BACKGROUND ON CYRUS MORTON

On January 14, 1797, Cyrus Morton was born into a notable medical family from Plymouth County, Mass. His father Nathaniel and son Thomas were both physicians, and his sister-in-law, Julia A.W. (Drew) Winslow was one of the first female medical doctors in the Commonwealth. Morton’s second wife, Lydia Hall (Drew) Morton, was one of the first teachers at the Perkins School for the Blind, and a member of the first graduating class of the Lexington Normal School. Morton died in Halifax on May 18, 1873.

Morton’s account book contains records of frequent visits to his patients, dispensing medicine, his fees and receipts for payment (often received in kind as pigs, fish, beef, hay, wood, the use of a horse, spinning done by widows or wives, digging a well, carpentry, etc.), and a copy of a prayer in Morton’s hand. Among Morton’s patients were Timothy Wood, Stafford Sturtevant, Jacob Thompson, Capts. Knapp and Cushman, and Cyrus Munroe.

ACCESS

The collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE:

English

Cyrus Morton Account Book

1828-1838

1 volume (0.25 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 185

CONTENTS OF COLLECTION

Dating from the years 1828-1838, Cyrus Morton’s account book is the third of several kept by the physician. It includes careful records of visits to his numerous patients, sometimes every day in times of need, and records of dispensing medicine. Tucked inside the book is a prayer in Morton’s hand asking, “Is the love of God the governing principle of my life?”

The volume records the dates and fees for visits for each patient, but rarely specifies the illness treated or medicine dispensed, with only a few exceptions (e.g., extracting teeth, “delivering your wife”). Payment frequently came in the form of goods and services: pigs, fish, beef, hay, wood, the use of a horse, spinning done by widows or wives, digging a well, carpentry, etc. Among Morton’s patients were Timothy Wood, Stafford Sturtevant, Jacob Thompson, Capts. Knapp and Cushman, and Cyrus Munroe.
Administrative information

Provenance


Related Material

See also the account books of a contemporary and fellow medical graduate of Brown, Amory Gale (MS 259bd).

Processing Information

Processed by Kimberley Foster, 2003.

Acknowledgments

Encoding funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Copyright and Use (More information)

Cite as: Cyrus Morton Account Book (MS 185bd). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

• Halifax (Mass.)--Social life and customs--19th century.
• Physicians--Massachusetts--19th century.

Names

• Morton, Cyrus, 1797-1873.

Genre terms

• Account books.