Women in Medicine (A&M)
Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library
April 2015
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NB collections range in size from single items to large personal or organisational archives.

This guide includes the following sections:

- Medieval and early modern
- Societies and Associations
- Individual women doctors
- Women in medical research
- Non-medical women who influenced medical practice
- Wellcome Archives

### Medieval and early modern

Trotula: De passionibus mulierum (C14–15th)

(Trotula' was the title of a collection of writings under the name of the Salernitan woman Trota or Troca, who however only wrote some of them)

- French translation
  MSS.517, 544, 548, 549, 550, 5650
- German translation
  MS.546
- Hebrew translation
  Hebrew MS A37
- Italian translation
  MS.532
- De ornatu mulierum (C14th)
  MS.547

Queen Isabella's Dietary (middle English) (C15th)

MSS.397,404,408,411,5262

A. W. J. Haggis: Women doctors of bygone centuries', with List of English women licensed in medicine in the 17th and 18th centuries, compiled by the same

MS.5354

For domestic medicine, C16th–C19th, see : Domestic Medicine and Receipt Books 16th & 17th centuries, 18th century, 19th century

### Societies and Associations

Abortion Law Reform Association (f.1936): Both medical and non-medical women interested in changing the law in order to allow abortion in certain cases were connected with this body; also material on cases of legal and illegal abortion involving women doctors prior to the 1967 Abortion Act

SA/ALR

British Medical Association: Some material on women in the profession, e.g. constraints on employment, monitoring of attempts to offer lower rates of pay, 1910s–50s

SA/BMA

British Social Hygiene Council (formerly National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases) (f.1914): Several women doctors played a considerable part within this body, 1914–52

SA/BSH

The archives and manuscripts collections cover a broad range of subjects dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. This is one of a series of thematic guides designed to assist users of the collections to identify material of particular relevance to their research. For more detailed subject searching, you can run keyword or subject searches in the Archives and Manuscripts on-line catalogue, http://archives.wellcomelibrary.org, from which material can be ordered for consultation in the Rare Materials Room. Hard copy catalogues can be found in the Library’s Rare Materials Room or by request to archs+mss@wellcome.ac.uk.
Family Planning Association (f.1930): A number of women doctors were associated with this body which established birth control clinics, disseminated information about and created standards for contraception, and developed psycho–sexual medicine.

Medical Women's Federation (f.1916): Records of the Federation 1916–60s including its Journal, 'Historical' material on women in medicine, medical education for women, hospitals founded by women, medical societies, medical women overseas, women doctors in wartime; papers of Dr A E Sanderson Clow (1875–1959), mostly concerning dysmenorrhoea and the hygiene of menstruation. Includes 2 minute books of the (London) Association of Registered Medical Women, 1879–1925, and minute–books of the Overseas (1939–64) and Northampton and District (1949–89) Associations; also membership lists, 1919–56

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual women doctors</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAMC Muniment Collection: Some material relating to Dr James Miranda Barry (?1795–1865), woman who (disguised as man) became Inspector–General of the Army Medical Department</td>
<td>RAMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Dame) Louisa Brandreth Aldrich– Blake: Notebooks etc ( incl. notes of lectures on medicine by Elizabeth Garrett Anderson), 1886–1925</td>
<td>MSS.883–921, 5792–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Ida Balfour: Correspondence with her family (and some other material) covers her career, from medical education at the Edinburgh Medical School for Women in the 1880s, to her work in India (where she eventually became Director of the Women’s Medical Service), 1892–1933</td>
<td>PP/MIB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabrielle Ruth Slater Breeze: Papers on North African diseases, 1910</td>
<td>MS.1344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Catterall: Scrapbooks and other materials relating to her career in medicine, 1950s–90s</td>
<td>PP/CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Dally: Papers relating to her own career, 1940s–90s, and also her research on other medical women</td>
<td>PP/DAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Louisa Drabble: Student notebooks, testimonials, certificates and other ephemera relating to career of women GP, c.1917–31</td>
<td>GC/227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B G Emslie (later Hutton, Lady Isabel): Student notebook for pathology course, Edinburgh, 1908–9</td>
<td>GC/270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Evans: Most of her papers relate to the later phase of her career as medical journalist and writer, including on topics relating to women in medicine, 1960s–80s, and on complementary medicine</td>
<td>PP/PRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letitia Fairfield: Small group of papers of this eminent woman doctor dealing with various aspects of her career and interests, 1885–1987</td>
<td>GC/193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmie Dorothy Fenwick: MS.'Visceroptosis and the Vicious Circles', jointly authored with Jamieson Boyd Hurry, 1927</td>
<td>MS.2988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilias Hamilton: Early woman doctor, personal physician to the Amir of Afghanistan, 1894–6, served in Serbia, 1915, with Wounded Allies Relief Committee; material on other aspects of her career, especially training women for careers in agriculture and horticulture</td>
<td>PP/HAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Kees: Medical missionary in India: references, testimonials etc, c. 1909–37</td>
<td>GC/78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Nyasa Laws: Notebook with notes of lectures on bacteriology, ?University of Edinburgh, 1921</td>
<td>MS.3186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Louisa Martindale**: Small group of personal papers, and files as President of Medical Women's International Association, 1937–47; diaries and notebooks, 1900–50

