

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

[College of Physicians and Surgeons. Written & Printed Documents](#)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Written and printed documents, 1792-1888.

1 volume (137 p.)

HISTORICAL NOTE: The College of Physicians and Surgeons was established by a charter granted by the New York State Board of Regents to the Medical Society of the County of New York on March 12, 1807. In 1811, a new charter effectively ended control of P&S by the Medical Society and vested governance in a newly created Board of Trustees.

In 1814, students and faculty of the moribund Columbia College Medical Faculty (founded 1767) were merged into P&S. A dispute over the role of the faculty on the Board of Trustees led in 1826 to the establishment of a Board dominated by laymen and to the subsequent resignation of most of College's faculty. Although crippled, P&S survived and by the 1830s was again thriving.

In 1860, the College amicably severed its relationship with the Regents and forged a nominal affiliation with Columbia College. By terms of the agreement, P&S issued its diplomas as "the Medical Department of Columbia College." The President of Columbia sat on the Board of Trustees and, with the President of P&S, jointly presided over commencements. However, P&S gave up none of its administrative or financial independence. It was not until 1891 that P&S fully merged into Columbia, becoming its "Faculty of Medicine," although retaining its original name.

For more information, please see John Call Dalton's [*History of the College of Physicians and Surgeons*](#), New York, 1888.

SCOPE & CONTENT: Early documents of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, assembled and placed in a bound volume by John Call Dalton, Jr. (President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1884-1889) in the course of writing his history of the College, published in 1888 as *The History of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York in the City of New York*. Includes deeds, correspondence, admission tickets, printed circulars, newspaper clippings, printed and engraved images, financial records, and student and faculty records. Particularly well documented topics in the volume are the early curriculum, real estate transactions, and correspondence of early faculty and students.

ARRANGEMENT/ORGANIZATION: Described in order of appearance in the volume; the pre-existing arrangement is essentially chronological. There are 137 pages of material, and the first page of the scrapbook is page 24 of the volume.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: These records are open for research without restriction.

PROVENANCE: Internal evidence suggests the volume was assembled by John Call Dalton, Jr. in the course of writing his history of the College, published in 1888.

PROCESSING NOTE: Calendared by Jennifer McGillan, April 2012.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Both the [P&S Manuscript Collection, 1755-1862](#), and the [Records of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1857-1915](#), include material complementary to the documents in this volume.

SUBJECTS

Blatchford, Thomas W. (Thomas Windeatt), 1794-1866.

Dalton, John C. (John Call), 1825-1889.

Delafield, Edward, 1794-1875.

Francis, John W. (John Wakefield), 1789-1861.

Hosack, David, 1769-1835.

MacNeven, William James, 1763-1841.

Mott, Valentine, 1785-1865.

Romayne, Nicholas, 1756-1817.

Vanderbilt, William H. (William Henry), 1821-1885.

Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons.

College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of New York.

Medicine – Study and Teaching – New York (State) – New York.

Medical education – New York (State) – New York.

Medical colleges – New York (State) – New York.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Written and printed documents, 1792-1888.

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- 1 Manuscript note by John Call Dalton, 1888, re: Alexander Anderson, engraver of the college seal, 1807.
- 2 Obituary, Alexander Anderson, *Medical Register of New York and Vicinity*, New York Medico-Historical Society, 1880
- 3 Blatchford, Thomas W., Admissions tickets, 1813-1817. Five for University of the State of New York (P&S):
 - Obstetrics, by Dr. John Osborn, \$10, 1813-1814
 - Theory and practice of physic, by David Hosack, \$15, 1813-1814
 - Hinged in with name on back: Anatomy and Surgery with Dr. Post and Dr. Smith
 - Principles and practices of surgery with Valentine Mott, 1816-1817
 - Anatomy, recto: no. 69 (66?), verso: Dr. Post, 11/4/1816and one for New York Hospital:
 - [Purpose not given], signed Thomas Eddy, treasurer, 11/29/1816.
- 4 Blatchford, Thomas W., Admissions tickets, 1816-1817. One manuscript card for zoology, minerology and botany, Samuel Mitchill, Professor of Natural History, hinged in with name on back;
 - and five pre-printed cards:
 - Chemistry and Materia Medica, with illustration, W. Macneven, 11/1816;
 - Theory and Practice of Physic, Hosack, 1816-1817;
 - Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and children, Hosack, initialed F.R.P., 1816-1817;
 - Medical jurisprudence, James S. Stringham, 11/9/1816;
 - Practice of Physic illustrated in Clinical Lectures, by William Hamersley, at New York Hospital, 11/8/1816.

