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[L. Emmett Holt Patient Records](#)

HOLT, L. EMMETT, 1855-1924.

L. Emmett Holt patient records, 1901-1923.

.25 cubic feet (1 box)

#M-0095

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Records of about 200 pediatric cases seen by Holt, 1901-1923, largely in New York City and its surrounding suburbs, although with a few out-of-town cases. The records include his typewritten case notes and supporting documentation that may include temperature and weight charts, urinalysis and radiology reports, x-ray photographs, and letters from parents and referring physicians.

With a very few exceptions, these were Holt's private patients, whose socioeconomic status was middle or upper class. Usually, he was called in for a single episode of acute illness, but there are some cases where Holt was clearly the family pediatrician.

The most frequent diagnoses are infant feeding difficulties, malnutrition, diarrhea and other gastrointestinal complaints. Cases of tuberculosis, nephritis, and "nervousness" are also present. In addition, there are a handful of cases of Down's Syndrome from Holt's work at the outpatient clinic of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Also included is an announcement card, 1899, notifying clients of a change in Holt's office hours.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Luther Emmett Holt was the most prominent American pediatrician of his time. He was educated at the University of Rochester (1875) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University (M.D. 1880), and served an internship at Bellevue Hospital. Though originally interested in orthopedics, Holt's focus soon shifted to pediatrics. In 1888 he became Attending Physician at New York's recently founded Babies Hospital, a position he held until his retirement. His *Care and Feeding of Children* (1894) was a worldwide bestseller, going through 75 editions and numerous translations. His textbook, *The Diseases of Infancy and Childhood* (1896), became the definitive text in English and went through 20 editions by 1996.

Holt was professor of diseases of children at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1901-1922. He died at Peking (now Beijing) in January 1924 while serving as visiting professor of pediatrics at the Peking Union Medical College.

ORGANIZATION: Numerically by case number.

ACCESS: Because the papers include Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access is allowed

only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' [Access Policy to Records Containing Confidential Health Information](#).

PROVENANCE: Gift of Dr. John Driscoll, Director, Babies & Children's Hospital/Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics, College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1999 (acc.#99.11.09).

Subjects:

Children – Diseases.

Children – Medical care.

Pediatrics – Practice – United States.

Medical records.