

Accession No. 134
RECORDS OF THE BROOMALL MEDICAL CLUB
1901-1965
0.5 l.ft. / 1 document box



ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ON WOMEN IN MEDICINE
AT THE
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Processed June 1994
by Teresa Taylor

NOTE TO RESEARCHERS

The Records of the Broomall Medical Club consist almost entirely of routine administrative and financial records of the club. Researchers in search of biographical information about individual club members are advised to consult the necrology reports in the club minutes. Related collections in the Archives and Special Collections, include:

- Records of the Alumnae Association of WMCP: Deceased Alumnae Files
- Records of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Records of the College Hospitals and Clinics (see Broomall Maternity Hospital
- Clippings Collection
- WMCP Student Theses
- The Medical Missionary Collection
- For photos, albums, scrapbooks, The Broomall Artifact Collection, et. al., consult the Curator of Non-Print Collections

Anna Broomall's scrapbooks are at the Delaware County Historical Society in Chester, Pa. After retirement from medical practice, Broomall was curator of the Historical Society's museum; thus records of the society might also yield information about her.

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HISTORY OF THE BROOMALL CLUB

The Anna E. Broomall Club was founded in May 1901 by Grace Spiegle, M.D. and Maude A. Bowyer, M.D. as a tribute to Dr. Anna E. Broomall, Professor of Obstetrics at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

The club appears to have had no formal constitution and by-laws until 1916. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws were made periodically, the first amendment changing the name of the club to the "Anna E. Broomall Medical Club." In 1937, endowment and maintenance of the Anna E. Broomall Room in the Woman's Hospital was added to the mission statement of the club. Further amendments allowed for life memberships and defined the terms on which women could be admitted to the Broomall Room. Additional amendments in 1945 officially abbreviated the name of the club to "The Broomall

Medical Club."

Membership in the Broomall Medical Club was open to "any former student of Dr. Broomall and any Medical Woman, whose name shall be approved by Dr. Broomall and by the committee on membership." Though largely made up of women from the Philadelphia area, the membership included women from as far away as China and India. Officers consisted of an honorary President, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Standing committees, in 1916, consisted of the Membership Committee, Committee on the Club Room at the Woman's Hospital, Committee on Admission to the Club Room, and the Entertainment Committee. Twenty-six women attended the first formal meeting of the club, which was held at the home of Dr. Broomall. Meetings were generally held in homes of the members, or occasionally, at the Woman's Hospital.

Though medical papers were given at some of the meetings, the club was primarily founded, according to the constitution (1916), "for mutual benefit and enjoyment." After 1909, the chief activities of the Broomall Club centered on raising funds for the Woman's Hospital and for the provision of a hospital room (the "Club Room") and medical care for women physicians. The general membership met once annually "at the time and place designated by the Honorary President." Beginning in 1902, the club funded a prize for the best paper on obstetrics, written by a member of the graduating class at WMCP.

Of Dr. Broomall's personal involvement in the club, the biographical sketch of her which appeared in the 1931 Medical Woman's Journal stated that: "she insisted it be useful educationally, and for years medical papers were read. These were given up as Dr. Broomall more and more gave up active touch with her old profession. The A.E. Broomall endowed-rooms-for-doctors in need of medical attention remained a lasting interest, however, and to the end she wished to know all the details of its use, and that it be kept up in order." Dr. Broomall served as honorary President, occasionally hosting and chairing meetings.

COLLECTION PROVENANCE

A note from George Hay, Comptroller of the Woman's Medical College, indicates that in 1965 he was in possession of "material on Broomall Club(folder plus 2 vols. of minutes + records)." He had received the material from Ann Gray Taylor, M.D., who had received it from the secretary of the club, Ursula M. Hober, M.D. Although the records appear to have come to the college as a loan (George Hay's 1965 note indicates his intention to return them), a letter to WMCP librarian, Ida Draeger, from George Hay states, "Dr.

Taylor suggests they be put with other historical matter ..." (George Hay to Ida Draeger, July 23, 1968). He also states in his letter to Draeger that the college "used this [material] in the suit for Woman's Hospital's assets [sic]," which may explain why the bulk of the unbound material consists of financial records.

The records of the Broomall Club constituted part of the MCP library's "historical collection" which in 1977, was formally established as the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The records of the Broomall Medical Club, 1901-1965, consist primarily of the administrative records maintained by the club secretary (e.g. the constitution, the minutes, the membership roster, the necrology) and of financial records (account books, bank books, invoices and receipts). The minute books include valuable biographical data in the form of necrology reports and memorial resolutions, as well as reports of talks given by and correspondence received from members.

Also included are a biographical sketch of Anna Broomall, M.D. (reprinted from the Woman's Medical Journal, 1931) and a brief (3 page) history of the club written in 1938.

CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS OF THE BROOMALL MEDICAL CLUB

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Broomall, Anna E., M.D.: Biographical Sketch	1931
	2	Constitution and Membership [bound notebook]	ca. 1916-1960s
	3	Finance: Account Book	1901-1927
	4	Finance: Bankbook	1904-1936
	5	Finance: Dues -- Correspondence	1936 [bulk], 1961
	6	Finance: Ella Williams Grim Trust Fund -- Bankbook	1937-1940
	7	Finance: Endowment -- Correspondence	1917-1952
	8	Finance: Endowment -- Receipts, Expenditures	1911-1940
	9	Finance: Expenditures	1918-1941, gaps
	10	Finance: Expenditures -- Matilda Beaver, M.D., Secretary	ca. 1921-1934
	11	Finance: Expenditures -- Meeting Refreshments	1922-1932
	12	Finance: Stocks	1928
	13	History of the Broomall Club	1938
	14	Minutes [bound notebook]	1919-1962
	15	Order of Business	n.d.
	16	Report of the 15th Annual Meeting	1915
	17	Warlow, Margaret Ann: Last Will and Testament [facsimile]	1955

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	18	Woman's Hospital: Agreement <u>re</u> Endowment of the Broomall Room [draft]	ca. 1920s
	19	Woman's Medical College Fund: Correspondence	1927, 1929
	20	Miscellaneous Ephemera [non-Broomall Club?]	ca. 1930s-1965

Subject Tracings:

Broomall, Anna E., M.D.
Broomall Medical Club
Hospital Funds and Endowments
Medical Associations for Women
Philanthropic Organizations
Woman's Hospital
Women Physicians as Patients