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- 5 Hosack, David, license cards and admission ticket, 1789-1790. Cards granting permission to practice physic and surgery in the alms house for one year (1789); the Alms House and Bridewell (1790); and to attend chemistry lectures by N. Romaine (1790).
- 6 Blank
- 7 Lithograph, Park Place, New York, formerly Robinson St., former location of P&S marked with a pink "x", copied from an engraving in *Bourne's Views of New York*, 1831, per ms. note from John Call Dalton, 1888.
- 8 Letter, [Nicholas] Romaine to [John Augustine] Smith, 9/20/1807, offering position of lecturer of anatomy at the college;
- Letter, John Augustine Smith to John Call Dalton re: Romaine's letter above, 5/9/1887
- 9 Lot map of Broadway from Duane to Catherine Sts., 1885, copied from the map of a parcel of land near Hospital of the City of New York, and part of the estate of the late Henry Barclay, 4/13/1885. Ms. notes by John Call Dalton, 1888, indicating that Columbia (P&S) occupied Lot 56, near the intersection of Pearl St. and Broadway, 1809-1813
- Note, [illegible] and Ford, surveyors to John Call Dalton, stating that the Barclay map was undated but found in papers dated 5/15/1790
- 10 Indenture (deed), Anthony Barclay to Daniel Banvard and wife, for a lot of ground on Thomas St., 1792, with original tapes and seals; hinged in with metal fastenings.
- 11 Indenture (deed), Daniel Banvard and wife to George Samplin, for a lot of ground on Thomas Street, 1798, with original tapes and seals; in two pieces, one loose; one hinged in with metal fastenings.
- 12 Indenture (deed), Nicholas Romaine to P&S, for a lot of ground on Magazine St. (formerly Thomas St.), 1809, with original tapes and seals; hinged in with metal fastenings.
- 13 Print, Government House, *Appleton's Journal*, 9/28/1872. Manuscript note by John Call Dalton, c.1888 indicates that it was located on the Bowling Green; at one time home to George Washington, later a customs house, eventually it was site of preliminary addresses and lectures of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1809-1810, and first public exams in 1811. See – "College Records, Vol. A", and the *New York Evening Post*, 5/10/1811.

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- 14 Circular letter, Academic Senate of New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, with manuscript note by John Call Dalton, 1888, stating it was sent to “the Presidents of the several Medical Societies throughout the State,” approved by the Faculty, Oct. 5, 1807, included in annual report to the Regents, 1/27/1808
- Manuscript receipt from *The Evening Post* for advertising, to Dr. Bruce signed Alex Taylor for Michael Burnham, 3/10/1808
- 15 Blank
- 16 Manuscript list of students, Session I, 1807-1808, 4 p.
- 17 Blank
- 18 Blank
- 19 Printed list of attendees, Session II, 1808-1809.
- 20 Blank
- 21 Printed list of attendees, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Session III, 1809-1810, printed by Southwick & Pelsue, No. 3 New Street.
- 22 Letter, [Nicholas] Romaine to [] Van Solingen, re: submitting sums paid by Romaine for the college to censors, Jan. 10, 1811
- 23 Hinged in: Report of censors in reference to fitting up theater in Government House, Jan. 20, 1811;
- pasted down: Notice setting fees for classes at \$20 per student for Anatomy, Surgery and Chemistry, and \$15 per student, all others, 1810;
- pasted down: Expense report for fitting up house on Magazine Street, 1810
- 24 Report, re: purchase of Hosack’s Botanic Garden by Legislature for College, 1810.
- 25 Extract from minutes, Committee report on revising the charter of P&S, Mr. Woodford, Secretary, 4/1/1811, 4 p.
- 26 Extract from minutes, Resolution, merger of College of P&S and Columbia College Faculty of Medicine, Mr. Woodford, Secretary, 4/1/1811

