

[Columbia University Health Sciences Library Archives & Special Collections](#)

[Babies Hospital \(New York, N.Y.\). Cribside Committee Minutes](#)

BABIES HOSPITAL (NEW YORK, N.Y.).

CRIBSIDE COMMITTEE.

Minutes, 1902, Nov. 12 – 1911, May 3.

3 volumes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Minutes, annual reports, and lists of members of the Cribside Committee of Babies Hospital. The committee is mentioned in the first annual report of the Hospital, 1888/89. It was composed of young women, usually unmarried, who regularly visited the patients, entertained visitors, decorated the wards, and assisted “in such work as the Clothing Committee may suggest” (Annual Report, 1894/95). In addition they organized a Sewing Class each winter during which the committee members and their friends made garments for the infants.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Babies Hospital was founded in 1887 by five women “to provide medical and surgical aid and nursing for sick babies.” At the time, New York City had only 27 hospital beds devoted to the care of children under the age of one year. Babies soon became one of the nation’s pre-eminent children’s hospitals. Within twenty years it had established an outpatient department, a training school for nurses, and a summer hospital at the New Jersey shore. It became a teaching affiliate of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1900. L. Emmett Holt, Herbert Wilcox, Sr. and Rustin McIntosh were among the medical directors of the hospital in the 20th century.

After several brief stays at various locations, Babies Hospital settled in two houses on Lexington Avenue at E. 55th Street. In 1902, these buildings were replaced with a modern structure where the Hospital remained until it moved to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center at W. 168th Street in 1929.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

LANGUAGE: English.

PROVENANCE: On deposit from the Office of the Corporate Secretary, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, March 2009.

Subjects:

Babies Hospital (New York, N.Y.). Cribside Committee.

Children – Hospitals – New York (State) – New York

Volunteer workers in hospitals.

Women in charitable work – United States.