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(ii + 22 leaves)

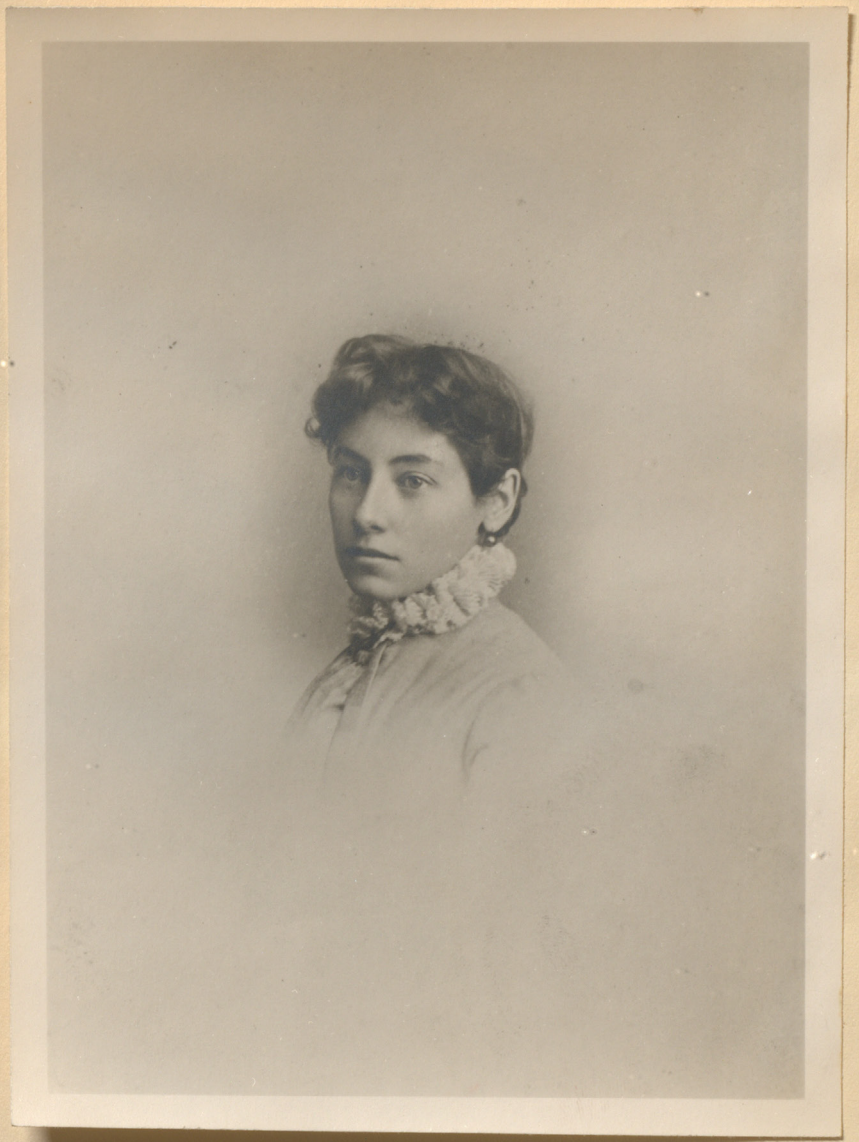
Negative of photo (overleaf).

(Negative removed to photograph collection Aug. 28/08 - H.C.)

Margaret Charlton, from an undated photo by Summerhayes, Montreal, formerly belonging to the late Miss Elliot (see leaf ~~16~~ 18) and given to the Medical Library in 1953 by Miss Ruby Carter, niece of Miss Charlton. It is now (1956) framed in the journal room between Sir William Osler & Lon Hête-Moore, Dr. Birkett

(Other copies sent to the Toronto Academy of Medicine and the Archives of the Medical Library Association. For negative see inside ~~back~~ front cover.)

W. W. F.



ii alt.

For the Medical Library

this account of

MISS CHARLTON,

its first trained librarian

In 1933 Dr. Finley kindly arranged an interview for me with Miss Charlton's two then surviving sisters. Without his good offices I, coming from McGill, might not have been so courteously received! He took me to 4751 Upper Roslyn Ave., where the old ladies lived in an old-world, Victorian, Cranfordesque atmosphere. Miss Emma, the eldest, an ex-school mistress, who had always rigidly ruled the roost, handed me the account which she had written for me and which is bound here (leaves 5-9). After looking through it, I indiscreetly asked if I might be given some idea of when Miss Charlton was born. Up went a deprecating hand, "Oh, Dr. Francis, my dear sister would not have liked anyone to know that." And not much other definite information was forthcoming. The other sister, Miss Maude, who had worked in an office, was more humanly modern, but apparently overawed. It struck me that Miss Margaret must have displayed a good deal of courageous independence when she introduced medical (!) librarianship into her family circle in 1894!

