

Rachel L. Bodley papers

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Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Eric Rosenzweig.

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Drexel University, College of Medicine Legacy Center

2009

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Summary Information

Repository	Drexel University: College of Medicine Legacy Center
Creator	Bodley, Rachel L., 1831-1888
Title	Rachel L. Bodley papers
Call number	291
Date [inclusive]	1856-1891
Extent	2 boxes (0.75 linear feet)
Language	English
Language of Materials note	The materials are in English.
Abstract	This collection documents some of Dr. Bodley's endeavors as Dean of the Faculty of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Cite as:

Rachel L. Bodley papers, Drexel University College of Medicine Archives.

Biography/History

Rachel Littler Bodley, A.M., M.D. was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December, 1831. The daughter of Rebecca W. Talbot and Anthony R. Bodley, Rachel Bodley was raised in an environment which

enthusiastically supported women's education. Cincinnati, with its antebellum epithet "the Athens of the West," listed 10 female seminaries in 1839, among them Catherine Beecher's Western Female Institute. Bodley's mother, of Quaker descent, opened a private school which Rachel attended until she entered the Wesleyan Female Seminary in 1844. In 1849, upon graduating from Wesley at the age of 18, she was appointed assistant teacher.

In 1860, Bodley left the Wesleyan Seminary, where she had become preceptor in the collegiate studies department. She went to Philadelphia and enrolled as a special student in Chemistry and Physics at the Polytechnic College. During this period she became acquainted with Emeline Horton Cleveland of the Woman's Hospital and Isaac Barton, member of the Board of Corporators of the Woman's Medical College of Pa. It is possible that she studied practical anatomy and physiology at the WMCP during this time. 1862-1865: Served as Professor of Natural Sciences in the Cincinnati Female Seminary. Became nationally distinguished as natural scientist. 1865: Elected to Chair of Chemistry and Toxicology at the Woman's Medical College of Pa. Although she was not the first woman to teach chemistry in a medical college, she was the first to hold the title of Professor of Chemistry.

1871: Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Awarded the first honorary M.A. ever awarded by the Wesleyan Female College in Cincinnati.

1873: Member of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History.

1873-74: Vice-president of the Joseph Priestley Centennial Commemoration.

1874: Appointed Dean of the Faculty of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania upon resignation of Professor Emeline Cleveland.

1876: Member of the New York Academy of Sciences. Founding and first woman member of the American Chemical Society of New York City. 1879: Awarded honorary M.D. by Woman's Medical College of Pa.

1880: Member of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia

1882: Member of the Educational Society of Philadelphia;

1884: Elected to the Board of Public Education in 1884 (Jan. 1) for a term of 3 yrs. Bodley and Mary P. ("E.") Mumford, were the first women directors on the Philadelphia school board.

1884-87: Served as director of the twenty-ninth school district.

1885: Helped to form the Christian Association at Woman's Medical College Pa, and to secure for it a permanent home in "Brinton Hall."

1887: Re-elected as director of the twenty-ninth school district.

1888: Deceased June 15, 1888.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of this collection consists of correspondence between Dr. Bodley and various WMCP faculty, students and alumnae. The collection also contains academic and administrative documents. Examples of the administrative materials includes Faculty of WMC by-laws, Examination Committee reports, and financial records. Academic material such as published speeches and lectures provide a robust insight into the institution's mission, goals and methods during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This collection also includes material that elucidates Dr. Bodley's interest in medical missionary work.

Administrative Information

Drexel University, College of Medicine Legacy Center

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Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

Consult archivist regarding copyright restrictions.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Hindu women
- Missionaries, Medical--India
- Women in medicine

Collection Inventory

1. Box 1.

	Box	Folder
Bound pamphlets and reprints 1856-1881, 1889. 1 volumes.	1	1
The Chemical News and Journal of Physical Science, 1870. 1 volumes.	1	2
Brooke, Sarah to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (1 page).	1	3
Christiancy, Mary to Rachel Bodley, 1884. 1 item (2 pages).	1	4
Tyng, Anita E. to Rachel Bodley, undated. 1 item (2 pages).	1	5
Best, May to Rachel Bodley, Nov. 22 [188?]. 1 item (3 pages).	1	6
Bills and receipts, 1885-1887. 5 items (5 pages).	1	7
Education certificate and personal note regarding Female Medical College of Pennsylvania from Marmaduke Moore, 1858-[1878]. 1 item (2 pages).	1	8
Dimock, Susan to Rachel Bodley, 1875. 1 item (1 page).	1	9
Harvey, Ellwood to Rachel Bodley, 1886. 1 item (1 page).	1	10
Howell, Annie Ashton to Rachel Bodley, 1886. 3 items (9 pages).	1	11
Jay, Milton to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (2 pages).	1	12
Jones, Alfred to Rachel Bodley, 1886-1888. 6 items (8 pages).	1	13

