

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

[Microphotographs, circa 1872-1886](#)

Microphotographs, circa 1872-1886.

9 items (1 flat box)

M-0135

SCOPE AND CONTENT: A collection of nine late-19th century microphotographs of sections of the brain or nervous system. Of these, three are identified as being taken at the New York State Lunatic Asylum at Utica (later Utica State Hospital) “by order of John P. Gray, Medical Superintendent” but the photographer is not named. Six were made in 1872 by J.W.S. Arnold, head of the physiology laboratory at the medical school of the University of the City of New York (now New York University). Several of the Arnold prints have an inscription noting that the preparation photographed was prepared by Edward Constant Seguin, professor of neurology at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1867-1888.

The New York State Lunatic Asylum images are undated but cannot be later than 1886 when Gray died in office.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Open.

PROVENANCE: Archives & Special Collections has no information on the provenance of these items. They were discovered in a box also containing Edward Dowdall’s watercolors of rheumatoid arthritis patients, but there appears to be no connection between the two collections. E.C. Seguin bequeathed his medical instruments and library to the Pathological Laboratory of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, so it’s possible these items were included.

Subjects:

Brain – Anatomy.

Neuroanatomy.

Genre:

Microphotographs.

Scientific illustrations (images)

Added Authors:

Arnold, J.W.S. (John William Schmidt), 1846-1888, photographer.

New York (State). State Lunatic Asylum, issuing body.

Utica State Hospital (N.Y.), issuing body.

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Folder List

- 1 "Section through the corpus striatum," New York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica
- 2 "Trans-Section through the optic nerve between the chiasm and the optic foramen," New York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica
- 3 "Section through the convolution of the corpus callosum," New York State Lunatic Asylum, Utica
- 4 "Trans. Sect. of Spinal Cord of Sea Turtle," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872. With inscription: "From a preparation by E.C. Seguin"
- 5 "Trans. Sect. Spinal Cord of Sea Turtle," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872. With inscription: "From a preparation by E.C. Seguin"
- 6 "Trans. Sect. Spinal Cord of Sea Turtle," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872. With inscription: "From a preparation by E.C. Seguin"
- 7 "Medullated nerve fiber showing axis cylinder," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872
- 8 "Sub epithelial nerve plexus – frog – cornea," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872
- 9 "Medullated nerve fibers from frog," J.W.S. Arnold, New York, 1872