

Russell Ephemera Collection

ACC/2012/1, ACC/2014/2, ACC/2017/3



Ephemeral items, collected by Drs Matthew and Angela Russell,
mainly relating to public health in Dublin, 1890s-1950s

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock
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RE
Russell Ephemera

1890s-1950s
Collection

Extent:

14 files and items

Creators:

Russell, Matthew John, 1874-1956

Russell, Angela Gertrude, 1893-1991

Description:

Small collection of ephemeral items belonging to Dr Matthew Russell, Dublin City Medical Officer of Health, and his wife Dr Angela Russell (nee Coyne). Items focus on the Dr Russells' interest in public health and social welfare issues, or relate to Sir Charles Cameron.

Arrangement:

Items are arranged chronologically

Administrative History:

Matthew John Russell was born in Kilross, Co. Tipperary on 1 June 1874. He studied medicine at Queen's College Cork, the Catholic University Dublin and RCSI, graduating with the joint Licentiate of RCSI & RCPI in 1898. Following graduation Dr Russell worked as Senior House Surgeon at the Mater Hospital in Dublin, as a dispensary doctor in the city and medical officer to the constabulary. His role as dispensary doctor in the Kilmainham area of the city brought him a deep understanding of the problems of the inner city slums.

Matthew Russell gained his RCSI Fellowship in 1902, and a Diploma in Public Health, from the same college, in 1907. Public Health became his area of specialisation. He was appointed assistant to Sir Charles Cameron as Medical Officer of Health in 1911, and replaced Cameron in 1921. Russell also worked as Dublin Port Medical Officer of Health, and was a governor of both Dr Steevens' and Saint Ultan's Hospitals, a founding board member of St Luke's Hospital, as well as being involved with Cork Street Fever Hospital. Especially concerned with the high levels of infant mortality in Dublin, Russell was an active proponent of immunisation and is remembered for his work in combating typhus in the city; Dr C J McSweeney stated that '*Matt should be remembered in the history of Irish Public Health as the man who banished typhus*'.

Dr Russell married a fellow medic, Dr Angela Coyne (b.1893), whom he met while lecturing on her Diploma in Public Health course, they married in 1924. Although Dr Angela Russell never

practiced, she was active in movements for social reform, supported Saint Ultan's Hospital, was chairman of the Cheeverstown Convalescent Home for Children, on the Board of the Meath Hospital and the Central Council of the Irish Red Cross. Dr Matthew Russell died on 12 February 1956, and Dr Angela Russell died on 2 March 1991.

Acquisition:

Papers presented by Matthew Russell and Fr John Russell S.J., sons of Matthew and Angela Russell.

A collection of cartoons by Thomas Fitzpatrick have also been donated to the RCPI archive by Matthew Russell and Fr John Russell (ACC/2013/6).

Related Material:

Thomas Fitzpatrick Cartoons (TF) - Cartoons, by Thomas Fitzpatrick, relating to public health concerns in Dublin and/or Sir Charles Cameron.

References:

Cathy Hayes, 'Matthew John Russell', *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Cathy Hayes, 'Angela Gertrude Russell (nee Coyne)', *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

'Obituary - Dr Matthew John Russell', *Irish Times*, 13 February 1956

Access:

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RE/1	<p>Newspaper gleanings on Sir Charles A Cameron</p> <p><i>Extent:</i> 146 pages</p> <p><i>Creators:</i> Cameron, Sir Charles Alexander, 1830-1921</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Bound volume containing newspaper cuttings relating to Sir Charles Cameron, covering both his personal and professional life. The volume also contains a photograph of Sir Charles Cameron and Lady Aberdeen in academic robes in the front square of Trinity College Dublin.</p>	<p>11 December 1897 - 4 November 1918</p>
RE/2	<p>Mater Hosptial souvenir photograph albums</p> <p><i>Extent:</i> 2 volumes</p> <p><i>Creators:</i> London & County Photographic Company</p> <p><i>Description:</i> Souvenir albums containing a series of photographs of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital c.1900. Photographs show the exterior and interior of the building including chapel, wards, kitchens and operating theatre. Many of the photographs contain groups of nurses, doctors and other hospital staff going about their hospital work, and some also include patients. The albums also contain group photographs of the hospital's nurses and the medical staff, the later includes Dr Matthew Russell, Senior House Surgeon to the hosptial.</p>	<p>[1900s]</p>
RE/3	<p>Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health in Dublin</p> <p><i>Extent:</i> 112 pages</p> <p><i>Creators:</i> Royal Institute of Public Health</p>	<p>August 1911</p>

Description:

Printed programme and guide for the Royal Institute of Public Health Congress held in Dublin in August 1911. Dr Matthew Russell was the Honorary Secretary to the Section of Chemistry and Bacteriology.