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- 27 Extract from minutes of Regents, Resolution re: faculty appointments, 4/1/1811, 2 manuscript pages.
- 28 Print of the Brick Presbyterian Church, site of the first commencement on May 15, 1811. Built 1767, demolished 1857, from *Valentine's Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York*, 1866, per manuscript note by John Call Dalton, 1888.
- 29 Extract from minutes, Regents meeting, Botanic Garden Committee report, 4/1/1811; 2 manuscript pages, pasted in.
- 30 Printed Trustees meeting announcement, blank, n.d.;
- Letter, [David] Hosack to [John W.] Francis, Registrar, re: gift of seeds from 454 plants to Botanic Garden, 7/17/1811;
- Receipt, issued to John Augustine Smith by P.D. Jacques, Treasurer of the College, for sums paid to Smith from the College, 8/22/1811.
- 31 University of the State of New York College of Physicians and Surgeons circular letter, 6/8/1811, 1 printed sheet.
- 32 Printed Commencement invitation, 5/2/1812
- 33 Hinged in: University of the State of New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, Circular letter, regarding commencement of classes on Nov. 1, 9/8/1812
- 34 Blank
- 35 Form: notification of having been elected a fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, n.d., c. 1810s
- 36 Purchase agreement, no. 3 Barclay Street, Andrew Hunt (acting for P&S) and Arch. McVickar;
- Receipt for purchase, signed by Arch. and Nathan McVickar, executors of the estate of John McVickar
- 37 Blank
- 38 Map, City Hall Park and vicinity, copy of an engraved map by Thomas H. Poppleton, City Surveyor, 1817, with annotations by John Call Dalton, 1888

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- 38 Print of engraving of Bridewell, c. 1805, from *Valentine's Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York*, 1865
- 39 Deed of the property, No. 3 Barclay St., Anna McVickar and Nathan, Archibald, James and John McVickar Jr. to John Augustine Smith and Hugh Williamson, 1813
Certificate of authenticity of the deed, City of New York Register of Deeds, 11/1/1885
- 40 Assurance [Insurance] policy, J.A. Smith and H. Williamson, Phoenix Assurance Co., London, No. 307191, 12/4/1813 (part 1)
- 41 Assurance [Insurance] policy, J.A. Smith and H. Williamson, Phoenix Assurance Co., London, No. 307191, 12/4/1813 (part 2)
- 42 Blank
- 43 Printed citation for street repair for 555 Pearl St., 7/12/1813
Receipt, auction sale of property at 555 Pearl St., 11/24/1813
- 44 Printed announcement of merger of Columbia College Faculty of Medicine with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 11/21/1813
- 45 Manuscript copy of Building Committee report, including cost over-run details, 12/10/1813
- 46 Blank
- 47 Mortgage of Barclay St. property to Mrs. Bates for \$9,500, May 1814; 3 manuscript pages hinged in, with extensive annotations by John Call Dalton, c. 1888, on the third page.
- 48 Blank
- 49 Printed announcements re: start of classes, lecture times, 9/16/1814 and 11/1/1814
- 50 Committee Report, by Cochran, covering the legislative history of P&S and Columbia College Faculty of Medicine merger and advising the Regents against chartering a second medical school in New York, printed by the New York State Senate, 4/10/1815

