



Rockefeller University records, Special Events and Activities, War Demonstration Hospital

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English

Rockefeller Archive Center

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - ctb:	Stewart, Major George A.
Creator:	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. War Demonstration Hospital
Creator:	Rockefeller University
Title:	Rockefeller University records, Special Events and Activities, War Demonstration Hospital
ID:	FA012
Date [inclusive]:	1916-1920, 1959, undated
Physical Description:	4.15 Cubic Feet 18 document cases
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

The War Demonstration Hospital at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research had its beginnings in a hospital that Alexis Carrel set up in Compiègne, France in August, 1914. In a hotel building donated by the French government and with a \$20,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, Carrel set up a special hospital to combine research with treatment in order to find better methods of combating severe bacterial infections of lacerated wounds. Henry Drysdale Dakin, an English biochemist who had worked for a time with Christian Herter at the RIMR, joined Carrel. Dakin developed a solution of sodium hypochlorite buffered with sodium bicarbonate that was used in the irrigation of wounds after radical surgery removed the injured tissue.

When the United States entered World War I, the Rockefeller Foundation again gave money to Carrel to set up a hospital where American and French military surgeons could be trained in the Carrel-Dakin treatment. In six weeks, the grounds of the Institute accommodated sixteen portable hospitals. each of

the hospitals had two wards of 25 beds each and an operating pavilion. The designs for these temporary hospitals were tested for their applicability to the conditions at the front.

Twice each month, beginning August 2, 1917 and lasting until March 29, 1919, doctors were assigned to the War Demonstration Hospital by the Surgeon General to take a two-week course in the Carrel-Dakin method. Edric Smith, the Assistant Business Manager, ran the War Demonstration Hospital for Henry James, the Business Manager, who had enlisted in the Army. Major George A. Stewart was assigned to the War Demonstration Hospital by the Surgeon General in September 1917. Stewart had received his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital and had worked at the St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore. At the War Demonstration Hospital, he organized the clinical service and laboratory courses. On February 14, 1918, Stewart was placed in charge in Carrel's absence and named Surgeon-in-Chief.

Mary L. Whitney was appointed Superintendent of the War Demonstration Hospital, with Eleanor G. Evans as Assistant Superintendent. They supervised the daily operation of the hospital and were in charge of the training of the nurses.

In March, 1919, the RIMR began shutting down the War Demonstration Hospital, which formally closed in April. When used, the Carrel-Dakin treatment was effective; however, the procedure was too involved for military surgeons and required too much equipment and training for civilian surgeons. The treatment ended up being used only for trivial wounds until penicillin was discovered, when it was discarded altogether.

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes photographs, correspondence, memos, and clippings. Also present in the collection are student evaluations, background notes, and tests, as well as daily reports, statistics, and inventories.

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Arrangement

This collection consists of 9 series: 1. Class records, 2. Correspondence, 3. Hospital records, 4. Instructional Material, 5. Photographs, 6. Printed Materials, 7. Reports, 8. Major George A. Stewart, 9. Superintendents' files.

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File Plan

Former Classification: I 600.2

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Processing Information

Processed by Barbara J. Gilson, April 20, 1988.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

See Also:

FA137 Rockefeller University records, Business Manager, Subject Files, Boxes 9, 30 and 73.

FA013 Rockefeller University records, Assistant Business Manager, Subject Files, Boxes 29 and 32.

FA211 Rockefeller University records, Corporation, Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer, Box 1. FA211 Rockefeller University records, Corporation, Secretary, Box 1. FA211 Rockefeller University records, Corporation, Secretary's File, Box 2.

FA214 Rockefeller University records, Director of Administrative Services, Roger C. Elliot, Reports: Bursar's Receipts and Disbursements, Box 13.

FA231 Alexis Carrel papers, Rockefeller University Faculty.

Rockefeller University records, Corporation, Counsel, Box 1.

FA236 Rockefeller University records, Rockefeller University Press, Graphic Services, Photographs, Groups and Special Events.

See Archivist for identification of related materials and further assistance.

Separated Materials

Oversized item: "The War Demonstration Hospital. Its Plan and Construction." New York: The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, 1917. (duplicates of booklet in hard-back bound volume).

See Rockefeller University records, Miscellaneous, Oversized.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Medical care
- Radiology
- World War I
- Radiation
- Prevention and health

- Medicine, Preventive
- Medical education
- Hospitals

Collection Inventory

Class Records, 1917-1919

Physical Description: 0.6 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs and evaluations of students; also includes correspondence, students' background notes, and tests.

