History 4326: Epidemic Disease in America, 1492–present
Works on display in Special Collections March 5th and 7th, 2013

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The Special Collections reading room is open for walk-in appointments on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-5pm. To access the material at other times, please email spc@colorado.edu to set up an appointment. Certain items on the below list are held in Archives, located on the lower level of Norlin Library. The Archives unit is open Monday-Friday from 11-5 and be contacted at arv@colorado.edu.

Arthur Johnson Papers, Diary #26, 1918, ARCHIVES.
Entries on influenza can be found on October 7th, October 9th, and October 16th-17th. The diarist writes on October 16th, “Our attentions are divided these days between the war, influenza, and the 4th liberty loan,” and he then goes on to describe the deaths in Denver.

John Harvey Kellogg of cereal fame started a sanitarium in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was so successful that on the advice of a patient, he opened another one right here in Boulder. The Boulder Sanitarium was established at the foot of the Rockies in 1895 to treat TB, cancer, and other chronic ailments, as well as to provide surgical and obstetrical care in a pleasant “vacation” setting. Robert Frost’s daughter was there for TB treatment.

Carey, Matthew. A Short Account of the Malignant Fever...1793. Unprocessed.
This pamphlet was published shortly after the Yellow Fever epidemic spread throughout the city of Philadelphia, then the temporary capitol of the United States. In his work, Carey accuses free blacks in the city of profiteering from the epidemic, despite the volunteer efforts of the black community in acting as nurses and corpse removers and performing other jobs that many wouldn’t do.

Helen was a CU Alumna Liberal Arts major who graduated in 1922. Entry dated October 18, 1918 touches upon the University being closed due to the flu epidemic:

“I feel like Boulder is my second home—from which I am cruelly parted, ah well such is life when the ‘flu’ is in the country. I sincerely hope and pray this awful epidemic will be stopped in short order.”

Chicago Tuberculosis Institute Poster, circa 1925. Hayes OS 1618.

*Childbirth Handwritten Ledger*, 1880s. Unprocessed.

This ledger was kept by an anonymous doctor, possibly from Minnesota, and tracks 180 deliveries from March 15th to May 26th, 1888. His records provide details of each birth, including procedures performed and various complications, including complications related to syphilis (entries #9 and #128). The ledger can be accessed through the CU digital library at: [http://libcudl.colorado.edu:8180/luna/servlet/s/j6v17v](http://libcudl.colorado.edu:8180/luna/servlet/s/j6v17v)

*Colorado State Board of Health Bulletin*, October 1944, Pamphlet File, ARCHIVES.

Contains statistics and discussion of disease in Colorado during the early 1940s.


This book contains essays by a Colorado doctor for the treatment of “Consumption,” a disease now known as pulmonary tuberculosis. This was when one of the standard treatments for the disease was rest in a sanatorium in places like Arizona or Colorado, where it was believed that the mountain air and high elevations would help to cure the disease that was then reaching an epidemic proportion around the world.


Chapters on Yellow Fever, Typhous, and Irish emigrants with fever, small pox, cow pox. Author vaccinated himself from the cow (p. 577). 2nd volume is all about hydrology of interior US and then Febrile Diseases—fevers.


A pop-up/prose compendium of the effects of man on the world around us. It includes a section on diseases, including HIV/AIDS, SARS, and the H1N1 virus.

Feminist Alliance/Women’s Liberation Coalition, University of Colorado Organization, 1971-77, box 6 folder 5, ARCHIVES.

Contains Pamphlets and fact sheets on venereal disease.

Flower, Mary. *Book of Remedies*, 1850. MS 108.
Handwritten folk medicine recipes. This small volume has some frightening combinations of ingredients such as turpentine and opium derivatives. It also poignantly shows efforts to figure out diseases before germs and other toxins were recognized—for instance using poultices to try to treat cancer.

Fox, George Henry. *Photographic Illustrations of Skin Diseases*, 1880. Wolff Collection, Unprocessed.
Case studies and commentary on skin diseases including Leprosy. Descriptions are supplemented by 48 colored plates.

Fever and Flu. (Contemporary publication of Elizabeth Forster’s correspondence accompanied by photographs by Laura Gilpin).

