A Philadelphia Medical Student of the 1890's:  
The Diary of Mary Theodora McGavran

Mary Theodora McGavran recorded in her diary her experiences as a student at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP) in the last decade of the nineteenth century. Her journal offers a valuable account of medical student life in Philadelphia during the years 1893-1896. She portrays WMCP as a rigorous but far from unpleasant institution in which students and faculty interacted in a friendly atmosphere. Her account is significant not only for its depiction of the academic aspects of medical education of the time, but also for its description of activities outside the classroom. Medical students enjoyed sufficient free time to explore the city and pursue interests beyond the laboratory, lecture hall, and clinic. The document stands also as a record of the religious and professional convictions of a woman who, in choosing to become a medical missionary, exemplified an increasingly important career choice of female practitioners.

Born in 1869 as the second child to Eli McGavran and Sarah Virginia Grafton, Mary Theodora McGavran grew up on her family's farm in Columbiana County, Ohio. Sarah died when Mary was four years old, and in 1876, her father married Lucinda Painter. Mary attended Guilford Grade School and then high school in Lisbon before enrolling in the Woman's Medical College in 1891. Her father died that same year. Mary matriculated at the College with the intention of becoming a medical missionary, an occupation to which Sarah McGavran had aspired, but did not pursue.²

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¹ The college was founded in 1850 as the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania. In 1867, the name was changed to the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The school became coeducational in 1969 and was renamed The Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1970. Mary Theodora McGavran's diary was recently donated to the Archives and Special Collection at MCP on Women and Medicines.

² Donald A. McGavran, "The McGavran Family" (manuscript) Donald McGavran, nephew of Mary Theodora McGavran, is currently researching and writing a history of his family and was kind enough to let one of the authors read a preliminary draft. Mary's brother, John McGarvan, became a missionary to India in 1891, after completing his studies at Oberlin and Bethany Colleges.
McGavran was one of many women who in the last half of the nineteenth century chose to pursue medicine as a career. After the graduation of Elizabeth Blackwell from Geneva Medical College in 1849, the opportunities for women in medicine had widened considerably. Blackwell, the only American-trained woman physician at mid-century, had been joined by several thousand others by 1900, when women constituted five percent of the profession. Between 1850 and 1882, five allopathic medical schools for women had been founded in the United States. Only a few American medical schools accepted women in the 1880’s; coeducation became more common by the next decade. By the time McGavran entered medical school, women were eligible for an increasing number of hospital clerkships, had gained admission to most state and local medical societies, and were publishing articles in well-known scientific and medical journals. Though discrimination had not been eliminated, women had achieved a degree of responsibility and acceptance as medical professionals.³

When McGavran matriculated at WMCP in 1891, Philadelphia was one of the important medical centers of the country. In the city were located the first American medical school (the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, also known as “University Medical,” founded in 1765), the oldest hospital (the Pennsylvania Hospital, founded 1751), and one of the first post-graduate medical schools in the United States, the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine (founded 1883). In addition to WMCP and the University of Pennsylvania, there were two other allopathic medical schools in the city—Jefferson Medical College and the Medico-Chirurgical College—as well as Hahnemann Medical College, a homeopathic institution. Philadelphia could also boast of many distinguished teaching hospitals, including the Philadelphia (Blockley), Pennsylvania, German, Germantown, and Episcopal, which offered teaching clinics and residencies. Medical societies and libraries amplified the educational resources of the city.

³ Regina Markell Morantz, “From Art to Science: Women Physicians in American Medicine, 1600-1980,” in In Her Own Words: Oral Histories of Women Physicians, eds., Regina Markell Morantz et al. (Westport, Conn., 1982), 3-44.
Mary McGavran enrolled in a recognized and respected academic institution, but achievement of that reputation seemed hardly possible when the Female Medical College opened in 1850 as the first medical college for women in the United States. The Woman's Hospital, founded in 1861 by Dr. Ann Preston, an alumna and future Dean of WMCP, had grown from a five-bed hospital to a major teaching facility of the school. WMCP's other affiliates included the Maternity Hospital, which began as an outpatient department in south Philadelphia in 1888, and the West Philadelphia Hospital for Women.\(^4\) By the 1890s, WMCP students were permitted to attend clinical lectures at the major hospitals of the city, hospitals previously closed to them: the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Will's Eye, and German Hospitals.\(^5\) WMCP offered a three-year graded curriculum (revised to a four-year course for the class entering in 1893), comparable to the course of study at the male medical schools of the city. The College had assembled a small faculty of men and women, including some of the leading physicians of Philadelphia.\(^6\) Classes were held in a modern building, which had opened in 1875.


\(^5\) Students had not always had these opportunities In 1858 the Philadelphia County Medical Society passed a resolution recommending that all support be withheld from the Female Medical College by the physicians of Philadelphia The resolution was rescinded in 1871 The society did not elect its first woman member until 1888 For an account, see Clara Marshall, M D , *The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania An Historical Outline* (Philadelphia, 1897), 40

\(^6\) Some of the most accomplished members of the faculty included Anna E Broomall, Professor of Obstetrics, Hannah Croasdale, Professor of the Diseases of Women and Children and Professor of Gynecology, Frederick P Henry, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine, Henry Leffmann, Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology, Clara Marshall, Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics and Dean of the College, William Henry Parish, Professor of Anatomy, and John B Roberts, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery
By every appearance, the curriculum at WMCP was a demanding three-year course, with students attending classes during the day from nine until five, Monday through Friday, as well as on Saturday mornings. McGavran's journal is too sparse to verify in detail her schedule, but she does include some of the highlights of her work: the challenges of physiology with Frances Emily White; the long and meticulous dissection required in Anatomy by William Henry Parish and Elizabeth Bundy; the delight of making pills in pharmaceutical laboratory with F.G. Ryan; and attendance at the German Hospital Saturday morning clinics led by Lawrence Wolff and John B. Deaver, among others.