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- 51 Manuscript draft of “Mr. Cochran’s Report” from previous page, recommending Regents not charter a new medical school in New York, in handwriting of Samuel L. Mitchill, per note from John Call Dalton, 1888. 2 manuscript pages, hinged in.
- 52 Cochran’s report, continued; one set of 2 pages and one single page, pasted down.
- 53 Blank
- 54 Regents report to the New York State Legislature on activities of various colleges, includes a mention of the abolition of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District, printed, printed signature of Daniel D. Tompkins, Chancellor, 4/1/1816
- 55 Blank
- 56 Clipping, University of the State of New York, College of Physicians and Surgeons announcement of lectures, 10/13/1815
- Committee report re: purchase of house and lot with a mortgage of the College, Valentine Mott and John Francis, 8/4/1815
- 57 Check, \$337.50, cashier of the City Bank to Mr. Bates or order, for mortgage, signed P.D. Jacques for P&S, 1/6/16;
- Circular letter re: lectures and graduation requirements, 1/28/1817
- 58 Contract with Joseph Clarke for enlarging the Barclay St. building, signed by David Hosack, president *pro tempore*, June 1817, 4 manuscript pages, hinged in with metal fastenings
- 59 Committee report on enlarging the Barclay St. building, Nov. 1817, hinged in, 1 sheet, signed by William Macneven, Valentine Mott and John W. Francis.
- 60 Prescribed form for conferring degrees, in use from 1826-1860, addressing graduates collectively and not individually, in Latin; per manuscript note by John Call Dalton, 1888.
- 61 Letter, John Tayler to Samuel Bard, Esquire, President of College of Physicians and Surgeons, matter of previous letter is unchanged, 3/14/1818
- 62 Blank
- 63 Printed circular letter, re: lecture times and graduation requirements, 8/18/1816;

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- Notice of unpaid assessment and possibility of property being sold to pay it, 1/2/1818, for property at 555 Pearl St; 2 p. On 2nd page is history of the evolution of the street numbers of Pearl St., author unknown but probably John Call Dalton, c. 1885.
- 64 Blank
- 65 Insurance policy, Washington Insurance Co., New York, NY, for the College of Physicians and Surgeons, May 1818, hinged in;
- Bill of Particulars, Medical Society of New York vs. College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1820, 3 manuscript pages
- 66 Course announcement, 1819; Certificate of attendance form (blank), c. 1819
- 67 Matriculation ticket, Emerson Hull, 1819-1820;
- Printed circular advertising classes, 5/15/1819
- Lecture ticket, Institutes of Medicine and Forensic Medicine with John W. Francis, blank, n.d. c. 1819
- 68 Printed invitation/announcement, Anniversary meeting of the Physico-Medical Society, 8/5/1822
- Matriculation ticket, Luke I. Tefft, 1821
- 69 Circular letter, re: lecture times and graduation requirements, 7/7/1820
- 70 Circular letter, re: lecture times and graduation requirements, 6/6/1821
- 71 Printed lecture announcement, 10/23/1819;
- Clipping, lecture announcement, 9/12/1823;
- Illustrated lecture ticket, obstetrics and diseases of women and children, by John W. Francis, blank, 182_
- 72 Printed lecture announcements, August 1822 and May 1823
- 73 Printed lecture announcement, November 1823, hinged in;
- Lecture announcement 1825, pasted down;

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- Printed reply to charges [from page 65], describing Regents' investigation, reports, and ultimate exoneration, signed by Wright Post, David Hosack, William H. Macneven, Samuel Mitchill, Valentine Mott and John W. Francis, 1825, pasted down
- 74 "Inventory of college property," [actually list of papers and records], 1826; manuscript note, old circulars c/o Dr. Francis, 5/16/1820; documents are interleaved on page, with additional annotation via manuscript note: "handwriting of Nicoll H. Dering, Registrar, 1826-1843," by John Call Dalton, 1888
- 75 Blank
- 76 College circular, printed, Aug. 2, 1826.
- 77 Manuscript draft of college circular, signed by John Watts, Jr. and Nicoll H. Dering, August 2, 1826.
- 78 Letter, J. Augustine Smith to Watts (?), re: purchasing house at Park Place, 11/18/1826;
- Letter, Beck to Watts, resigning delegateship to Medical Society of New York, 7/20/1820
- 79 Lectures announcement, 8/17/1827;
- Matriculation ticket, John Watson, 1827-1828
- 80 Lecture ticket, no name, 1828-1829;
- Attendance ticket, materia medica and medical jurisprudence with John B. Beck, to admit John Watson, 1829-1830;
- Attendance ticket, principles and practice of surgery with Alexander H. Stevens, for John Watson, 1830-1831
- 81 Printed petition detailing activities performed in support of creation of a second medical school in the city of New York, including the construction of a building, and association with Rutgers and then Geneva College, and requesting to be granted a charter and to be named Manhattan College, printed signatures for David Hosack, Valentine Mott, William Macneven, John Francis, John Godman and John Griscom, 12/31/1827
- 82 Blank

