DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Collection name:  Arthur Dean Bevan Papers (1894-1953)

Repository:  Rush University Medical Center Archives

Creator:  Bevan, Arthur Dean, (1861-1943)

Call Number:  329

Language:  English

Extent:
  Items:  About 250 items
  Linear feet:  5.0

Abstract:
Surgeon Arthur Dean Bevan was born in Chicago, Ill., 6 or 9 August 1861. Bevan graduated from Rush Medical School in 1883. He became a professor of anatomy at Rush Medical College, 1887; associate professor of surgery, 1889; and professor of surgery, 1902. He succeeded Nicholas Senn as head of the surgical department at Rush and Presbyterian Hospital in 1907. He held these positions until his retirement from medicine in 1934. Bevan held many positions in several medical organizations. From 1904 through 1928, he was chairman of the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education. Through his leadership the council did much to standardize medical education in the country. Bevan wrote a number of professional papers on a wide range of surgical procedures, medical education, anesthesiology, and prohibition. He was the first surgeon to use ethylene-oxygen clinically as an anesthesia, 14 march 1923. Bevan died 10 June 1943.

The Arthur Dean Bevan Papers include biographical information, correspondence, writings, organizational records, and miscellaneous material. Biographical information includes clippings and bibliographies related to Bevan. Correspondence includes letters to, from, and about Bevan. A few of the letters relate to medical matters. Writings include articles, addresses, and course lectures written by Bevan concerning his medical research, medical education, medical history, and prohibition. Also included are a few articles written by others, including an interview with Bevan. Organizational records include club by-laws and membership lists for country clubs and other organizations of which Bevan was a member.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions to access:
Folder “Patient Cases, 1926” is RESTRICTED

Acquisitions information:
Received from the Antiquities Committee of Rush Medical College of Chicago, Ill., in May 1995 (RG 45000/Acc. M95-019). This collection is a compilation of this acquisition, Bevan’s biographical reference file, and Bevan’s papers from the reprints collection.

Processing Information:

Preferred Citation:
[Identification of item], in the Arthur Dean Bevan Papers, Rush University Medical Center Archives.

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Potential Catalog Headings:

Bevan, Arthur Dean, 1861-1943.
Presbyterian Hospital of the City of Chicago
Rush Medical College
Rush University Medical Center—History, 19th century
Rush University Medical Center—History, 20th century
Chicago, Ill.
History of medicine. United States. Chicago (Ill.)
Medical education. United States.
American Medical Association. Council on Medical Education.
Surgery education.
Prohibition.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:
O94-038 Francis H. Straus oral history
RG044000: Photograph Collection

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Surgeon Arthur Dean Bevan was born in Chicago, Ill., 6 or 9 August 1861, to Thomas Bevan, a physician, and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Bevan, whose maiden name was Sarah Elizabeth Ramsey. Bevan married Anna L. Barber in 1896. Bevan attended Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1879 and graduated from Rush Medical School in 1883. Upon graduation from Rush he served with the United States Marine Hospital Service until 1888, stationed in Portland, Ore. While in Portland, he was professor of anatomy at University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, 1886. He became a professor of anatomy at Rush Medical College, 1887; associate professor of surgery, 1889; and professor of surgery, 1902. He succeeded Nicholas Senn as head of the surgical
department at Rush and Presbyterian Hospital in 1907. He held these positions until his retirement from medicine in 1934.

Bevan held many positions in several medical organizations. From 1904 through 1928, he was chairman of the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education. Through his leadership the council did much to standardize medical education in the country. He served as president of many professional organizations including the American Medical Association, 1918-1919, the American Surgical Association, 1932, and the Chicago Surgical Society, 1908. He also held memberships in the following organizations: the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Clinical Surgery, the International Surgical Society, and the American Society for Cancer Control.

Bevan wrote a number of professional papers on a wide range of surgical procedures, medical education, anesthesiology, and prohibition. He was the first surgeon to use ethylene-oxygen clinically as an anesthesia, 14 March 1923. During World War I, Bevan served in the Surgeon General's Office in Washington, D.C. In 1918 he was made an officer of the Legion of Honor (France) in recognition of his services as president of the American Medical Association. Bevan died on 10 June 1943.