Preparation for exams included some group study sessions; on one occasion, McGavran and her friends gathered in her room to quiz each other on physiology. Despite her assurances that some tests were easy, others provoked worry (though she appears to have scored well in all). Not all students were fortunate enough to pass; in McGavran's graduating class, three students failed to accumulate enough points to qualify for the degree.

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7 Frances Emily White (1832-1903) was graduated from WMCP in 1872 and immediately joined the faculty of her alma matter as a Demonstrator in Anatomy. She subsequently served as an instructor in anatomy, physiology, and electrotherapeutics before her appointment as Professor of Physiology and Hygiene in 1877, a position she held until her death in 1903. She was a delegate to the meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges in 1877 and in 1890, represented WMCP and the Philadelphia County Medical Society at the International Medical Congress in Berlin. See Burton A. Konkle, *Standard History of the Medical Profession of Philadelphia* 2nd ed., Frederick P. Henry, ed., enlarged and corrected by Lisabeth Holloway (New York, 1977), 336-338.

8 William Henry Parish (1845-1903) was appointed Professor of Anatomy at WMCP in 1881 and held the post until his death. He joined the Philadelphia Polyclinic as a member of the obstetrical department in 1883. Active in Philadelphia medicine, he served as president of the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society and the Pathological Society and was a Fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. He was also a member of the American Medical Association and the Southern Surgical and Gynecological Association. He served on the staff of a number of Philadelphia hospitals, including the Philadelphia and St. Agnes and the Kensington Hospital for Woman. See *Album of Fellows of the American Gynecological Society: 1876-1930*, ed., Floyd Elwood Keene (Philadelphia, 1930), 446-447.

9 Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Minutes of Faculty Meetings: June 1888-June 1896, MCP Archives, 251, 295, 344-345.
Hazards greater than exams threatened medical students of the 1890s. McGavran contracted typhoid fever during her first year and was forced to postpone her studies until the following fall. A classmate of hers fell seriously ill with typhoid in 1893; another suffered from tuberculosis. One of Mary’s other Philadelphia friends, a student at University Medical, also developed tuberculosis; her cousin, George Rich, fell ill from the same disease and died several years later.

McGavran’s account confirms, in part, trends in late nineteenth-century medical education which have been documented by historians. Her mention of laboratory work in physiology, a practice begun at Harvard Medical School in 1871 under Professor Henry P. Bowditch, underscores the increasing emphasis on the laboratory in that discipline. After study at Cambridge University under Michael Foster, the great English experimental physiologist, Frances Emily White, Professor of Physiology at WMCP, opened a newly built physiology laboratory at the College. McGavran’s medical education also appears to have included a large number of “clinics,” or demonstrations of selected patients before a whole class. These were a staple of the nineteenth-century medical curriculum. The preponderance of didactic, passive instruction at American medical schools continued until the first decade of the twentieth century, when the clinical clerkship (pioneered in part by William Osler at the Johns Hopkins Medical School) was instituted by many schools. However, other reminiscences of WMCP graduates suggest that McGavran would have received ample clinical instruction in obstetrics and gynecology under the

10 Typescript of McGavran diary, McGavran Collection, MCP Archives, 1, 10
11 Ibid, 47, 88, 89, 91
14 Alsop, 119
15 The first clinical clerkships were established at the New Orleans School of Medicine in 1857, and some clinical instruction was offered at Syracuse Medical School, Rush Medical College, and Chicago Medical School in the 1870's and 1880's. Osler instituted his system at Johns Hopkins in the mid-1880's. See Edward C Atwater, “Internal Medicine,” in Numbers, Education, 166-168
supervision of Anna E. Broomall and Hannah T. Croasdale respectively.\textsuperscript{16}

During the time of McGavran's tenure, WMCP experienced problems with its independent affiliate, the Woman's Hospital, and was soon forced to begin plans for its own college hospital in order to guarantee adequate clinical material for its students.\textsuperscript{17} There had been documentation of student concern about insufficient clinical experience at WMCP in 1896.\textsuperscript{18} McGavran did not complain of any inadequacies, but much of the clinical instruction she describes seems outside the formal curriculum.

McGavran reveals opportunities for clinical instruction that may have been available to medical students of the time. During the summer after her first year at WMCP, she returned to Ohio to work as a "second nurse" to John S. Pyle, M.D., a physician in Canton.\textsuperscript{19} In her en-

\textsuperscript{16} See Kate Campbell Hurd Mead, M.D., "Forty Years of Medical Progress: Reminiscences and Comparisons," in \textit{75th Anniversary Volume of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania}, (Philadelphia, 1925), 175-177. Mead was a graduate in the Class of 1888 of WMCP. See also Catharine Macfarlane, \textit{Autobiography}, typescript, Historical Collections, Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 21-23, 28. Macfarlane was a graduate in the class of 1898 of WMCP. See also Mary W. Griscom, M.D., \textit{A History of the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia}, Papers of the Woman's Hospital, MCP Archives, 8. Griscom quotes the recollections of Anna Fullerton (WMCP, 1882) concerning Anna Broomall.