Title/Description	Instances	
November 5-16, 1917	box 1	folder 1
November 19-30, 1917	box 1	folder 2
December 3, 1917	box 1	folder 3
1917	box 1	folder 4
January 2, 1918	box 1	folder 5
January 14, 1918	box 1	folder 6
January 28, 1918	box 1	folder 7
February 11, 1918	box 1	folder 8
February 25, 1918	box 1	folder 9
March 11, 1918	box 1	folder 10
March 25, 1918	box 1	folder 11
April 8, 1918	box 1	folder 12
April 22, 1918	box 1	folder 13
May 6, 1918	box 1	folder 14
May 20, 1918	box 1	folder 15
June 3, 1918	box 1	folder 16
June 17, 1918	box 1	folder 17
July 1, 1918	box 1	folder 18

July 15, 1918	box 1	folder 19
July 29, 1918	box 1	folder 20
August 12, 1918	box 1	folder 21
August 26, 1918	box 1	folder 22
September 9, 1918	box 1	folder 23
September 23, 1918	box 1	folder 24
October 7, 1918	box 1	folder 25
October 28, 1918	box 1	folder 26
November 4, 1918	box 2	folder 1
November 18, 1918	box 2	folder 2
December 2, 1918	box 2	folder 3
December 9, 1918	box 2	folder 4
December 28, 1918	box 2	folder 5
January 11, 1919	box 2	folder 6
January 27, 1919	box 2	folder 7
February 10, 1919	box 2	folder 8
February 24, 1919	box 2	folder 9
March 10, 1919	box 2	folder 10
March 24, 1919	box 2	folder 11

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Correspondence, 1917-1919, 1959

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Materials in this section include correspondence and memos. Subjects include the construction of the War Demonstration Hospital and the disposition of case histories.

Title/Description	Instances	
1917-1919	box 2	folder 12
1959	box 2	folder 13

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Hospital Records, 1917-1919, n.d.

Physical Description: 3 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Scope and Contents

Materials in this section include daily reports, index cards, inventories, and statistics. Subjects include names of men assigned to the War Demonstration Hospital for training, with grades, patient and payroll statistics, and supplies.

Title/Description	Instances	
Inventories, 1917-1919	box 2	folder 14
Laundry Lists, 1917	box 2	folder 15
Laundry Lists, 1918	box 2	folder 16
Laundry Lists, 1919	box 2	folder 17
Miscellaneous Files, 1918-1919	box 2	folder 18
Newman Clock Company Logs, 1918-1919	box 3	folder 1
Patient Statistics, 1917-1919	box 3	folder 2
Payroll and Christmas Prayer, 1917-1920	box 3	folder 3
Supplies - Orders (A-B), 1917-1919	box 3	folder 4
Supplies - Orders (C-V), 1917-1919	box 3	folder 5
Supplies - Orders - Reconstruction: Mr. Spies, 1917-1919	box 3	folder 6
Supplies - Orders (W), 1917-1919	box 4	folder 1
Supplies - Orders Received, 1917-1919	box 4	folder 2
Telephone Call Lists, 1917	box 4	folder 3
Telephone Call Lists, 1918	box 4	folder 4
Chemistry Class Cards	box 5	
Doctor's Files - Reference for Hospitals	box 5	
Handwritten Cards - Incomplete	box 5	
Daily Reports, 1917-1919	box 6	
Grades for Trainees (A-G)	box 7	
Grades for Trainees (H-O)	box 8	
Grades for Trainees (P-Z)		

box 9

Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training, September 2-7, 1918	box 10
Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training, 1918-1919	box 10
Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training (A-E)	box 11
Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training (F-L)	box 12
Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training (M-R)	box 13
Names of Men Assigned to Institute for Training (S-Z)	box 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Instructional Material, 1917-1918, n.d.****Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Includes a course list and reports. Subjects include Carrel's method on treatment of infected wounds and Dakin's solution.

Title/Description	Instances	
Carrel Method on Treatment of Infected Wounds, September 1918	box 15	folder 1
Course List, May 1917	box 15	folder 2
Dakin's Solution, undated	box 15	folder 3

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Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Includes photocopies of photographs. Subjects include chemistry class, nurses, a Theodore Roosevelt letter of congratulations to Carrel, and surgical class.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Chemistry Class, 1917	box 15	folder 4

Joseph P. Meehan, undated	box 15	folder 5
Miscellaneous Class, undated	box 15	folder 6
Theodore Roosevelt Letter to Carrel, November 29, 1916	box 15	folder 7
Surgical Class, 1917-1919	box 15	folder 8
Women (Nurses), 1918	box 15	folder 9

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Printed Materials, 1917, n.d.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Includes announcements, articles, catalogues, and newspaper clippings.