**Florence Fenwick Miller**: Her memoir ‘An Uncommon Girlhood’ describes her struggle for medical education and qualification, and medical practice, during the 1870s, and her contacts with other pioneers, including Sophia Jex-Blake

**Brenda Morrison**: Memoir of her education and career, 1933–56, and associated items

**Ena MacAlister Morrison**, GP of Todmorden: A few legal documents relating to her joint practice with her husband, 1926–48, and appointment as Visiting Medical Officer at Crampseil Hospital

**Lucy Naish**: ‘Dr Lucy’, semi-fictionalised memoir of pioneer women doctor (1876–1967) by her daughter-in-law, and associated material

**Dorothy Nasmyth**: ‘Memoirs of a Medical Woman’ and account of early life and service in World War I, edited from her diary by her son

**Muriel “Molly” Newhouse**: Memoir of her service in the RAMC during World War Two

**Innes Hope Pearse**: Her papers are inextricably interwoven with those of her partner, George Scott Williamson, and deal largely with their mutual involvement with the Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham, 1916–79

**Reminiscences of London medical students, 1930s–1950s**: Letters and personal accounts, 2002–6, several by women doctors

**Emily Virginia Saunders–Jacobs**: Small group of miscellaneous papers of woman doctor employed in public health and tuberculosis work in South East London, c.1929–66

**Dame Mary Scharlieb**: Small group of letters and testimonials, 1890–1901; one letter to her son Herbert, 1884, from Madras

**Sir Edward Sharpey–Schafer**: Little about his connection with the London Medical School for Women, where he taught physiology, but some correspondence with early women physicians, most particularly Dame Mary Scharlieb

**Alice Mary Stewart**: Large collection of papers of distinguished epidemiologist, in particular her important work on low–dose radiation, and some material on the career problems she encountered as a woman, 1930s–2000s

**Dame Janet Vaughan**: Small group of papers of this distinguished physician and scientist including her work on the Emergency Blood Transfusion Service, treatment of starvation at Belsen 1945, material on social medicine, health services, industrial medicine, child guidance, and India, 1939–46

**Christine Watson**: Small group of papers predominantly concerning her involvement in family planning and well woman services in South London, 1982–2014

**Cicely Williams**: Large collection of papers of nutritionist and maternal and child health expert working mainly in the developing countries, 1929–88

**Anna Justina Augusta Wilson**: Notes of lectures on Swedish remedial exercises taken down by Susan H. Cannon, 1917–19

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**GC/25, MSS.3470–87**

**GC/228**

**GC/240**

**MS.8796**

**MS.8034**

**GC/219**

**MS.8766**

**SA/PHC**

**MS.8593**

**GC/158**

**GC/190**

**PP/ESS**

**PP/AMS**

**GC/186**

**MS.9178**

**PP/CDW**

**MSS.5027–8**
**Vivienne Lea Wolfson**: Notebook containing expenses as medical student in London, including tuition and exam fees, cost of books and instruments, 1946–51  
**Constance A P Wood**: Small group of papers of this eminent radiologist, 1933–85  
**Helena Rosa Wright**: Rather sparse group of papers of pioneer of birth control, also relating to her interest in psionic medicine, 1920s–70s