Jones, Alfred ton the faculty of WMCP, 1886. 1 item (2 pages).	1	14
Mitchell, Maria to Rachel Bodley, [1888?]. 1 item (2 pages).	1	15
Bodley, Rachel to Dr. Ed. J. Nolan, M.D., 1883. 2 items (3 pages).	1	16
Purtle, C. A. to Rachel Bodley, 1888. 1 item (1 page).	1	17
Notice of upcoming lectures by Prof. Edward M. Hartwell of Johns Hopkins University on "Exercise: Its Nature and Uses in Education and Medicine", 1887. 1 item (1 page).	1	18
Letters concerning Ramabai Sarasvati, 1887-1891. 3 items (7 pages).	1	19
Dean's book (fragment), 1874-1876. 2 items (11 pages).	1	20
Dean's book, 1885-1888. 1 volumes.	1	21
Correspondence reporting examination scores, May 1888. 7 items (8 pages).	1	22
Memorial service for Prof. E. H. Cleveland, tickets/announcements, 1879. 4 items (4 pages).	1	23
Croasdale, Hannah T. to Rachel Bodley, 1888. 1 item (1 page).	1	24
Resolution of the faculty upon the death of Rachel L. Bodley, 1888. 1 item (2 pages).	1	25
Memorial book for Rachel L. Bodley, 1888. 2 volumes.	1	26
List of journals and letter from the Department of the Interior, undated/1887. 2 items (3 pages).	1	27

Clark, E. to Rachel Bodley, circa 1880's. 1 item (4 pages). 1 28

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Blackwell, Elizabeth, 1821-1910

Reports on the Houses of Refuge, 1885. 2 items (5 pages). 1 29

Dean's report on matriculation fees academic year 1886/7, undated. 1 item (2 pages). 1 30

Loiuse Saratz certificate of study, 1877. 2 items (2 pages). 1 31

Terry, William to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (2 pages). 1 32

Thompson, C. to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (3 pages). 1 33

Bryant. Alice G. to Rachel Bodley, 1888. 3 items (6 pages). 1 34

Burkholder, A. Zena to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (2 pages). 1 35

Evans, Dr. E. B. to Rachel Bodley, 1890. 1 item (1 page). 1 36

Euphemia Gordon, notification of examination passed, 1888. 1 item (1 page). 1 37

Bodley, Rachel to Miss Harris, 1888. 1 item (1 page). 1 38

Jones, Mary E. to Rachel Bodley, 1888. 5 items (7 pages). 1 39

Bodley, Rachel to Mary E. Jones, 1888. 2 items (3 pages). 1 40

Leeper, J. G. to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (3 pages).	1	41
Hodgkins, Louise Manning to Rachel Bodley, 1890. 1 item (5 pages).	1	42
Rachel J. Hudson, payment of fees, 1887. 2 items (3 pages).	1	43
McAlpine, Jasmine to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (2 pages).	1	44
Morris, Ella B. to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (1 page).	1	45
Nirambe, Shevantibai M. to Rachel Bodley, 1887. 1 item (7 pages).	1	46
Valedictory address, 1881. 2 volumes.	1	47
Dispensary and Clinic of the Woman's Hospital business card, undated. 1 item (1 page).	1	48

2. Box 2.

	Box	Folder
Bylaws of the Faculty of WMC, undated. 1 item (16 pages).	2	1
Bylaws of the Faculty of WMC, revised, 1885. 1 item (10 pages).	2	2
Conditions Governing Use note		
Requires repair.		
Report of the Committee on Examinations, 1887. 1 item (4 pages).	2	3
Announcement in the Bombay Government Gazette, Nov. 22 1888. 1 item (4 pages).	2	4

Anandibai Joshee (Joshi) correspondence, 1883. 7 items (25 pages).	2	5
Existence and Location of Copies note		
Digital images are available.		
Reports by faculty members of students enrolled, 1886-1888. 13 items (26 pages).	2	6
Bodley correspondence, 1878-1879. 2 items (5 pages).	2	7
Alumnae questionnaire, undated. 1 item (2 pages).	2	8
Dean's correspondence, 1876. 4 items (7 pages).	2	9
Published lectures, 1875, 1881. 2 volumes.	2	10
Barney, Elvira S. to Rachel Bodley, 1880. 1 item (4 pages).	2	11
Extracts for the press re: Dean Bodley's memorial and her involvement with Joshi and Ramabai, undated. 1 item (1 page).	2	12
Adalene Eldred tuition receipt, 1872. 1 item (1 page).	2	13
Canadian legislation re: practice of medicine, 1883. 1 item (3 pages).	2	14
Correspondence to Rachel Bodley, 1875, 1883. 2 items (5 pages).	2	15
Legal documents re: medical practice in India, 1886. 3 items (6 pages).	2	16
Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania admission criteria and requests, 1876-1878. 4 items (8 pages).	2	17
Dean's correspondence, 1879-1887. 24 items (37 pages).	2	18