

about the centre a deep notch the Hilus of the Kidney, \rightarrow more behind than in front. - At the Hilus the blood vessels enter the organ, and the excretory duct the Ureter passes out, - Their relative position is as follows. - anteriorly, the Renal Vein comes off the Renal Artery and its branches next, the Ureter behind below. (à la mnemonics VAUXHALL). - Sometimes the vessels break up into \rightarrow veins, \rightarrow arteries, \rightarrow 1 Ureter joining together, bifurcating and rejoining etc. - giving a more complex appearance. but \rightarrow usually as above. - The Renal Artery passes off at \perp , and is very large. - It enters the Kidney so that the Arterial Blood may be deprived of its H_2O and the other constituents of urine. - The Skin and Lungs also secrete H_2O - hence the secretion by the Kidneys is greatly modified by external circumstances temperature etc, and the condition of these other organs. The Kidney removes noxious matter from blood very rapidly, and when its functions are lost, disease follows with most disastrous consequences. -

On the vessels the Nerves and Lymphatics ramify, and muscular cellular tissue, and fat surrounds the whole.

Structure and Composition. The Kidney is invested with a fibrous Capsule, formed of dense fibrous areolar tissue. - The capsule is thin, smooth, and easily removed from the kidney to which it is connected by fine fibrous vessels & processes.

Celebrating 150 Years of the Melbourne Medical School

Hidden Stories in the Medical History Museum

By Anna Harris

I've always loved medical libraries, probably because I have spent over a decade studying in them. There are constant sources of distraction in medical libraries: the latest scientific journals; microbiology books with exquisite photographs; anatomical texts filled with woodcuts and engravings. When I first arrived at the University of Melbourne to study for my Masters, I found the most wonderful distraction of all: the Medical History Museum.

Gradually, over the years, the medical museum has become more than a distraction, and since March this year I have been volunteering there every Thursday afternoon. I share a computer and office with an operating table, anaesthetic equipment and hundreds of locked and labelled wooden boxes. It is dusty and cluttered and I love it!

The museum was established in the Brownless Biomedical library in 1967, with a grant from the Wellcome Trust. A beautiful 19th century Savory and Moore pharmacy, shipped from Belgravia, London, is installed in the museum, complete with bottles and gold-labelled herb drawers. On display there are also microscopes, amputation sets and bleeding equipment, in walnut display cases. Currently there is a temporary exhibition about apothecaries – *The Physick Gardener: Aspects of an Apothecary's World* – curated by the museum's new curator Susie Shears (see p37). Behind a hidden door in the pharmacy are the curator's offices and storage areas, where chests and drawers may contain pathological slides or stapleguns, and shelves are filled with boxes, books and ephemera.

There are many treasured items in the museum's collection including specie jars, pill rolling machines and medicine chests used by doctors during visits to rural areas in Australia. One of the oldest photographs (1864), and one of my favourites, depicts the first medical students carrying out work in the anatomy dissecting room, under the supervision of Professor Halford, and the watchful gaze of the medical school porter.

Professor George Britton Halford (1824–1910) was a lecturer in London, before taking the first chair of anatomy, physiology and pathology at the University of Melbourne. He moved to the antipodes with anatomical and pathological specimens he had collected for a museum, and books to start a library. His first practical classes and lectures were held in the converted coach-house of his private residence, before moving to the newly completed medical school in 1864.

Professor Halford played an important role in the teaching and administration of the new medical school in Melbourne, and was a strong advocate for female students. He arrived in Melbourne with an established record as a researcher (one of his most important essays being *The Action and Sounds of the Heart: A Physiological Essay* (1860)) but his later controversial experiments with snake venom damaged this reputation.

The objects and documents associated with Halford, that I have found whilst volunteering, provide a window not only into the life of a contentious researcher and teacher, but also into the collection of the Medical History Museum. Amongst Halford's material objects and paper artefacts, there is: a Powell and Lealand compound monocular and binocular microscope stored in a walnut case with a handwritten inventory; a cabinet of microscope slides commercially and handmade between 1860 and 1889; a paper entitled *On a Remarkable Symmetrically Deformed Skeleton* (1868); distinguished photographs of the professor and his family; and his simple and elegant business card.

Other important pieces in the collection associated with Halford include a student's set of lecture notes compiled during Professor Halford's anatomy and physiology lectures throughout 1877. This leather bound exercise book, with John Springthorpe's scribbles and pencil illustrations, is the only surviving example of Professor Halford's teaching; an important record of the early days of anatomy and physiology education in Melbourne.

