

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Babies Hospital autopsy records](#)

BABIES HOSPITAL (NEW YORK, NY)

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY.

Autopsy Records, 1896-1921.

3.35 cubic feet (45 vols.)

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Records of autopsies performed on patients who died at Babies Hospital, dating from Oct. 6, 1896 to Dec. 7, 1921. The handwritten entries include name and age of deceased, date of autopsy, overall description of the body, description of most internal organs, and an “anatomical diagnosis.” Later volumes sometimes include photographs. There are 4,510 autopsies recorded.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Babies Hospital was founded in 1887 by five women in order to “provide medical and surgical aid and nursing for sick babies.” At the time, New York City had only 27 hospital beds devoted to the care of children under the age of one year. Babies quickly became one of the nation’s pre-eminent children’s hospitals. Within twenty years it had established an outpatient department, a training school for nurses, and a summer hospital at the New Jersey shore. It became a teaching affiliate of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1900. L. Emmett Holt, Herbert Wilcox, Sr. and Rustin McIntosh were among the medical directors of the hospital in the 20th century.

After several brief stays at various locations, Babies Hospital settled in two houses on Lexington Avenue at E. 55th Street. In 1902, these buildings were replaced with a modern structure where the Hospital remained until it moved to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in 1929. It was renamed Babies & Children’s Hospital in 1994 and Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York in 2000.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Open.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Dr. Renate Dische, Dept. of Pathology, Babies and Children’s Hospital, 2001 (acc. #2001.06.28a)

Subjects:

Babies Hospital (New York, N.Y.). Dept. of Pathology.
Children – Hospitals – New York (State) – New York.
Children – Mortality – New York (State) – New York.
Autopsy – Methods – Infant.

**Babies Hospital
Autopsy records, 1896-1921**

Box List

Box 1: v. 1 – v. 11 (Oct. 6, 1896-Jan. 3, 1911)

Box 2: v. 12 – v. 24 (Jan. 9, 1911-April 10, 1915)

Box 3: v. 25 – v. 37 (April 14, 1915-May 24, 1919)

Box 4: v. 38 – v. 45 (May 24, 1919-Dec. 7, 1921)