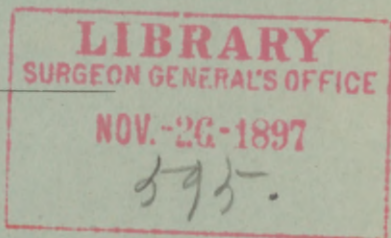


SPIVAK (C.D.)

HOW EVERY TOWN MAY SECURE A
MEDICAL LIBRARY.

BY
C. D. SPIVAK, M.D.,
OF DENVER, COL.



FROM
THE MEDICAL NEWS,
October 2, 1897.

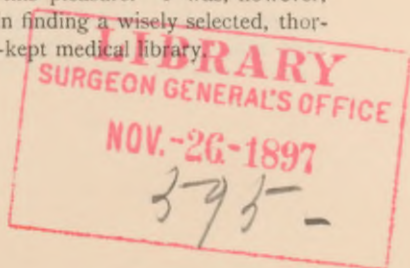
HOW EVERY TOWN MAY SECURE A MEDICAL LIBRARY.

To the Editor of THE MEDICAL NEWS.

DEAR SIR: That a large, well-selected public medical library is an absolute necessity for any one who wishes to write upon or thoroughly study any subject connected with the art and science of medicine, no one will dispute. The experiences of ages and the results of innumerable investigations are crystallized in books. Every book is a great institution by itself. On this shelf is my physiological laboratory, on the other my biological institute; here my anatomical theater, there my lying-in-hospital. Whenever I wish, I can converse with Virchow, Da Costa, and Keen. I can at will make all the dead, from Galen to Charcot, arise and give me in turn some of their wisdom.

I do not presume I have said anything new, for every one of us is somewhat of a book-worm, yet the number of cities that possess a public medical library may be counted upon the fingers. True, some of our fortunate brethren-in-Esculapius can buy all the books they wish to read, but no individual can afford to get together all the books that he *might* at some time wish to consult. It is obvious, that the most practical and most economic way for each community is to own a public medical library, where the best works may be gathered together, and where one book supplies the wants of many, at a small cost to all concerned.

When I came to Denver, after having fattened upon the luxuries of the library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, I thought that in the wild and woolly West I should miss entirely this pleasure. I was, however, pleasantly disappointed in finding a wisely selected, thoroughly indexed and well-kept medical library.



Having had an occasion to make some extensive research, I found, to my regret, that the library was not sufficient for my purpose. It was natural that I should turn to my friends and acquaintances for assistance. I went from one physician to the other and inquired for the volumes I wished to consult. And, lo and behold, to my great joy I had to cry *eureka* a good many times a day; in fact, I found upon the shelves of the private libraries of my friends here and there a book which would make the mouth of the Surgeon-General water. Furthermore, I have convinced myself that the physicians themselves on account of lack of proper arrangement and the absence of an index or catalogue did not know what valuable books they owned. The larger the collection of books, the more difficult it was to ascertain what it contained, and the less available it was for reference.

I then conceived the idea of a Union Catalogue of Medical Books and Journals and on December 9, 1896, I read a paper before the Denver and Arapahoe Medical Society, entitled: "How the Library of the Colorado Medical Association Can Double the Number of its Volumes without Making Any New Purchase—A Suggestion." The title of the paper, which seemed to many to be of the "catchy" sort, brought to the meeting all the officers of the library, and also the accomplished librarian Mr. J. C. Dana, all of whom were eager to find out how to make something out of nothing.

My suggestion was a very simple one. A catalogue of the public medical library should be sent out to every physician residing in Denver with a circular letter requesting that he should at his leisure prepare a list of such of his books and journals as are not found in the public library; such list to be returned to the librarian. The librarian should prepare a card catalogue of such books and periodicals as the lists should furnish; such catalogue to be kept for reference. Each card should indicate in

whose office each book may be found, and at what hours it would be accessible to readers. By adopting this plan I was sure that a thousand volumes of medical works which are not to be found in the public library could at once become available for use, and this, without expense or inconvenience to any one.

The writer of these lines had the satisfaction of hearing the consensus of opinion that the plan was both useful and feasible.

The work has been accomplished. The librarian has prepared a carefully indexed card catalogue by author, title, and subject of all the books and journals from the lists which I have furnished. The result has exceeded the most sanguine expectations. We have added to our library about two thousand titles, and more than six thousand volumes. The physicians without exception have heartily co-operated in the work, and cheerfully offered their books upon the altar of mutual helpfulness.