RE/4 **Letter from Lady Aberdeen to the Lord Mayor of Dublin** **16 February 1913**

Extent:

4 pages

Creators:

Gordon, Ishbel Maria Hamilton-, 1857-1939, 1st Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair
Sherlock, Lorcan George, 1874-1945

Description:

Manuscript letter from Lady Aberdeen to Lorcan Sherlock, Lord Mayor of Dublin, relating to the dropping of the name 'Collier' from the Dublin Corporation Tuberculosis Dispensary. The dispensary had been established by the Women's National Health Association, with a bequest from P F Collier, and had been sold to the Corporation. Lady Aberdeen states that from the start of the negotiations she had insisted that the name Collier be retained, and that the sum paid by the Corporation for the dispensary was considerably less than the amount of Collier's bequest initially invested in it. She asks if the name Collier could be restored, and suggests that this will cause less confusion with the public who already know the dispensary under that name.

RE/5 **The place of alcohol in medicine** **1914**

Extent:

16 pages

Creators:

Chance, Sir Arthur Gerald, 1859-1928

Description:

Printed copy of 'The place of alcohol in medicine' a paper ready by Sir Arthur Chance at the National Catholic Total Abstinence Congress in 1914. Pamphlet is printed by the Irish National Temperance Executive.

RE/6 Autobiography of Sir Charles Cameron 1921

Extent:

1 volume

Creators:

Cameron, Sir Charles Alexander, 1830-1921

Description:

Copy of Sir Charles Cameron's autobiography, inscribed by him 'To Dr Russell with kind regards from Charles A Cameron'. An additional manuscript note on the final page by Cameron gives details of the result of the report (mentioned in the text) that he submitted on the condition of Irish prisoners in the Frongoch internment camp in Wales.

RE/7 Dublin public health week 1926 poster 1926

Extent:

1 page

Creators:

Public Health Department, Dublin Corporation

Description:

Poster, in Irish, produced by the Department of Public Health of Dublin City Council for a public health and children's week to be held in October 1926. Poster is illustrated with a drawing of a young girl by Grace Henry.

RE/8 **Epidemic of influenza** **[1920s]**

Extent:
1 page

Creators:
Public Health Department, Dublin Corporation
Russell, Matthew John, 1874-1956

Description:
Public information leaflet produced by the Public Health Department and signed by M J Russell, Medical Officer of Health. The leaflet warns of the current epidemic of influenza, provides advice on avoidance of infection, and steps to be taken if infection happens.

RE/9 **Dublin Port disembarkation ticket** **[1940s]**

Extent:
1 item

Creators:
Dublin Port Sanitary Authority

Description:
Printed permit for disembarkation, issued by M J Russell Port Medical Officer of Health.

RE/10 **Irish Medical Lore** **1937**

Extent:
56 pages

Creators:
British Medical Association

Description:
Printed booklet on 'Irish Medical Lore', produced as a souvenir for the 1937 British Medical Association meeting in Belfast.

RE/11

St Brigid's Hall Meal tickets

[1940s]

Extent:

15 pages

Creators:

Sisters of Bon Secours, Ireland

Description:

Book of meal tickets for St. Brigid's Hall, Holles Row 'in charge of the Sisters of Bon Secours'. Meals are served from 2 to 3pm, tickets cost 1d, and the meals were known locally as 'the penny dinners'. Dr Angela Russell was a lay volunteer who helped with the meals.

RE/12

Meath Hospital Act, 1951

1951

Extent:

2 items

Creators:

Russell, Angela Gertrude, 1893-1991

Description:

Documents relating to the Meath Hospital Act, 1951, collected by Dr Angela Russell who was a board member of the Meath Hospital.

Printed statement by the Joint Committee of the Meath Hospital and Co. Dublin Infirmary issued for 'the information of the public and of the members of the Oireachtas'. The statement attacks the proposed Meath Hospital Act as an unnecessary and hasty piece of legislation, it raises several areas of concern including distribution of beds in the hospital, staff appointments and accusations made against the Joint Committee in the Dail.

Typescript circular letter from Micheal O'Leary, Patrick T O'Reilly and Josph Houston asking for support of their candiature for election to the new Meath Hospital Committee, established by the 1951 Act. They raise concerns with the actions of the hospital's medical boards in relation to the election, and 'the very active

hostility' shown to newly appointed doctors to the hospital by the Medical Board.

RE/13 **Mother and Child Scheme** **[1951]**

Extent:

2 items

Creators:

Department of Health (Ireland)
Committee for promotion of a mother and child health scheme without a means test

Description:

Promotional flyer, produced by the Department of Health, for the proposed Mother and Child Scheme, with details of the scheme. It details why the scheme is needed, and illustrates how it will work.

Printed circular issued by the Committee for promotion of a mother and child health scheme without a means test, detailing their arguments in support of the scheme. The leaflet includes quotes from the Pope used to support the principles behind the scheme, lists the objections of the Catholic hierarchy to the scheme and quotes answers given in the Dail refuting the objections.

RE/14 **National Mass Radiography Association** **[1950s]**

Extent:

2 items

Creators:

National Mass Radiography Association

Description:

Two publicity flyers produced by the National Mass Radiography Association. One details the advantages of the mass x-ray programme, including the elimination of tuberculosis 'in the near future'. The second calls on the public to not 'miss the bus', and ensure that they have their annual x-ray.