On my next visit, early in 1936, I was again handed a document (leaves 10-12), written this time (Miss Emma being dead) by Miss Maude, who was ill and could not see me. Through the intermediary of her nieces, the Misses Carter, she gave me all the information she could, but it took a quarter of an hour, two trips upstairs, and the knowledge that I had found out Miss Margaret's age in 1875, to get the date of birth and permission to publish it. ⁂ Miss Maude died this summer, before my paper appeared.

I append 4 letters (leaves 18-21) which assure me that the job was well worth the digging.

Dec. 1936

W. W. Francis.

⁂ See the clipping about her quaint will (leaf 4)

LIBRARY
MEDICAL FACULTY
McGILL
UNIVERSITY

Reprinted from the BULLETIN OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
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Printed in U. S. A.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

MARGARET CHARLTON AND THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION *

W. W. FRANCIS, M.D.
Librarian, Osler Library, McGill University, Montreal

FIRST let me thank you for the honor you have conferred on me in electing me your president. I cannot boast that I have worked my way up to this position. In fact I began near the top of the ladder when you made me an honorary vice-president a few years ago, apparently on account of my enviable connection with Osler and his library. It was only when the Nominating Committee conceived the strange idea that there was presidential stuff in me that I finally succeeded in becoming a professional member and in being allowed to pay my annual dues.

From a bibliographical and antiquarian keeper of books you must not expect a helpful professional address, full of constructive suggestions, such as that of last year's president. For this effort of mine I take my cue from another predecessor, my good friend Dr. Walter Steiner. In his 1932 address he regretted that the *Bulletin* had published no memorial notice of Miss Charlton who played a major part in the beginnings of our Association. He commended this duty to some one who had known her well; so I shall try at this late date to fill the gap and pay the tribute which we surely owe to her memory, although my acquaintance with her was only that of reader with librarian, plus a special interest she took in me as a relative of Osler, one of her heroes.

A good colleague of ours whose digestion seems to be impaired by silent standing toasts to the dead, and who failed to enjoy our fascinating pictorial visit to the morgue after last year's banquet, has objected that this year, when we have only one death in the membership to report, it would be a pity to make the presidential address an obituary. Let me call it, rather, an appreciation of some of our founders, and if you are polite enough not to show signs of boredom with my treatment of this subject of perennial interest, I shall go on to say something of Gould and of Osler. Instead of the silent toast, you may greet the unseen, as Robert Browning requested and as our faithful friend Dr. Joseph Bloodgood would have preferred, with a cheer.

Many of the most flourishing institutions have obscure beginnings, and ours is no exception. There seems to be no contemporary record of the steps leading up to the organizing meeting, the minutes of which are extremely laconic. The earliest account I have found, though an all too brief one, is that by Dr. William Browning, of Brooklyn, in the *Bulletin* of July, 1919, when the Association celebrated its majority. All the original members were then alive, and several of them, Miss Charlton included, were present at that 21st anniversary meeting. Tonight we are fortunate to have

* Read at the Annual Dinner of the Medical Library Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, 22 June, 1936.

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two of them with us, Dr. John L. Rothrock, of St. Paul, and Miss Noyes. Dr. Rothrock, who retired a few years ago from the chair of gynecology and obstetrics in the University of Minnesota, has faithfully contributed time, money, and books to the Ramsey County Medical Society's Library, our this year's host. And, by the way, if anyone wants to know how to build up a medical library, let him read Dr. H. L. Taylor's brief history of this 35-year-old local example in *Minnesota Medicine,* 1931 (*14:* 906). Osler says that a library is usually the result of the enthusiasm of one or two men. Well, the late Dr. Eduard Boeckmann seems to have infected many of his colleagues with his own enthusiasm, while his methods, as rare as they were effective, were chiefly three: founding a medical journal, turning over to the library the profits of a catgut factory, and making week-end raids with an express wagon on doctors' bookshelves, lumber-rooms and attics! The good deeds of the other original member present this evening are well known to you all. If not, look through the files of the *Bulletin,* as I have done recently, and you will find that through many critical years of its growth Miss Noyes has been the strength and stay of the Association—she and her collaborator of the Maryland Faculty, the late Dr. John Ruhräh, that good Oslerian, a lover of books and men, and particularly children. His memory well deserves our affectionate homage.