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- 83 Printed petition to New York State legislature from doctors to allow formation of 2nd medical school in Manhattan, to be called Manhattan College, March 28, 1828; 1 p, 2 sides, hinged in.
- 84 Letter, Joseph M. Smith to N.H. Dering, agreeing to terms of offer to publish treatise on cholera, pleased at offer, gratified that Board thinks his work is sufficiently interesting to be laid before public, 12/5/1831.
- Letter, John Torrey to Dering (?), requesting certificate of P&S fellowship for Henry Perrine, before he leaves to become U. S. Counsel in Yucatan, Mexico, 9/11/1832
- 85 Lectures announcement, n.d. but c. 1832;
- Invoice/receipt for advertising in National Intelligencer, [Washington, DC], 1835;
- Check, office of discount and deposit of the Bank of the United States, Alex. H. Stevens to D.W Bucklin or order.
- 86 10 lecture/matriculation tickets, all for Alonzo Clark:
- Matriculation ticket, No. 164, signed by N.H. Dering, 1831-182;
- Lectures on Chemistry and Botany, 1831-1832;
- Theory and practice of physic by Joseph Mather Smith, 1832-1833;
- Obstetrics and diseases of women and children, by Edward Delafield;
- Medical jurisprudence by John B. Beck, 1834-1835;
- Anatomy and Physiology by J. Augustine Smith, 1831-1832;
- Materia Medica by John B. Beck, 1832-1833;
- Principles and Practices of Surgery, by Alexander H. Stevens
- Operative surgery with surgical and pathological anatomy, by Valentine Mott, 1832-33
- 87 Bond between the College of Physicians and Surgeons and The High School Society, to complete the purchase of property on Crosby Street, signed by P&S Vice President Thomas Cock and Secretary Nicoll H. Dering (crossed out?), with seal, 1835

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- 88 Card, order of lectures, 1833-1834
- 89 Deed in escrow of the Crosby St. property, High School Society to College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1835, with certificate of Office of the Register of Deeds, 6/13/1883
- 90 Auction bill, F.C. Tucker, Treasurer, to James Bleecker and Sons, for selling at auction P&S building to Geo. B. Dorr, 2/13/1837;
- Final property transfer bill, College of Physicians and Surgeons to New York High School Society, 5/2/1837
- 91 Extract from minutes, Committee report re: accounting of various real estate transactions between the College of Physicians and Surgeons and New York High School Society, including the sale of Barclay Street building and the payment of Crosby Street building, F.C. Tucker, 5/10/1837.
- 92 Blank
- 93 Committee report on construction of the Crosby St. building, 12/3/1837, 3 p., with manuscript note made by John Call Dalton, 1888, stating that minutes are in the hand of Edward Delafield.
- 94 Blank
- 95 Invitation to meeting of the Fellows of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 12/3/1844
- 96 Letter, Edward Delafield to "Dear Sir", resigning chair at P&S because he can't teach and earn a living at the same time, 4/18/1839;
- Card, Order of lectures, 1840-1841
- 97 Letter, Charles R. Gilman, application for a lectureship in midwifery, 3/9/1840
- 98 Character statement and mentorship affirmation by Willard Parker for Robert Watts, Jr., 1834;
- Card, Spring course of lectures, 1841.
- 99 Letter, R[obert] Watts, Jr. to Trustees, nominating Gustavus A. Sabine for instructor of Anatomy, 10/20/1843

