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Descriptive Summary

Identifier         ICU.SPCL.HOLBROOKS
Title              Holbrook, Silas P., Medical Daybooks
Date               1860-1917
Size               2.25 linear feet (5 boxes)
Repository         Special Collections Research Center
                   University of Chicago Library
                   1100 East 57th Street
                   Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract           The Silas P. Holbrook Collection of Medical Daybooks contains a record of the daily patient visits of Dr. Silas Holbrook. The collection consists of portable patient logs divided into daily visits, pocket diaries, a physician’s ledger book, an alphabetical listing of names, and a pocket wallet. The professional and personal items in the collection provide valuable insight into nineteenth century medical and health practices in the U.S.

Information on Use

Access             The collection is open for research.

Citation           When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Holbrook, Silas P., Medical Daybooks, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note  Silas P. Holbrook was a general practitioner during the time between the Civil War and World War I. He resided in East Douglas, Massachusetts.

Scope Note         The Silas P. Holbrook Medical Daybooks contain daybooks, diaries, ledgers, and a wallet. The professional and personal items in the collection provide valuable insight into nineteenth century medical and health practices in the U.S.

Series I: Medical Daybooks and Diaries. This series contains medical daybooks and diaries from 1863-1917. The series also contains a book with notes on surgical and medical clinics and recipes from 1860-1864. The publisher of the daybooks that Holbrook used was Lindsay and Blakiston. The daybooks contain notes for physicians’ reference including tables to
compute gestation, to convert metric measurements of temperature, weights and measures into various English systems, and short articles on “The immediate treatment of poisoning.” and “Incompatibility’ or allergic reaction. The daybooks are also interleaved with relics of the pharmaceutical trade and advertisements for medical services. The diaries in the series include a record of the weather and various memoranda.

Series II: Personal Items. This series contains a ledger with listings of the family expenses from 1863-1867. There is also a book with an alphabetical listing of names; several pages are torn out from the middle of the volume. A pocket wallet is included, as is a pocket diary of Jennie Holbrook from 1881.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

Subject Headings
• Holbrook, Silas P.
• Medicine, History
• Physicians -- United States

INVENTORY

Series I: Medical Daybooks and Diaries

Box 1
Folder 1
Notes on Surgical and Medical Clinics and Recipes, 1860-1864
Box 1
Folder 2
Daybooks: Physician’s Visiting List, Diary and Book of Engagements, published by Lindsay and Blakiston of Philadelphia, 1863 and 1864
Box 1
Folder 3
Daybooks, 1865 - 1866
Box 1
Folder 4
Daybooks, 1867 - 1868
Box 1
Folder 5
Daybooks, 1869 - 1870
Box 1
Folder 6
Daybooks, 1872 - 1873
Folder 7
   Daybooks, 1876 - 1879
Box 2
Folder 1
   Miniature Diary, Daybook, 1880-1881
Box 2
Folder 2
   Daybooks, 1883 - 1884
Box 2
Folder 3
   Daybooks, 1885 - 1886
Box 2
Folder 4
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1886-1888
Box 2
Folder 5
   Miniature Diary, Standard Diary, Daybook, 1890
Box 2
Folder 6
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1891-1892
Box 2
Folder 7
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1893
Box 3
Folder 1
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1895
Box 3
Folder 2
   Daybooks, 1896 and 1897
Box 3
Folder 3
   Daybooks, 1898 and 1899
Box 3
Folder 4
   Daybooks, 1900 and 1901
Box 3
Folder 5
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1902
Box 3
Folder 6
   Standard Diary, Daybook, 1903
Box 3
Folder 7
   Daybooks, 1904 and 1905
Box 4
Folder 1
Daybooks, Standard Diary, 1907-1908
Box 4
Folder 2
   Daybooks, Standard Diary, 1909-1910
Box 4
Folder 3
   Daybooks, Standard Diary, 1911-1912
Box 4
Folder 4
   Daybooks, Standard Diary, 1913-1914
Box 4
Folder 5
   Daybooks, 1915 and 1916
Box 4
Folder 6
   Daybook, 1917

Series II: Personal Items
Box 5
Folder 1
   Holbrook and Campbell's Book of Family Expenses, 1863-1867
Box 5
Folder 2
   Alphabetical List of Names, undated
Box 5
Folder 3
   Pocket wallet with ephemera and lock of hair, undated
Box 5
Folder 4
   Pocket diary of Jennie Holbrook, 1881