There were eight who met in Dr. Gould's editorial sanctum at Philadelphia in 1898 to launch the Association, the others being Mr. Fisher, now the Nestor of our profession, Dr. E. H. Brigham, of the Boston Medical Library, Dr. Rothrock, Dr. Browning, Miss Charlton, Miss Noyes, and Miss Elisabeth Thies (now Mrs. Meyer), of Johns Hopkins. Osler, who could not be present, sent Miss "Thesis," as he called her, and Miss Noyes. He could not have been better represented. The respective share of each in the credit for the enterprise has never been determined, but there seems to be no doubt that Gould and Miss Charlton were the prime movers, the former being the promoter and the latter, very probably, the originator. While waiting for the history of the Association which Miss Noyes has promised to write, let me quote from the reminiscences she gave us at her meeting in Baltimore two years ago (*Bulletin,* 1934, *23:* 33):

> Miss Charlton was the one person who indirectly brought the Association into being from speaking with Dr. Osler. She had belonged to the American Library Association. Their problems were not our problems, and she felt lost and that the time was wasted, yet she had striven for contact with those doing just the sort of work she was doing. And so she suggested to Dr. Osler that it would be a fine thing if the Medical Libraries could do the same sort of thing the American Library Association was doing. Just how that contact came to Dr. Gould, whether by way of Dr. Osler or else from Miss Charlton direct, I do not know. You can think of that vivid personality of Dr. Osler as being back of it all, but it really took the dynamic force of Dr. Gould at that time to put it across. As a publisher and editor he knew absolutely tons of really good things that were being discarded and lost, and felt that the time was ripe for everyone to begin to conserve.

Besides the driving force, and a much needed donation of $100, Gould contributed the backbone of the Association, the Exchange. With this, in fact, among his multifarious activities, he would seem to have already made a beginning. For in an editorial in his *Philadelphia Medical Journal,* 11

June, 1898 (*1:* 1071), soliciting support for the new Association of Medical Librarians (as we then were), he states that he himself had succeeded in one year in getting gifts of 1,921 books and 3,934 journals and in distributing them to needy libraries. He urged editors to send their publications gratis to all member-libraries and, in another editorial (p. 1170), he records a resolution of the American Medical Association adopting this suggestion. I wonder to what extent this pious example was followed, and for how long. Certainly in these cheese-paring days we have to pay for most periodicals, even those not "made in Germany," and I am not urging Mrs. Cunningham to forward the suggestion to Herr Springer or his *Nasti* oppressors of domestic Jews and foreign librarians.

Margaret Charlton was born on 10 December, 1858, at Laprairie, a village across the river near Montreal, and was the youngest of four sisters, one of whom, with two nieces, is still living in Montreal. Her father, Captain John Charlton, had been commissioned in the British Army and did good service with the loyal forces in the Canadian rebellion of 1837. She inherited refinement and strong family traditions. Christened Margaret Anne, she herself changed her second name to Ridley, partly as a mild literary disguise, and partly through pride in her father's collateral descent from the family of the famous Bishop Ridley, the Anglican martyr burned at Oxford in 1555, the man who on that day, in the prophecy of his fellow-sufferer, was to "light such a candle in England as, by the grace of God, shall never be put out." Educated almost entirely at home, she studied music and learned to play the piano well; but did not go to any school until she was 16, when she had two years at the Montreal High School, among the first girls to be admitted to that excellent institution which was already venerable in 1875.

She early developed a taste for literature, which some senior members of the Folk Lore Society encouraged her to cultivate, and she became something of a journalist and author. She worked on the *Dominion Illustrated,* a really excellent weekly, well edited, with interesting and well written articles. Apparently too good for its time and place, it lasted only from 1888 to 1894. In comparable periodicals of the present day the great improvement in the reproduction of pictures seems counterbalanced by literary sloppiness. I have not identified Miss Charlton's contributions; they were probably unsigned or pseudonymous. Her early work was romantic and imaginative, and she shares with a collaborator, Miss Charlotte Fraser, the distinction of having produced, in 1892, what was probably the first book of fairy tales to be published in Canada. This was called "A wonder web of fairy stories." Other books by "M. R. Charlton and C. A. Fraser" were "In the days of Sir Walter Raleigh," 1890, and "With printless foot," 1894. This last is a little quarto of 82 pages containing four pleasant, well told tales, charmingly illustrated, and with a preface beginning, "Realism is the unlovely harpy of our generation."

