

[Samuel Bard, Commencement address, circa 1811-1820](#)

BARD, SAMUEL, 1742-1821.

Commencement address, circa 1811-1820.

1 item (20 pages)

#M-0014

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Bard, son of the prominent physician John Bard, was educated at King's College (later Columbia) and received his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1765. In 1767 he was one of the six New York City physicians who persuaded King's College to establish a medical school, now the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (VP&S), the second oldest in the United States. Bard served as its dean and professor of medicine until its closure in 1776 due to the War for Independence. After the newly renamed Columbia College revived the medical school in 1791, he served it first as dean and later as president until his death in 1821. Bard Hall, the VP&S residence hall, is named for him.

SCOPE & CONTENT: Autograph manuscript of an unpublished address delivered by Samuel Bard at the commencement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It is undated but must be from the period 1811-1821 when Bard served as President of the College. Besides his 1819 commencement address, which was later published, the minutes of the College Trustees record him giving the addresses at the 1816 and 1817 commencements.

In his address, Bard enumerates the qualities that make for a successful physician and devotes much of his talk to recounting the life of Herman Boerhaave, the late 17th - early 18th century Dutch physician and university professor, whom Bard believes is a worthy model for the graduates to emulate.

ACCESS: Open.

LANGUAGE: English.

PROVENANCE: Purchase from James Cummins, bookseller, New York City, 2019 (accession #2019.006).

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Archives & Special Collections also holds the manuscripts of Bard's "[Discourse on the Importance of Medical Education](#)" delivered Nov. 4, 1811 at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (published in 1812 by C. Van Winkle) and his "[Remarks on the Constitution, Government, Discipline & Expences of Medical Schools...](#)" composed in 1819 for the New York State Board of Regents.

LC Subjects:

Boerhaave, Herman, 1668-1738.
Medical education – Essays.

MESH:
Education, Medical.