

A Guide to the Brown-Séquard Society minute book, circa 1934-1940 M 580

Brown-Séquard Society minute book
1934-1940

Title Statement

A Guide to the Brown-Séquard Society minute book, circa 1934-1940 M 580

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

M 580

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/657

Unit Date

1934-1940

Mixed Materials

MCV 6

Language

English

Creator

Brown-Séquard Society

Extent

1 Items 1 volume, and loose items that were enclosed in the volume.

Repository

VCU Health Sciences Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition information

This minute book was discovered and transferred to the University Archives by Brooke Hayes, Erica Malkasion and Dr. Richard Sterling in 2024.

Preferred Citation

Brown-Séquard Society minute book, 1934-1940, Collection # M 580, Special Collections and Archives, Health Sciences Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

Biographical / Historical

The Brown-Séquard Society began in 1931 as a group to "encourage scholastic attainment and to strive for the general advancement of medicine by honoring students of exceptional ability and leadership." The society is named for 19th-century physician, Dr. Charles-Édouard Brown-Séquard (1817-1894), a Mauritian physiologist and neurologist. Brown-Séquard was a member of the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) faculty from 1854-1855, serving as the Professor of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence. It was during this time that he wrote the paper "Experimental and Clinical Researches on the Physiology and Pathology of the Spinal Cord and Some Other Parts of the Nervous System." It is in this paper that Brown-Séquard Syndrome, a neurological condition that can occur due to an incomplete spinal cord injury, was first described in medical literature. Ultimately, Brown-Séquard left MCV due in part to his abolitionist stance regarding enslavement.

The society selected members from the School of Medicine junior and senior classes who maintained a B average or above. Election to the society required a unanimous vote by the current members. As part of their activities, the society began the annual Brown-Séquard Lecture in 1936. In 1940, the society petitioned to form a chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society at MCV, with the Brown-Séquard Society becoming the Beta Virginia chapter of the honor society. The AOA remains active at the VCU School of Medicine.

Scope and Contents

The minute book for the Brown-Séquard Society, a student organization at the Medical College of Virginia, School of Medicine, circa 1934-1940. Along with the minutes of each meeting the book includes member rosters and the society's financial accounts. Also included are items enclosed within the minute book such as correspondence, newspaper clippings, programs, receipts, and a short history of the society's founding.

Keywords

Medical students -- Societies, etc.

Medical students -- Virginia -- Richmond

minute books

Brown-Séquard Society

Medical College of Virginia. School of Medicine -- students

Alpha Omega Alpha. Medical College of Virginia Chapter

Brown-Séquard, Charles-Edouard, 1817-1894 -- Influence