Of course, this plan may be carried out more efficiently in any city where there is a medical library. But in cities where there is no library by adopting this plan the foundation of such can be laid, provided the physicians will show a spirit of fraternity and co-operation. Even in small cities there are enough books scattered among the practitioners to constitute a good reference library, if they were only supplemented with a good index. Experience has taught us that we cannot leave the work of making out the lists to the physicians themselves. The work must be accomplished by one or two individuals. He who has just graduated, or who has a superabundance of time on his hands should undertake this work of love. He will soon find that the work besides being profitable to the whole profession, which will be gratefully acknowledged, will at the same time be of great help to him in the future. He will acquire an acquaintance with the medical literature which he could not otherwise obtain.

He will see all the prominent physicians at their best, for no matter how uncommunicable a man may be by nature you will find him talkative and genial when the subject concerns his favorite books.

I hope that this plan will be adopted wherever the profession is fairly organized and living together amicably. This practical and inexpensive plan will not only foster learning and facilitate research, but it will strengthen the moral ties which bind the members of the profession one to the other, and, eventually will serve as a nucleus of a future library.

C. D. SPIVAK, M.D.,

No. 608 CALIFORNIA BUILDING, DENVER COL.

***HOW EVERY TOWN MAY POSSESS A GENERAL
MEDICAL LIBRARY.***

A SUGGESTION under this title is made by one of our correspondents which is worthy the careful consideration of every member of the profession residing in a town not yet possessing a public medical library. There are certain standard works which every practising physician must feel are indispensable to his daily work, and which he must have at hand for constant consultation. At the same time the fact must be recognized that few physicians are able to own all the books which at times they feel the necessity of consulting. To provide for such contingencies, the suggestion of our correspondent seems practicable and worthy of prompt and general adoption.

In connection with the subject of books, we are

apt to recall the familiar statement of Emerson: "I visit occasionally the Cambridge library, and I can seldom go there without renewing the conviction that the best of it all is already within the four walls of my study at home. The crowds and centuries of books are only commentary and elucidation, echoes and weakeners of these few great voices of Time." This is true in the realm of letters, but does not suffice in the department of medicine. Medical science is advancing so rapidly at the present time that the latest and best book of the highest authority becomes antiquated in many of its details and demands a revised edition almost before the first has been exhausted. Moreover, no single authority is able to present all of the facts and experiences of the different observers from which his conclusions are drawn. Every practitioner who is at the same time a student in his special work desires very often to go behind the conclusions even of the best authority and investigate the facts upon which his deductions are based. The doctor, therefore, is called upon to buy many books, and his desires in this direction frequently outrun his ability to satisfy them. By adopting the suggestion of our correspondent, especially when consultation is held as to how the investment in books from year to year shall be made, all of the latest and best authorities may be brought within the reach of the humblest practitioner.

DR. C. D. SPIVAK,

608 California Building,

Denver, Colorado.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE: 608 CALIFORNIA BUILDING.

Denver, Colo., Dec 31st 1897

J. C. Merrill, Major & Surgeon U.S.A., debrarion S.G.O
Washington D.C.

Dear Doctor,

The enclosed pamphlet and circulars will ex-
plain themselves. I thought that I can pave the way
for others, and will try to do as much as I can with
the limited means at my disposal. I have sent out 300
Circulars to Medical Societies and 100 circulars to libra-
ries. I do not know yet what responses I will receive.
I hope to secure your cooperation in this work, and
expect to receive from you an expression of opinion
about this undertaking.

Yours Respectfully,
C. Spivak

1881

J. C. ...
Washington

Dear Brother

The enclosed ...
I hope to receive your cooperation in the work, and
express to you my appreciation of your
kindness in the matter.

Yours very truly,
W. H. ...

THE
DENVER AND ARAPAHOE MEDICAL
SOCIETY.

To Medical Societies

DR. W. A. JAYNE, President.
DR. C. D. SPIVAK, Secretary,
608 California Building.

DENVER, COLO., Dec. 24, 1897.

DEAR SIR:--The Denver and Arapahoe Medical Society sends a pleasant New Year's greeting to your Society.

