

[Charles Frederick Chandler Papers, 1877-1888](#)

CHANDLER, CHARLES FREDERICK, 1836-1925.

Charles Frederick Chandler papers, 1877-1888.

62 items (1 box)

M-0032

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Charles F. Chandler, chemist and public health reformer, was born in Massachusetts on December 6, 1836. He received his doctorate in chemistry in 1856 from the University of Göttingen where he studied with the pioneering chemist Friedrich Wöhler. He taught chemistry at Union College, Schenectady, New York until 1864 when he became the first dean of Columbia University's newly-established School of Mines, currently the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science. He remained dean until 1897 and taught until 1910. For most of this same period he also taught chemistry at the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York and chemistry and medical jurisprudence at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Chandler was appointed to New York City's Metropolitan Board of Health in 1866 serving first as chemist and later as president (1873-1883). While leading the Board he advocated for milk inspection, tenement house reform, and for pure food and kerosene legislation.

Chandler was a founder of the American Chemical Society and the Chemists' Club and received many honors, including several honorary doctorates and the Perkin Medal from the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. He died August 25, 1925.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The papers are largely letters to Chandler on the topics of disinfectants during the period 1877-1879 and smallpox vaccination in 1886-1888. The 1877 letters deal with a controversy over the proper disinfectant to be used in the New York City dog pound while Chandler was serving as President of the Board of Health. The 1879 letters concern a circular on disinfectants he wrote at the request of the National Board of Health.

Correspondents include John Shaw Billings, James Lawrence Cabell, Herman Endemann, Stephen Smith, and Thomas J. Turner. There are also single letters from George F. Barker, Henry A. Bergh, and Elisha Harris.

ARRANGEMENT: Generally alphabetically by letter writer, then chronologically.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Open without restrictions.

CITE AS: Charles Frederick Chandler Papers, Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library.

PROVENANCE: Accession information is missing. The papers were found interfiled by author surname in the College of Physicians and Surgeons Manuscript Collection which appears to have been created in the mid-1960s. During a re-evaluation and reorganization of the P&S Manuscript Collection in 2018 it was decided to reconstitute the Chandler material as a separate collection.

These Chandler papers don't appear to have ever been part of the much larger collection of his papers held by Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: The Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library holds the bulk of Chandler's papers: http://findingaids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4078595

Subjects

Barker, George F. (George Frederick), 1835-1910.

Bergh, Henry, 1811-1888.

Billings, John S. (John Shaw), 1838-1913.

Cabell, J. L. (James Lawrence), 1813-1889.

Chandler, Charles Frederick, 1836-1925.

Endemann, Herman, 1842-1909.

Harris, Elisha, 1824-1884.

Smith, Stephen, 1823-1922.

Turner, Thomas J., 1815-1901.

National Board of Health (U.S.)

Disinfection and disinfectants.

Smallpox – Vaccination – United States.

Collection reorganized and finding aid written by Stephen E. Novak, 2018.

**Charles F. Chandler
Papers, 1877-1888**

Calendar of Letters: Box 1 of 1 / Unless otherwise noted the letters are to Chandler

Folder

- 1 Auchmuty, Richard Tylden
Lenox, Massachusetts, 11 November 1880
Note: Requesting he come to Lenox to investigate a swamp thought to be the cause of malaria.
- 2 Barker, George F.
Philadelphia, 21 August 1879
Note: Spoke with Dr. Squibb of Brooklyn who had many things to say about disinfectants.
- 3 Barnwell, I.S. [or J.S.?
New York, 19 August 1879
Note: Discussing the use of steam in disinfection.
- 4 Bergh, Henry
New York, 30 July 1877
To Mr. Janeway and Charles Frederick Chandler
Note: His reasons for using a disinfectant at the dog pound that was not approved by the Board of Health.
- 5 Billings, John Shaw
Philadelphia, 21 August 1879
Note: Has spoken with Dr. Squibb on disinfectants; asks if Chandler can speak at Saratoga.
- 6 Billings, John Shaw
Washington D.C., 4 February 1886
Note: Books on vaccination (includes list)
- 7 Billings, John Shaw
Washington, D.C., 5 July 1888
Note: Inquiring about the nature of Mr. Traphagen's bibliography.
- 8 Breinig, D.E.
New York, 4 August 1879
To Thomas J. Turner, Secretary, Board of Health, Washington, D.C.
Note: The formula for his paint disinfectant.

Folder

- 9 Cabell, J.L. [James Lawrence]
Washington, D.C., 9 August 1879
Note: Notification that National Board of Health has asked professors Barker and Remsen to assist Chandler on preparation of the circular on disinfectants.
- 10 Cabell, J.L. [James Lawrence]
Washington, D.C., 16 August 1879
Note: Telegram urging him to finish report on disinfectants.
- 11 Cabell, J.L. [James Lawrence]
Washington, D.C., 16 August 1879
To Dr. Samuel C. Smith
Note: Telegram asking if Chandler can hurry his report on disinfectants; the need is great.
- 12 Chandler, Charles Frederick
New York, 25 August 1879
To Thomas G. Turner
Note: Includes draft of Chandler's letter to Turner and printer's proofs of Chandler's "Instructions for Disinfecting" with corrections presumably in Chandler's hand.
- 13 Chandler, Parker C.
Boston, 2, 9 May 1885
Note: His client's development of a cotton tarred rope and the possibility of testing it.
- 14 Draper, Henry
Dobbs Ferry, New York, 18 August 1879
Note: Telegram regarding attendance at a conference.
- 15 Du Bois, A. J.
New Haven, Connecticut, 1 February 1888
Note: Reliable sources on the technique of vaccination.
- 16 Edson, Cyrus
New York, 4 February 1888
Note: List of best books on vaccination.
- 17 Eimer & Amend, firm
New York, 1 October 1888
Note: F.W. Dickinson does not furnish a smaller quantity of "Egrex Embalming Fluid" than five gallons.