\textsuperscript{17} Also?, \textit{History of WMCP}, 158-159.

\textsuperscript{18} Ibid., 159.

\textsuperscript{19} John S. Pyle, M.D. (1865-1951) was graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. He moved to Toledo, Ohio in 1898 and practiced medicine and surgery there until his death. In the "clinical clerkship," medical students spend most of their time for a period of weeks or months "on the wards" participating in the diagnosis, daily care, and therapeutic management of a small number of hospitalized patients, under the supervision of resident and attending physicians. The clerkship remains the nuclear component of practical, bedside learning for medical students. In American medical schools, this appeared at the New Orleans School of Medicine in 1857, and Syracuse Medical School, Rush Medical College, and Chicago Medical School offered similar clinical instruction in the 1870's and 1880's. Osler instituted his system at Hopkins in the mid-1880's. See Edward C. Atwater, "Internal Medicine," in \textit{Numbers, Education}, 166-168.
thusiastic description of that experience, she savored the chance to study cases thoroughly and to "talk medicine" with a practicing physician. How frequently other students had comparable summer positions is difficult to ascertain. Students could also have benefited from informal clinical instruction at affiliated medical hospitals. Dr. Arthur Patek, a resident physician at the German Hospital, more than once kindly offered to take McGavran to see some interesting cases on the wards. Similar serendipitous encounters between her peers, especially interns and residents, and other helpful physicians probably occurred.

McGavran had her favorite professors as well as those she disliked, but student relationships with the faculty at WMCP in the 1890s appear to have been amicable. Friendly student-faculty relations had long characterized the school and had been carefully nurtured by Rachel Bodley, Dean of the College from 1874-1888. Though McGavran clearly favored Anna Broomall, everyone's favorite teacher, to stern Dean Clara Marshall, McGavran's remarks were not vindictive. There were obviously some classes where students and professors could enjoy a special camaraderie, as in Henry Leffmann's chemistry course,

20 Bodley is said to have invited students to her home in the evenings for an "open house," and believed that the faculty should know students personally. See Alsop, History of WMCP. 111.

21 Clara Marshall (1844-1931), a school teacher who later entered medicine, was graduated from WMCP in 1875. Even before receiving her medical degree, she joined the faculty of WMCP as a demonstrator in materia medica and practical pharmacy. She simultaneously pursued additional study for a year at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. In 1888, after serving as a Professor of Materia Medica, she became Dean of WMCP. During her tenure (1888-1917), she was instrumental in the building of a new hospital, controlled and operated by the college, in securing opportunities for women in post-graduate clerkships; and promoting medical missionary work as a career possibility for WMCP graduates. Marshall also maintained a successful private practice, published several clinical papers, and was active in politics. See Gulielma Fell Alsop, "Clara Marshall," in Notable American Women, II, 501-502.

22 Henry Leffmann (1847-1930) was a man of diverse interests, and led a distinguished career as a research scientist, physician, teacher, and writer. A graduate in the Class of 1869 at Jefferson Medical College, Leffmann taught at Jefferson before his appointment as Professor of Toxicology and Hygiene at WMCP in 1890, a position he held for 27 years. He also served as chemist to the coroner of Philadelphia (1885-1897), chemist to the Dairy and Food Commission of Pennsylvania, port physician of Philadelphia (1884-1887; 1891-1892); and Professor of Clinical Chemistry and Hygiene at the Philadelphia Polyclinic. He took part in many well known medico-legal cases as an expert for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He also made numerous contributions to the chemical literature and edited several publications as well. After his retirement from WMCP, he lectured at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (1920-1930). Active in organized medicine, he held the offices of president and secretary in the Philadelphia County Medical Society. See American Journal of Pharmacy, 103 (1931), 113-116.
and others where the professor literally inspired fear. McGavran reported of Dr. White, "She is so very good to me but we are all so afraid of her it worries the life out of us." The young resident physicians McGavran encountered at the German Hospital, like most of her other medical school professors, were accommodating and approachable.

In the diary, her singular perspective as a woman medical student and physician occasionally shines through. Surprisingly, her diary contains but one reference to discrimination or condescension by her male colleagues. Though this may indicate the acceptance women physicians had achieved in Philadelphia at that time, it was probably a function of the special, tolerant environment created by the success of WMCP.

As demanding as the curriculum appears to have been, McGavran led a far from insular existence at medical school. She enjoyed taking walks around the reservoir in east Fairmount Park. She and her friends went sleighing, played tennis and croquet, visited the zoo, attended concerts at the Academy of Fine Arts, and listened to lectures in Philadelphia. She attended church once and sometimes twice weekly. Here she met students from other Philadelphia schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, Jefferson, and Hahnemann medical schools, and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Most often, she attended services at the First Church, Disciples of Christ at Berks and Mervine Streets (not far from her house), where the Reverend Alan B. Philpott preached. But she also sampled many other churches in the city. McGavran also found time to attend prayer meetings at WMCP and to volunteer at a Philadelphia mission. As a woman committed to medical mission work, it is not surprising that she joined the local "band," or chapter, of the Student Volunteer Movement, a national organization supporting missionary activity overseas. The group met

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23 Professor DaCosta, who delivered clinical lectures at the Pennsylvania Hospital, addressed students as "Gentlemen," even though there were women present in the audience.

