

TRENT ASSOCIATES REPORT

Spring/Summer 2009

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Popular Medicine

Man has an inborn craving for medicine ... the desire to take medicine is one feature which distinguishes man ... from his fellow creatures.

Sir William Osler. *Teaching and Thinking In Aequanimitas*. 1904 (II:131)



During patent medicine's heyday, the 1870s to the 1930s, remedies such as Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure, Scott's Emulsion, Ramon's Santonine Worm Syrup, Hooper's Female Pills, Dr. Cumming's Vegetine, and Brant's Indian Purifying Extract, were a part of the average American household medicine cabinet. These promised cures for everything ranging from headaches to cancer. Some were single purpose medicines while others were advertised as general cure-alls.

The term *patent* did not mean the medicines were actually patented, which was a holdover from the grants by European royalty to their favorite medicine makers. They were in fact proprietary drugs with their trademarks protected through copyright. The makers were less interested in protecting the formula of the medicines, which changed frequently, than the distinctive shapes and colors of the containers and the design of the labels and advertising materials.

Some of the medicines were harmless liquids and pills and relied on the placebo effect. Alcohol, opium, and cocaine were common ingredients in many popular medicines, including those given to children. The labels did not list the ingredients or carry any warnings. Some medicine makers falsely assured consumers that their tonics contained no addictive substances. Through most of its history patent medicine has been subject to very little government regulation with no requirement to prove the medicine was effective or safe.

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Popular Medicine, continued from page 1

Today, self-medication continues to be popular with over-the-counter medicines promising relief for a wide variety of ailments. To many of the old standbys for headache, cough, back pain, and insomnia, some new products have been added to remedy a growing concern with stress, obesity, and aging. Anti-aging products in particular have become big business as the baby boom generation approaches their senior years.



Recent Acquisitions

Aristotle [pseud]. **The works ...** New England: Printed for the Publishers, 1821.

_____. New England: Printed for the Publishers, 1828.

_____. London: Printed for Miller, Law, and Carter, 1830.

_____. New York: Printed for the Publishers, 1841.

_____. London: Printed for the Publishers [c. 1850s].

Bischoff, Frederick. **A treatise on the extraction of the cataract.** London: W. Bulmer, 1793.

Champneys, Francis Henry. **Experimental researches in artificial respiration in stillborn children ...** London: H. K. Lewis, 1887.

Groos, Friedrich. **Die geistige Natur des Menschen.** Mannheim: Heinrich Hoff, 1834.

Helmuth, William Tod. **Suprapubic lithotomy ...** New York: Boericke & Tafel, 1882.

Parkes, Edmund Alenander. **The composition of the urine ...** London: John Churchill, 1860.

Peu, Philippe. **La pratique des acouchemens.** Paris: Jean Boudot, 1694.

Whittle, Edward G. **Congestive neurasthenia or insomnia and nerve depression.** London: H. K. Lewis, 1889.

Artifacts Inventory

As a result of a routine internal audit of recordkeeping practices in special collections on the Duke campus, we were asked to create an inventory to record the acquisition and track the location of objects in our history of medicine collections. This was something that had been on our to-do list for many years and now became a priority. We selected a software package, Past Perfect, used by many small museums and developed a work sheet. We had the good fortune to engage Leila Ledbetter who was in the final semester of her graduate library degree program and had time in her schedule to devote to the project.



The curator gathered information on each item – at times it was necessary to go back through old files – and filled out the work sheets. Leila digitally photographed each object or group of similar objects. Since we planned to rely heavily on the photograph to communicate the physical details about the artifact, more than one shot was usually taken. Leila next created the basic record which consisted of a unique accession number, date the object was acquired, source or donor, name of collection, object category, short title, location, and brief notes or special search terms. She then attached the photographs. An artifact tag bearing the accession number was affixed to each item as the final step. The software provides a lexicon and the means for keyword retrieval.

The project was completed in 18 weeks and resulted in over 400 records and 2400 photographic images. The inventory has proven helpful beyond the original stated purpose. We have used it to quickly identify how many examples we have of a particular kind of item, e.g., infant feeders, scarificators, microscopes or to expedite the selection of artifacts for classes and exhibits without having to handle each object. It has also become a source of images so we can respond to requests now that we no longer have an educational media department in the Medical Center.