We enclose a reprint entitled "How Every City May Secure a Medical Library." This Society has given sanction to the plan proposed, and it was adopted and successfully carried out in connection with the Colorado Medical Library Association and the Denver Public Library. We are desirous that the plan as outlined shall be presented to your Society at its next regular meeting.

Our Secretary, Dr. G. D. Spivak, is anxious to prepare and submit at the next Convention of The American Medical Association, in behalf of this Society, a report and statistical data concerning the question of medical libraries in the United States, for which purpose we solicit your co-operation.

If there is in your county a medical library or a general library containing a medical department, please hand the blank to the librarian of same, requesting him to fill it out and to return to the address given below.

Will you kindly let us know what action your Society takes in regard to this matter.

Very respectfully,

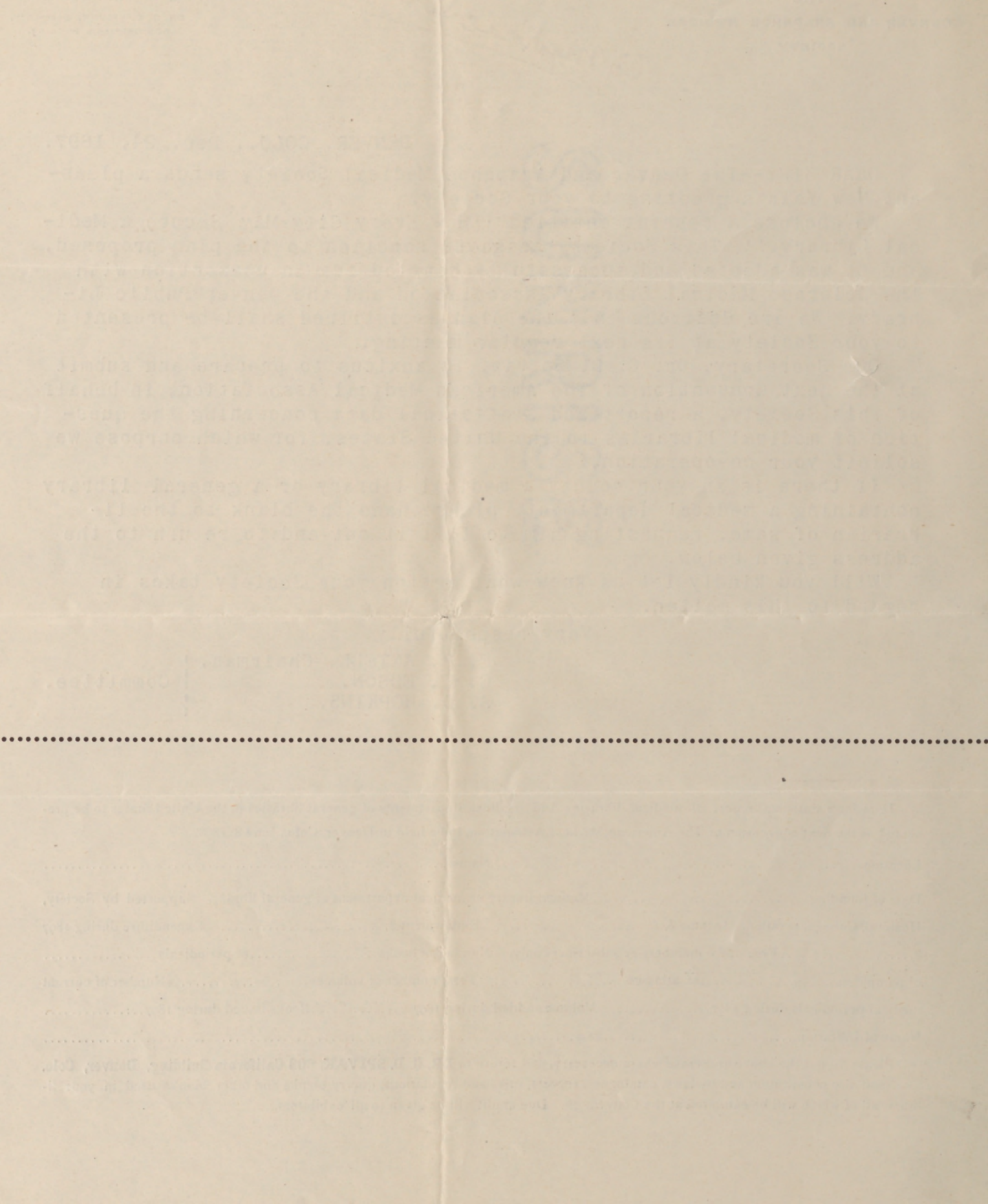
E. R. AXTELL, Chairman, |
C. E. EDSON, | Committee.
S. D. HOPKINS, |

Data for a statistical report of medical libraries and medical departments of general libraries in the United States to be presented at the next convention of The American Medical Association, to be held in Denver, Colo., June 8, 1898.