After the sudden death of her friend, which must have been a blow to her, she determined to become a librarian, and obtained her training at Amherst College, Mass., where a summer course was given in the early

'nineties. If she did not study under the famous Dewey at Albany, she seems to have returned to Montreal, about 1894, thoroughly imbued, perhaps I might say be-Dewied, with his classification. For a time she had charge of the library at the Y. M. C. A., where her good work earned her the appointment to McGill in 1895. Our Medical Library at that time was 72 years old and the largest one in America connected with a school. It contained about 14,000 volumes, classified and catalogued very imperfectly, if at all. During her 19 years of service about 10,000 volumes were added. She worked with devotion and enthusiasm at her Herculean task, but considering that throughout most of this period she had no skilled help, it would be surprising if she had ever succeeded entirely in reducing all the chaos to order.

Soon after she came to McGill there was a notable combined meeting of the British and Canadian Medical Associations at Montreal in 1897. Osler was present, but apparently Gould was not. Whoever originated the idea of our Medical Library Association, it has been plausibly surmised that the subject was first broached at this meeting. Gould, in our early days, seems to have been too busy to work out details; the treasurer after two years resigned in despair; Margaret Charlton was our first secretary, and though her contemporaries sometimes found her vague in her decisions and purposes, it was she who contributed the vision and the enthusiasm which, backed by the support from Baltimore, nursed our Association through the critical years of its infancy.

To lose a job to which one has devoted head, heart, hand and twenty of one's best years must be one of the major tragedies of life. Each of us is his own worst enemy, and if Miss Charlton was a hero-worshipper, her aversions were equally strong and not always so reasonable. Her principles, I think, were uncompromisingly rigid. For years she had worked happily under a chief, the Honorary Librarian, a member of the faculty, one who is an extraordinarily angelic combination of wisdom, courtesy, patience and good humor. In other words, she had been largely her own master. In 1913 he was succeeded by a new broom which raised a lot of dust. After a year of intolerable friction her new chief drew up a program which she would not, or felt she could not, carry out. The irresistible force met an immovable spirit in a not unremovable body, and in May, 1914, she resigned. A bitter sense of injustice prevented her ever revisiting her old haunts, and 15 years later I could not induce her to come, openly or surreptitiously, to see the newly arrived Osler Library which would have interested her intensely.

My most vivid recollections of her are connected with Osler's frequent gifts to the library. These would always be brought out to show me, and I can see her now, affectionately stroking a nice old binding, turning the leaves, and discovering more wonders and beauties in it than my dull eye could clearly see. She would purr over it in her richly modulated voice which, when rhapsodizing, had a remarkably rippling and caressing cadence. She was always ready to talk about Dr. Osler, too ready according to one of his pupils who, for that reason, often had me take out books for him. An-

F. G. Finley

H. S. Birkett

C. P. Howard

Dr. Maude Abbott, with sex disguised to conceal the green-eyed reason: she was suspected of receiving more frequent letters from Osler!

other habitually made use of me for the same purpose but for a different reason. This was a sensitive, book-devouring investigator who was disliked by and positively afraid of our mild librarian! For though there was always a quiet dignity about Miss Charlton, it did not conceal her fervid likes and dislikes. Among her many good qualifications, she was extraordinarily successful as a beggar, and not only in getting second-hand donations; she could even worm the new and expensive book out of the unsympathetic publisher or the remote and impecunious author.

About the time of the McGill unpleasantness, she suffered the additional misfortune of losing her mother. Always a devoted, home-loving daughter, this loss perhaps made possible her exile from Montreal. She was too good a librarian to remain long unemployed and for the next eight years, from October, 1914, to May, 1922, she had charge of the library of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto. There she worked with the same enthusiastic earnestness and to everyone's satisfaction. She increased their collection from 6,500 to 12,000 volumes, classified it according to Dewey (I reverence anyone who can do that to modern medical books!), and had it almost completely catalogued when she felt it was time to retire and return to her sisters in Montreal. In the train on the journey home she met with a strange and painful accident. A heavy electric globe, insecurely fastened, fell on her head. The effects of this she felt until she died, 9 years later, on May 1st, 1931, at the good age of 72.

Yes? See leaf 22, infra.