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- 100 Letter, A[lonzo] Clark to “Dear Sir” (probably Gurdon Buck), accepting position of lecturer on Physiology and Pathology for the second time, 10/18/1847
- 101 Letter, Elisha Bartlett to Gurdon Buck, accepting position of lecturer in Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence, 5/29/1851
- 102 News clipping, Announcement of 41st session, to start 10/18/1847;

Announcement of introductory lecture by John Torrey on 3/18/1848;

The Annalist, Vol. II, No. II, article on lectures by naturalist [Louis] Agassiz at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 10/15/1847
- 103 Letter, Ed. Jennings, P&S ‘43, donation of preserved moose head from Nova Scotia, 3/10/1845;

Letter, Gilbert Smith, entrusting portrait of Watts to College, 1/25/1849
- 104 Blank
- 105 Blank
- 106 Blank
- 107 Deed of the 23rd Street property, Mary and Samuel Ruggles to Philip R. Kearney, 1849. Includes hinged-in street plan drawn by Ruggles, and hinged in certificate from Office of Deeds, 1/18/1886
- 108 Blank
- 109 Deed of 23rd Street property, William Young to Willard Parker, 1855

Certificate of Register of Deeds, 5/10/1887
- 110 Card, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Dept. of Columbia College, Recto: Faculty, subjects and hours; Verso: list of “cliniques,” Session 1867-1868.
- 111 Deed of 23rd Street property, Willard and Mary Ann Parker to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1871
- 112 Examination for Harsen Prize for general proficiency, 3/8/1880, printed, 2 p.

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- 113 Deed of the property 107 E. 23rd Street, McDonough, referee, to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1/14/1881
- 114 Blank
- 115 Contract for purchase of the land at 59th and 10th Ave, James W. McLane and Amos R. Eno, 10/3/1884
- 116 Envelope, addressed to John Call Dalton, President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, possibly from William Henry Vanderbilt
- 117 ALS, William Henry Vanderbilt to John Call Dalton, donating land at 10th Ave and 59th/60th Street, 10/17/1884, 3 p.
- 118 Blank
- 119 Copy of resolution accepting William Henry Vanderbilt gift, 10/27/1884
- 120 Copy of letter, Trustees to William Henry Vanderbilt, re: bronze bust by J.Q.A. Ward of Vanderbilt commissioned as a token of gratitude, 11/17/1885
- 121 ALS, William Henry Vanderbilt to Trustees, accepting bust, 11/21/1885
- 122 Blank
- 123 Obituary, William Henry Vanderbilt, *New York Daily Tribune*, 12/9/1885
- 124 Blank
- 125 Copy of resolution by P&S Board of Trustees expressing sympathy on William Henry Vanderbilt's death, 12/15/1885
- 126 Blank
- 127 Letter, Mrs. E. Van Cortlandt to John Call Dalton, re: original diploma of her father, Thomas Romyne Beck, P&S 1811, 1/2/1886
- 128 Blank
- 129 Copy of resolution by P&S Board of Trustees accepting offer of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Sloane to erect and endow a maternity hospital called "Sloane Maternity" on the college grounds, 1/20/1886

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- 130 Blank
- 131 Copy of Resolution by P&S Board of Trustees to Cornelius, William K., Fredrick W. and George W. Vanderbilt to establish the Vanderbilt Clinic as a memorial to their father, William Henry Vanderbilt, on the college grounds, 4/15/1886
- 132 Card, notice of meeting of the Trustees, at 23rd Street and 4th Ave, blank, 188*;
Card, order of lectures, 1886-1887;
Card, scheme of hospital and dispensary clinics, 1886-1887
- 133 Confirmation of delivery and installation of bronze tablet, Henry-Bonnard Bronze Co., 8/3/1887
- 134 Blank
- 135 Invitation to inauguration of new college building, 9/29/1887;
Card, Alumni Dinner (1807-1887) at Delmonico's, 9/29/1887
- 136 Blank
- 137 Card, Sloane Maternity Hospital, open for inspection, 12/29-30/1887;
Invitation, opening exercises of Sloane Maternity Hospital and Vanderbilt Clinic, 12/29/1887