



Collection #: MSS 640
Name: The Sarah Campbell Allan, M.D. Papers
Dates: 1895-1952
Size: .5 cubic feet
Processed: February 2008 by JMW
Restrictions: None
Citation: The Sarah Campbell Allan, M.D. Papers, MSS 640,
Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South
Carolina, Charleston

Biographical Note: Sarah Campbell Allan was born in Charleston, S.C. on December 7, 1861. After being denied entry to the Medical College of the State of South Carolina because of her gender, she attended the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary (which later merged with Cornell University). She studied under Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician in the United States. Dr. Allan also studied at Johns Hopkins University Medical School.

In 1894, Dr. Allan became the first woman to be licensed to practice medicine in the state of South Carolina. According to the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, Dr. Allan received the highest scores of the group with whom she took her exams.

In 1895, Dr. Allan accepted a position at the South Carolina State Lunatic Asylum, where she remained until 1907. She then retired from medical practice to return to Charleston and take care of her father. Dr. Allan acted as a psychiatric consultant to Charleston physicians during this period.

Dr. Allan died in February of 1954.

Scope and Content Note: The Sarah Campbell Allan, M.D. Papers, 1895-1952, .50 cubic feet, include a letter from Gary Evans, South Carolina Secretary of State offering her a position at the South Carolina State Lunatic Asylum, a copy of her will, her 1900 diary and a typescript of the diary, handwritten notes regarding turning down a position at Converse College, a small notebook with medical notes, and photographs of herself and family members. The collection also includes a scrapbook of news clippings that she compiled, and her license to practice medicine. The collection has been arranged alphabetically.

Printed materials from the collection have been cataloged separately.

Related Collections:

MSS 686 Sarah Campbell Allan: South Carolina's Pioneer Woman Physician by Robert W. McDermid, 1985 (Typescript)

Merged Collections:

758 MSS *A manual of practical normal histology*, by T. Mitchell Prudden (New York: G. P. Putnam, 1891) with 36 pages of notes by Sarah C. Allan

Subject Headings:

Allan, Sarah Campbell (1861-1954)
Evans, Gary

Physicians, Women – history
Physicians, Women -- history -- South Carolina
South Carolina State Lunatic Asylum
Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary

Inventory:

Folder 1: Copy of Will and Estate Papers, 1952
Folder 2: Diary, 1900
Folder 3: Letter From Gary Evans, South Carolina Secretary of State, 1895
Folder 4: News Clippings, 1895, 1898, 1907
Folder 5: Notes, no date
Folder 6: Photographs, 1895, no date
Folder 7: Plates: Madonnas, no date
Folder 8: Small Notebook, no date
Folder 9: Typescript of 1900 Diary, no date

Folder 10: Scrapbook, no date

Folder 11: *A manual of practical normal histology*, by T. Mitchell Prudden
(New York: G. P. Putnam, 1891) with 36 pages of notes by Sarah C. Allan

Oversize folder: License to Practice Physic and Surgery in South Carolina,
1894