It is interesting to note that by the end of last century, in Canada at least, librarianship as a calling for women had not penetrated the official mind. In "Women of Canada, their life and work," a book compiled for distribution at the Paris Exhibition in 1900, there are no librarians, but Margaret Ridley Charlton is entered twice, first as a journalist, and secondly, for her fairy tales, under "Fiction." After she found her vocation she would seem to have published nothing for some years, unless there are library papers by her in our early official journals which I have not discovered; but she continued to cultivate her hobby, and switched from the elfin to the historical. Under the pseudonym, Lynn Hetherington, taken from the name of an ancestral mansion in the North of England, she contributed four interesting articles between 1909 and 1913 to the *University Magazine,* an undeservedly defunct quarterly of which we used to be justly proud. The first of these, entitled "Tecumseh," is written in a rather heroical style and I would hesitate to commend it to you patriotic children of the Revolution, for this really noble red man with his dream of an Indian confederation has all the virtues, while his American enemies are painted a uniform "yellow." Her three other articles are on the famous Beaver Club of the fur traders, 1785–1824, to which no one was eligible till he had survived a winter in the wilds; on Father Lacombe, the contemporary veteran missionary to the Indians; and on Mrs. Simcoe, wife of the first governor of Ontario. For her later work she drew her inspiration from Canadian medical history, and wrote on Louis Hébert, Quebec's first surgeon and first farmer, in both of which callings he was very proficient. This paper appeared in the Johns Hopkins *Bulletin* in 1914. After a long

and busy interval she published a sort of companion study of Ontario's pioneer physician, Christopher Widmer, this time in the *Annals of Medical History,* 1922. Finally came her *magnum opus,* " Outlines of the history of medicine in Lower Canada," which runs through four numbers in two volumes of the *Annals,* 1923–4, and fills 98 of its large pages. In book form, with an index, this would have been more useful and would have had a wider distribution, at any rate in her own country, before it was superseded by recent books on the subject. It was only to these medicated writings that she signed her real name, and then only in its shortest and genderless form, " M. Charlton." I wonder if this was in deference to the traditional Victorian prejudice against women writers. All her historical studies give evidence of painstaking research and contribute something new. They are well worth reading.

So much to the memory of Margaret Charlton, to whom this Medical Library Association is the best sort of a monument. May it endure.

I began my remarks with Osler; let me end them with him. A few years ago I distributed several hundred copies of his later reprints through our Exchange. There are more copies of most of those items for any who desire them. One of those reprints has on its cover the following words, which may have puzzled you as they did me when I first noticed them: "*Proceedings of the Medical Library Association,* 1909, Vol. 1, Part 2." It is entitled, " The medical library in post-graduate work," Osler's presidential address " at the inaugural meeting " at Belfast, July 28th, and is reprinted from the *B. M. J.* (1909, ii: 925–8), but is paged 9 to 19. This mysterious pagination was explained when I found an 8-page pamphlet, called part 1 of the " Proceedings," printed at Manchester the same year and containing the constitution (based on ours) of this M. L. A. " of Great Britain and Ireland," a list of 32 members, and a report of the first annual meeting. An editorial in the *B. M. J.,* 1910 (ii: 641), gives an account of an interesting second meeting, and the rest is silence. Apparently the general Library Association over there, established in 1877 soon after its American prototype, had too strong a hold on our British confrères. Of all the societies which Osler helped to launch, most of them flourishing like us, this godchild of his and ours was the only one, as far as I know, that failed to survive its second birthday.

Osler's address gives a sort of survey of the medical libraries of the Old Country, with a masterly analysis of medical men as readers, a plea for hobbies in general and bookish ones in particular, and a characteristic paragraph on the Mayo brothers and what self-education and post-graduate study had already done for them; and he ends with a good motto which he borrowed from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, not from us, but the practice of which has carried our Association thus far and should tide us over any future difficulties: *Non sibi sed toti*—unselfishly for the good of all.

4

M. C.'s sister's quarrel with — and her aunt — McGill-ity!

Montreal "Gazette"
[illegible] 1937

VOL. CLXVI [illegible]

COURT SAYS MONEY MENTIONED IN WILL MAY MEAN STOCKS

Need Not Be Coin, First Ruling of Kind Here Declares

ODD TESTAMENT CITED

Woman Addressed Her Will to 'Dear Maude and Ruby' —Action to Upset It Is Dismissed

Money, when mentioned in a will, means not only actual coin of the realm, but stocks and bonds, Chief Justice Greenshields ruled in a judgment handed down in Superior Court yesterday in a case which is believed to establish jurisprudence in this district.