Location..... Name.....

Date of founding..... Medical library or medical department of general library. Supported by Society, Hospital, College, taxation. Income \$..... Endowment \$..... Expenditure during 1897 \$..... Free or for members or subscribers only. Number of books.....of periodicals..... of pamphlets.....of atlases..... Total number of volumes..... Number of current medical periodicals during 1897..... Volumes added during 1897..... Books issued during 1897..... Name of Librarian.....

Please fill out the above and erase where necessary, and return to **DR. C. D. SPIVAK, 608 California Building, Denver, Colo.** Send also constitution and by-laws, catalogues, reports, rules and regulations, query blanks and other blanks used in your library, all of which will be exhibited at the Convention. Due credit will be given to all exhibitors.



Librarians

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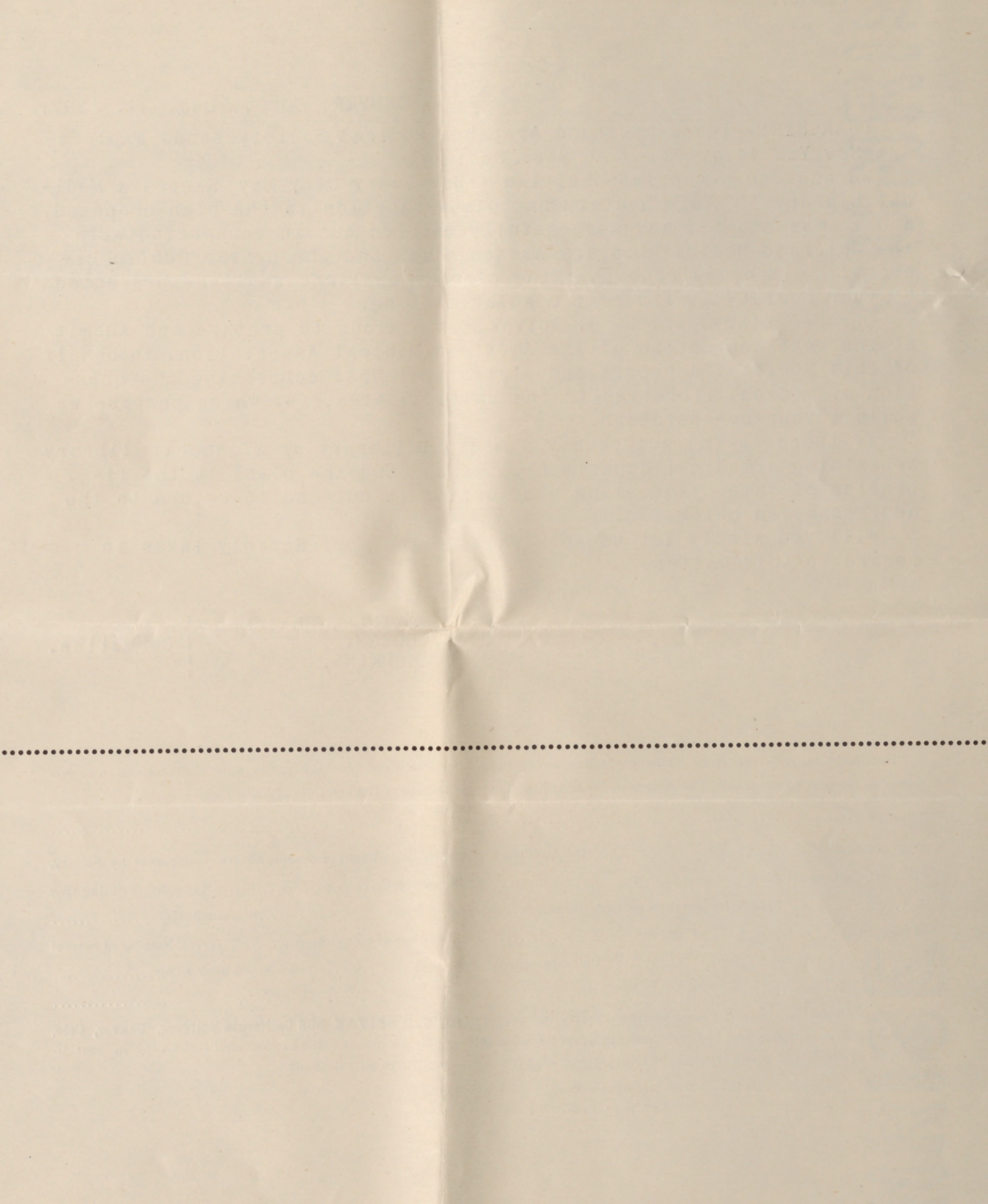
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E. R. AXTELL, Chairman, |
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MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO MEDICAL LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION.