All of these objects are material remnants of Professor Halford's time at the University of Melbourne. Halford was a significant figure in the history of the medical school, yet these objects also provide a glimpse into the stories of his many students, such as John Springthorpe. The photographs and notebooks are microscopic slices of a time when medical students wore aprons and dissected on wooden tables and when physiological illustrations were carefully hand-coloured.

The museum objects are portals into the past, providing insight into medical teaching at the University of Melbourne. From such ephemera we learn about what was taught and how it was taught. There are many more stories hidden amongst the objects carefully labelled, stored and displayed at the medical museum, just as there are thousands of tales yet to be shared from the ephemera saved by past medical students.

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A page from John Springthorpe's notebook (opposite) detailing his notes on the kidney.

William Carey Rees and Patrick Moloney were two of the first three students to enrol in the medical course in 1862, both graduating in 1867. Rees received 2nd class honours in his first year, with exhibitions for chemistry, mineralogy and botany and graduated with 1st class honours. He obtained the MD in 1872 and died in 1879.

Moloney received 1st class honours in his first year of medicine, with the exhibition in Greek, Latin and English and logic. Winning the Vice-Chancellor's prize (open to the whole university) in 1866 for his English essay, Moloney was something of a writer and went on to publish sonnets in the *Australasian* and *Melbourne Punch*. On the staff of the Melbourne Hospital from 1875-97, he died in 1904 in Ulverstone, England where he and his wife had resided for seven years, presumably moving there to be near their only daughter who had married a barrister and member of the House of Commons.

Alexander Mackie was the third student to begin the medical course in 1862. He dropped the course in second year, however, to join the Presbyterian ministry. Twenty years later Mackie returned to the course but died before he could complete it.

Octavius Vernon Lawrence graduated MB in 1868 and MD in 1871—the first to obtain the Melbourne MD by ordinary examination, all previous MD conferrals having been granted under special regulations. Lawrence worked as demonstrator in anatomy from 1871-76. When he resigned, due to the pressure of private practice, the position was taken up by Harry Brookes Allen.

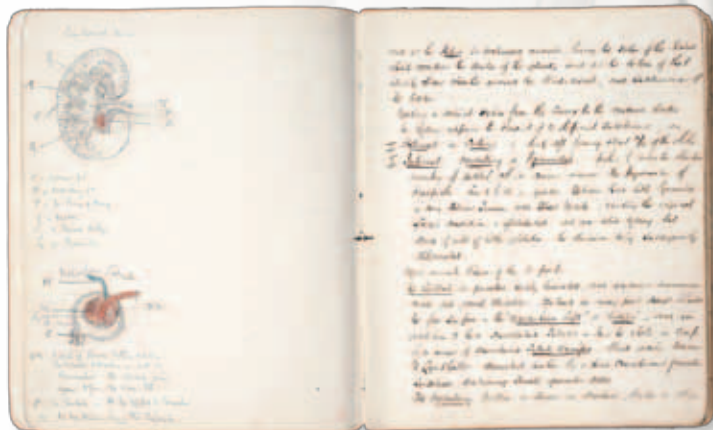
Source: Russell, KF. *The Melbourne Medical School 1862-1962*

Medical student ephemera collection

In 2012 the Melbourne Medical School will celebrate 150 years since its foundation. While this occasion gives us reason to focus on the long history of the Medical School it also presents an opportunity to ensure that our more recent history is not lost.

Material held in the Medical History Museum about or created by medical students opens a window to the scholarship, the interests and the daily lives of past students. In the hope that such materials are not lost to the future we are encouraging medical alumni to consider donating publications, notebooks, photographs or ephemera from student activities such as the Medleys etc.

If you have any material you believe might assist future generations to understand the lives of past medical students please contact: Susie Shears, Curator, Medical History Museum on telephone (+61 3) 8344 9935 or via email: sshears@unimelb.edu.au



Illustrations and notes from John Springthorpe's notebook are a window into Halford's teaching in the early years of the medical course.



In this, one of Anna's favourite photographs from the collection, Halford is seen standing (second from right) with students in the dissecting room in 1864. Standing at the back is the medical school porter. The students, seated from left to right, are: Octavius Vernon Lawrence, Thomas Ramsden Ashworth, Patrick Moloney, Francis Long, Alexander Mackie, Gerald Henry Fetherston (who acted as unofficial prosector) and William Carey Rees.