Biographical Note: William Middleton Michel was born in Charleston in 1822. He studied medicine in France for four years, and after returning to Charleston, graduated from the Medical College of the State of South Carolina in 1847. Dr. Michel opened a private medical school in Charleston known as the Summer Institute in 1848. Although the Summer Institute did not grant degrees, Dr. Michel’s dynamic teaching style attracted many students and the school remained open until 1860. During the Civil War, Dr. Michel served as the head of the Manchester, Virginia Hospital. In 1868, Dr. Michel became a professor of physiology and medical jurisprudence at the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, where he taught until his death in 1894. Dr. Michel served as the editor of the Confederate Medical and Surgical Journal, and was associate editor of the Charleston Medical Journal and the Boston Medical Journal. Dr. Michel was president of the Medical Society of South Carolina from 1880-1883, and also belonged to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society of Natural History of Paris. In 1866, Dr. Michel married Cecilia S. Inglesby; the couple had four children. In 1889, Dr. Michel testified in the infamous
murder trial of Dr. Thomas Ballard McDow, having performed the autopsy on the victim, Warrington Dawson. Dr. Michel died on June 5, 1894.

Scope and Content Note: The Middleton Michel Papers, 1846-1890, .5 cubic feet, document Dr. Michel’s professional activities. The collection includes case reports, autopsy reports, correspondence, a manuscript of an article, lecture notes, and reports presented to various audiences. The collection includes a witnessed affidavit of Dr. Hugo Mayer concerning his patient Napoleon Levelle, a Charleston citizen on trial for murdering his wife. A copy of Dr. Michel’s autopsy report on Warrington Dawson is also in the collection. The collection is arranged alphabetically.

Note: A biographical sketch of Dr. Michel presented to the Robert Wilson Medical History Club by John M. Van de Erve in 1929 has been moved to MSS 387, The Robert Wilson Medical History Club Records.

The following collections have been merged into MSS 297:

MSS 29 Letter to Dr. Charles Kolloch (1888)
MSS 30 Report on Interments in Charleston, S.C.
MSS 67 Report on Roper Fund (1883)
MSS 121 Letters to Dr. C.R. Agnew (1886-1887)
MSS 307 Letter to Dr. C.R. Agnew (1879)
MSS 685 Letter to Navy Board (1858)

Related Collections:
WB 1 AS6 M623a 1889 Address to the Medical Society on Retiring From Its Presidential Chair, by Middleton Michel, 1889
W6 P3 Introductory Address Delivered Before the Class of the Medical College of South Carolina, by Middleton Michel, 1851
SCPB9 #1 Dr. Jacob Ford Prioleau, In Memoriam, by Middleton Michel, 1888

Subject Headings:
Agnew, Cornelius Rea (1830-1888)
Hammond, William A. (1828-1900)
Michel, William Middleton (1822-1894)
Medical Society of South Carolina
Medical College of the State of South Carolina

Autopsy - History
Medical Jurisprudence
Photographs
Physiology
Trephining

Inventory:
Folder 1: Advertisements: Optical Instruments, no date, 5 items
Folder 2: Affidavit of Hugo Mayer re: Napoleon Levelle, 1890, 1 item
Folder 3: Article Translation: On the Process of Repair After Resection and Extirpation of Bones, no date, 1 item
Folder 4: Autopsy Reports, 1866-1889, 15 items
Folder 5: Biographical Sketch of Thomas Henry Huxley by Dr. Michel, no date, 1 item
Folder 6: Case Notes: Aneurism, no date, 2 items
Folder 7: Case Notes: Extirpation of the Parotid Gland, no date, 2 items
Folder 8: Case Notes: Teratology, no date, 1 item
Folder 9: Case Notes: Traumatic Tetanus, no date, 1 item
Folder 10: Case Reports: Atropine Poisoning, no date, 1 item
Folder 11: Case Report: Cerebral Hypercemia, no date, 1 item
Folder 12: Case Report: Extreme Hypertrophy of the Skull, no date, 1 item
Folder 13: Case Report: Facial Paralysis, 1865, 1 item
Folder 14: Case Report: Gunshot Wound to Face, no date, 1 item
Folder 15: Case Report: Hydrocephalus, no date, 1 item
Folder 16: Case Report: Injury of Spine, no date, 1 item
Folder 17: Case Report: Parotid Extirpation, no date, 8 items
Folder 18: Case Report: Patient’s Account of Illness, no date, 1 item
Folder 19: Case Report: Rise of Temperature From Simple Constipation, 1879, 1 item
Folder 20: Case Report and Photographs: Exenteration of the Eye, no date, 3 items
Folder 21: Correspondence: Dr. C.R. Agnew, 1879, 1886-1887, 5 items
Folder 22: Correspondence: Board of Trustees, Medical College of the State of South Carolina, 1868, 1 item
Folder 23: Correspondence: Dr. B.D. Bronson, 1887, 1 item
Folder 24: Correspondence: Dr. William H. Hammond, 1882, 1 item
Folder 25: Correspondence: Dr. Charles Kolloch, 1888, 1 item
Folder 26: Correspondence: Navy Board, 1858, 1 item
Folder 27: Correspondence: Sheldon Wilson, 1883, 1 item
Folder 28: Deaths From Cancer Uteri 1878-1890, no date, 1 item
Folder 29: Elephantiasis Photographs and Article, no date, 9 items
Folder 30: Instrument Drawings for Article “Radical Cure of Hernia”, no date, 32 items
Folder 31: Lecture Notes: the Chemical Nature of Phosphorescent Matter, 1865, 1 item
Folder 32: Manuscript and Proof of Teratology Article, no date, 2 items
Folder 33: Notes and Clipping: “A Human Tree”, no date, 1 item
Folder 34: Notes: Cadaverous Putrefaction, no date, 1 item
Folder 35: Notes: Cancer Uteri in the Negro, 1892, 1 item
Folder 36: Notes: Chloroform, no date, 1 item
Folder 37: Notes: Contagious Diseases and the Influence of Sanitary Regulations, no date, 1 item
Folder 38: Notes: Food, 1845, 1 item
Folder 39: Notes in French, no date, 1 item
Folder 40: Notes: Infectious Diseases, no date, 1 item
Folder 41: Notes: Miscellaneous Topics, no date, 90 items
Folder 42: Notes: Occlusive Dressings of Wounds, no date, 1 item
Folder 43: Notes: Parotid, no date, 1 item
Folder 44: Notes: Pasteur, no date, 1 item
Folder 45: Notes: Pollution, Cholera, no date, 2 items
Folder 46: Report: Interments in Charleston, Presented to the Mayor and County Council, no date, 1 item
Folder 47: Report: On Intramural Burials and Their Effects Upon Health, no date, 1 item
Folder 48: Report: Roper Hospital, Presented to the Medical Society of South Carolina, 1883, 1 item
Folder 49: Report: Trephining for the Cure of Epilepsy, no date, 1 item