24 McGavran also went to the Arch Street Methodist Episcopal Church, located in center city Philadelphia, and the Third Church, Disciples of Christ, where Wallace B. Payne was minister. McGavran lived with the Paynes during her year at the Polyclinic. Payne's church was located in West Philadelphia at Lancaster Avenue and Aspen Street. See McGavran diary, MCP Archives.

25 Ibid., 31, 32, 74, 77
monthly, usually at the Y.M.C.A. at 15th and Chestnut Streets. Here, too, McGavran encountered other Philadelphia students. In March, 1894, McGavran and Mary Ayer (Class of 1896, WMCP) represented WMCP at the quadrennial national convention of the Movement, held in Detroit. They travelled by train with the Philadelphia area delegation, consisting of representatives from Bryn Mawr College, Jefferson Medical College, University of Pennsylvania, Hahnemann Medical College, Haverford College, and Lafayette College.

Following graduation in 1895, McGavran secured a position at the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine, where she spent a year as an assistant to Dr. Samuel D. Risley, a prominent Philadelphia ophthalmologist. The Polyclinic, established in 1883, had close ties with the Woman's Medical College; two of the three founders of the Polyclinic were on the WMCP faculty in 1895, and at least twelve percent of its first 250 matriculants were women, a majority of them from the Woman's Medical College. The clinic offered post-graduate courses in various medical specialities and opportunities for practical clinical training at its dispensaries and hospital. Such post-graduate schools partly compensated for the inadequacies of clinical experience in undergraduate (degree-granting) schools. McGavran states that while serving as assistant to Risley she took the "full course" at the Polyclinic, meaning the gamut of medical and surgical courses offered. She makes no comment about the course content nor does she delineate the quality or quantity of her clinical

26 For a short history of the Student Volunteer Movement, see John R Mott, "The First Two Decades of the Student Volunteer Movement," in Students and the Modern Missionary Crusade Addresses Delivered Before the Fifth International Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (New York, 1906), 39-64
27 McGavran diary, MCP Archives, 68-74
28 Samuel D Risley (1845-1920) was graduated from the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania in 1870 and studied ophthalmology at the Wills Eye Hospital of Philadelphia. Risley authored over 150 publications during his career, and held positions at Wills Eye Hospital, The Episcopal Hospital, the Polyclinic, and the University of Pennsylvania. He served as president of the American Academy of Medicine in 1900 and as president of the American Ophthalmological Society in 1908. See Dictionary of American Medical Biography, eds Howard A. Kelly and Walter L. Burrage (New York, 1928), 1040
29 Steven J. Peitzman, "Thoroughly Practical! America's Polyclinic Medical Schools," Bulletin of the History of Medicine, 54 (1980), 166-187
experience, though she is full of praise for her physician colleagues Murphy, Thorton, Rogers, and Risley.

When Dr. McGavran embarked for the Disciples of Christ Mission of Damoh, India in 1896, she followed a career path that many WMCP graduates had chosen in the past. Dr. Rachel Bodley, a deeply religious woman and third Dean of WMCP, had been instrumental in encouraging women to go abroad as mission doctors, and Clara Marshall, her successor, also promoted such work. McGavran arrived in India under the auspices of the Disciples' Foreign Christian Missionary Society. She treated children at a recently-erected orphanage, consisting of a group of mud-walled structures built by mission workers. The mission cared for hundreds of children, and soon built a new orphanage, school, and hospital. McGavran served as physician at the hospital, which treated women and children of Damoh, a town of fifteen to twenty thousand people.

McGavran returned to the United States on furlough four times (1902, 1909, 1916, 1922) and lectured at many churches across the country. She never married, though the Commissioner of Damoh, an Englishman, proposed to her. In 1923, she contracted hepatitis in Damoh, and died that same year. She had served as a missionary physician for twenty-eight years.

Though Mary Theodora McGavran never achieved widespread public recognition, her life story is significant nonetheless. The diary she has left offers a generous glimpse of the daily life of a Philadelphia medical student of the 1890s, a committed and sensitive woman's view of her professional education. Her keen observations and introspection are only partially conveyed through the few excerpts selected here.

30 Alsop, History of WMCP, 124, 178. During Clara Marshall's tenure as Dean (1888-1917), a total of 85 WMCP graduates went abroad as medical missionaries.
31 Donald McGavran to Margaret Jerndo, 2 April 1982, MCP Archives, correspondence files.
32 Donald McGavran to Margaret Jerndo, 2 April 1982, MCP Archives, correspondence files.
Life and Work of Mary T. McGavran
Record begun January 1893*

Sat. Dec. 31, 1892

My dear diary it is not with the most charitable mind that I make your acquaintance for this is New Year’s Eve and it seems to be the custom here for all men to parade the street, carrying and with all their strength, blowing the horns of every imaginable tone. . . .

. . . I am at 2106 Master St. Philadelphia Pennsylvania. I am Mary Theodora McGavran of Bucks, Columbiana County, Ohio and am at present writing [as] a student in “The Woman’s Medical College of Penna”. . . .

. . . On Oct. 1891 I matriculated here but was forced by sickness to give up a year. After a season of refreshing I again appeared on the scene of action in Oct. ’92 and have been struggling with the ologys nessissary to the medical profession. . . .