COLLECTION OVERVIEW:

Surgeon Arthur Dean Bevan’s papers include biographical information, correspondence, writings, organizational records, and miscellaneous material related to his work as surgeon and professor at Presbyterian Hospital and Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., and as chairman of the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education. Biographical information includes clippings and bibliographies related to Bevan. Clippings include obituaries and biographical sketches. Correspondence includes letters to, from, and about Bevan. A few of the letters relate to medical matters. Writings include articles, addresses, papers, and course lectures and related material and drafts written by Bevan concerning his medical research, medical education, medical history, and prohibition. Also included are a few articles written by others, including an interview with Bevan. Organizational records include club by-laws and membership lists for country clubs and social organizations of which Bevan was a member. Miscellaneous material include a guest book for a dinner hosted by Bevan, 1921; Bevan’s high school report card, 1877; an invitation sent to Bevan, 1926; Bevan’s notes and course information related to Rush Medical College; and an Annual Announcement for Rush Medical College, 1896-1897.

ARRANGEMENT OF SERIES:

1. Biographical information, 1917, 1943, 1945 and undated
2. Correspondence, 1909-1953
3. Writings, 1894-1937
   3.1. Reports and Addresses by Bevan, 1894-1937 and undated
   3.2. Lectures, 1923, 1928
   3.3. Writings by others, 1930 and undated
4. Organizational records, 1930-1942
5. Miscellaneous material, 1877-1926 and undated

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION:

Series 1. Biographical Information, 1917, 1943, 1945 and undated

About 15 items
Scope Content: Biographical information includes clippings and bibliographies related to Bevan. Clippings include obituaries and biographical sketches. One article relates to Bevan’s election as president of the American Medical Association, 1917. A clipping from 1945 relates to Bevan’s will and his bequeathals to Presbyterian Hospital, Rush Medical College, and Lake Forest Hospital.

BOX 1

Biographical Information and Clippings
Bibliographies

Series 2. Correspondence and related material, 1909-1953

14 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Correspondence includes letters to, from, and about Bevan. Many of the letters relate to Rush Medical Center’s library holdings and donations concerning Bevan both before and after Bevan’s death. A few of the letters relate to medical matters.

BOX 1 (continued)

Correspondence, 1909-1953

Series 3. Writings, 1894-1937 and undated

About 200 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Writings include articles, addresses, papers, and course lectures and related material and drafts written by Bevan. Subjects include medical research, medical education, medical history, and prohibition during his time at both Presbyterian Hospital and Rush Medical College and also during his time as chairman of the American Medical Association’s Council on Medical Education. Also included are a few articles written by others, including an interview with Bevan. Researchers should note that Bevan’s original spelling of medical conditions and other terms have been retained and the accepted spelling may have changed over time.
BOX 1 (continued)

Subseries 3.1 Reports and Addresses by Bevan, 1894-1937 and undated

About 170 items
Arrangement: mostly chronological
Scope Content: Reports, addresses, and drafts by Bevan concerning his medical research and interests in medical education, medical history, and prohibition. Dates may represent when an address was first given or when an item was first published in writing. Drafts are included with a published version when available and may include notations and sketches by Bevan. Miscellaneous drafts include drafts of reports and addresses written by Bevan with uncertain titles or dates.

A page from Bevan’s draft for “The Presbyterian Hospital: A Statement Made to the Board of Managers and the Medical Staff of its Work, of its Great Possibilities and its Needs,” 20 May 1929, was written on the back of a letter dated 22 May 1929, from Forgan & Company Bank Stocks hoping to add Bevan as a customer.

Bevan’s papers “The Over-Crowding of the Medical Profession,” November 1936 and “The Jewish Problem,” [1935?] present his opinions on the fact that the number of Jewish Americans entering medical school was becoming disproportional to their numbers in the general population.

