

Thomas Jefferson University Archives and Special Collections

MS 004

Samuel D. Gross Collection, 1856-1934 1.0 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Biographical Note

Born July 8, 1805 near Easton (PA), Samuel D. Gross (1805-1884) was the son of Philip and Johanna (Brown) Gross. After graduating from Jefferson Medical College in 1828, Samuel D. Gross opened a medical office in Philadelphia. His practice was not very lucrative, due to the large number of physicians residing in the city. As a result, Gross relocated to Easton (PA) in 1830 where he practiced medicine and wrote his first original text *Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Bones and Joints* (1830).

In 1833, Gross embarked upon his teaching career by obtaining a position as Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Medical College of Ohio. Two years later he joined the faculty of the Medical Department of Cincinnati College as Professor of Pathological Anatomy. In 1840, Gross advanced to the chair of surgery at the University of Louisville. He resigned this position in 1850 to accept the chair of surgery at the University of New York. After lecturing in New York for only one session, Gross yielded to the requests of his former colleagues and returned to Louisville. Gross remained at University of Louisville until 1856 when Jefferson Medical College asked him to replace its ailing professor of surgery, Thomas Dent Mütter. Gross was the first alumnus to be appointed to a professorship at Jefferson. After serving on Jefferson's faculty for twenty-five years Gross resigned in March 1882. Gross retained the title of Emeritus Professor of Surgery until his death on May 6, 1884 in Philadelphia. Married to Louisa Weissell in 1828, the couple had four surviving children, including Samuel Weissell Gross.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Gross enjoyed a wide reputation for his numerous writings (14 books and more than 1200 articles). Among these works the most outstanding was Gross' *System of Surgery* (1859) which was translated into several different languages and went through six American editions between 1859 and 1882. A founder of the American Medical Association, Dr. Gross was also the founder of the Pathological Society of Philadelphia and of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, the founder and first president of the American Surgical Association, and the first president of the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials by or about Samuel D. Gross, MD or his family members from 1856-1934. Types of materials within the collection include addresses (1856-1882) to Jefferson Medical College and the American Surgical Association, correspondence (1861, 1876-1883, 1934 - with gaps), medical journal articles (1857-1884), lecture notes (some believed to be the work of Samuel W. Gross); and one scrapbook containing obituaries and sympathy letters.

Organization and Arrangement

I. Addresses (1856-1882)

Arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the sponsoring organization and in chronological order within each of these alphabetical subject headings.

II. Correspondence (1861-1934)

Arranged in chronological order.

III. Publications (1857-1884)

Arranged in chronological order.

IV. Events & Ephemera (1876-1879)

Arranged in alphabetical order by subject heading.

V. Lecture Notes

VI. Necrology (1884)

Container List

I. Addresses

- 1.1 American Surgical Assn. - 1882 May 31 - "Address of welcome."
- 1.2 American Surgical Assn. - 1883 June 1 - "Value of early operations in morbid growths."
- 1.3 American Surgical Assn. - 1885 - "Wounds of the intestines."
- 1.4-5 Jefferson Medical College - 1875 - (Introductory) - "History of American medical literature."
- 1.6 Jefferson Medical College - 1873 - "Ambrose Pare."
- 1.7-8 Jefferson Medical College - 1871 - (Alumni Assn.)
- 1.9 Jefferson Medical College - 1868 - (Commencement) - "The Live Physician."
- 1.10 Jefferson Medical College - 1867 - (Introductory) - "Then and Now."
- 1.11 Jefferson Medical College - 1856 - (Introductory/Inaugural)

II. Correspondence

- 1.12 1934 Jan. 1 - Fr. : Scott-Kunkel, Eliz. To : Bland, Pascal B
Re : Donation of letters 1882-10-28 & 1883-12-2
- 1.13 1882 Mar. 29 - To : Pres. Board of Trustees, JMC
Re : Resignation from JMC faculty.
- 1.14 1879 Apr. 14 - To : Hays, I. Minis
Re : Death of Isaac Hays
- 1.15 1877 Aug. 24 - To : Hays, I. Minis
Re. : Apology for delay in forwarding Aug 6 acceptance letter
- 1.16 1877 Aug. 6 - To : Hays, I. Minis
Re. : Acceptance of Centennial Medical Commission Chairmanship
- 1.17 1876 Mar. 2 - To : Hays, I. Minis
Re. : Article publication
- 1.18 1883 Dec. 2 - To : Scott-Kunkel, Eliz.
Re. : 10th birthday party
- 1.19 1882 Oct. 28 - To : Scott-Kunkel, Eliz.
Re. Dinner Invitation
- 1.20 1861 - To : Bowers, E. Dillon (JMC 1865) Re : Recommendation

III. Publications

- 1.21 1856-57 - Report on the causes which impede the progress of medical literature.
- 1.22 1871 - General Surgery (2 v.) - Japanese Edition
- 1.23 1871 - Surgical Clinic of Prof. S. D. Gross :
Sept. 13 - Purulent ophthalmia, Equino-Valgus, Fracture of...the first metacarpal bone,
Epulis, Cystic tumors superadded to an epithelial growth upon the face.
Nov. 1 - Medullary round-celled sarcoma (left tonsil), Medullary round-celled sarcoma
(from neck), Torticollis, Retention of urine (spasmodic stricture).
- 1.24 1872 - Surgical Clinic of Prof. S. D. Gross :
Jan. 1 - Lithotomy, Potts Disease.
Aug. 1 - Infantile paralysis, Inverted toenail, Hydrocephalus, Incontinence of urine in
epilepsy.
- 1.25 1872 Aug. 15 - Review of "System of Surgery," 5th ed.

- 1.26 1884 May 3 - "Wounds of the Intestine"
- 1884 May 24 - "Lacerations of the Female Sexual Organs..."
- 1884 May 24 - Editorial review of "Lacerations of etc."

IV. Events & Ephemera

- 1.27 Dinner Menu - 1879 Apr. 10.- Commemoration of 51st year in medical profession.
- 1.28 Program - 1876 Sept. 4-9 - International Medical Congress

V. Lecture Notes

- 1.29 Lecture notes

VI. Necrology

- 2.1 Obituaries
- 2.2 S. D. Gross Memorial Professorship, JMC, establishment of.
- 2.3 Obituaries and letters of sympathy (bound volume)