

# Guide to the Harry Gideon Wells Papers

Ms Coll 23



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 23

**CREATOR:** Wells, H. Gideon (Harry Gideon), 1875-1943

**TITLE:** Harry Gideon Wells papers

**DATES:** 1894-1943

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (2 boxes and 6 volumes)

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English.

**SUMMARY:** Harry Gideon Wells, pathologist and immunologist, was born July 21, 1875 in New Haven, Connecticut and attended Hillhouse High School. He graduated from Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, in 1895. He was an authority on the chemical aspects of pathology and immunology. Collection materials include his autobiography, student notebooks, drafts and published writings, reunion books, and obituaries.


**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0023>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0023>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder  
 vol. volume

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Sheila Amdur, 2007.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Harry Gideon Wells Papers. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Harry Gideon Wells, pathologist and immunologist, was born July 21, 1875 in New Haven, Connecticut and attended Hillhouse High School. The failure of his father's wholesale drug business led his family to move to Chicago in 1893, where his father opened a drugstore. Wells graduated from Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, in 1895, where he studied physiological chemistry with Professors Russell Chittenden and Lafayette B. Mendel. He graduated from Rush Medical College in 1898 and received a PhD in Pathology at University of Chicago in 1903. He took a postgraduate year abroad in 1905. From 1901 to 1940, he was a member of the medical faculty of the University of Chicago and served as longtime chair of the department of pathology. He was an authority on the chemical aspects of pathology and immunology. His text, *Chemical Pathology*, went through several editions beginning in 1907. He also published books on the chemistry of tuberculosis and on the chemical aspects of immunology. He died in Chicago on April 26, 1943.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection includes materials written by Wells, including his typewritten autobiography with his pencil annotations, two student notebooks on physiological chemistry from the Sheffield Scientific School, 1894-1895, a pathology notebook of research conducted under Dr. Emil Abderhalden at the University of Berlin in 1905, and two notebooks containing drafts of papers from the 1930s. The autobiography includes chapters on his boyhood in New Haven, Hillhouse High School, Sheffield Scientific School, medical school, and his later research career as well as his hobby, fishing. Published materials include four volumes of reprints of his articles, three scrapbooks of his editorials and short pieces clipped from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, two reunion volumes from the Sheffield Scientific School, and a folder of biographical material including a typewritten obituary by Ludwig Hektoen.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: I. Manuscripts, 1894-1930; II. Published papers, 1897-1935; and III. Biographical materials, 1927-1943.

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## Collection Contents

### Manuscripts, 1894–1930



b. 1, f. 1	Harry Gideon Wells autobiography Typewritten autobiography with pencil annotations, on his boyhood in New Haven, Sheffield Scientific School, medical school, his research, his friendship with Howard Taylor Ricketts, and fishing, 160 pp.	Circa 1930
b. 1, f. 2-3	Physiological chemistry laboratory notebook, Sheffield Scientific School Includes laboratory notebooks for physiological chemistry with loose pages of examination questions. Wells also used the notebook for "Lectures on Organic Chemistry, Prof. J.U. Nef, 1907."	1894–1895, 1907
b. 1, f. 4	Berlin notebook Handwritten research notebook (Tagebuch) from the University of Berlin, "Hydrolysis of Horse Hair, Jan-July, 1905. under Dr. E. Abderhalden," on his research abroad with Emil Abderhalden, 1877-1950, 283 pp.	1905
b. 1, f. 5	Article drafts Notebook containing drafts of two articles, one on general observations on cancer and the other on arteriosclerosis.	Circa 1930
b. 1, f. 6	Case study drafts Notebook containing unpublished [?] drafts of two articles based on unusual medical cases.	Circa 1930

**Published papers, 1897–1935**

Series includes scrapbooks containing loose clippings and are arranged by dates. Reprints in bound volumes are numbered 1-195 with index in volume IV.

b. 2,  vol. 1	Scrapbook, volume I	1901–1908
b. 2,  vol. 2	Scrapbook, volume II	1906–1911
b. 2,  vol. 3	Scrapbook, volume III	1911–1932
 vol. 4	Reprints, volume I: no. 1-42	1897–1907
 vol. 5	Reprints, volume II: no. 43-84	1907–1911
 vol. 6	Reprints, volume III: no. 86-149	1912–1921
 vol. 7	Reprints, volume IV, no. 151-195	1921–1935

**Biographical materials, 1927–1943**

 vol. 8	Parsons, William Usher. <i>Quindecennial Record of the Class of 1895 Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press	1912
 vol. 9	Bronson, Roscoe E. <i>Tricennial Record of the Class of 1895 Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University</i> . New Haven: The Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Company	1927
b. 1, f. 7	Obituaries Includes a typed obituary by Ludvig Hektoewn dated April 29, 1943; a signed, published tribute by Arno B. Luckhardt; an obituary by Paul R. Cannon; and newspaper clippings.	1941–1943

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Cancer  
Fishing  
Immunology  
Pathology

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.)

### **Names**

Abderhalden, Emil, 1877-1950  
Chittenden, R. H. (Russell Henry), 1856-1943  
Hektoen, Ludvig, 1863-1951  
Mendel, Lafayette B. (Lafayette Benedict),  
1872-1935  
Ricketts, Howard Taylor, 1871-1910  
Wells, H. Gideon (Harry Gideon), 1875-1943

### **Corporate Bodies**

Hillhouse High School (New Haven, Conn.)  
Yale University. Sheffield Scientific School