



Children's Hospital Boston

INFANT'S HOSPITAL

Records, 1882-1961

Archival Collection - AC 3

Archives of Children's Hospital Boston

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Accession #: 1992-20, 1992-43, 1997-4, 1997-7  
2 record center cartons  
11 manuscript boxes  
4 oversize boxes

Processed: August 1993  
By: Linda C. Morrison  
Updated: March 1998  
By: Frances R. Overcash

**ACQUISITION:** Most of the records were transferred to the Hospital Archives prior to 1992. The annual reports and admission and discharge logs were transferred from the Medical Staff Library by the hospital archivist in April 1992. Additional reports, correspondence, and an admission and discharge log were found in the Archives in October 1997.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted with the exception of the patient records. Please consult the archivist for further information.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish material from the collection should be discussed with the hospital archivist.

**PROCESSING:** The collection was processed by a student in the University of Massachusetts at Boston's master's degree program in history and archival management. Later additions to the collection were processed by the hospital archivist.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Infants' Hospital started as the West End Nursery in 1881. By 1884 it was known as the West End Nursery and Infant's Hospital. From 1891 to 1903, annual reports were issued under the joint name, and thereafter under Infant's Hospital. In 1902, amid much controversy, the institution's name was changed to The Thomas Morgan Rotch Jr. Memorial Hospital for Infants (for the son of Dr. Thomas Morgan Rotch who was physician-in-chief at Children's Hospital and one of the directors of Infant's), but in 1907 the name was changed back to Infants' Hospital.

The West End Nursery was located on Blossom Street in Boston's West End. In 1914 the hospital moved to 55 Shattuck Street, to what is now known as the Longwood Medical Area, and in 1923 it moved again to land acquired from Children's Hospital. From 1956 to 1961, Infants' was located in Children's Hospital's Farley building. In 1961 the Infants' Hospital was merged into the Children's Hospital Medical Center, ceasing to exist as a separate entity.

Both the nursery and hospital were designed to care for infants and children under two years of age, who were too young to be treated at Children's Hospital.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The collection spans 1882 to 1961 and consists of three series: Administrative Files, Subject Files, and Medical Files. The collection had no discernible arrangement when accessioned.

The Administrative Files include annual reports from 1882 to 1961 (boxes 1-5). Reports for 1917, 1919, 1920, and 1946 are missing. Also present are Corporation and Board of Directors minutes, 1931-1960 (box 6, folders 57-76). Of special interest are minutes and letters from the Board of Lady Visitors, 1893-1910 (box 6, folder 80), which provides information on their work and relationship to the functioning of the hospital and its staff.

The Subject Files include information on fund-raising activities (box 7, folders 86-89) and notes made by or for Clement Smith, M.D., for his book The Children's Hospital of Boston: Built Better Than They Knew (Boston: Little, Brown, 1983) (box 7 folder 94). Marginalia within the series are usually by Smith and date from this project. The series also includes correspondence to Susan Durkee, R.N., who was superintendent of nurses in 1918 (box 7, folder 85).

The Medical Files consist of admission and discharge logs, medical record books, patient registers, nursing reports, and patient statistics. The thirteen admission and discharge logs (boxes 7-8) date from Oct. 1923 to Aug. 1926. Nine of the logs include indexes to patient names on loose pages at the back or on the last pages of the bound volume. Information recorded consists of: name, age, address, parents' names, admitting diagnosis, rate of board, sent by, and religion.

The five medical record books (boxes 9-10) date from 1882 to 1898. They record the following information: family history, dentition, measurements, diet, and treatment. Detailed charts of temperature, dejections (stools), feedings, and weight are also included.

The volumes of patient registers (boxes 12-16) span the years 1896-1950. The records for 1903-16 and 1921-26 are missing. Information recorded consists of: date, name, sex, birthplace, residence, parents' names, ages, birthplaces, and residence, disease, board rate, notification address, discharged, results, telephone number, and remarks. At May 1950 a note in the register explains that a new system was instituted and patient records from 1950-1961 are in registers that combine Infants' patients and Children's patients (see accession #92-35).

The nursing reports (box 8, folders 111-121) date from 1932-1943. These monthly reports written by Isabelle Jordan, R.N., Helen Reidel, R.N., Harriet Russell, R.N., and Mary Chapman, R.N., for the Ladies Aid Committee, provide a general overview of the nursing work of the hospital from the point of view of the nursing supervisor. They are written to promote and guide fund-raising activities.

The reports include examples of interesting or appealing patients, who are named. Medical conditions and progress are reported, and nursing problems, such as quarantines or the use of

oxygen tents for premature or ill infants is described. Sometimes comments about parents or problems in the home environment are included. Supplies and furnishings received or needed are noted, and a wish list is generally included at the end. These reports provide documentation not only of the day-to-day work of the nursing staff, but also, indirectly, of the Ladies Aid Committee.

The patient statistics (box 8, folders 122-124 and box 11, folders 125-135) are summaries by month and year of information, such as number of patients remaining from the previous month, number admitted, number discharged, number of patients at different rates, total number of hospital days, average stay, discharge notes, and number remaining in the hospital. The numbers of x-rays, autopsies, and staff are also provided.

## BOX LIST

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
		<u>Series I. Administrative Files</u>
1	1-5	Annual Reports, 1882-1912
2-5	6-54	Annual Reports, 1913-1961
5	55	Bylaws, 1881
	56	Bylaws, n.d., 1914
6	57-76	Corporation, Board of Directors: Bylaws and Minutes, 1931-1960
	73.1	Corporation, Board of Directors: Agendas, 1957-1958
	77	Department Reports, 1944-1948
	77.1	Department Reports, 1949-1960
	78	Financial Statements, 1948
	79	General Correspondence, 1947-1956
	80	Lady Visitors, Board of: Minutes and Correspondence, 1893-1910
	80.1	Personnel, 1933-1934, 1958-1959
		<u>Series II. Subject Files</u>
7	81	Agreement with Children's Hospital, 1922, Agreement with Children's Hospital, 1947 Merger with Children's Hospital (Press Release), 1961
	82	Architect's Plaque, n.d.
	83	Blueprint of Sterilizer, 1914
	84	Dedications, 1911, 1956
	85	Durkee, Susan, R.N., 1918-1920
	86-89	Fund Raising, 1913, 1910-1914, 1938
	90	History, 1931, 1961
	91	Nursery Maid Forms, n.d.
	92	Patient Forms, n.d.
	93	Records System Memo, 1934

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
7	94	Smith, Clement, M.D.: Notes, n.d.
	95	<u>Scope</u> Newsletter, 1936
		<u>Series III. Medical Files</u>
	96-102	Admission and Discharge Logs, 1923-1925
8	103-107	Admission and Discharge Logs, 1925-1926
	107.1	Infant Formula Room, 1947-1949
	107.2	Isolation Procedures, 1950
9-10		Medical Record Books, 1882-1898
8	107.3	Newborn Nursery, 1954-1955
	108	Notes on Annual Figures (Nursing), 1932-1942
	109	Notes on Nursing Reports (for Dr. Smith), n.d.
	110	Nursing Memo, 1947, 1951
	111-121	Nursing Reports, 1932-1943
12		Patient Registers, 1896-1903, 1916-1918
13		Patient Registers, 1918-1921, 1926-1928
14		Patient Registers, 1928-1935
15		Patient Registers, 1935-1941
16		Patient Registers, 1941-1950
8	122-124	Patient Statistics, 1932-1943
11	125-135	Patient Statistics, 1932-1943
	136	Physician Referrals, n.d., 1905