

## **Thomas Jefferson University Archives and Special Collections**

### **MS 053**

### **Robley Dunglison Collection, 1837-1980 0.25 linear feet (1 Box)**

#### **Biographical Note**

In 1824 Robley Dunglison (1798-1869) accepted Thomas Jefferson's invitation to leave his medical practice in London to occupy the chair of anatomy, physiology, materia medica, and medical jurisprudence at the newly established University of Virginia. Shortly after Dunglison arrived he became the former president's close friend and personal physician. He treated Jefferson during his last illness and was present at Monticello at the time of the former president's death. After nine years at the University of Virginia, Dunglison accepted the chair of materia medica and medical jurisprudence at the University of Maryland. He resigned this position in 1836 in order to assume the chair of the institutes of medicine at Jefferson Medical College, which he held until his retirement in 1868. In addition to his professorial duties Dunglison also assumed the responsibilities of the deanship at Jefferson between 1854 and 1868. Dunglison enhanced his reputation as an educator with numerous literary accomplishments. His medical dictionaries and textbooks could be found in nearly every medical college and practitioner's office in the United States. Dunglison's salient contributions to the study of physiology earned him particular acclaim as the "Father of American Physiology."

#### **Scope and Contents**

The collection consists of materials by or about Robley Dunglison, MD and his family from 1837-1980. Included are introductory lectures and one commencement address (1837) given by Dunglison while at Jefferson Medical College, miscellaneous correspondence of Dunglison (1851-1869) as well as photocopied letters (1866-1980) between Dunglison's children. In addition, the collection contains an "autobiographical Ana" published in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society in 1969 and a memorial address to Robley Dunglison given at the College of Physicians in 1869.

#### **Organization and Arrangement**

- I. Addresses (1837-1854)  
    Arranged in chronological order
- II. Correspondence (1851-1980)  
    Arranged in chronological order
- III. Autobiographical Ana (pub. 1963)
- IV. Necrology (1869)

## Container List

### I. Addresses (1837-1854)

- 1.0 Jefferson Medical College - 1843 - Introductory Lecture to the Course of Institutes of Medicine
- 1.1 Jefferson Medical College - 1854 - (Introductory) - Recollections of Europe in 1854
- 1.2 Jefferson Medical College - 1854 - (Clinic) - Clinical report on Robert Bates' cure for stammering
- 1.3 Jefferson Medical College - 1842 - (Introductory) - On certain medical delusions
- 1.4 Jefferson Medical College - 1841 - (Introductory)
- 1.5 Jefferson Medical College - 1837 - (Commencement)

### II. Correspondence (1851-1980)

- 1.6 1866-1980 - Dunglison Family - Facsimiles of correspondence belonging to Dunglison's children (without reference to Robley Dunglison)
- 1.7 1869 July 27 - To : Riggs, Elliott S. (JMC 1869)  
Re.: Permission to attend 1869-70 lectures as a beneficiary
- 1.8 1869 (May?) - Fr. : Snively, I. N. (JMC 1863)  
Re. : Request for duplicate diploma
- 1.9 1865 May 22 - Fr. : St. Clair, Thomas (JMC 1847)  
Re. : Wm. B. Ansley (JMC 1867) recommendation for admission to JMC
- 1.10 1855-1857 - To : JMC faculty  
Re. : Christmas holidays and R. L. Payne (JMC 1857) examination request.
- 1.11 1851 Nov. 3 - To : (general salutation)  
Re. : Subscription funds for Jenner monument (in London)

### III. Autobiographical Ana

- 1.12 Transactions of the American Philosophical Society : V. 53, Pt. 8, 1963. Edited by Samuel X. Radbill, MD

### IV. Necrology

- 1.13 Address - College of Physicians - 1869 October 20 - Memoir of Robley Dunglison by S. D. Gross

*Reprocessed and described:  
Dan Flanagan  
March 11, 1996*