“The Study of Medicine,” September 1894
“Real and Alleged Injuries of the Spine,” 1 May 1895
“Present Status of Operative Treatment for Bladder-Stone,” May 1896
“A New Incision for the Surgery of Bile Tracts,” June 1897
“Surgery in Relation to General Medicine,” February 1898
“Gall Stones: Cholelithiasis,” 1898
“The Science of Medicine and its Relations to the Public,” 1899
“Traumatic Neuroses from the Standpoint of a Surgeon,” June 1900
“Diagnosis of Stone in the Kidney by the X-Ray, and its Treatment,” March 1901
“Surgery of the Stomach,” 24 January 1903
“The Surgical Treatment of Anuria,” April 1903
“The Surgical Treatment of Undescended Testicle,” 19 September 1903
“Hydrophobia: Measures for Prevention,” 1903
“The X-Ray as a Therapeutic Agent,” 2 January 1904
“Surgery of the Kidney,” 1904

[In BOX 11: “Acid Intoxication and Late Poisonous Effects of Anesthetics,” 2 September 1905]

“The Surgery of the Stomach,” 30 September 1905
“Actinomycosis,” October 1905
“Treatment of Actinomycosis and Blastomycosis with Copper Salts,” 11 November 1905
“The Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis of the Kidney,” 1906
“The Diagnosis and Treatment of Kidney Stone,” May 1906
“Nitrous Oxide as an Anesthetic in Major Surgery,” 20 July 1907

BOX 2

“The Advance of Modern Medical Science,” [1907?]
“Medical Education in the United States,” 1907-1908
“The Occurrence of Glanders in Man,” 8 January 1908
“The Diagnosis and Treatment of Kidney Stone,” June 1908
“Present Status of Kidney Surgery,” 1908
“The Effect of Gas, Ether, and Chloroform on the Blood,” [1908?]
“The Surgical Treatment of Stone, Tuberculosis and Tumors of the Kidneys,” July 1909
“The Diagnosis and Treatment of Stone in the Ureter,” November 1909
“Supra-pubic Prostatectomy,” 1909-1910
“Kidney and Ureteral Stone,” 26 February 1910
“Traumatic Neuroses,” 1910

[In BOX 11: “The Cure of Cancer and Cancer Cures,” 1910]

“Tuberculosis of the Kidney and Ureter,” 3 February 1911
“Congenital Pyloric Stenosis,” February 1911
“The Treatment of Acute General Peritonitis,” 22 April 1911
“The Choice of the Anesthetic,” 2 December 1911
“The Operative Treatment of Fractures,” June 1912
“Dilatation of the Large Bowel,” 13 July 1912
“Tuberculosis of the Genito-Urinary Organs,” 1912
Descriptions of European Tour of Hospitals and Clinics, 1912

BOX 3

“Medical Education and the Hospital,” 29 March 1913
“A Clinical Research on the Surgery of the Upper Abdomen,” May 1913
Miscellaneous Drafts, 1913-1923
“Medicine a Function of the State,” 14 March 1914
“Headship and Organization of Clinical Departments of First-Class Medical Schools,” 12 March 1915
“The Choice and Technic of the Anesthetic,” 23 October 1915
“A New Operation for Hypospadias,” 7 April 1917
“Problem of Unnecessary Operations and of Incompetent Surgeons,” 12 July 1917
“The Carrel-Cakin Treatment,” 17 November 1917
“Cancer and its Surgical Treatment,” December 1917
“Compound Comminuted Fracture of the Tibia and Fibula from Railroad Injury; General Considerations of Abdominal Surgery; Importance of Diagnosis and Therapy; Fascial Sarcoma in Lower Quadrant of Abdomen; Coley’s Toxins and the Use of the X-ray in the Treatment of Sarcoma; Sarcoma of the Ilium; Remarks on X-ray Burns; Injury of the Pelvis, Separation at the Symphysis, External Urethrotomy, and Suprapubic Drainage of the Bladder,” 1917

“Fractures: War Department Fracture Course,” 16 January 1918

“The Problem of Hospital Organization, with Special Reference to the Coordination of General Surgery and the Surgical Specialties,” May 1918

“The Organization of the Medical Profession for War,” June 1918

“The Present Status of the Surgery of the Bile Tract,” July 1918

“Multilocular Cystadenoma of the Liver,” August 1919

Drafts for “Surgical Clinics, Chicago,” 1919

“Surgery of Cancer of the Large Intestine,” 31 July 1920

“Diaphragmatic Hernia,” July 1920

“Diverticula of the Esophagus,” 29 January 1921

“Supplement to the Report of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals,” June 1921

“Address Delivered in Chicago upon Presentation of the Medal of the Legion of Honor,” 10 November 1921

