

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 121

Date processed: 1980/81

- I. Title Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc. Records, 1902-1980.
- II. The papers of the Clinic deposited in the Library on June 1980, by the Board of Directors ~~of the Clinic as a gift. ~~as a gift. ~~as a gift. ~~as a gift. ~~as a gift.~~~~~~~~~~
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3
Approximate number of items: 1,650
- IV. Restrictions: the 159 case records may not be used before 2008 and all family names must be erased from them
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on June 1980
- VII. Biographical note:

see page b

VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of 3 parts, records pertaining to (a) Clifford W. Beers, (b) the administration of the clinic, and (c) the Edwards Street School. The records are contained in 5 boxes and one oversize item arranged as follows: Box I - records, clippings, photographs, etc. mainly chronological; Box II-V - cases no.1-159, strictly numerical; the oversize item is a Yale diploma given to CWB. Architectural drawings of the Edwards Street School building are housed with the Architectural Drawings Collection.

Although the inclusive dates are 1902-1980, the majority of the material falls between 1910 and 1915.

VII: Biographical note

This community psychiatric service, established in 1913, grew out of the social work program initiated in 1908 by the Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene under the direction of its founder, Clifford W. Beers. In 1919, in cooperation with Yale University, the New Haven clinic received its first full-time medical director, and in 1921 it was accepted as a community agency. Through a 1925-26 reorganization implemented by a grant from the Commonwealth Fund, the clinical director of the Connecticut Society was a psychologist from the University's department of psychiatry and mental hygiene; the New Haven clinic became a training facility for university students under the direction of the New Haven branch of the Society. By the 1940s the Clinic developed away from the University and from the State Society, with its own board of directors. In 1952 it was reorganized under its present name to emphasize the nature of a psychiatric clinic rather than a mental hygiene society. In 1968 the clinic moved from its Temple Street location to no. 1 State Street and in 1981 to the first building owned by them, the old Edwards Street School, which they acquired from the City in 1979.

Clifford Whittingham Beers (1876-1943) was the founder of the national and international mental hygiene movement and in New Haven of the guidance clinic of which he was the first director. Much of the early correspondence in the case studies are letters written to him and by him. There is more material pertaining to him and also to his wife, Clara Louise Jepson Beers (1874-1966) in the Manuscripts and Archives Division of the Yale University Library.

For more detailed description see the table of contents.

Bibliography:

- Abelson, Willa D. A clinic in the community, 1913-1963... New Haven, 1966.
Beers, Clifford Whittingham. A mind that found itself: an autobiography.
Garden City, N.Y., 1935.
Dain, Norman. Clifford W. Beers, advocate for the insane. Pittsburgh, Pa.
1980.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Approx.no.
of items

Box I

| | |
|---|-------|
| Folder A - Correspondence concerning the collection | [8] |
| B - Chronological history of the Clinic, and other histories (22 p.) | [3] |
| C - Beers memorabilia: 2 portraits, 1 copy of 1910 ALS Wm James (original in MSS#B27) | [7] |
| D - Mrs. Beers memorabilia: biographical sketch by Emily L. Martin (6l); articles, clippings, photos; 1967 & 1969 ALS Emily L. Martin to Dr. Gurwitt | [7] |
| E - H Records, including correspondence of Carol Crosman, Ira V. Hiscock, and others; reports, 1925-1961: | |
| E - undated(1925?), 1930-1932 | [50] |
| F - 1933-1935 | [55] |
| G - 1936-37, 1939-41, 1946, undated(1952?), 1961 | [100] |
| H - Nurse mental hygiene consultant file, 1947-1953, including printed material from Columbia Univ. Teachers College, Division of Nursing Education, mental health consultant course and the correspondence of Elisabeth B. Capron | [90] |
| I - Printed matter on mental hygiene, pamphlets by Clifford W. Beers | [25] |
| J - Newspapers clippings (xerox copies) 1905-1935 dealing with the mental hygiene movement and with C.W. Beers (2 copies) | [50] |
| K - Documents relating to the Edwards Street School (home of the Clinic since May 1981) including specifications for additions in 1922; the Sep.29, 1870 issue of the New Haven Daily Morning Journal with an article on the "new" Edwards St. School | [5] |
| Clippings | [5] |
| Box II Case no. 1 - 15 | [150] |
| Box III Case no. 16 - 55 | [400] |
| Box IV Case no. 56 - 105 | [600] |
| Box V Case no. 106 - 159 | [450] |
| Oversize I - 1922 diploma given to Clifford W. Beers by Yale University | [1] |

Box I--cont.

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| Folder L - Correspondance regarding the 25th, 30th, and 70th Anniversaries of the Connecticut Society for Mental Health | [4] |
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