

Henry Kemble Oliver Papers, ca. 1888- 1896
MC 15

1 c. f in 1 container
(1 records carton)
Accession number 2007-13

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By Christine Moynihan

ACQUISITION: The files were discovered by archivist Jeffrey Mifflin in a storage closet in the Bulfinch Building in 2007.

ACCESS: Portions of the collection may be subject to restricted access due to confidentiality of specific records. Consult the MGH Archivist for further information.

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Biographical Note.

Henry Kemble Oliver was born in Salem, Massachusetts, October 26, 1829. Son of Henry Kemble Oliver, Adjutant General, Treasurer of the State, and Mayor of Salem, he graduated from Harvard College in 1852. He received a degree of M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1856. After receiving his M.D., Oliver went for more medical training to Paris and Vienna. He brought the first laryngoscope seen in Boston back from Europe. When he came back to the United States, Oliver served as Medical Inspector of camps under the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War. He returned back to Boston and was appointed Visiting Physician at MGH and member of the staff of Laryngology. During this time, Kemble also lectured on diseases of the throat at Harvard Medical School. In 1881, he gave up the practice of medicine. From 1881 until 1906, Oliver traveled part of each year in Europe, reading journals and interviewing the European medical community about current research on cancer.

The collection consists of reports that Dr. Oliver sent to Mrs. Arthur Croft from 1888 until 1896.

Arthur Croft was an artist who owned South Park in Wadhurst, East Sussex, England. Arthur Croft (1828-1902) was known for his landscape paintings, especially mountain scenes of Britain and the Alps. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1868. Arthur Croft was the second owner of South Park when it was a country home. South Park became Wadhurst College, a boarding school, in 1930.

The papers were found in a sealed packing crate lined with lead, from Arthur Croft, South Park, Wadhurst, Sussex addressed to the librarian of MGH and shipped via the American Express Company, 3 Waterston Place, London.

Included in the reports are handwritten copies of contemporary European journal articles about cancer research. Also included are summaries of written correspondence and in-person interviews of doctors regarding their research and treatment of cancer, as well as printed material from meetings. The areas of

research cover England, France, Vienna, and Germany. Dr. Oliver hired Sir D'Arcy Power of England and M. Lecoq de Lautreppe of France to send him similar annual reports on their findings of cancer research within their countries. Their reports and supporting material are included with Dr. Oliver's reports. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe wrote his reports in French. Dr. Oliver was especially interested in finding out if germ theory for cancer was being explored in Europe.

Dr. Oliver was on the Cancer Commission at Harvard from the time it formed until his death. Dr. Oliver endowed the Henry K. Oliver Foundation for the Department of Hygiene at Harvard University. Dr. Oliver died October 25, 1919, at age 89.

D'Arcy Power (November 11, 1855- May 18, 1941) was born in London. He matriculated at Oxford in 1874. He moved to Exeter College in 1877 for their Biology program. He graduated from Exeter with a BA in natural science in 1878, an MA in 1881, and a BM in 1882. He entered St. Bartholemew's Hospital Medical School in 1878. From 1878 until 1881 he was assistant demonstrator of physiology at St. Bartholomew's. He was Demonstrator of Practical Surgery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital from 1889-1901. Power held many other posts outside of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School. Power was also a historian. He wrote at least 600, articles including works for *The British Medical Journal*, *The Lancet*, and the *Times Literary Supplement*.

Not much is known about M. de Lautreppe. There is an M. Lecocq de Lautreppe written about in "The Critic, Volume 25". "Mr. Lecocq de Lautreppe, a gentleman well known in literary and art circles in Paris, who is spending the winter in New York, will give two 'causeries sur la chanson Française', at which Mlle. Yvette Guilbert will interpret the songs described by M. de Lautreppe."

Each year's worth of reports was contained in a sturdy wax paper packet, secured with twine. The front of the packet had writing on the paper identifying the contents as Dr. Oliver's Report and the year. The packets were opened. Staples, pins and other fasteners were removed from the paper and journals. The outer material containing handwriting was kept. Paper was flattened and placed in folders.

Series Descriptions

The Henry Kemble Oliver Collection consists of two series. The collection contains information about the lives and careers of the creators of the reports; records of correspondence with doctors; reports; and printed material used as supporting material for reports. The printed journals sent as supporting material for the reports, as well as the annotations attached to the supporting material in Sir D'Arcy Power's reports, may be of interest. The collection does not contain any photos or patient files.