“X-Ray Burns; Acute Appendicitis, Carcinoma of the Stomach; Two Cases of Mediastinal Tumor which Proved to be Substernal Thyroid Enlargements” 1921

BOX 4

“Tumors of the Breast from the Standpoint of the General Practitioner and the General Surgeon,” February 1922

“Carcinoma of the Stomach: Resection by the Second Billroth Method,” June 1922

“Endothelioma of the Spinal Cord,” June 1922

“Relative Value of Surgical and Medical Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer,” 1 July 1922

“The Revision of the Medical Curriculum,” 28 April 1923

“Pancreatic Cyst; Actinomycosis of the Kidney; Kidney Stone,” August 1923

“Hemorrhage from the Stomach,” March 1924

“Carcinoma of the Colon; Difficult Diagnosis of Abdominal Tumors,” [1924?]

“Ethylene-Oxygen Anesthesia in General Surgery,” [1924?]

“Surgery of the Spleen,” [August 1925]

“A Restudy of the Radical Operations for Hernia…,” October 1925

“Ulcer and Carcinoma of the Stomach and Duodenum…,” 2 December 1925

“The Organization of the University Medical School,” 15 February 1926

“Surgery of the Stomach,” [August 1926]

“A Restudy of the Surgery of the Bile Tracts,” 21 October 1926

“The Need of Teaching Medical Ethics,” 26 February 1927

“The Selection and Administration of Anaesthetics,” May 1927

“Melanotic Tumor of the Brain,” June 1927
“The Early Diagnosis and the Radical Surgical Treatment of Carcinoma of the Stomach,” 18 October 1927
“The Story of the Surgery of Tumors of the Brain and Spinal Cord,” 6 December 1927

BOX 5

“The Surgery of the Spleen,” 6 January 1928
“Cooperation in Medical Education and Medical Service,” 14 April 1928
“Surgical Technic of Splenectomy; with Presentation of New Incision,” September 1928
“Alcohol and Prohibition from the Standpoint of Modern Scientific Medicine,” December 1928
“Gastro-Enterostomy Disease,” [1928?]
“The Operation for Undescended Testis…,” 4 May 1929
“The Presbyterian Hospital: A Statement Made to the Board of Managers and the Medical Staff of its Work, of its Great Possibilities and its Needs,” 20 May 1929
“The Tumors of the Carotid Body,” December 1929
“The Acute Abdomen,” [1929]
“The Peptic Ulcer: Its Etiology, its History and its Surgical Treatment,” February 1930
“Sliding Hernias of the Ascending Colon and Caecum, the Descending Colon and Sigmoid, and of the Bladder,” 16 May 1930
“The Development of the Medical Center of the Presbyterian Hospital and Rush College of the University of Chicago,” 10 June 1930
“Paper Read by Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan at Dinner Given to the Officers and Members of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association,” 23 June 1930
“The Acute Abdomen,” October 1930
“Problem of Tumors of Breast from Standpoint of General Practitioner and Surgeon,” 1 November 1930
“The Story of Tumors of the Breast from the Standpoint of the General Practitioner and Surgeon: Diagnosis, Treatment, Pathology and Prognosis,” 1930
“Two Cases of Gallstone Disease,” [1930]
“A Series of Clinical Cases Illustrating the General Principles Involved in the Operation of Laparotomy,” [February 1931]
“The Present Status of the Anesthesia Problem,” March 1931
“Abdominal Actinomycosis,” [February 1932]
“Penetrating Gastric Ulcer,” [February 1932]
“Prescribing of Alcoholic Liquors by Physicians,” 23 April 1932
“Abdominal Incisions and their Closure,” 16 May 1932