The Chief Justice made special reference to the will, "a somewhat informal document," which was written in the deceased's own writing. The case arose because the document was drawn by "a person unskilled in these matters ... and who perhaps was not particularly careful in the choice of the words used to express her intention."

The will was that of Maude E. Charlton, who died August 26, 1936, and left an estate consisting of a house on Upper Roslyn avenue, [illegible] in banks, and stocks and bonds valued at $43,472.61. Heirs mentioned in the will were two nieces, Maude A. Carter and Ruby Carter, executors, who were the defendants in the action. The plaintiffs were persons acting for another niece and a nephew. The will directed that the "money" be divided between Maude and Ruby Carter, and the plaintiffs contended this referred only to the cash in [illegible] [illegible] that the stocks and bonds were not disposed of [illegible] [illegible] and should be divided among all the nieces and nephews [illegible] but the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

To Ruby Carter, my niece, I leave [illegible] quarter of the [illegible] of the money I have in my [illegible], knowing that Maude will [illegible] her if necessary and not to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Maude as she [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible].

The Court pointed out that the will was addressed "Dear Maude and Ruby," and by its opening language the writer "expressed her thanks before leaving this world forever to both these persons for their care and kindness to her after her dear sister had been called away (presumably by death)," the Chief Justice continued.

It was pointed out in the judgment that the dead woman made the following suggestion in the will:

"To William E. Carter, my nephew, my wish is that when things are settled (it must mean when her whole estate is settled) if the estate can afford it, after paying all debts, that [illegible] will give him, as they can [illegible] between them, $500 as a little remembrance of me."

If, as the plaintiffs contended, the stocks and bonds were not part of the estate, the nephew would have received a [illegible] part of $43,472.61, which would be quite sufficient as a "little remembrance," the Chief Justice believed, making the $500 clause superfluous.

"Apparently," the judgment goes on, "there were some heirlooms of which she had possession, and she mentioned some of them, such as a glass tea caddy bottle, having a lead stopper, with initial 'C' impressed, handed down from the ancient Charlton family; a little silver spoon inherited from Dorothy Charlton of Northumberland, England; the iron stone china [illegible] of her mother; a tortoise shell [illegible] box belonging to her grandfather; her mother's glass [illegible] [illegible] and jug. All were to go to Maude A. Carter, but the day when Maude A. Carter has no further use for them she wants them placed in some respectable museum [illegible] controlled by McGill [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

HEIRLOOMS [illegible]

"This provision of the will is [illegible] [illegible]. She contemplated that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

The "money," [illegible] Chief Justice Greenshields [illegible], [illegible] not mean money owed to the [illegible] [illegible] by a bank any more than money owed by a [illegible] on a bond held by the [illegible]. [illegible] no doubt [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to make a [illegible] [illegible] of her entire [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

To the [illegible] of The Gazette:

[illegible] [illegible] have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Card Museum [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] such action I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

JAMES E. [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible], Feb. [illegible], 1937.

All destroyed by Mrs. R. Carter
letters, including an autograph
[illegible]. All burned!
1953 [illegible]

"Dear Margaret's letters"
might be of interest.
All the official [illegible]
correspondence of the
time seems to have
vanished with her!
M.C.S.

What a light the World corresp. would have thrown on the founding of the Medical Library Association.

W.W.F.

M.C.'s sister's quaint will
— and her anti-McGill-ity!

Montreal "Gazette"
10 Feb. 1937
p.

VOL. CLXVI. No. 35

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The will was that of Maude E. Charlton who died August 28, 1936, and left an estate consisting of a house on Upper Roslyn avenue; $1,997.57 in banks, and stocks and bonds valued at $43.472.01. Heirs mentioned in the will were two nieces, Maude A. Carter and Ruby Carter, executors, who were the defendants in the action. The plaintiffs were persons acting for another niece and a nephew. The will directed that the "money" be divided between Maude and Ruby Carter, and the plaintiffs contended this referred only to the cash in the bank and that the stocks and bonds were not disposed of, and therefore would properly be divided equally among all the heirs, nieces and nephews. All other heirs but the niece and nephew represented as plaintiffs renounced their claims in favor of Maude and Ruby Carter.

The Court ruled the will had given both the $1,997.57 and the $43,472.01 to the defendants.

LEGACIES TO NIECES.

