

National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

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medicalmuseum.health.mil

OHA 3.05 Curatorial Records: Army Medical School Sanitary Chemistry Instruction Cards

Accession Number: N/A

Date of Records: 1905

Size: 1 box, ½ linear foot

Finding Aid by: Trenton Streck-Havill (2018)

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as much as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. 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.

Restrictions: This collection is unrestricted.

Condition: This collection may include fragile material that requires special or limited handling.

Historical Note: The Army Medical School (AMS) was established by Surgeon General George Miller Sternberg under “General Order 41” through the War Department, on June 24, 1893. The purpose of the school was to educate physicians for the unique challenges of their military service. While private sector physicians might have some technical knowledge in treating combat injury, many duties within the military require specific instruction. Commissioned officers would attend the school after entering the military and many of the first instructors were on staff at the Army Medical Museum, including Major Walter Reed. The school, which opened in 1893, was housed with the Army Medical Museum and Library in the “Old Red Brick” building at 7th Street and South B Street in Washington, D.C. It was later moved further north in 1923, to the grounds of the Walter Reed General Hospital campus.

Scope and Content Note: Collection consists of a single folder in a multi-collection box under the label “OHA 3.05 – Curatorial Records: Army Medical School Sanitary Chemistry Instruction Cards, 1905.”

The contents include a letter from Oscar Gobsch of the Surgeon General’s Office at the Army Medical School to A.H. Wilze of Brooklyn, New York, a mailing address slip, and a set of 32 “cards” (typed paper sheets) in what was presumably a bound volume originally. Cover and cards are now unbound. The set was sent to Mr. Wilze for assistance with “uranalysis” [urinalysis]. Cards are labeled as “Sanitary Chemistry – Army Medical School” and provide instructions on how to perform various tests for

chemical properties of an unspecified sample (presumably urine). Instructions include what chemicals/compounds to utilize, in what quantity, and by what method (shaking, stirring, spinning, etc.) in order to test for traces of specific sample characteristics.