Saturday 7th [January 1893]

A week of this New Year begun—it seems very short now that we are at work again. I am on for dissecting again—this time it is a lower—I have already done a head and upper, the head I did just before vacation and had to hurry to get it done as it was not as well done as I would have liked. The upper I did very thoroly and I want to spend the full six weeks on this part. One more part and I can finish befor Christmas next year. Our first year is the hardest of the course. Next year we have only a few examinations. Today Miss Dunn and I made taffy this afternoon—it was so good—stiff and sweet. . . .

Monday 16.

. . . In the evening Mr Shelton and Mr Hamilton came up and took us to The Temple to church—The Temple is a magnificent house, the fines, I believe, in the

*We would like to thank the following persons for their assistance: Donald McGavran, for his donation of his aunt’s diary and his help on questions concerning his family’s history; the Medical College of Pennsylvania, for financial support through an NIH-funded summer research fellowship; the staff of the Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine at MCP, with special thanks to Margaret Jerrido; the staff of the Historical Collections of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; Barbara Williams, Archivist of Hahnemann University; and Mrs. Pat Burns, for typing the manuscript.

33 Rose M. Dunn, Class of 1895, Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania (WMCP).
34 Charles F. Shelton and Charles Ernest Hamilton were members of the Class of 1894 of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.
Mary Theodora McGavran, a native of Ohio, was graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1895.

city. I do not enjoy services there very much. Mr Conwell\textsuperscript{35} may be a good lecturer and no doubt is but as a minister of the Gospels I think he is a complete failure. His church is grand and always filled with the highest people—as far as fashion goes—in the city but I cannot help feeling that it is because it is fashionable that crowds flock to hear him. There can be no spiritual food in what he says. . . .

\textsuperscript{35} Russell H. Conwell was appointed minister of the Grace Baptist Church, Philadelphia in 1879. Within the next decade, Conwell converted the church to the Baptist Temple, a church seating 3000 people. Conwell was also the founder of Temple University. The university, chartered in 1888, began as a night school in the basement of Conwell's church.
Monday 23rd.

... Josie and I took a walk up to the park—as we went to Horticultural hall we came to a long steep path all covered with snow. Two small boys were there with sleds. We couldn't resist the temptation so we borrowed the sleds and had some old fashioned rides. It was so fine, first time I went down along there we tied the two sleds together and went down the slope and across the rustic bridge at the bottom together. ...

Sunday 29.

... Josie stayed untill Friday evening. During Materia Medica quiz she stayed in the library and read. Dr. Bundy was so late coming for Anatomy quiz that we went in to hear Dr Henry's lecture on practice. His subject was Smallpox and vaccination. I learned several things that I will try and remember. They will come handy in any future case of "pox" I may have to attend.

After lecture we went to Dr. Roberts clinic. Josie stood it like a man altho surgical clinic is the hardest for a beginner. She was determined to be able to write home that she had seen a live operation preformed. I hope it may prove a success—the child was such a bright little one. In the afternoon Josie stayed to hear the Dean and Dr. White give their respective lectures and then bade us Adieu till to-morrow eve when she is coming over to go to a lecture at the Y.M.C.A. building on Chestnut St.—...

Saturday 4 [February 1893]:

My dear neglected friend to-night I will return to my first love and tell you what I've been doing. This week has been one continued strain. We have an examination in physiology soon, as I have no doubt told you befor. We are confidently expecting it this next week and have been working hard at it. To-night several of the girls, namely Misses Newton, McMillan, Herrick, McKee, came to my room and together with Misses Dunn and Sullivan we asked questions and volunteered opinions untill ten o'clock. I think we benefited a great deal from it—it does one good to get to tell what they know. ...

Saturday 18.

...We went over at 9.30 and Dr. White did not come till ten so we did not get to work untill after 11.30—It was rather "wearing" on us to have to stand around and wait for an hour but sic vita. The examination was long and hard—every one acknowledged it to be exceedingly trying—It is nine days now since the event but we have not heard anything about the result. A grade of 50% puts us into the physiological

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36 Josie Moser was a close friend of McGavran. She was not a medical student.
37 Elizabeth R. Bundy, M.D. (1850-1919), Demonstrator of Anatomy, WMCP.
38 Frances L. Newton, Ellen M. McMillan, Jesse Louise Herrick, Margaret K. Sullivan, and M. Ada Mckee were all members of the Class of 1895, WMCP. McKee was later forced to take leave for a year because of illness, and was graduated in 1896.
laboratory—75% is accepted as final in the first years work. The whole class will be likely to get into the laboratory but we all tremble to think what our fate may be as to the "final". . . .

. . . I have commenced my fourth part in dissecting. It is Dr. Parishes arsenic subject—the arteries are beautiful—we can trace them out to the finest hair like branches—the anastomosing about the shoulder and elbow is very interesting. To be sure the subject is rather odiferous: but lo me! what difference does that make to a med? The only trouble is we can only work a few hours at a time. If we overstayed the proper time the effect is rather marked! Today I went over to the German\textsuperscript{39} to see if I could get a brain but Doctor was out so my attempt was in vain. I'll go again soon. This evening I went over to the college to read. . . . the Dean bowed a distant "good evening" and requested me to leave the library for fear I would hear some "state secrets". The library joins the room where the faculty meet and said meeting is to-night. Dr. Bromall was reading opposite me—she saw the poor little "freshy" felt rather "set down on" so she talked to me about Ohio, &c. I wonder if she'll remember my name till I see her again, or rather till she sees me again.