*The Healing Waters of Idaho Springs*, n.d. Unprocessed
Small pamphlet for the village, the hotel, and the “hot radioactive waters” of Idaho Springs, Colorado.
“The Waters of Idaho Springs are not recommended for blood and skin diseases and are positively injurious to tubercular people, or those suffering other wasting diseases. Contagious cases are not accepted.”


*Hutchinson Notebook*. 1883. MS 49 Box 5, folder 1.
This notebook, dated March, 1883, was kept by Francis B. Hutchinson and is filled with his notes on diagnosis and treatment of illnesses.

James Willard collection, box 41, folder 1, ARCHIVES.
Tuberculosis data from California circa 1917-1919. Contains questionnaires distributed by the Committee on Indigent Migratory Workers.

Koch, Robert. *Untersuchungen über die Aetiologie der Wundinfectionskrankheiten* [Koch’s Postulates], 1878. Unprocessed.
Koch’s postulates established the relationship between microorganisms and disease. In this monograph, he describes staining bacteria in diseased tissue with aniline dyes as well as other procedures which were eventually used to study tuberculosis. He received the Nobel Prize in 1905 for his investigations and discoveries.
Artists’ book dealing with HIV/AIDS.

Morin, Jeffrey W. *Twelve Articles: How Joan of Arc and John Affect the Same Persecution*. Book Arts Booklyn. 2001. Unprocessed
Artists’ book dealing with HIV/AIDS.

A collection of photographs, letters, and other materials detailing the effects of AIDS on the lives of ordinary people. Published in 1991 during the growing national awareness of AIDS, this book is an emotional account of how these people and their families dealt with the illness and confronted death.

Numerous articles on HIV/AIDS contained within this New York bi-weekly Gay Newspaper. This issue is one of many newspapers found within the papers of Boulder Gay Liberation organization.

*The Pittsburgh District Civic Frontage*. 1914. DHT 1575.
Chapter “Thirty-Five Years of Typhoid: the Economic Cost to Pittsburgh and the Long Fight for Pure Water.” Photos showing proximity of privies to kitchen, graphs, charts.

Of interest are the advertisements (on p. iii of the October 1899 issue) for Crest View Sanitarium, Walter’s Park Sanitarium and Hosford’s Acid Phosphate for the Tired Brain. On the following page, an advertisement for a new edition of Diet for the Sick promises recipes for “each palatable dish as used in our city hospitals”.


*Report of the Committee of Tuberculosis of the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly: With Summary, 1929-1930*, 1930, Pamphlet File, ARCHIVES.
Contains statistics and discussion of tuberculosis in Colorado.

A section on recent inventions (p.274) features an improved invalid bed which will “afford comfort and relief to invalids, and will greatly lessen the labor of nurses and attendants”. The mechanical description and use of this new design is illustrated by a detailed engraving.

*Silver & Gold*, Vol. 27, 1918-1919, N-AG, 378.788 UQ, ARCHIVES.
Article in CU newspaper from Nov. 11, 1918: “School Opens After Pitched Battle with General Influenza.”

“Most of the diseases which may be termed diseases of the blood, or vitiation of the humors, I have recommended as a general remedy or purificator, a syrup of my own preparation which I term my “antimercurial syrup,” and which is entirely vegetable.”

“Who has not, in the course of his life, seen astonishing cures performed by the simple virtues of vegetables—even when administered by the humble man of “roots and herbs,” when the whole force of minerals has failed?” Preface.

Thomason, Jackson. *From Mississippi to California: Jackson Thomason's 1849 Overland Journal*. E166 .T47.
Some men died on the trial “they were victims of a disease they called cholera which ravaged the whole nation, and particularly the South during 1849 and 1859. They would have been subject to the same hazard had they stayed home.” Introduction

Chapter on History, Symptoms, Causes, and Treatment of the Asiatic Cholera. Also includes tables of deaths in Europe and US. Other information on anatomy, surgery, botanicals with drawings.

Wilkins, Henry. *Family Adviser, or a Plain and Modern Practice of Physic*. RC81 W65 1795.

**Secondary Sources**


