

## Thomas Jefferson University Archives and Special Collections

### MS 055

### Jacob M. Da Costa Collection, 1857-1903 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

#### Biographical Note

Born on the Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies Jacob Mendez Da Costa (1833-1900) took his pre-medical education in Dresden, Germany (1849-1852). An 1852 graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Da Costa spent 18 months in Europe for postgraduate training.. His career included appointments as physician for the Moyamensing Dispensary (1853-1861), Acting Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army and physician at Turner's Lane Hospital (Philadelphia) (1861-1865), and visiting physician at Pennsylvania Hospital (1865-1900). Da Costa began his tenure at Jefferson as Lecturer on Clinical Medicine (1866-1872), became the Seventh Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Jefferson Medical College (1872-1891), and finally Professor Emeritus (1891-1900).

Through his research and writing, Da Costa influenced the emergence of internal medicine as a specialty. One of his most enduring contributions was his Civil War research on the irritable heart (neurocirculatory asthenia) in soldiers. His monograph *Medical Diagnosis* (1864) was the first work of its kind; it went through nine editions during Da Costa's lifetime. In 1860, Da Costa married Sarah Frederica Brinton (d.1889), the sister of John Hill Brinton, Da Costa's classmate and faculty colleague at Jefferson Medical College. Da Costa died on 11 September 1900 in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

#### Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials by or about Jacob M. Da Costa, MD and his family from 1857-1903. The materials include addresses (1857-1900) to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, commencement addresses to Jefferson Medical College (1874, 1883, 1887, and 1891), an 1872 introductory lecture to Jefferson students, and clinical lectures (1887-1900, with gaps) given at Pennsylvania Hospital. Also contained in the collection are medical journal articles (1881-1899) as well as two memoirs of Da Costa, one written by Mary C. Clarke (Da Costa's private secretary), the other by James C. Wilson, MD.

#### Organization and Arrangement

##### I. Addresses (1857-1900)

Arranged in alphabetical order first by name of the sponsoring organization, thereafter in chronological order.

##### II. Publications (1881-1899)

##### III. News clippings (1892 and n.d.)

##### V. Necrology (1900-1903)

## Container List

### I. Addresses (1857-1900)

- 1.1 Anniversary Dinner  
1888- D. Hays Agnew celebrating 50th year in the medical profession.
- 1.2 College of Physicians of Philadelphia  
1885 - President's address.
- 1.3 College of Physicians of Philadelphia  
1884 - Some observations on the use of hydrochlorate of cocaine, especially its hypodermic use.
- 1.4 Harvard Medical Alumni Association  
1893 - Re. : Medical education.
- 1.5 Jefferson Medical College  
1891 - Commencement
- 1.6 Jefferson Medical College  
1887 - Introductory lecture - The methods of medicine in the near past.
- 1.7 Jefferson Medical College  
1883 - Commencement.
- 1.8 Jefferson Medical College  
1874 - Commencement.
- 1.9 Jefferson Medical College  
1872 - Introductory lecture - Modern medicine.
- 1.10 Pennsylvania Hospital- Clinical lectures  
1900 - Case of tuberculosis of the kidney without marked general symptoms.  
1898 - On Phlegmasia alba dolens, or phlebitis of the leg in pneumonia
- 1.11 Pennsylvania Hospital- Clinical lectures  
1896 - Malaria anaemia treated with arsenic & iron.  
1896 - A case of heart disease with phthisis-bacilli found in sputum - frequent hemorrhages.  
1896 - On hemorrhage from the stomach.
- 1.12 Pennsylvania Hospital- Clinical lectures  
1887 - Acute cerebro - spinal meningitis due to chronic suppurative otitis.  
1887 - A case of apoplexy, & on the use of cocaine as a heart tonic & stimulant in typhoid and other low forms of fever.  
1887 - Case of fetid bronchitis simulating abscess of the lung cured by the oil of sandal wood; and on a case of tumor of brain with crossed paralysis.  
1887 - On cases illustrating the use of adonidine in dilated heart & the treatment of cerebral apoplexy.
- 1.13 Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction  
1857 - Physicians of the last century. [Note : Inscribed to Miss Sallie Brinton].
- 1.14 Yale University Commencement  
1900 - Questions of the day in medicine.

### II. Publications (1881-1899)

- 1.15 Pennsylvania Hospital - Clinical lectures  
1899 - Grave secondary anemia, simulating progressive pernicious anemia.

- 1899 - Malaria with typhoid fever.
- 1898 - Post-Typhoid fever.
- 1886 - Observations on the diuretic influence of cocaine.
- 1881 - The fluorides in medicine.

**III. News Clippings (1892 and n.d.)**

- 1.16 Items - n.d, 1892

**IV. Necrology**

- 1.17 Memoir by Mary C. Clarke [Dr. Da Costa's private secretary] - 1903
- 1.18 Memoir by James C. Wilson, MD - 1902
- 1.19 Obituaries - 1900

*Reprocessed and described:  
Dan Flanagan  
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