The Chief Justice in his judgment quotes two pertinent paragraphs of the will as follows:

'To Maude A. Carter, my niece, I leave the house and property situated at 4751 Upper Roslyn avenue, Montreal, with all its contents, to be kept or disposed of as she deems best, with three-quarters share of the money I have at the time of my death.

"To Ruby Carter, my niece, I leave the other quarter, viz: the fourth of the money I have at my death, knowing that Maude will help her if necessary, and not to feel grieved if I have left her less than Maude, as she will need much more to run the house properly."

The Court pointed out that the will was addressed "Dear Maude and Ruby," and by its opening language the writer "expressed her thanks before leaving this world forever to both these persons for their care and kindness to her after her dear sister had been called away (presumably by death)," the Chief Justice continued.

It was pointed out in the judgment that the dead woman made the following suggestion in the will:

"To William C. Carter, my nephew, my wish is that when things are settled (it must mean when her whole estate is settled) if the estate can afford it, after paying all debts, his sisters will give him, as they can afford between them, $500 as a little remembrance of me."

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"Apparently," the judgment goes on, "there were some heirlooms of which she had possession, and she mentioned some of them, such as a glass tea caddy bottle, having a lead stopper, with initial 'C' impressed, handed down from the ancient Charlton family; a little silver spoon inherited from Dorothy Charlton of Northumberland, England; the iron stone china plates of her mother; a tortoise shell snuff box belonging to her grandfather; her mother's glass butter dish and jug. All were to go to Maude A. Carter, but, she says, when Maude A. Carter has no further use for them she wants them placed in some respectable museum (not controlled by McGill); and Uncle Henry's ship barometer to one of his sons or their male descendants.

HEIRLOOMS DEVISED.

"This provision of her will is fairly clear. She contemplated that all these heirlooms would remain in the possession of Maude A. Carter, subject, however, that when she had no further use for them (the time at which that eventuality might arise is not specified) she would put them in a respectable museum, whatever that may mean, and she would do the same with Uncle Henry's ship barometer, but instead of putting that in a respectable museum, she would give it to one of his sons, or any other male descendant. And then, as to dear Margaret's letters, she tells her nieces to destroy them all, if she has not already done so.

"Apparently she wished to be buried, or thought that she would be buried in the cemetery lot inherited by the family, and she wanted it to be put in perpetuity with a hedge of peonies around it, or, no tall hedge for her.

"And finally," the Chief Justice continues, "she did not forget her clothes, or whatever she meant by way of clothes by the expression, 'all our clothes,' and she says, 'all our clothes with the exception of my seal coat and muff, to be sent away to some mission in the northwest, not to Gaspe,' but if Maude and Ruby wished to retain anything for their own use, they could do so...."

The "money" mentioned, Chief Justice Greenshields ruled, "could not mean money owed to the testatrix by a bank, any more than money owed by a company on a bond held by the testatrix. I have no doubt whatever...she intended to make a testamentary disposition of her entire estate."

The McCord Museum.

To the Editor of The Gazette: 13a

Sir,—On several occasions letters have appeared in the press in connection with the closing of the McCord Museum and protesting against such action. I think those who have deposited many priceless relics will agree with me that this is a gross breach of trust on the part of the McGill authorities. Their plea of economy is, to my mind, a perfect farce. . . A retired veteran as doorkeeper, and a lady curator, comprised the principal of the personnel. On many occasions I have visited the Museum when the lady curator had a large number of children, instructing them on the past history of Canada (showing as illustration the priceless Indian relics—said to be the second finest collection on this continent—together with many souvenirs of Wolfe and other Canadian celebrities).

My collection of exhibits, which I value at over two thousand dollars, is so situated that I can neither see them myself or show them to my friends. In The Gazette of date Feb. 10th (in the case of a disputed will) the Testatrix left, on certain conditions, many family heirlooms to be deposited in "some respectable museum" ("not controlled by McGill"). What a slap in the face for McGill! The mistake I made was instead of donating the exhibits I should have loaned them, in which case I could have withdrawn them at any time.

JAMES S. SNASDELL., J.P.
Montreal, Feb. 12, 1937.

All destroyed, Miss R. Carter tells me, including an extensive corresp. with Gould!
1953 W.W.F.

"Dear Margaret's letters" might be of interest — all the official library correspondence of her time seems to have vanished with her!
W.W.F.