Folder

- 18 Ely, Smith, Jr., Mayor, City of New York
New York, 24 July 1877
Note: Asking him to substitute a certain disinfectant for cleaning the dog pound.
- 19 Endemann, Hermann
McMahon, John, Keeper of the Dog Pound, to Endemann
New York, 11 July 1877
Note: Sulphate of zinc he sent can't be used as a disinfectant.
- 20 Endemann, Hermann
New York, 28 July 1879
Note: Use of disinfectants.
- 21 Endemann, Hermann
New York, 30 July 1877
To Walter DeForest Day
Note: Inspection of the dog pound and the use of disinfectant there. Note signed by John McMahon appended.
- 22 Endemann, Hermann
New York, 25 August 1879
Note: Enclosing proof sheet, instructions for disinfecting.
- 23 Gaylord, Charles
Chicago, 14 January 1880
Note: Requesting Chandler's analysis of a disinfectant.
- 24 Harris, Elisha
[Place unknown], 29 July 1879
Note: Regarding disinfecting postal matter and mail pouches.
- 25 Ingram, John
Vineland, New Jersey, 26 October 1883
Note: Regarding the efficacy of a certain solution.
- 26 James, Thomas L., Postmaster of New York City
New York, 26 July 1879
Note: Regarding means of disinfecting mail arriving from Memphis and other points where yellow fever prevails.

Folder

- 27 Janeway, Edward C.
[Place unknown, 1888?]
Note: Recommending Foster's article in Pepper's *System* on the technique of vaccination.
- 28 King, C. W.
New York, 29 July & 15 August 1879
Note: Offering his odorless disinfectant to the Board of Health (with trade card attached).
- 29 Nichols, F. R.
New York, 6 November 1876
Note: Regarding sample of carbolic acid he sent to him for analysis.
- 30 Schermerhorn, Frederick Augustus
Lenox, Massachusetts, 10 & 12 November 1880
Note: Regarding hope that Chandler can stay with him while he is investigating the area's malaria. Includes a telegram.
- 31 Seligman, Henry, Erdensalz Chemical Co.
New York, 30 July 1879
To National Board Health
Note: Calling the Board's attention to his company's odorless disinfectant (2 flyers enclosed).
- 32 Sellar, W.X. [William Cross]
Glenwood Springs, Colorado, 8 January 18--
Note: Article on the germ of scarlet fever (newspaper clipping enclosed); mining prospects in Colorado.
- 33 Slenin, James J., Dept. of Health
New York, 12 October 1877
Note: Requesting that Mr. Duffy be given the department's wagon work as previously (with a note appended).
- 34 Smith, Stephen
New York, 19 August 18—
Note: Meeting with Board of Health.
- 35 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D.C., 21 July 1879
Note: Possibility of memo on best disinfectants.

Folder

- 36 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D. C., 28 July [1879]
Note: Telegram asking if Chandler can examine the disinfectant.
- 37 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D.C., 28 July 1879
Note: Regarding disinfecting by way of dry heat.
- 38 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D.C., 29 July 1879
Note: Report on use of bisulphite of carbon as disinfectant.
- 39 Smith, Stephen
Chandler, Charles Frederick to Smith
New York, 29 July 1879
Note: Telegram regarding bisulphite of carbon unsuitable as disinfectant.
- 40 Smith, Stephen
New York, 13 August 1879
Note: National Board of Health to buy disinfectants and stockpile them at Cairo, Illinois.
- 41 Smith, Stephen
New York, 15 August 1879
Note: Urging completion of his circular on disinfectants.
- 42 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D.C., 22 August 1879
Note: Board has examined proofs of circular.
- 43 Smith, Stephen
Washington, D.C., 4 September 1879
Note: Circular to be reprinted.
- 44 Southwick, George William
New York, 25 July 1877
To T.W. Hartfield
Note: Use of the disinfectant they furnished for the city dog pound.
- 45 Stewart, W. E.
Baltimore, 18 August 1879
Note: Telegram regarding Professor Remsen stopping at Long Branch.

Folder

- 46 Thayer, Alfred Edward
Yonkers, New York, 3 September 1888
Note: Regarding whether “artificial frost” could be employed to stop yellow fever epidemics.
- 47 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 18 August 1879
Note: Telegram regarding Dr. Cabell’s desire of having circular on disinfectant by Wednesday.
- 48 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 27 August 1879
Note: Regarding forwarding bulletins.
- 49 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 30 August 1879
Note: Letter of thanks for his article on disinfection and disinfectants.
- 50 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 20 September 1879
Note: Transmitting letter of John Vansant on fumigation by sulfurous acids [Vansant letter not present].
- 51 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 30 October 1879
Note: Enclosing letter of Oct. 29, 1879 from James Meyer, Jr. to National Board of Health (includes copy of Meyer’s letter)
- 52 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 1 November 1879
Note: Request for publication of results on disinfectants.
- 53 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C. 6 December 1879
Note: Inquiring about the report on disinfectants.
- 54 Turner, Thomas J.
Washington, D.C., 23 December 1879
Note: Forwarding him a sample of B.B. Standen’s disinfecting and fumigating powder.