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<th><strong>Women in medical research</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beit Memorial Fund</strong> (f. 1909): Awarded fellowships to women researchers from very early on in its existence, Some files are closed</td>
<td>SA/BMF</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lister Institute</strong>: First female appointment to staff (1903) was Dame Harriette Chick [q.v.]; a number of other women researchers worked there over the years</td>
<td>SA/LIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Birthday Trust Fund</strong>: a number of women doctors and scientists (including Elsie Widdowson [q.v.]) were involved in the research it sponsored on anaesthesia, abortion, and ante-natal nutrition, 1930s–90s</td>
<td>SA/NBT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strangeways Research Laboratory</strong> (f. 1912); Dame Honor Bridget Fell: As Director of the Strangeways, and an eminent scientist in her own right, Fell promoted the careers of other women scientists both at the Strangeways and elsewhere, 1929–70. <em>Fell’s papers are now available online as part of the Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics digitisation project</em></td>
<td>SA/SRL, PP/HBF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mary, Lady Bruce</strong>: Illustrations of the micro–organisms causing diseases including trypanosomiasis on which she worked with her husband, Sir David Bruce, 1884–1913</td>
<td>WTI/RST/G, RAMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Edith Bülbring</strong>: Leading authority on the physiology and pharmacology of smooth muscle (visceral or involuntary muscle).; collection includes laboratory notebooks, correspondence with and about colleagues (some closed until 2039), papers from foreign conferences and working trips, and publications and presentations, 1939–84</td>
<td>PP/BUL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dame Harriette Chick</strong>: material relating to her long career in nutritional research, including diaries 1917–22, documentation of her period researching malnutrition in Vienna post–World War I, research materials, 1900s–60s</td>
<td>PP/CHI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marie Curie</strong>: Notebook, 1899–1902; <em>Les rayons α β γ des corps radioactifs en relation avec la structure nucléaire</em> [1932]</td>
<td>MSS.1978–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Hans Grüneberg</strong>, geneticist: His correspondence, 1922–80s, includes large amounts with substantial numbers of female colleagues, including such distinguished figures as Charlotte Auerbach, Elizabeth S ('Tibby') Russell, and Salome Gluecksohn–Waelsch <em>Now available online as part of the Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics digitisation project</em></td>
<td>PP/GRU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joan Keilin</strong>: some material relating to her biochemical research among the archives of the Biochemical Society; also a few papers of her mother, Anna Keilin</td>
<td>SA/BIO/Q</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sir Edward and Lady Mellanby**: Collaborated closely throughout Sir Edward's life and he was additionally professionally involved with other women scientists, in particular Dame Honor Fell (q.v.). May Mellanby did independent research into the physiology of dentition and participated in various bodies dealing with dental policy. Large collection of their papers, 1896–1974

**Ruth Sanger**: Material, including research notes, lectures and involvement with societies and organisations, relating to her work with Robert Race on the genetics of blood grouping, 1939–99

Now available online as part of the *Codebreakers: Makes of Modern Genetics* digitisation project

**Amy Skelland**: Training certificates and watercolours of this nurse who acted as microscopist to Charles Donovan and others at Royapetta Hospital, Madras, 1920s

**Ange Marie Thore**: Various works relating to her psychiatric investigations, 1838–47

**Marthe Vogt**: Extensive collection relating to the scientific career of German–born pharmacologist, neurophysiologist and neuropharmacologist, who became a leading authority on neurotransmitters in the brain, 1920s–80s

**Elsie M Widdowson**: Joint author, with RA McCance, FRS (1898–1993), of 'the nutritionist's bible', *The Composition of Foods*: a small group of papers on this and other research, 1929–93

**Non–medical women who influenced medical practice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Elizabeth J French</strong></th>
<th>'Electro–cranial diagnosis', c. 1875</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amalia Lundgren</strong></td>
<td>'Utdrag ur Nya Rörelseläran Gymnastika Central–Instituet Kursen', 1895–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melanie Klein</strong></td>
<td>An influential figure in the psychoanalysis of children and the evolution of 'The British School' of psychoanalysis; personalia, patient notes, lectures, draft articles, etc, 1874–1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marie Charlotte Carmichael Stopes</strong></td>
<td>author of the highly influential marriage manual <em>Married Love</em> (1918) and works on birth control which led to its wider acceptance: Copious correspondence, 1918–58, includes women doctors [additional papers in Department of Manuscripts, British Library]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clare Winnicott</strong></td>
<td>A small group of papers of the wife of Dr DW Winnicott, a child psychoanalyst in her own right, 1940s–80s</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– see also material among Donald Winnicott papers</td>
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</tbody>
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**Wellcome Archives**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Wellcome Historical Medical Museum</strong></th>
<th>some material on women in medicine collectively and relating to specific individuals, 1898–1985</th>
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</table>
Researchers’ attention is also drawn to two online databases, the Wellcome / National Archives Hospital Records Database http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/, and the Medical Archives and Manuscripts Survey of materials 1600–1945 in repositories in the Greater London area http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node265.html, which include items of relevance.

An index (compiled by Emma Milliken) to obituaries of medical women, 1919–c.2000, which appeared in the Newsletter/Quarterly Review/Journal/Women in Medicine/Medical Woman published by the Medical Women’s Federation, can be found in the Notes field of the collection level description of SA/MWF in the online catalogue.

Medical Officer of Health reports include material on the growing involvement of women health professionals in Public Health work. MOH Reports for London are now available online: London’s Pulse: Medical Officer of Health reports 1848-1972 http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/