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MS-137: Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia Collection

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MS-137: Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia Collection

Description

This is an artificial collection of Medical Department catalogs and announcements obtained over time, as well as lists of faculty and alumni created by Samuel G. Hefelbower during his research for his 1932 history of the College. It contains Dr. William H. Gobrecht's account of the history of the institution up to 1859. (This address can also be found in pamphlet form in our 19th Century Pamphlets collection.) It also includes print outs of PDFs of exchanges between faculty and former faculty of the Medical Department. The exchanges were over the dismissal of the majority of the faculty resulting lawsuit by Drs. Darrach and Wiltbank.

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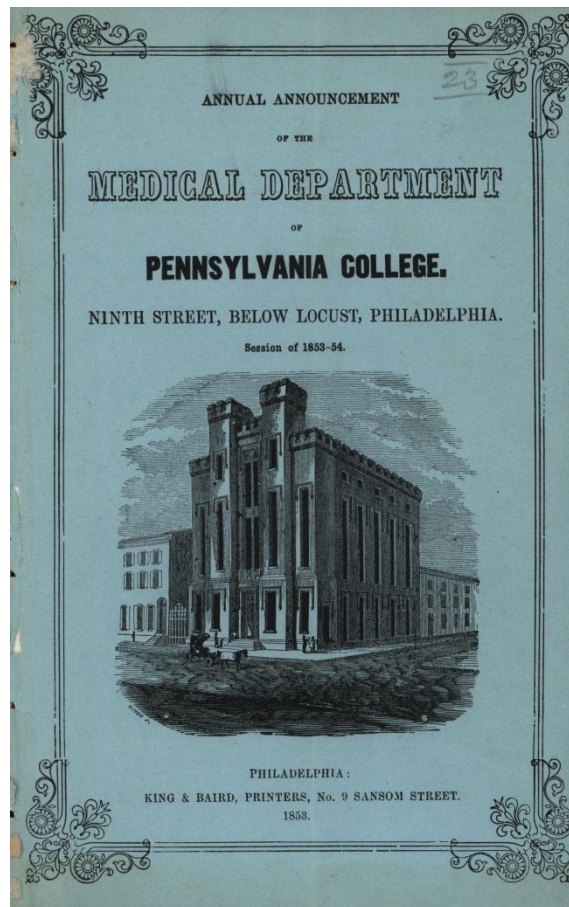
Keywords

Pennsylvania College, Pennsylvania College Medical Department, Pennsylvania College in Philadelphia

Disciplines

History | History of Science, Technology, and Medicine | United States History

**Guide to the
Medical Department of Pennsylvania College
at Philadelphia Collection**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Karen Dupell Drickamer
May 2013**

MS – 137: Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia
(1 box, .28 cu. ft.)

Date Range: 1840-1861

Processed by Karen Dupell Drickamer, 2013

Agency History:

The Medical Department of Pennsylvania College was created in September 1839 by the Board of Trustees in response to a request from Drs. George McClellan, Samuel Calhoun, William Rush and Samuel G. Morton, all Philadelphia physicians. The Trustees appointed the four petitioners to the Faculty of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia and Pennsylvania College was the degree granting institution. However, the school was, for the most part, autonomous, and paid one half of the matriculation fee to Pennsylvania College's treasury. The State Legislature passed the Act of March 29, 1849, which created a fifteen-man body of Trustees of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College and granted its faculty greater independence.

Requisites for graduation were three years of study with a reputable doctor, attendance for two full courses of lectures, and a thesis written in English, German, French or Latin, on some medical or surgical subject. At the beginning of the Civil War, the enrollment and income dropped leaving bills and unpaid taxes causing the school to close at the end of the 1860-61 sessions.