BOX 6
“The Present Status of the Problem of Peptic Ulcer Disease,” 26 October 1932
“The Surgical Management of Gallstone Disease,” [October 1932]
“The Hospital in the Study and Practice of Medicine,” March 1933
“Reunion of the Class of 1883,” 13 June 1933
“The Choice of Anesthetic Methods,” 16 October 1933
“The Study and Teaching and the Practice of Surgery,” October 1933
“Use of x-Ray in Papillary Cystadenocarcinoma of the Ovary,” [October 1933]
“Rush Medical College,” 1933-1934
“The Present Status of the Treatment of Undescended Testicle,” 6 April 1934
“Dr. McArthur’s Illustrious Career and Achievements,” 1 June 1934
“The Pathologic Anatomy, Etiology, and the Surgical Management of Peptic Ulcer,” August 1934
“Carcinoma of the Breast: Surgical Treatment,” 10 October 1934
The Bassini Method for the Cure of Hernia and related correspondence, 1934-1935
“Treatment of Peritonitis,” June 1935
“The Jewish Problem,” [1935?]
“The Present Status of the Problem of Appendicitis,” February 1936
“The Over-Crowding of the Medical Profession,” November 1936

BOX 7

“The Treatment of Undescended Testicles with Anterior Pituitary-like Substance,” March 1937
“Pioneer Professional School of the West,” [1930s?] Addresses to Chicago Surgical Society, Society of Clinical Surgery, and others, [1928? -1932 and undated]
“Alcohol from the Standpoint of Modern Scientific Medicine,” [undated]
“The Clinical Professors in our University Medical Schools,” [undated]
Council on Medical Education remarks and reports by Bevan
“The Laying of the Cornerstone of the Nancy Adele McElwee Memorial,” [undated]
“Modern Medicine, the Modern Hospital, and the Trained Nurse,” [undated]
“Pancreatic Cyst,” [undated]
Physician Biographies by Bevan
“The Problem of Organization and Administration of the Surgical Work in our Military Hospitals with Special Reference to the Co-ordination of General Surgery and the Surgical Specialties,” [undated]
Untitled [General Practitioners in Practice], [undated]
Miscellaneous Drafts, [undated] (folders 1 and 2 of 3)

BOX 8

Miscellaneous Drafts, [undated] (folder 3 of 3)
Subseries 3.2. Lectures, 1923, 1928
About 30 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Lectures include course lectures Bevan delivered at Rush Medical Center on various topics.

BOX 8 (continued)
Lectures, 1923 (2 folders)
Lectures, 1928 (4 folders)

Subseries 3.3. Writings by others, 1930 and undated
2 items
Scope Content: Writings by others include articles on two of Bevan’s subjects of interest; medical education and the use of alcohol in medical settings. Ernest’s article consists of an interview conducted with Bevan.

BOX 9
“The Relation of Medical Education to Medical Progress,” by Henry S. Pritchett, [undated]
“What Everyone Should Know about Alcohol: A Distinguished Chicago Surgeon Discusses Liquor Control as an Aid to Health,” by Gifford Ernest, 1930 (interview with Bevan)

Series 4. Organizational Records, 1930-1942
8 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Organizational records include club by-laws and membership lists for country clubs and other organizations of which Bevan was a member.

BOX 9 (continued)
Midwick Country Club, 1930; The Chicago Club, 1932
The Chicago Club, 1935; The History of Room 100, 1935
Shoreacres, 1939; The Chicago Club, 1940
University Club of Chicago, 1941; Old Elm Club, 1942

Series 5. Miscellaneous, 1877-1926 and undated
About 15 items
Arrangement: alphabetical
Scope Content: Miscellaneous material includes an annual report for the City Hospital of Akron, Ohio, 1904-1905; “Fifty Year Club” certificate, 1938; a guest book for a dinner hosted by Bevan, 1921; Bevan’s high school report card, 1877; an invitation sent to Bevan, 1926; Bevan’s notes and course information related to Rush Medical College; and an Annual Announcement for Rush Medical College, 1896-1897.

BOX 9 (continued)

The City Hospital of Akron, Annual Report, 1904-1905

BOX 10

“Fifty Year Club” certificate, 1938; Guest Book, Dinner at the Blackstone Hotel, 10 November 1921
High School Report Card, 1877; Invitation, 1926
Medical College and Course Information and other material [undated]

[In BOX 11: RESTRICTED: Patient Cases, 1926]

Rush Medical College, Annual Announcement, 1896-1897

BOX 11

From Subseries 3.1: “Acid Intoxication and Late Poisonous Effects of Anesthetics,” 2 September 1905
From Subseries 3.1: “The Cure of Cancer and Cancer Cures,” 1910
From Series 5: RESTRICTED: Patient Cases, 1926