

John King Papers, 1813-1893
Collection No. 5



Abstract

The collection consists of King's formulae books (1860-1862), case books (1866-1889), and lectures on ophthalmology delivered in the Eclectic Medical Institute, and miscellaneous medical notes and writings including "Mesmeric Neurology." Includes meteorological observations from 1876 to 1885. The meteorological notes also contain a personal chronology from King's move to North Bend in 1868 to 1885. Also included is an index of French words and terms.

Biographical Sketch

John King was a primary force in the development of eclecticism. Born in New York City on January 1, 1813, King received a liberal education, and in 1838 graduated from Wooster Beach's Reformed Medical College. Fluent in German and French, King kept abreast of the developments in medicine and science taking place in Europe. King was truly "eclectic" in his approach to medicine and pharmacognosy, using what seemed to be most effective in the study and treatment of disease, regardless of the "school" of its origin.

In 1851, King joined the faculty of the Eclectic Medical Institute, occupying the chair of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children. In the 1856 controversy in the Eclectic Medical Institute, King joined with other prominent faculty in forming a rival college. At the merger of the two in 1859, King occupied his former seat. King was active in the promotion of eclecticism, and was elected president of the National Eclectic Medical Association in 1878. Among King's many contributions to medicine and pharmacognosy was the drawing into botanic medicine of a young John Uri Lloyd.

King did not limit his efforts to treatment, but turned to pharmacy as well. He discovered and introduced podophyllin (resin of podophyllum) in 1835. He also discovered macrotin (resin of

cimicifuga), irisin (oleo-resin of iris versicolor) and established therapeutically many alkaloids that were accepted and used by pharmacologists of the other schools. Among the drug agents that King introduced into medical practice were hydrastis and sanguinaria. King was also a voluminous writer, including among his efforts The American Dispensatory in 1854, American Obstetrics in 1855, and in 1866 Chronic Diseases, as well as works on microscopy, diseases of women, and a urological dictionary. He also contributed articles to many of the foremost medical and pharmacological journals of his day.

Scope and Content

The collection contains exhaustive formulae of preparations used by King from 1863 to the 1880s. The case studies, 1866 to 1889 inclusive, provide patient information, medicine and dosage administered, amount of payment, and results of treatment. The lectures provide not only a view of the sophistication of King, but the quality of the teaching material in the Eclectic Medical Institute. The medical notes add depth to the above, and provide a glimpse of the broad interest of King. The meteorological observations, started when King received a Smithsonian barometer and thermometer, in 1876, provide daily weather information for North Bend, Ohio, from 1876 to 1885. Included in the information are "remarks" which add local color to the information. As well, the 1883 to 1885 log has as an addenda a chronological entry in diary form of events in King's life from 1868 to 1875, mentioning such diverse items as comets spotted, first wallpaper in the house, and places and topics of lectures given by King. Overall, the collection provides a limited view of a prominent doctor and pharmacist during the 1860's to 1880's.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description
		- <u>Series I. Formulae Books</u>
1	1	- 1863-1865, includes some case prescriptions
2	Vol. 1	- Arranged alphabetically by drug and/or medicine. Includes "old name-new name" sheet in front
		- <u>Series II. Case Books</u>
1	2	- 1866-1868
	3	- 1879-1883
	4	- 1883-1889
		- <u>Series III. Lectures</u>
1	5	- Opthamology
	6	- Diseases of the eye

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| | 7 | - | Fragment on diseases of the eye |
| 1 | 8 | - | <u>Series IV. Scrapbook</u> |
| | | - | <u>Series V. Medical Notes</u> |
| 1 | 9 | - | "Mesmeric Neurology" [photocopy] |
| | 10 | - | "Description of an Artificial Eye" |
| | 11 | - | Urinary Examination, etc. |
| | 12 | - | Miscellaneous |
| | | - | <u>Series VI. Meteorological Observations</u> |
| 1 | 13 | - | Dec. 10, 1876 to Feb. 20, 1880 |
| | 14 | - | Feb. 21, 1880 to March 15, 1883 |
| | 15 | - | March 16, 1883 to Jan. 6, 1885:
Personal chronology, 1868-1885 |
| | | - | <u>Series VII. Indexes</u> |
| 1 | 16 | - | Plants & plant drugs in chosen medical
journals, indexed 1814-1882 |
| 2 | Vol. 2 | - | Index of French words & terms,
with English definitions |