For a complete history of the Medical Department, lists of faculty and graduates, and a description of the curriculum, see Harold J. Abrahams' *Extinct Medical Schools of Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1966

Scope and Content Note:

This is an artificial collection of Medical Department catalogs and announcements obtained over time, as well as lists of faculty and alumni created by Samuel G. Hefelbower during his research for his 1932 history of the College. Folder 2 contains Dr. William H. Gobrecht's account of the history of the institution up to 1859. (This address can also be found in pamphlet form in our 19th Century Pamphlets collection.) Folders 16 and 17 were added from a donation by William Wright '61 in 2013. They are print outs of PDFs that he purchased and they are numbers two and three in a series of exchanges between faculty and former faculty of the Medical Department. The exchanges were over the dismissal of the majority of the faculty resulting lawsuit by Drs. Darrach and Wiltbank.

Box/Folder

1/1 Inventory

- 1/2 Letter from S. G. Helfelbower to John H. Knickerbocker, Librarian, Gettysburg College, 25 February 1933, conveying a typed copy of William H. Gobrecht's inaugural address dated 11 October 1859, which relates a complete historical account of the Medical Department up to that time.
- 1/3 Letter from S. G. Helfelbower to John H. Knickerbocker, Librarian, Gettysburg College, 25 February 1933, conveying typed lists of students attending Sessions, 1840-1860, and stating that it is not complete.
- 1/4 Typed list of Faculty from 1840 to 1861.
- 1/5 Annual Announcement of Lectures, etc., for the Session 1840-1, with a catalogue of the graduates of the College year 1840. 7 pp. (photocopy)
- 1/6 Third Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Philadelphia. 1 p. (photocopy)
- 1/7 Fifth Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, For the session of 1844-45. 12 pp.
- 1/8 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Session of 1846-47. 16 pp.
- 1/9 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Session of 1847-48. 16 pp. (2 copies)
- 1/10 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia, Session of 1851-52. 16 pp.
- 1/11 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia, Session of 1853-54. 16 pp. (2 copies)
- 1/12 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia, Session of 1854-55. 16 pp.
- 1/13 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia, Session of 1855-56. 16 pp.
- 1/14 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia. 16 pp. (2 copies).
- 1/15 Annual Announcement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, Ninth Street Below Locust, Philadelphia, Session of 1860-61. 8 pp. (photocopy).

- 1/16 "A Refutation of the Misstatements Contained in a Pamphlet Recently Issued by W. Darrach, M.D., and John Wiltbank, M.D. in Reference to the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College," 1855. By David Gilbert, M.D.; John J. Reese, M.D.; Francis G. Smith, M.D.; J.M. Allen, M.D.; John B. Biddle, M.D. 65 pp. (print out from online).
- 1/17 "Reply to a Pamphlet Entitled 'A Statement of Facts Connected with the Late Reorganization of the Faculty of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College.'" By W. Darrach, M.D., and John Wiltbank, M.D. 68 pp. (print out from online version).
- Oversize 1860 Diploma of Samuel B. Goodwin, M. D. (located in Oversize Manuscript Collections drawer in flat files in processing room)

See also:

Abrahams, Harold J. *Extinct Medical Schools of Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1966. pp. 29-110.

Breidenbaugh, E. S. *The Pennsylvania College Book, 1832-1882*. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Soc., 1882. pp. 80-86.

Darrach, M.D., W. and John Wiltbank, M.D. "A Statement of Facts Connected with the Late Re-Organization of the Faculty of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College together with a Documentary History of Said Department from Its Origin to the Present Time," 1854.

Hefelbower, Samuel G. *The History of Gettysburg College, 1832-1932*. Gettysburg: Gettysburg College, 1932. pp. 120-131.

Glatfelter, Charles H. *A Salutary Influence: Gettysburg College, 1832-1985*. Gettysburg: Gettysburg College, 1985. pp. 143-145

MS-135: George Currier's Notes on the Lectures Delivered at the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia, 1849-1850.

19th Century Pamphlet Collection. Keyword search in **MUSCAT** for published lecture and address by Medical Department faculty in pamphlet form: **Pennsylvania College Medical Department**.