

Medico-Philosophical Society

ACC/1831/1



Memoirs, or minutes, of the Medico-Philosophical Society from its foundation in 1754 to 1784. Also the minute book and members' album dating from the re-formation of the Society in 1854.

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock
April 2011

MPS
Medico-Philosophical Society

Collection
1756-1939

Extent:

7 items

Creator:

Medico-Philosophical Society

Description:

The memoirs or minute books of the Medico-Philosophical Society from its first period of existence, 1756-1784, with some indexes. Also a minute book and members album from the re-established society, 1856-1939.

Arrangement:

Items are arranged chronologically

Administrative History:

The Medico-Philosophical Society was established in 1756 by Dr John Rutty, Charles Smith and others, as a small private society which meet once a month to discuss scientific papers, followed by a dinner. Under the rules of the Society the papers presented could cover natural history, natural philosophy, medicine, as well as politics and ethical subjects. There was an especially focus on bringing papers on a '*new discovery or observation made by the writer, or by some other person whose works may have fallen into his way, & not generally know by other members*'. The focus of all papers was to be on cases, facts and experiments, rather than hypothetical discourses. The memoirs or minutes of the first incarnation of the Society continued up to 1784, although the Society itself seems to have carried on in some form until 1831.

In 1856, attempts we made to reform the Medico-Philosophical Society on the centenary of the Society's foundation. This second incarnation of the Society ran from 1856 to at least 1939. Unlike the first Society the minutes show less of a focus of the sharing of new ideas and research and more on the social aspects. One of the chief concerns of the early years was the collection of photographs of all members for the Members Album. Like the first Society membership was by nomination and election.

Acquisition:

The papers of the first Society were deposited in the archive on the winding up of the Society in 1831, with the papers of the second Society being added at a later date.

Access Conditions:

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

Reproductions:

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

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|--------------|--|---|
| MPS/1 | Medical and Philosophical Memoirs Vol. 1 | 8 April 1756 -
7 September
1758 |
| | <i>Extent:</i>
364 pages | |
| | <i>Creator:</i>
Medico-Philosophical Society | |
| | <i>Description:</i>
First volume of the memoirs or minutes of the society. A preface to the memoirs, written by Charles Smith, gives a preliminary discourse on how and why the society was established, this is followed by the rules of the society and then the memoirs. These contain details of the meetings and the topics under discussion, also copies of letters and diagrams. At the back of the volume is an index to the memoirs by subject | |
| MPS/2 | Medical and Philosophical Memoirs Vol. 2 | 21
September
1758 - 18
February
1768 |
| | <i>Extent:</i>
604 pages | |
| | <i>Creator:</i>
Medico-Philosophical Society | |
| | <i>Description:</i>
Memoirs or minutes of the society | |
| MPS/3 | Medical and Philosophical Memoirs Vol. 3 | 3 March 1768
- 7 October
1784 |
| | <i>Extent:</i>
500 pages | |
| | <i>Creator:</i>
Medico-Philosophical Society | |
| | <i>Description:</i>
Memoirs or minutes of the society, prefaced with a list of past and current members. | |

- MPS/4** **Indexes to the Medical and Philosophical Memoirs** **[late nineteenth - early twentieth century]**
- Extent:*
29 pages
- Creator:*
Kirkpatrick, Thomas Percy Claude, 1869-1954
- Description:*
Various indexes to the Memoirs, by author of paper, subject of paper, books mentions, cases sited. Indexes have been compiled at various times, some are in the hand of Dr Kirkpatrick.
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- MPS/5** **Minute Book** **12 April 1856 - 8 March 1939**
- Extent:*
372 pages
- Creator:*
Medico-Philosophical Society
- Description:*
Minute book of the reconstituted Medico-Philosophical Society, minutes lists those present at the meetings and any business undertaken.

MPS/6
Photograph Albums

Series
c.1856-1936

Extent:
2 items

Creator:
Medico-Philosophical Society

Description:
Photograph albums containing photographs or engravings of society members

MPS/6/1 Members Album

c.1856-1886

Extent:
94 pages

Creator:
Medico-Philosophical Society

Description:
Members album containing photographs or engravings of society members, some with biographical details and letters written on election to the society.

MPS/6/2 Members Album

c.1875-1936

Extent:
c.50 pages

Creator:
Medico-Philosophical Society

Description:
Members album containing photographs or engravings of society members, some with biographical details obituaries.