

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

[Haven Emerson Papers](#)

EMERSON, HAVEN, 1874-1957.
Papers, 1905-1965 (bulk 1931-1934)
.35 cubic feet (1 box)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Haven Emerson, physician and public health official, was educated at Harvard (A.B., 1896) and received his M.D. in 1899 from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University (P&S); he received an honorary doctorate from Columbia in 1954.

Emerson held a variety of academic posts at P&S and was the first Director of Columbia's DeLamar Institute of Public Health (1922-1940), now the Mailman School of Public Health. He held numerous public health positions including Deputy Commissioner (1914-1916) and Commissioner (1916-1918) of the Department of Health of the City of New York, and served as a member of the city's Board of Health from 1938 until his death.

Emerson served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps 1918-19. Afterwards, he directed several health and hospital surveys including those in Cleveland, 1919-1920; Athens, Greece, 1921-1931; and New York City, 1935-1937. He also served as a member of the Community Expert Statisticians of the Health Section of the League of Nations, 1920-1940.

He is credited with helping to found the Hospital Council of Greater New York in 1938, was a member of numerous professional associations and societies, the recipient of various medals and awards, and was a prolific author and editor. He married Grace Parrish in 1901 with whom he had five children. He died at Greenport, NY on May 21, 1957.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Reports, articles, correspondence, and manuscript notes and drafts relating to hospital surveys conducted in the 1920s and '30s by Haven Emerson. Cities represented are Boston and Fall River, Massachusetts; Memphis, Tennessee; and the Roman Catholic hospitals of Brooklyn. Also included are reprints of Emerson's articles on a variety of subjects.

SUBJECTS

Health Surveys – United States.
Hospitals – Massachusetts – Boston.
Hospitals – New York (State) – Brooklyn.
Public Health – United States.

**Emerson, Haven.
Papers, 1905-1965.**

Box 1

- 1 Hospital surveys, 1923-1934: reports for Fall River MA, Memphis TN, and Catholic hospitals of Brooklyn, NY.
- 2 Boston hospitals survey, 1931-1934: manuscripts, typescript drafts, mimeographed survey forms, correspondence.
- 3 Reprints of Emerson articles, 1905, 1914, 1925-1954, 1965.