Title/Description	Instances	
Announcements re: War Demonstration Hospital, undated	box 15	folder 10
Humphreys Sectional Building, undated	box 15	folder 11
"The Modern Hospital" Article on War Demonstration Hospital, August 1917	box 15	folder 12
Newspaper Clippings, July 1917	box 15	folder 13

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Reports, 1916-1919

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Includes reports by Carrel and Flexner. Subjects include the hospital at Compiegne and the War Demonstration Hospital.

Title/Description	Instances	
Alexis Carrel, 1916-1919	box 15	folder 14
Simon Flexner, 1918-1919	box 15	folder 15
General, 1919	box 15	folder 16

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Major George A. Stewart, 1917-1919, n.d.

Physical Description: 0.6 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged in 3 subseries:

A. Correspondence B. Reports C. Subject Files

Correspondence, 1917-1919

Physical Description: 0.4 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each letter.

Scope and Contents

Includes correspondence, memos, and telegrams. Subjects include answers to inquiries about medical cases and the use of the Carrel-Dakin treatment. Correspondents include Simon Flexner, John G. Long, Joseph P. Meehan, and the Navy.

Title/Description	Instances	
A1917-1919	box 15	folder 17
B1917-1919	box 15	folder 18
C1917-1919	box 15	folder 19
D1917-1919	box 15	folder 20
E1917-1919	box 15	folder 21
F1917-1919	box 15	folder 22
G1917-1919	box 15	folder 23
H1917-1919	box 15	folder 24
I1917-1919	box 15	folder 25
J1917-1919	box 15	folder 26
K1917-1919	box 15	folder 27
L1917-1919	box 15	folder 28
M1917-1919	box 16	folder 1
N1918-1919	box 16	folder 2
O1918	box 16	folder 3

P1917-1919	box 16	folder 4
Q-R, 1917-1919	box 16	folder 5
S1917-1919	box 16	folder 6
T1918-1919	box 16	folder 7
U-V, 1918-1919	box 16	folder 8
W-Z, 1917-1919	box 16	folder 9

Reports, 1919, n.d.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

Includes reports on hospital and other topics.

Title/Description	Instances	
Hospital, undated	box 16	folder 10
Miscellaneous, 1919	box 16	folder 11

Subject Files, 1917-1919

Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each letter.

Scope and Contents

Includes correspondence, memos, notes, and reports. Subjects include the Carrel method, the Dakin solution, empyema, radium, students' reports on use of Carrel-Dakin treatment at camps, tethelin, and X-rays.

Title/Description	Instances	
A-C, 1917-1918	box 16	folder 12
Dakin Solution/Carrel Method, 1917-1919	box 16	folder 13
E-G, 1918	box 16	folder 14
Empyema, 1918-1919	box 16	folder 15
H-P, 1917-1918	box 16	folder 16
Radium, 1917-1918	box 16	folder 17
Recommendations to Surgeon General, 1918-1919	box 16	folder 18
S-T, 1917-1918	box 17	folder 1
Students' Reports, 1917-1918	box 17	folder 2

Tethelin, 1918-1919	box 17	folder 3
X-Ray, 1918-1919	box 17	folder 4

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Superintendents' Files, 1917-1919

Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged in 2 subseries:

A. Correspondence B. Miscellaneous

Correspondence, 1917-1919

Physical Description: 0.2 Cubic Feet

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically, then chronologically within each letter.

Scope and Contents

Includes correspondence, memos, and telegrams. Subjects include nursing staff positions, special materials needed for the hospital, and visits to see the War Demonstration Hospital in operation. Correspondents include Eleanor G. Evans (Assistant Superintendent), Henry James, M. Kenzel, and Mary L. Whitney (Superintendent).

Title/Description	Instances	
A1917-1919	box 17	folder 5
B1917-1919	box 17	folder 6
C1917-1918	box 17	folder 7
D1917-1918	box 17	folder 8
E-G, 1917-1918	box 17	folder 9
H1917-1919	box 17	folder 10
I-J, 1917-1918	box 17	folder 11
K1917-1919	box 17	folder 12
L1918-1919	box 17	folder 13
M1917-1918	box 17	folder 14
N-R, 1917-1919	box 17	folder 15
S1917-1918	box 18	folder 1
T-V, 1917-1919	box 18	folder 2

W1917-1919	box 18	folder 3
X-Z, 1917-1918	box 18	folder 4

Miscellaneous, 1917-1919

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

Includes correspondence, notes, and telegrams.

Title/Description	Instances	
1917-1919	box 18	folder 5

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