



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 258.05 Osborn Collection

Date of Records: 1883-1962

Size: 2 cubic feet, 3 boxes

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle (2012)

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Some of the records may contain restricted material. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

Biographical Note: Dr. William S. Osborn was born in 1877 in Rippley, Iowa. He was the eldest son of a popular local pharmacist. He joined the U.S. Army in 1899 at age 22 as a hospital corpsman and spent at least a year stationed in California before serving in the Philippines until 1902. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of Illinois in Chicago in 1904. Osborn married Callia Isabel McMahon of Green Bay, WI in 1912 and had a daughter, Clare Winston Osborn. Dr. Osborn specialized in treating alcoholics and drug addicts and worked in several mental hospitals throughout his career. He served as superintendent at the Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane and the State Hospital for the Insane in Knoxville, TN during the 1920s. He died of a cerebral blood clot in 1935 at age 58 while visiting a friend in Rochester, MN.

Series/Scope and Content Note: The Osborn Collection includes material related to his service, medical career, and personal life. Artifacts include notebooks from the Army Pathological Laboratory and Santa Mesa Hospital in the Philippines (1900-1901); letters written by Osborn to his colleagues and friends describing life in the Philippines; and three personal scrapbooks made by Osborn and continued by his daughter after his death. Additional items include material on his daughter Clare Osborn, a nutritionist, reprints on the subject of fevers in the Philippines, and photographs of the Army Pathological Laboratory and life in Manila.

SERIES 001: MISC. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL

This series includes an album with certificates, news clippings, photographs, and correspondence. Additional materials include photographs, personal effects, circulars, and notebooks.

SERIES 002: SCRAPBOOKS



Three scrapbooks in this series contain news clippings, poetry, correspondence, ephemera and hundreds of photographs, most of which are from the Philippines.

SERIES 003: CORRESPONDENCE (1899-1902)

This series includes handwritten letters to family members while Osborne was in the Philippine Islands.

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BOX AND CONTENT LIST

SERIES 001: MISC. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL MATERIAL

Box 001:

00001: Album: Personal and Biographical Data

Includes: Certificates, news clippings, photographs, correspondence

1. Ephemera from childhood
2. Misc. Personal and Professional Correspondence
3. Family Photographs
4. College of Physicians and Surgeons of University of Illinois Material
5. Marriage Certificate
6. Medical Examiners and State Civil Service Commission Certificates
7. College of St. Teresa Material
8. Death announcements (10/35)
9. Miss Clare Winston Osborn Correspondence and Clippings

00002: Misc. Photographs/Portraits

00003: Misc. Pathology Photographs

00004: Personal Effects

00005: "The Fevers of the Philippines" and "Malta Fever"—Reprints

00006: Circular on Tropical Diseases No. 2

00007: The Plexus: College of Physicians and Surgeons of University of Illinois (1905)

00008: The Philippine Magazine, ca. 1899



00009: Women's Hospital of Manila

00010: Notebook, Santa Mesa Hospital, Manila (Dec. 1, 1900) and (March 23, 1900)

00011: Notebook, Army Pathological Laboratory, Manila (Aug. 1, 1901)

SERIES 002: SCRAPBOOKS

Box 002:

00001: Scrapbook I: Biographical, Including time in Philippines

Includes: News clippings, poetry, correspondence, photos, ephemera

1. "Dr. W.S. Osborn Resigns His Job, Superintendency of Inebriate Hospital"
2. "Osborn's Place Hard to Fill: Board of Control to Choose Successor"
3. "Loyalty," by Elbert Hubbard
4. Clarence E. Sturgeon Obituary
5. "Capacity of the Filipino"
6. "Annette Hull at Manila"
7. "Court Martial is Likely: Cabinet Discusses Reported Tortures in Philippines"
8. "The Pill Rollers Reflections," poem
9. Misc. Marriage, Birth and Death Announcements
10. "William S. Osborn Writes from Ft. Cook About His New Work"
11. "Official Telegrams Announce the Disaster, But the Losses Are Not Confirmed, May Be Exaggerated"
12. "In the Philippines," poem
13. "Tears of the Nation Fall: General Lawton Killed While Leading His Troops at San Mateo"
14. "Another Account of the Massacre: Murderous Band Consisted of Ninety Supposed Ladrones Prisoners"
15. "Aguinaldo as War Prisoner"
16. "Some Queer Voting Methods: One Presidente Smashes a Colleague's Head with Ballot Box"
17. "Philippines for Americans: Congressman Hull Arrives Home from a Trip in Philippines and Talks Concerning Conditions There"
18. "Kipling's Speech to Doctors"



19. "State Liquor Cure Saving Many Men"
20. "The Pleasant Lot of the Inebriate in Captivity: The Comfortable Quarters of the Inmates of a State Reformatory for Inebriates" (with photographs)
21. "Victims of Drink for Prohibition"
22. "He Might Have Been Somebody," poem
23. "Wants Inebriates, Not Degenerates: Thirty Per Cent of Inmates at Knoxville Unsuitable, Supt. Osborn so Declares"
24. "A Prayer for Doctors and Nurses," Walter Rauschenbusch
25. Obituary for Mrs. William Shelton Osborne
26. "Drunkenness a Crime"
27. "The Man Who is a Gentleman," Herbert Kaufman
28. "The World's Best Books: Suggestions for the Selection of a Home Library"
29. Letter Cards: Souvenir of Shakespeare's Home
30. "Little Willie Guyed Book For the New Year"
31. Photographs: B.F. Osborn in 1878 and 1918
32. Shamrock Fund For Disabled Irish Soldiers—Card
33. Eighth Army Corps War Songs (1899)
34. "An Echo From Manila: The Bounding Billow"
35. Letter to Mother
36. "Forty Years in Rippey: Benjamin Franklin Osborn
37. "Fifty Years in Business: Grand Anniversary Celebrated at Rippey in Honor of Druggist B.F. Osborn on Friday May11"
38. Handwritten Familial Correspondence
39. The Graduating Class of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of University of Illinois, 1904
40. Misc. Photographs

00002: Scrapbook II: Philippines Photographs I

Includes: Landscapes and snapshots of various Filipinos

00003: Scrapbook III: Philippines Photographs II

Includes photos of the army pathological laboratory, patients, pathological



specimens, photomicrographs, employees, hospital ships, various field and division hospitals, landscapes, travel shots, visit from President Taft, various Filipinos, street life, architecture, Luzon, and a few news clippings

SERIES 003: CORRESPONDENCE (1899-1902)

Box 003:

- Includes over 75 handwritten letters to family while in the Philippine Islands