

MGH Patient Records, 1904-1922

AC53

26 c.f. in 26 containers (26 records cartons)

Accession Number: 2009-21

Processed: 2009 by Jeffrey Mifflin, MGH Archives

ACQUISITION: The volumes of patient records had been sitting on the open shelf in the Claflin Library, Bulfinch 2. They were transferred to the MGH Archives by the MGH President's Office through Nancy Marttila, assistant to President Peter Slavin, MD, on September 11, 2009. They were boxed, listed, and prepared for off-site storage at the Harvard Depository by Jeffrey Mifflin.

ACCESS: All historical patient records are subject to restricted access. See the MGH Archivist for further information.

Scope and Content Note:

The volumes of patient records had been sitting on the open shelf in the Claflin Library, Bulfinch 2, prior to their acquisition by the MGH Archives. They represent a sampling of the complete set of MGH patient records for the era from 1904 to ca. 1930 that must once have existed. Around 1930 patient records started to be maintained in file folders rather than bound volumes.

In the 1990s MGH Director Robert Buchanan ordered approximately 75% of patient records stored at the MGH's Health Information Services (i.e., "medical records department") from 1904 to 1930 to be destroyed. A sample of one volume from each service for each year was kept. The volumes kept in the Claflin Library seem to have escaped the destruction visited upon the volumes kept at Health Information Services, but they still are not complete.

Related Collections Note:

MGH patient records in bound volumes for the years 1821 to 1903 are maintained by the MGH Archives and the Center for the History of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (by long-term deposit agreement, access controlled by the MGH Archives in consultation with the Partners IRB). Medical and surgical patient records for 1821-1822 are in the MGH Archives, as well as surgical patient records for 1846; all other volumes from 1823 to 1903 are in the Center for the History of Medicine. Several hundred bound volumes of patient records from the early 20th century (post 1903) are kept in off-site storage by Health Information Services.

Box List:

- c.1 Genito-Urinary, vols. 6-13, 1913-1914
- c.2 Skin, vols. 54-58, 1917; Neurology, vols. 23-25, 1921-1922
- c.3 Orthopedics, vols. 22-25 and 27, 1912-1913; Children's Medical Records, vol. 70, 1920
- c.4 Phillips House, 5 vols., 1918
- c.5 Phillips House, 6 vols., 1919-1920
- c.6 East Medical Service, 7 vols., 1907-1908
- c.7 East Medical Service, 10 vols., 1908-1910
- c.8 East Medical Service, 7 vols., 1910-1916
- c.9 East Medical Service, 8 vols., 1904, 1918-1920
- c.10 East Surgical Service, 9 vols., 1908-1910
- c.11 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1911-1912
- c.12 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1913-1914
- c.13 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1915-1916
- c.14 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1916
- c.15 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1917
- c.16 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1917-1918
- c.17 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1918-1919
- c.18 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1919-1921
- c.19 East Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1921-1922
- c.20 West Medical Service, 1 vol., 1904; West Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1901-1902, 1904
- c.21 West Surgical Service, 9 vols., 1904-1906
- c.22 West Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1906-1910
- c.23 West Surgical Service, 8 vols., 1910, 1914, 1918

c.24 West Medical Service, 1 vol., 1912; South Surgical Service, 1 vol., 1910-1911; South Medical Service, 8 vols., 1916-1917

c.25 South Medical Service, 8 vols., 1917-1918, 1921-1922

c.26 South Medical Service, 2 vols., 1922