

**Rockefeller Institute. Meningitis Records**  
**1907-1913**  
**Mss.Ms.Coll.34**

American Philosophical Society  
2003  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Title</b>	Rockefeller Institute. Meningitis Records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1907-1913
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.Ms.Coll.34
<b>Extent</b>	8.0 Linear feet
<b>Location</b>	LH-B-41-6
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>In 1892, the physician and medical administrator Simon Flexner began research on cerebrospinal meningitis, a meningococcal disease with an untreated mortality rate between 70 and 90%. Experimenting on monkeys, Flexner developed a promising serum treatment for the disease by 1903, which he used extensively during the epidemic outbreaks of meningitis in New York City in 1904-1905 and 1907. For several years, Flexner kept his serum under his close supervision, with the result that the Rockefeller Institute became the primary source for knowledge about meningitis and its treatment.</p> <p>The 8 linear feet of Records amassed at the Rockefeller Institute between 1907 and 1913 document Simon Flexner's deployment of his serum treatment for cerebrospinal meningitis and his on-going interest in the epidemiology, etiology, and treatment of the disease. The collection consists largely of patient records, with data on hospitals and physicians to whom Flexner has dispensed his serum.</p>

**Preferred Citation**

Cite as: Rockefeller Institute Meningitis Records, American Philosophical Society.

## **Background note**

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In 1892, the physician and medical administrator Simon Flexner began research on cerebrospinal meningitis, a meningococcal disease with an untreated mortality rate between 70 and 90%. Experimenting on monkeys, Flexner developed a promising serum treatment for the disease by 1903, which he used extensively during the epidemic outbreaks of meningitis in New York City in 1904-1905 and 1907. For several years, Flexner kept his serum under his close supervision, with the result that the Rockefeller Institute became the primary source for knowledge about meningitis and its treatment.

## Scope & content

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The 8 linear feet of Records amassed at the Rockefeller Institute between 1907 and 1913 document Simon Flexner's deployment of his serum treatment for cerebrospinal meningitis and his on-going interest in the epidemiology, etiology, and treatment of the disease. The collection consists largely of patient records, with data on hospitals and physicians to whom Flexner has dispensed his serum.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

American Philosophical Society 2003

## **Restrictions**

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### **Restrictions on Use**

Patients' names may not be published.

## **Provenance**

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### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of the Rockefeller Institute, 1964.

### **Processing Information**

Recatalogued by rsc, 2003.

## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Material**

The Simon Flexner Papers contains a quantity of additional information on meningitis, usually listed under the names of individual physicians and scientists interested in polio research.

The Library also houses a collection of epidemiological and other records accumulated by the Rockefeller Institute during the poliomyelitis epidemic of 1916 (Ms. Coll. 33).

## **Indexing Terms**

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**Genre(s)**

- Medical records

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Flexner, Simon, 1863-1946

### **Subject(s)**

- Epidemics
- Epidemiology
- Meningitis
- Serum

### **Bibliography**

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Flexner, Simon and James W. Jobling, "An analysis of four hundred cases of epidemic meningitis treated with the anti-meningitis serum," *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 10, 5 (1908): 690-733.



## Rockefeller Institute Meningitis Records

## Collection Inventory

<b>Rockefeller Institute Meningitis Records</b>	<b>1907-1913</b>	<b>8 lin. feet</b>	
Serum listing	1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 1
Serum listing	1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 1
Serum testing: a. Analysis of 1,300 case; b. tabulation of cases; c. Old meningitis reports	ca.1908	0.5 lin. feet	Box 2
Serum testing	1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 3
Serum testing	1907-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 4
Serum testing	1907-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 5
Serum testing	1907-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 6
Serum testing	1908-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 7
Serum testing	1908-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 8
Serum testing	1908-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 9
Serum testing	1907-1909	0.5 lin. feet	Box 10
Serum testing	1907-1913	0.5 lin. feet	Box 11
Serum testing; history and miscellaneous	1909-1911	0.5 lin. feet	Box 12
Card file index of hospitals and doctors supplied with serum	ca.1907-1913	0.5 lin. feet	Box 13
Card file	ca.1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 14
Card file	ca.1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 15
Card file	ca.1907-1910	0.5 lin. feet	Box 16