Cavanagh Prize Tie



Lee

This year there was again a tie for the Cavanagh Prize. Both Michael Lee and Ashley Wysong graduated at the top of their 2009 medical school class. Each received a copy of Terry Cavanagh's publication, **The Panorama of Vesalius**, with a specially inscribed bookplate. Cavanagh was the curator of the History of Medicine Collections for 27 years, until his retirement in 1989. The prize was established in his memory by Mrs. Susan Smith Cavanagh.



Wysong

Black History Month Activities



As part of its Black History Month celebrations, the Medical Library hosted the National Library of Medicine exhibit, *Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons*, from February through April. The History of Medicine Collections used the opportunity to mount additional exhibits and plan programming of local relevance.

In recognition of Duke as the site of the inaugural meeting in 1989, we mounted a Society of Black Academic Surgeons retrospective. Dr. David Sabiston was the host and Dr. Oneye Akwari was the local arrangements chair. Next year SBAS will return to Duke for their 20th anniversary meeting. We also had a related exhibit on Dr. Charles Drew, a physician known for his pioneering



Newmark and Humphreys

work in the field of blood preservation and blood transfusion. Dr. Drew met his untimely death as the result of an automobile accident in North Carolina. Dr. Margaret Humphreys, the Josiah Charles Trent Professor in the History of Medicine, gave a lunch lecture in early April on *African American Physicians in the Civil War*. We were pleased to have, Jill Newmark, who developed the travelling NLM exhibit, attend as a special guest.

Anlyan Scholars Luncheon

Twelve graduating scholars were honored with a luncheon on April 29, 2009 in the History of Medicine Reading Room. Ten faculty, staff and special guests joined the honorees for the occasion. Dr. Edward G. Buckley, Vice Dean for Medical Education, welcomed everyone and recognized the scholarship recipients. Dr. William G. Anlyan, Chancellor Emeritus, added his congratulations and then introduced Mrs. Mary DBT Semans who spoke to the scholars about medical history and its importance at Duke.



The Anlyan Scholarship was established in 1988 by gifts from faculty, staff, and friends of Dr. Anlyan. It is one of the programs supporting senior scholarships for tuition during the fourth year of medical study. The awards are based on outstanding academic achievement and extra-curricular activities.

History of Medicine Interest Group

At the beginning of the Spring semester Dr. Jeffrey Baker created a History of Medicine Interest Group. The participants were drawn from the first year class and met every few weeks. Attendance was entirely voluntary and varied from 5 to 17 students. The group frequently met in the History of Medicine Reading Room and examined books and artifacts related to that week's theme, e.g. Medicine before Science, Paris Medicine and the Invention of Physical Diagnosis, Germ Theory, Medical Education.



The experience offered the medical students an opportunity to learn more about their predecessors and early practices in the profession. By encouraging an interest in history early in their course of study, Dr. Baker has positioned the students to take advantage of future opportunities. Students are eligible to apply for the Haas History of Medicine Scholarship to help defray expenses during their third research year and are encouraged to submit an essay in their fourth year for the Haas History of Medicine Essay Prize.

New Season of Trent-Bullitt Lectures

The Trent-Bullitt collaborative lecture series in the history of medicine begins a new season in the Fall. This year The University of North Carolina will lead off with the first lecture in September, and Duke will host the next one on the second Tuesday in October. Thereafter, the hosts will alternate months through next April. Our Trent History of Medicine Society has confirmed the following speakers with the balance still tentative:

October 13, 2009 **Dr. Gordon Klintworth**
The Lady in America's Most Famous Painting

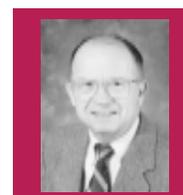


December 8, 2009 **Dr. Edward C. Halperin**
Historical Problems Posed by the 100th Anniversary of Flexner's Report on Medical Education



February 9, 2010 **To be announced**

April 13, 2010 **Dr. William Bradford**
Pathology at Duke: As I Remember It



TRENT ASSOCIATES*

Sustaining Members

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 Dr. & Mrs. George A. Engstrom
 Dr. David L. Epstein
 Dr. Conrad C. Fulkerson
 Dr. Edward C. Halperin
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 Dr. Herbert O. Sieker
 Dr. & Mrs. Andrew G. Wallace
 Drs. George D. & Evelyn R. Wilbanks

Contributing Members

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 Dr. John A. Feagin, Jr.
 Dr. Samuel L. Katz
 Dr. Kevan E. VanLandingham &
 Dr. Debara L. Tucci

Members

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