Teeth

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

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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.

Teeth

**English Medical Notebook**: 'The use and excellent virtues of Carduus Benedictus', include strengthening the teeth, 1575–1663

**Receipt book**: Contains several preparations to cleanse, wash and whiten the teeth, a few remedies for loose teeth, and one for toothache, early C17th

**Mrs Corlyon, A Booke of diuers Medecines**: Includes a few remedies for toothache, 'Rheum in the teeth or Gummies', and one for teething infants, 1606

**Mrs Anne Brunwich her Booke of Receipts or Medicines**: Includes 'receipt to stay the rueme in the eyes or teeth', c. 1625–1700

**Anon**: medical receipt book, early-mid C17th, includes several items to do with teeth

**Jane Jackson, A very shorte and compendious Methode of Phisicke and Chirurgery**: includes several remedies for toothache and 'worms in the teeth', powders to make the teeth fall out, tooth-cleansing preparations, and a number of other dentally-related recipes, 1642

**Elizabeth Sleigh & Felicia Whitfeld**: Collection of medical recipes includes instructions 'To pull out a tooth', 1647–1722

**English recipe book**: Includes 'To make the Teeth come Ese', 1648–early C19th

**Household and Medical Recipes**: Includes 'To make my Mothers little white cakes for teeth', c. 1650–1750

**English Recipe Book**: Includes 'To make childrens Teeth come forth wth out paine' and 'The Temple plaisters most excellent to draw Rheum from the Eyes or Teeth', mid–C17th

**Elizabeth Jacob & others, Physicall and chyrurgicall receipts**: 2 recipes 'For The Teeth', 1654–c.1685

**Receipt–Book**: Includes 'Baume pour les enfants a qui le dents percent extremement fort experimente', 1669

**Sir Thomas Osborne (1631–1712), A booke of preserves coookerie and phisicall medicines**: Includes treatment for 'Hollowe Teeth', 1670–95

**A booke of usefull receipts for cookery, etc**: 1 remedy 'For ye toth', c. 1675–1700

**Boyle Family**: Collection of medical recipes includes 'For the Scurvy in the Teeth' and 'For a Child that is in a feaver with Worms & Teeth', c. 1675–1710

**English Recipe Book**: Contains 'To clean the teeth', 'For a worme in the teeth', 'To fasson the teeth', c. 1675–1800

**Mrs. Elizabeth Hirst her book**: Contains 'A powder for the teeth' and 'For a cold in the teeth', 1684–c.1725

**Frances Springatt (& others)**: Recipe collection, 1686–1824, includes 'For childrens breeding Teeth Easy', and 'For ye Teeth to Make ym white'
Lady Ayscough, Receits of phisick and chirurgery: Includes ‘A secrett for the Tooth Ache’, 1692 MS.1026

Caleb Lowdham and family: Notebook of medical and culinary recipes includes ‘To whiten teeth’, late C17th–early C18th MS.7073

Cookery and Medical Recipe Book: Contains ‘Tooth Powder’, late C17th–C18th MS.7892

Whitbread family: manuscript receipt book, c. 1700–1811, includes a number relating to teeth and dental matters MS.8745

Medecyn–Boeck: Includes several recipes for tooth–ache and dental disorders, early C18th MS.3503

Lectures of Bernardus Albinus: Including on Teeth, early C18th MS.MSL.65/2

English Recipe Book: Includes recipe for a mouth–wash from Nathaniel Foy, dentist of Bath, C18th MS.7850

Louis François Manne (d. 1755): 2 autograph letters each with transcript, 1745, to Dr. Broca (concerning caries) MS.7241

John Hunter (1728–1793): Histoire naturelle des dents humaines, 1780 (French translation by Boddaert) MS.2960

François Joseph Talma (1763–1826), actor: Letter from his sister Anne Gertrude Talma (1762–1806), asking if he can obtain teeth from the public mortuary and send them to their father in England, with associated materials, 1782, 1956 MS.8284

Pryce-Lloyd family: medical receipt book, c. 1791–1800, includes some treatments for dental problems MS.8469

George Washington: Photographs of 1798 letter to his dentist about his false teeth, with transcript, press cutting and correspondence, 1922 MS.7799

[-] & Receipts: includes various preparations for care of teeth, treatment of dental problems, etc. c. late C18th–early C19th MS.8764

Royal Army Medical Corps Muniment Collection: Includes material relating to Army Dental Corps, dental health in military context, and other dental matters, including dental treatment of Napoleon Bonaparte on St Helena, C19th–C20th RAMC

Jean Baptiste Gariot: Traité des maladies de la bouche, with drawings of dental instruments, 1805 MS.2472

