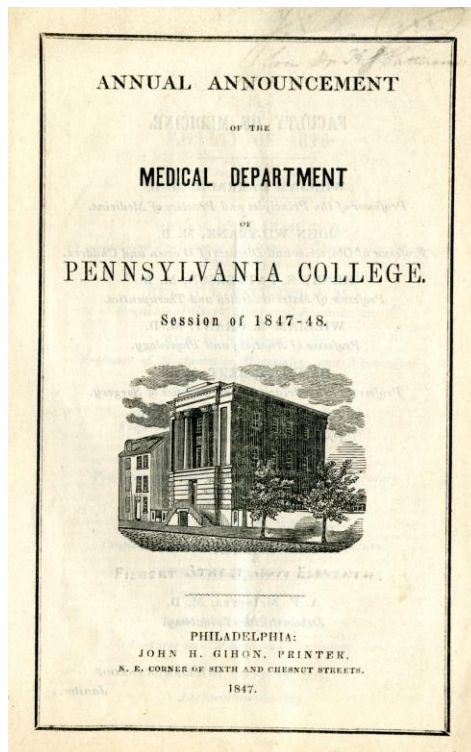


**Guide to George Currier's  
Notes on the Lectures Delivered  
at the Medical Department of  
Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia,  
1849-1850**



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library  
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Karen Dupell Drickamer  
March 2013**

**MS – 135: George Currier’s Notes on the Lectures Delivered at the  
Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia,  
1849-1850**

(1 box, .28 cu. ft.)

**Date Range:** 1849-1850

**Provenance:** Gift of William C. Wright, Class of 1961

**Biography:**

George Currier (1828-1867) was born in Frederickton, New Brunswick, Canada and matriculated into the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia, November 1849 and attended lectures through 1851. Dr. Currier returned to New Brunswick where he practiced medicine until his death in 1867.

The Medical Department of Pennsylvania College was created in September 1839 by the Board of Trustees in response to a request from Drs. George McClellan, Samuel Calhoun, William Rush and Samuel G. Morton, all Philadelphia physicians. The Trustees appointed the four petitioners to the Faculty of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia and Pennsylvania College was the degree granting institution. However, the school was, for the most part, autonomous, and paid one half of the matriculation fee to Pennsylvania College’s treasury. The State Legislature passed the Act of March 29, 1849, which created a fifteen-man body of Trustees of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College and granted its faculty greater independence.

Requisites for graduation were three years of study with a reputable doctor, attendance for two full courses of lectures, and a thesis written in English, German, French or Latin, on some medical or surgical subject. At the beginning of the Civil War, the enrollment and income dropped leaving bills and unpaid taxes causing the school to close at the end of the 1860-61 sessions. For a complete history of the Medical Department, lists of faculty and graduates, and a description of the curriculum, see Harold J. Abrahams’ *Extinct Medical Schools of Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1966

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection consists of George Currier’s three manuscript books of lecture notes on anatomy, clinical work, surgery, case studies, obstetrics, diseases and treatment, herbs, tonics, narcotics, etc. Currier also drew detailed illustrations of sailing and steam ships interspersed among the pages as well as sketches of professors, soldiers, flags, etc. The third journal has extensive fire damage, but the first two are in very good condition.

Box/Folder

- 1/1 Inventory
- 1/2 Notebook, December 1849 Lecture Notes
- 1/3 Notebook, 1849-50 Session Lecture Notes
- 1/4 Notebook, 1849-50 Session Lecture Notes
- 1/5 Miscellaneous
  - Matriculation form
  - 2 receipts

See also:

Breidenbaugh, E. S. *The Pennsylvania College Book, 1832-1882*. Philadelphia: Lutheran Publication Soc., 1882. pp. 80-86.

Hefelbower, Samuel G. *The History of Gettysburg College, 1832-1932*. Gettysburg: Gettysburg College, 1932.

Glatfelter, Charles H. *A Salutary Influence: Gettysburg College, 1832-1985*. Gettysburg: Gettysburg College, 1985. pp. 143-145

*MS-137: Medical Department of Pennsylvania College at Philadelphia*, an artificial manuscript collection of announcements, catalogs, a diploma, and compiled lists of alumni.

*19<sup>th</sup> Century Pamphlet Collection*. Keyword search in **MUSCAT** for published lecture and address by Medical Department faculty in pamphlet form: **Pennsylvania College Medical Department**.