There is a world of difference between Dr. Bromall and Dr. Marshall. Dr. Bromall is worth a dozen Dr. Marshalls boiled down into one. Such a soft voiced gentle creature. The girls all love her dearly—. . .

Thursday 23 [March 1893].

To-day in pharmacy we made Cinchonine & capsicum cachets and silver coated compound cathartic pills. Prof. Ryan\textsuperscript{40} said we might keep them as souvenirs—They are rather pretty but some way my pills wouldn't get round! . . .

. . . Mr. Dean is going to bring a friend up to see the dissecting room some day—I've decided to show people the room when they come but allow them to draw their own conclusions as to what is under the covers, on the tables. They would guess, of course, but the impression would not be so lasting and would be of a different character—The uninitiated have queer views regarding the study of medicine. . . .

Wednesday 19 [April 1893].

Today we had our Laboratory exam in Histology—I knew all she asked me so of course made "ten" on that. She will give nine in written examination and this "ten" will help to bring up my grade.

To-morrow we have Anatomy Examination and it may be I should be studying for it now but I seem to be filled to overflowing with Gray. The next two weeks will be anxious ones for us. For a failure now means worrying for a year or at least untill next fall. . . .

\textsuperscript{39} The German Hospital, Philadelphia (later Lankenau Hospital).

\textsuperscript{40} F.G. Ryan, Ph.G., Lecturer on Pharmacy, WMCP.
Friday 21

. . . Today we had our last work in the physiological laboratory—I only wish we were thro with Dr. White for good—She is very good to me but we are all so afraid of her it almost worries the life out of us. Everyone trembles, almost, at the thot of her.

Our dear Dr. Leffmann likes the girls. He knows they are all earnest, working women and he is also aware of the fact that we all “worship” him. I believe we are on more familiar terms with him than any other Prof. in school. . . .

At his last lecture after we had clapped him thoroly he said he had a clipping he wanted to read—it was the answers to examination questions given by some of the youth of our land—They were so very funny and yet one could see just how such mistakes could have easily been made. One boy said “the heart is a conical shaped body with two artilleries divided by fleshy petitions” &c. I disremember the rest of it. I am glad we have him next year. A week from this time and I may be at home—my new home in Waynesburgh [Ohio]. I hope they will like me there and not think I'm some sort of an outcast heathen because I'm studying medicine—I hope they'll not look at me sidewise and say “thats her” and I do hope they won't insist on calling me a “doctress”—I'll put an “ess” onto everyone in the community if they do. They'll have all kinds of teacheress's and taileress's &c. . . .

Saturday 3rd [June 1893] Canton O[hio].

. . . Now I am in Dr. J.S. Pyle's Private Hospital 68 West Tuscarawas st Canton Ohio. Duly installed as second nurse. I really occupy a better position—better for what I want for the Dr. loves to talk “medicine” and quizzes me on all occasions—It makes me prick up my ears and think. I have time to think things out and it'll be my own fault if I don't make a grand success out of my summers work. In the short time I've been here—I came May 26—there has been three important cases—surgical, with every opportunity to study them thoroly. I wish I could write out my surgical cases for my last year now—Maby I can—if I only had an old paper to take points from!

I've been here over a week now and like it better every day. I am writing out a minute history of every case we have for future reference.

July 16—

Warm weather has at last arrived—we have a very cool place here—there is always a good breeze in these front rooms.

In my first notice of my last move I did not tell you anything about my surroundings. First is the Doctor—a tall, slender man of twenty-eight—young in years but old in experience and success—a dark complection with an eye as gentle and kind as a womans and a low, soft voice. He takes a great deal of trouble to instruct me in every detail of the work and would not think of refusing to answer a question at any time.

Next comes Miss Emma Beatty, Nurse. She is a black eyed maiden of twenty-
six—good natured—Jolly, always something pleasant to say. Those black eyes can flash fire when they have a reason to—I have never seen them do it without just cause. Next in the downward scale comes myself of which you will hear more anon. . . .

Saturday Nov. 11 [back in Philadelphia]

To-day I went down to the Pennsylvania Hospital to hear Dr. DaCosta—He lectured on apoplexy and post typhoid fever. I like him very much only I must get used to his “Gentlemen” in addressing a crowd of ladies and gentlemen—men and women, I should say. From there I came to the German and heard half of Dr. Wolfe’s lecture on Medicine. . . . Dr. Dever did not appear as there was no surgical. Miss McKee does not improve as rapidly as we wish—she had a relapse from which she was recovering when to-day we found her temperature had again risen to 104 degrees. It is such a long disease! . . .

Wednesday 22

This was clinic morning but I thought I would rather spend the time with Miss McKee so went over there quite early—half past nine. We had quite a chat. The Dr. came at his usual time—He invited me to see a case of typhoid in the ward—it was a very severe case—He allowed me to examine the patient and chart—I got several points. From there he took me to several other patients—one of which had eczema—typical. He was exceedingly kind to me, said he was glad to show them to me—guess he don’t object to women doctors! Dr. Ross was up on the fourth floor—He greeted me heartily with “How good you Ye looking” which made me at least three inches taller! I had quite a little talk with him. Then Dr. Patek carried me off to see some more patients which were very interesting—I had not had the privilege of examining any one myself and no doubt I went about it rather awkwardly but Dr. Patek is such a gentleman that there wasn’t a trace of a smile at any of my mistakes—When he listened to the heart murmur I watched him closely and put my ear to the same spot—This summer I went to listen to Doctors lungs and put my ear directly over his liver! I feared Dr. Patek would see how I had neglected my anatomy but if he did he did not allow me to see it. . . .

