

ROSE VARTANOUSH MENEDIAN

Accession number 174

Collection size 51 items

Inclusive dates 1922 - 1951

Preliminary Register

## INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of letters from Bertha Van Hoosen, M.D. and Alice Van Hoosen Jones, sister of Bertha Van Hoosen, to Rose Vartanoush Menedian, M.D. The letters convey a close friendship between Drs. Menedian and Van Hoosen as well as between Menedian and Dr. Van Hoosen's sister, Alice. Much of the content of the letters regards the care of each doctor's patients; in addition, the letters discuss the health and welfare of Alice, Van Hoosen, and Sarah, Alice's daughter. The letters continue until the death of Alice.

Also included in the collection are 3 framed awards and certificates presented to Bertha Van Hoosen.

The collection was given to the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine in 1981 by Rose Vartanoush Menedian, M.D.

## ACCESS

The materials are open for use by researchers in the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine. Limited photocopying for research purposes is available.

## BIOGRAPHY

Bertha Van Hoosen, M.D. was born in 1863 to Joshua and Sarah (Taylor) in Stoney Creek, Michigan. She received her A.B. degree from the University of Michigan in 1888. Dr. Van HOosen's decision to go into medicine was greatly influenced by Dr. Mary McLean and Harriet Barringer. It was Dr. McLean who secured a teaching position for Van Hoosen when McLean knew that Van Hoosen needed a job to finance her way through medical school. Van Hoosen taught for a short time in the Mary Institute in St. Louis.

Dr. Van HOosen graduated from the University of Michigan Medical Department in 1888, receiving her M.D. degree. She did her internship at the Woman's Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. She did her residency at the New England Hospital for Women and Children.

De. Van Hoosen was deeply devoted to her sister Alice who was 8 years her senior and they became even closer after Bertha Alice's daughter and they both went through a trying experience when there was much difficulty with the baby immediatly after her birth. Dr. Van Hoosen, with loving care, gave hope and life to little Sarah and Bertha was very devoted to her as well.

In 1892, Dr. Van Hoosen set up private practice in Chicago. In addition to her private practice she also taught and helped to build up a new department in Northwestern Unsivesity Woman's Medical School. Although her work was in Obstetrics she was also know for her work as a surgeon. At one point in time she taught and was Head and Professor Obstetrics in the Loyola University School of Medicine and she also taught at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

In addition to all of her medical work, Dr. Van Hoosen founded and was first president of the American Medical Women's Association, in 1917. Dr. Van Hoosen was a driving force in this organization and set a fine example for those who followed.

Dr. Van Hoosen died on June 9, 1952. A detailed description of her life can be found in her autobiography Petticoat surgeon (Chicago, Pellegrini & Cudahy, 1947).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains 46 handwritten and typed letters from Alice Van Hoosen Jones and Bertha Van Hoosen to Rose Vartanoush Menedian. The letters discuss the health of patients; general conversation from Alice and daily activities on the Van Hoosen farm.

series

46 letters (from 1-2 pages each)	1944-1951
3 framed awards and certificates	
2 miscellaneous reprints	

**Awards, Certificates & Diplomas**

- University of Michigan            June 1937
- University of Loyolea, Chicago    June 1909
- American College of Surgeons    27 October 1922