T. H. HAWKINS, M. D., President.
LAURA LIEBHARDT, M. D., Treasurer.

HENRY SEWALL, M. D., Secretary.
J. C. DANA, Librarian.

NO. 4. DECEMBER, 1897.

The Library has accumulated a great many duplicates of medical periodicals—Medical Record, New York Medical Journal, Medical News, Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Journal American Medical Association, Gynecological and Obstetrical Journal, Journal of American Medical Sciences, etc., etc. Those who wish to complete their files should make up a list of their "wants" and send it to Dr. Henry Sewall, No. 25, 18th Avenue, Denver, Colo., who will cheerfully supply the wanted numbers or volumes. Any physician in Denver, or outside of Denver, may apply. The accumulation of duplicates was so great, and space is so valuable, that six boxes of duplicates were sent by the Association to the Army Medical Museum, at Washington.

A box of books and duplicates were received from Dr. Jesse Hawes, of Greeley, Colo. Dr. C. K. Fleming has sent in his usual quota of exchanges.

NEW BOOKS:—Die Krankheiten des Magens, Prof. F. Riegel, 2 vols. Nothnagel's Specielle Pathologie und Therapie. 1897. Tuberculosis of the Genito-Urinary Organs, by Nicholas Senn. 1897. Index Catalogue, 2d vol. of Supplementary series.

Miss Zoe Guernsey has filled most efficiently the office of medical librarian for some time. She has introduced order into a good many chaotic nooks and corners.

The annual meeting of the C. M. L. A. will be held Monday evening, January 3, 1898. All interested in the work of building up the only medical library in the West, are invited to attend the meeting.

In the January Bulletin will be published a list of periodicals subscribed by the Library and those donated by members.

This is the only Bulletin published in the United States in the interest of a medical library, as far as known. In the succeeding issues the editor intends to devote considerable space to the general question of medical libraries in the United States, a subject which as yet has never been discussed properly.

Dr. Geo. M. Gould, of Philadelphia, informs the writer that a meeting of medical librarians will be held sometime in January, 1898, and a permanent organization will be effected. We wish Dr. Gould, the instigator, God-speed.

C. D. SPIVAK.

Denver, Colo., January 25, 1897.

COLORADO MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



AT the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Colorado Medical Library Association, held in the Public Library, January 11th, 1897, it was voted to accept Dr. Spivak's proposition to make, with the assistance of the Public Library, a list of the bound medical journals and books in the possession of physicians who approve of this plan.

This list is intended to include only those works not to be found in the Medical Library. Dr. Spivak will call upon you in regard to this matter within a short time, and, if you look upon the project favorably, will ask you to make, or make himself if you prefer, on forms which he will present, a list of the bound medical journals and books contained in your library. The list thus secured from the leading physicians of the city will be compiled into one list, easy of reference and kept always on file in the Public Library. This union list will, in regard to any given volume, tell in whose office it may be found, and at what hour any reader who wishes may visit that office and refer to it. This plan will, as you see, make available to the medical men of Denver a very large and valuable collection of the best medical literature of recent years; a much larger collection than any public institution can offer for many years to come.

Signed { COLORADO MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION and
THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, DENVER.

The Medical News.

Established in 1843.

A WEEKLY MEDICAL NEWSPAPER.

Subscription, \$4.00 per Annum.

The American Journal
OF THE
Medical Sciences.

Established in 1820.

A MONTHLY MEDICAL MAGAZINE.

Subscription, \$4.00 per Annum.

COMMUTATION RATE, \$7.50 PER ANNUM.

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