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[Elizabeth R. Prichard History of Social Work at Presbyterian Hospital](#)

PRICHARD, ELIZABETH R., 1915-2004.

[History of social work at Presbyterian Hospital, 1904-1980]

c. 200 p. (.25 cubic feet)

#M-0156

SUMMARY: A history of social work at Presbyterian Hospital and affiliated institutions from the establishment in 1904 of a visiting nurse program up through 1980. Through 1965, the history is Prichard's typewritten manuscript; after that date there are copies of the annual reports of the Presbyterian Hospital Department of Social Service. Interspersed throughout the manuscript are pages from annual reports of Presbyterian and Babies Hospitals and the Neurological Institute; memos and letters; and photographs.

During the period covered by this history, Presbyterian Hospital was located on Park Avenue and 70th Street before becoming, in 1928, part of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center at Broadway and 168th Street in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Presbyterian was one of the earliest US hospitals to establish a social service department. Its successor is the Department of Social Work of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

Social Service directors during the period covered by this history were Janet Thornton (1924-1946), Mercedes Geyer (1947-1954), and Prichard.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Prichard became a member of the Department of Social Service at Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, in 1949 and was named its director in 1954. The next year she was appointed head of the newly consolidated department which included the previously separate social service components of Babies Hospital and the Neurological Institute. She held academic appointments at the Columbia University School of Social Work as well as at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. She retired in 1981. Elizabeth Prichard died Oct. 24, 2004 in New York City.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Elizabeth R. Prichard, 2002 (acc.#2002.06.24).

SUBJECTS:

Geyer, Mercedes.

Prichard, Elizabeth R., 1915-2004.

Thornton, Janet.

Medical social work – United States.

Social medicine – United States.

Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Presbyterian Hospital (New York, NY). Dept. of Social Service.

Social Work – history – New York City.

Processed November, 2002, Stephen E. Novak