Series I. Biographical Information

Series I contains information on the career development of Dr. Oliver, Sir D'Arcy Power, and M. Lecoq Lautreppe. Included in this series are names and dates for schools attended; dates of Medical School appointments; dates of military service; information on published works; and descriptions of honors that received.

Series II. Reports

Series II contains annual handwritten and typed reports from Dr. Oliver, Sir D'Arcy Power, and M. Lecoq Lautreppe. Dr. Oliver's report includes a summary of his work for each year, as well as the reports of Sir Power and M. Lautreppe. The reports include printed material gathered from scholarly sources over the year, including *The Lancet* and *Revue General de l'Antiseptie*.

f.1: Dr. Oliver's Report 1888

1. Dr. Oliver's Report, Handwritten; 13 pages, with supporting material
2. "Report on the Present State of our Knowledge of Cancer. by D'Arcy Power. M.A. M.B. Oxon: F.R.C.S. Eng: December. 1888." 47 typed pages, with supporting material

f. 2. Mrs. Arthur Craft "South Park" Wadhurst, Sussex, England, 1889

1. Dr. Oliver's Report, 118 handwritten pages; with supporting material
2. "Second Report on the Progress of Cancer Investigation in England" By D'Arcy Power, December, 1889; 24 typed pages, with supporting material

f. 3. Dr. Oliver's Report 1890

1. Dr. Henry Oliver "Report for 1890"; 99 handwritten pages, with supporting material
2. D'Arcy Power M.B. OXON. F.R.C.S. Eng., "Report on the Investigation of Cancer by 1890"; 16 typed pages, with supporting material
3. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe , "Quelques Opinions de la Medicine Francaise au sujet du Cancer et de 'etude de cette maladie"; 24 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 4. Mrs. Arthur Craft "South Park" Wadhurst, Sussex, England, (Dr. Oliver's Report) 1891

1. Dr. Henry Oliver "Report for 1891", Handwritten, 169 pages
2. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe, "December 1891", Handwritten, 35 pages
3. D'Arcy Power, M.B. OXON. F.R.C.S. Eng., "A Further Report upon Cancer Research in England", December 18, 1891; 27 pages with supporting material

f. 5. Mrs. Arthur Craft "South Park" Wadhurst, Sussex, England, (Dr. Oliver's Report) 1892 (1 of 2)

1. Dr. Henry Oliver, "Report for 1892"; 218 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 6. Mrs. Arthur Craft "South Park" Wadhurst, Sussex, England, (Dr. Oliver's Report) 1892 (2 of 2)

2. D'Arcy Power, "Report upon the Progress of Cancer Investigation in England during the Year 1892"; 24 typed pages, with supporting material
3. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe "De Quelques opinions relatives a l' Etude du Cancer"; 50 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 7 Dr. Oliver's Report 1893 (1of 2)

1. Dr. Henry Oliver "Report for 1893"; 256 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 8. Dr. Oliver's Report 1893 (2 of 2)

1. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe "De Quelques opinions relatives à l'étude du Cancer et de l'attitude de la ligne pendant l'année 1893"; 42 handwritten pages, with supporting material
2. D'Arcy Power, "Report upon Original Work Done in England on the Causation of Cancer during the Year 1893"; 33 typed pages, with supporting material

f. 9. Dr. Oliver's Report 1894-95 (1 of 3)

1. Dr. Henry Oliver "Report for 1894"; 419 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 10. Dr. Oliver's Report 1894-95 (2 of 3)

2. D'Arcy Power "Report upon the Progress of Cancer Investigation in England during the Year 1894", 35 typed pages, with supporting material
3. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe "De quelques impressions, ... de l'étude du Cancer", December 1894-January 1895, 48 handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 11. Dr. Oliver's Report 1894-95 (3 of 3)

1. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe's report, with supporting material

f. 12. Dr. Oliver's Report 1895-96 (1 of 3)

1. Dr. Henry Oliver "Report for 1895", 273 Handwritten pages
2. D'Arcy Power "Report upon the Progress of Cancer Investigation in England during the Year 1895-1896", 31 typed pages, with supporting material

f. 13. Dr. Oliver's Report 1895-96 (2 of 3)

1. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe "De Quelques opinions sur La Question du Cancer" Paris; Mars-Mai 1896, 66 Handwritten pages, with supporting material

f. 14 Dr. Oliver's Report 1895-96 (3 of 3)

1. M. Lecoq de Lautreppe, supporting material for report

Related Collections

For more information about Sir D'Arcy Power, see: MS 0289. Powers, Sir D'Arcy (1855-1941)-Papers of; Royal College of Surgeons of England. 9 boxes and 39 volumes. <http://surgicat.rcseng.ac.uk>.