The physician referred to is probably Jacob Mendez DaCosta, M.D. (1833-1900), who was on the staff of the Pennsylvania Hospital and a member of the faculty of Jefferson Medical College.

Lawrence Wolff, M.D. (1845-1901), Clinical Professor of Medicine, WMCP; John B. Deaver, M.D. (1855-1931) was a member of the staff of the German Hospital.

M. Ada McKee contracted typhoid fever in the fall of 1893. She had to take a leave of absence for a year, and subsequently graduated with the Class of 1896.

The doctor referred to is Arthur J. Patek, M.D., Resident Physician, the German Hospital, 1891-1893.

George Gorgas Ross, M.D., Resident Physician, the German Hospital, 1891-1893.
Saturday 25th

Dr. Wolfe's clinic was good—he had the case of eczema I have seen upstairs and his other cases Dr. had told me about. It makes them so much more interesting to have known about them before Dr. Dever appeared for the first time this session. He was rather hilarious but good with all. His skill demands respect but his manner, I fear, does not come up to the standard. He doesn't inspire one with that awe we all admire so much.

Sunday 14 [December 1893]

Yesterday Miss Smith went with me to clinic (at Hannehman—don't know how to spell it). After clinic Mr. Higgins took us up to the Museum to see the wonderful nervous system which won a much merited prize at the World's fair also to the dissecting room. A man's dissecting room doesn't differ materially from a woman's. Ours is a little larger I think.

The work down there is not hampered by lack of funds. Everything is on a grand scale.

Saturday 20—

Today has been so full of good things that I must jot a few down. The first was the German clinic. Dr. Wolfe's lecture on the morphine habit was worthy of a clinic all to itself. Then he took up a case of obstruction making a diagnosis of the need of surgical measures. Dr. Deaver at once took the case up and proceeded to operate. It was very interesting and instructive, although the prognosis is yet doubtful. The woman was past middle age making matters worse.

They had quite an array of M. D.'s in the room—I will name as many as I know just for fun. Dr. Deaver first of course, just because he was the surgeon. Dr. Whiting, assistant, Dr. Page, anesthetist, Dr. Hand & Dr. Patek, the other interns who looked on. Dr. Frese, Chief Resident of the German Hospital, Dr. Wolfe, medical clinician and his dear little protege, our artistic friend, Dr. , a past resident. Dr. Pitfield, Dr. Marie Bauer. Another very nice looking Dr. whom I did not know and Dr. Ross, who needs no introduction to you.

46 Mary Hopkins Smith, Class of 1896, WMCP
47 Mr. Higgins is an unidentified medical student. According to McGavran's diary, he went to Jefferson Medical College.
48 In 1888, Dr. Rufus B. Weaver, a member of the Department of Anatomy of Hahnemann Medical College, did a complete dissection of the human nervous system. The subject for dissection was Weaver's scrub woman Harriet, who left her body to him for experimental purposes. The dissection won a gold medal at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and is still on exhibit in the Department of Anatomy at Hahnemann.
49 Albert Draper Whiting, M.D. (1869-1933) was a member of the medical staff of the German Hospital. Alfred Hand, Jr., M.D., Carl Frese, M.D., Robert L. Pitfield, and Marie L. Bauer, were resident physicians at the German Hospital. Dr. Page and Dr. Wolfe's protege, 'the artistic friend,' are unidentified physicians.
Saturday eve. 5 [May 1894]

...Tuesday afternoon we all go to the park to play tennis.

They are very fine boys—I've enjoyed knowing them very much. 50 Will and I went for a walk after we quit playing this evening, around the reservoir. I must tell you all I did yesterday. At 8.15 A.M. I went to the College and got there just in time to hear Dr. Leffmann say you may go up if you like, now. So up we went to the West lecture-room.

I took my usual seat—the one I have had in every examination in that room, on the front row. Dr. gave out the questions and we set to work on them at once. Miss Clarke 51 came in later so I gave her my seat and had to take the very back row. The exam was easy and Dr. Leffmann grand! He didn't pay much attention to where we sat—Talked a good bit—Told a few stories &c &c. When Miss Clarke got too tired to stay in he said for her to get some one to stay with her & go off and rest. . .Anatomy exam was fine—I was in about two and a half hrs. I stayed in Chemistry two hours exact. Physiology took longer and I'm not so sure as to whether I passed in that or not. We will not get our reports untill Monday morning.

The seniors got their reports last night. Such a scene as there was at that College about eleven P.M. but I must come back to yesterday morning—after Chemistry I went walking with Miss Wiss 52, trimmed a hat for her. . .untill dinner—After dinner dressed and went to see Miss C. At three thirty we started for Broad and Columbia Avenue. There we met the girls 16 in all. Clambred up in "The Rambler" a Tallyho of the lastest style and set out for Indian Rock. There were in the party the following, Misses Adams & Van Campen, Visitors, and Medical Girls, Misses Hills and—*-with the driver. 1st seat Misses Montgomery, Mansfield, Ball, Wiss. 2nd seat Misses McGavran,—*-Beesley, Seebrook. 3rd seat Misses Schermahorn, Lord & Mrs Laurence & Gates. 4th Seat Misses Cleaver & Shick. 53 5th Seat Footman.