James Prew (d. 1846), surgeon dentist, of Bristol and Bath: Account books and miscellaneous papers relating to his dental practice, 1830–47 MSS.5208–5214

Burking Miscellany: Mentions the sale of murdered boy’s teeth to a dentist, 1831 MS.7058

Joseph Henry Shorthouse (d. 1883): ‘Observations on the extraction of teeth; being a practical inquiry into the advantages and safety attending the employment of forceps properly constructed, and an exposition of the dangers to which the key is liable’, 1846 MS.7202

P.A. Mequignon, Dijon surgeon–dentist: 1 letter, 1851 MS.7317/148


Joseph Thomas Clover (1825–1882): On the administration of Chloroform in Dental operations, 1868–72 MS.1688

Royal Dentist’s Account Book: Ledger of a fashionable London dental practice, 1883 MS.5464

Sydney Galvaine: Horse dentition, illustrated, 1887 MS.3579/5
John Frederick William Silk (1858–1943): Minute book of the anaesthetists of Guy's Hospital Dental School, 1889–95  
Frederick Parkes Weber, FRCP (1863–1962): Particularly interested in rare diseases, but material, c. 1890s–1950s, extends well beyond these areas and includes material on teeth and dentition  
Herbert John Scharlieb (later Shirley), CMG, MD, FRS: A few letters and testimonials relating to appointment as anaesthetist, Dental Hospital, London, 1891–1901  
James Duncan Cameron: Letters and papers concerning a petitioner to the General Medical Council for admission to the Dentists' Register, 1895–6  
Association of County Medical Officers of Health (1907–1974): Material relating to matters under public health administration of counties, including dental services, 1900s–70s  
Donald Hunter, CBE, FRCP (1898–1977): Particularly interested in occupational and environmentally caused conditions, material 1902–68  
British Medical Association: ‘Groups’ files include material on dentists and dentistry, c. 1910s–50s  
Dudley Wilmot Buxton (1855–1931), anaesthetist: "Progressive history of dentistry", 1913  
"The dental art in ancient times": Historical essay produced by Burroughs Wellcome & Co. as Lecture Memoranda for medical congress(es), 1914  
Alphonse Soulé: Histoire de l'art dentaire dans l'antiquité (translation into English), c. 1915  
Enfermedades de los dientes: probably a student's notes of a course at the Escuela de Odontologia at Madrid University, c. 1920  
Royal Society for Public Health and predecessors: minutes of the Dental and Allied Subjects Group, 1961–67  
Society of Medical Officers of Health (f. 1856): Material relating to concerns over conditions to do with teeth (including fluoridation) falling within the interests of Medical Officers of Health, c. 1910s–80s  
Wellcome Historical Medical Museum: archives 1899–1985, include material relating to dentistry in historical context  
Wellcome Foundation: pharmaceutical company made relevant products, 1890s–1980s  
British Society for the Study of Orthodontics (f.1907): Minutes and other records of the Society  
Lady (May) Mellanby MA, DSc (1882–1978), nutritional and dental scientist: conducted research into the physiology of dentition and the causes of dental disease, and was involved with various dental policy-making bodies: papers. 1917–69, include correspondence with other individuals involved in dental questions  
Sir Robert Macintosh (1897–1989), Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics: Material on correct methods of and training in dental anaesthesia, c.1930s–80s  
– A History of Dental Anaesthesia, 1939, from material collected by Miss B. Pycraft of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum  
Ieuan Ellis, LD, FRC (d.1954): notebook: Notebook while studying dentistry at University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, before 1941
R G Torrens (1903–1981): papers on the dental service, 1942–1964: Head Council Minutes and papers of Incorporated Dental Society, 1942–9; Representative Board Minutes and papers of British Dental Association, 1944–51; Minutes of the Joint Advisory Dental Council, 1946–7; Minutes and other papers relating to Appeals under Regulation 18 of the NHS Service Committee and Tribunal Regulations, 1949–64

Medical Women’s Federation (f.1916): Some files on dental service, 1950s–60s; career prospects for women dentists (in files of InterProfessional Working Party, 1960s)

Frank Rowntree (1928–1996): papers and slides relating to his interest in dental health education, 1959–70s; see also records of Institute of Health Education


Sidney Chave (1914–1985): Lecture notes, publications, research materials on fluoridation, c. 1960s


Patients’ Association (f. 1963): files relating to patients’ views on dental services, fluoridation, etc, c. 1970s–90s

See also the Wellcome/National Archives Hospital Records Database, http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/ for information on the records of relevant specialist hospitals.

London’s Pulse: Medical Officer of Health reports 1848-1972 http://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/ contains substantial amounts of material relating to public health aspects of dentistry