific teacher of internal medicine today."³⁰ Dr. Müller

²⁹ *Stanford Medical Bulletin*, IX (1951), 145–55.

³⁰ F. H. Garrison, *An Introduction to the History of Medicine* (4th ed.; Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co., 1929), p. 626.

referred Barkan to Professor Karl Sudhoff (1853–1938), the eminent medical historian, who suggested that Barkan devote his efforts, at first, to the history of medicine in general, with the idea in mind of developing a teaching institute. Sudhoff went a step farther. He offered to help Barkan in the formation of such a collection, asking only in return that Barkan supply the Institute of the History of Medicine of the University of Leipzig with American historical literature.

Upon Sudhoff's recommendation, Dr. Barkan established contact with Dr. Henry Sigerist, then of Zurich, and Dr. Arnold Klebs, then of Lausanne. With their help, Dr. Barkan built up the historical collections. The most important acquisition was the valuable library of Dr. Ernest Seidell, a well-known physician, who had retired from active practice and was living in Oberspaar near Meisen, Saxony. Many of the volumes had been collected by Seidell during his extensive travels to the Near East and India. This collection emphasizes, therefore, books either in the original or in translation treating of the medicine of the East. The entire collection numbered between 4,500 and 5,000 volumes.

After the purchase of the Seidell library, Dr. Barkan maintained his enthusiasm for the Lane Library and continued to add important books to the collection. He also donated money for the purchase of desirable items, and in 1927, to insure the library's perpetuity, he gave \$10,000 for an endowment.

It was Dr. Barkan's hope that the library would be used as a basis for a regular department for the study of medical history. Although this desire has never been realized, the library has been of invaluable aid to many distinguished scholars.