HERMAN KNAPP MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (New York, N. Y.)
Casebooks, 1869-1939.
ca. 2 cubic feet (9 volumes)

INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY: The Herman Knapp Memorial Hospital was founded in 1869 as the New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute by Dr. Herman Knapp (1832-1911) and was originally located at 44-46 East 12th Street in Greenwich Village. Knapp had been a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Heidelberg before immigrating to the United States and brought the most advanced knowledge of the day to his treatment of eye and ear disorders.

After Knapp’s death, his son Arnold (1869-1956) succeeded him as hospital director. In 1913, the hospital was renamed the Herman Knapp Memorial Hospital and moved to new facilities at Tenth Avenue and 57th Street. The Hospital closed on January 1, 1940 and its assets were turned over to Columbia University as the Knapp Memorial Fund to support ophthalmological research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The nine volumes are only a fragment of the original patient records of the hospital. There are six volumes of general in-patient records and three volumes devoted to cataract operations. Contents vary over time but usually include patient name, residence and age; date of admission; diagnosis; treatment; and outcome. The early volumes often include sketches of the eye in the patient history while later volumes use pre-printed diagrams of the eye. The 20th century records almost always include temperature charts and sometimes have photographs. Patients in the early years of the hospital tended to be German or of German descent, though non-Germans are not uncommon.

ACCESS: Access allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections’ Access Policy to Records Containing Protected Health Information.

PROVENANCE: Gift of the Dept. of Health Information Management, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, 2000 (accession #2000.06.23).

SUBJECTS

Knapp, Herman, 1832-1911.
Cataract – Surgery.
Eye diseases – Treatment.
Eye surgery.
Hospitals – New York (N.Y.)
Hospital patients – New York (N.Y.)
New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute (New York, N.Y.)
Ophthalmology – New York (N.Y.)
Medical records.
Herman Knapp Memorial Hospital.
Casebooks, 1869-1939.

Volumes:

Patient Case Books
  June 6, 1869 — Oct 1, 1872 (v 1)
  Aug. 27, 1884 — July 16, 1888 (v 5)
  Aug. 21, 1900 — July 2, 1902 (v 10)
  June 1, 1914 — Oct. 1, 1915 (v 15)
  Oct 1, 1915 — Sept. 30, 1916
  Jan 1, 1939 — Dec. 22, 1939

Cataract Operation Books
  May 5, 1877 — Feb. 22, 1884 (v 1)
  Feb. 10, 1892 — Sept. 10, 1896 (v 4)
  July 28, 1908 — Nov. 9, 1915