The drive is grand beyond description. First up the Scuylkill & then up the Wissahickon creek. It took an hour to go out—an hour we spent in gathering flowers and ferns which grow in abundance. Then we started home. . .We sang and talked and enjoyed ourselves immensely every minute. We reached the starting point at 7.30 P.M. . . .

50 William Rich and George Rich, the two boys mentioned, were cousins of Mary McGavran.
51 Olive L. Clarke, Class of 1895, WMCP.
52 Rosa Douglas Wiss, Class of 1895, WMCP.
53 Laura Heath Hills, Class of 1896, WMCP; Mary L. Montgomery, Class of 1895; Rosalind Ball, WMCP student, 1892-1896 (no record of graduation); Rosa Douglas Wiss, Nellie Everite Beesley, Class of 1896; Alice M. Seebrook, Class of 1895; Grace C. Schermahorn, Helen Augusta Lord, and N. Louise Lawrence, Class of 1896; Mary Jamieson Gates, Emma Osborn Cleaver, and Mary McDowell Shick, Class of 1895; Blanche Mansfield, Class of 1900. Van Campen and Adams are unidentified.
Monday 4 [February 1895]—

My school days are nearing an end—only three months more of The Womans Medical College! I wonder if a little review of the people we have talked about would not be a good thing. I think Miss McLaughry is the finest friend I told you of. She is Dr. McLaughry now and is interne in The New England Hospital, Boston. She is doing well. . . .Miss McKee, as you know dropped out a year but is here at work now—as dear as ever. . . ."Miss Platter" now Dr. Platter is in India. Miss Poin-dexter (Dr. P.) is doing noble mission work in the north of China. . . .Miss Manwaring will graduate in May. She looks like a ghost—so pale & thin only a shadow of the shiny young girl of four years ago! So sad. Miss Hetrick—now Dr. is interne in Blockley. . . .Dr. Elenor Jones—one of the dearest women & best doctors. . . .

May 20—

. . . We graduated on the 8th of May in the Academy of Music. Of all our class, those who came up only three failed—We were very busy commencement week—I took two exams and had company—The class dinner came Tuesday eve—Graduation Wed.—noon and the reception Wed. eve. Then the dear girls went their ways—after three years of very close association—It seems we scatter more at this kind of a college than any other—It is very sure we will never meet again but I think most of us have learned that it is not well to care so much for any one thing or person that the giving it up means a change in our lives—It means the pain of parting but its only for a little time. Something new will take the place of the old—The time when there is no more change is not far distant to even the youngest of us—and to some very near—. . .Mary Ayre and Sina Stratton will be to-gether in our memories dear girls: Both of them—and Lewie! No one would dream of leaving her out. Margaret C. Lewis M.D. her card says! Blanche Mansfield & Rosalind Ball will be here another year—There are so many others but to-night I cannot speak of them all. It doesn’t do to think too much at any time. Miss Manwaring is an M.D. with tuberculosis—hoping to live a little while—poor child—she is only twenty one. Such a bright girl! She speaks of the surety of her early death in such a sad, hopeless way! She has no life beyond to look forward to. . . .

Dec 7—95

. . . After spending the summer at Home I am now back in dear old Phila—I am in the Polyclinic as Dr Risleys assistant and taking the whole course—The summer was

54 Elizabeth McLaughry, Class of 1894, WMCP; Mary A. Platter, Class of 1893; Sarah A. Poindexter, Class of 1893; Carrie Hetrick, Class of 1894; Eleanor C. Jones, M.D. (1863-1925), Demonstrator and Clinical Instructor in the Practice of Medicine, WMCP.

55 Mary Ayre, Class of 1896, WMCP; Sina Stratton, Margaret C. Lewis, and Ier Jay Manwaring, Class of 1895. Dr. Manwaring died in 1958!
very pleasant but brought its pain. Do but I must not grumble. The last page of my "life and work" must be all sunshine. I am living at Mr Paynes now—I have such a pleasant home. Dr. Thorington was so kind to me. He secured the place in the Poly for me and Is good now—So is Dr. Murphy. She helps me out lots of times. My colleague Dr. J.R. Rogers is in his majestic way, good to me too—He either takes life as is should be taken or is a fraud—the former I feel quite sure. More anon. Dr. Clarke\textsuperscript{56} is in the West Phila Hospital for Women, only two squares from here, she comes in often, was here for dinner to-night. It is so pleasant to have her here. . . .

Sept 5—New York [1896]

. . .There are so many things I have not been able to write but I have read over a little of that which is written and am not displeased with it. Think I will note down events of the journey in the next volume and then begin my life in India—. . .

\textit{Medical College of Pennsylvania}

\textbf{Robert M. Kaiser}
\textbf{Sandra L. Chaff}
\textbf{Steven J. Peitzman}

\textsuperscript{56} Samuel Doty Risley, M.D. (1845-1920); Professor of Diseases of the Eye, Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine; James Thorington, M.D. (1858-1944), Adjunct Professor of Diseases of the Eye, Philadelphia Polyclinic; Helen Murphy, M.D. (1860-1940), Instructor in Diseases of the Eye, Philadelphia Polyclinic; Olive L. Clarke, M.D., Class of 1895, WMCP.