1

Written by Miss Emma Charlton 1933 W.W.F. 5

Marguret Charlton, youngest daughter of the late Captain John Charlton and Marguret Elizabeth Charlton was educated at the High School for Girls, Montreal

She early developed a taste for literature, in which she was encouraged by the late John Reade, a fellow member of the Folk Lore society

In collaboration with Miss Charlotte Fraser, Miss Charlton brought out a book of Fairy Tales, "A Wonder Web of Fairy Tales, the first work of its kind to be brought out in Canada. This work was followed by "With Pinieless Foot". "A.C.F."

~~Upon~~ Miss Fraser's sudden and lamented death, Miss Charlton continued to write, but under a pen-name for the most part. While the romantic and imaginative appealed largely to Miss Charlton, her versatile pen produced a great many historical articles which were especially valuable in the truth of the statements which A.C.F.

were made only after laborious research in original documents.

While in the midst of her literary work, Miss Charlton decided to train as a Librarian, and attended the Training School at Amherst College, Mass.

On returning to Montreal, she was for a short time in charge of the Y. M. C. A. Library, where her excellent work as a Cataloguer brought her to the notice of McGill, and she was appointed as the first trained woman librarian to the Library of the Medical Faculty.

In furtherance of the growth of this Library, her interest and enthusiasm caused her to plan in conjunction with Dr. Gould of Philadelphia an Association of Medical Librarians. This was shortly accomplished. Dr. Gould was appointed the first President, and Miss Charlton Secretary. From small beginnings this Association has grown to its present important standing.

To her work at McGill, Miss Charlton brought all the enthusiasm and vision which a nature endowed with unusual gifts, combined with an indomitable courage and insight enabled her to give.

Though her work as Librarian to the Medical Faculty was very exhausting, Miss Charlton found time to write several articles for the University Magazine, then edited by Sir Andrew MacPhail. That these articles were read with appreciation was revealed through letters addressed to her pen-name.

Her work on the "History of Medicine in the Province of Quebec", a very valuable and comprehensive account was brought out in "The Annals of Medicine", as well as a sketch of the life of Christopher Widmer, an army surgeon of 1812 - afterwards practising in Toronto.

Ann. Med. Hist., 1922, iv, 346-50.

After seventeen years of strenuous and successful work for the Medical Faculty of McGill, Miss Charlton was invited to Toronto to build up the Library of the Academy of Medicine

in that City. That she accomplished the task successfully was attested in a letter addressed to her in 1918 by the Secretary of the Academy.

May 8 - 1918

Academy of Medicine, Toronto.

"Dear Miss Charlton,

At the Annual Meeting last evening, it was resolved that an expression of the Academy's appreciation of the devoted and self-sacrificing work of the Librarian, Miss Charlton be conveyed to her.

It gives me much pleasure to forward this to you, and to add my appreciation of all you have done to increase the facilities of the Library of the Academy, making our literature more accessible, and in securing donations and exchanges from various sources. As well as your work in stimulating interest in the growth of the Library which has so rapidly enlarged under your efficient guidance."

Signed

Most Sincerely Yours,
Jabez H. Elliot
Hon. Secy

In order to give her undivided attention to her work, Miss Charlton sacrificed all outside social duties. The little leisure she had she gave to her home circle and old friends; a devoted daughter and sister

Her loyalty and unbounded enthusiasm with a sedate dignity and charm that she possessed had endeared her to many friends in the Medical profession

On Miss Charlton's return for good from Toronto to Montreal, she met with a painful accident when in the train a heavy electric globe insufficiently fastened fell on her head the effects of which she felt until her death, the 12th May 1931

Margaret Ridley Clutton

pseud. "Lynn Hetherington"

4020

L40255.

Kindly written for me by Miss Maude Charlton in 1936. W.W.F.

Margaret Anne Charlton was the youngest daughter of the late Captain John Charlton of Laprairie and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Warren. Captain Charlton, the descendant of an ancient English family, was for his loyal services during the Rebellion of 1837, gazetted Captain in the British Army. The family traditions of loyalty and devotion to duty were also exemplified in the life of Margaret Charlton, who was educated at the High School for Girls, Montreal; she early developed a taste for literature, in which she was encouraged by the late John Reade when they met as fellow members of the Folk Lore Society.

Society. In collaboration with Miss Charlotte Fraser, Miss Charlton brought out a book of Fairy Tales, "A Wonder Web of Fairy Tales," the first work of its kind brought out in Canada, which was followed by "With Printlers Foot."

After Miss Fraser's sudden death, Miss Charlton continued to write, under a pen-name, and while the romantic and imaginative appealed largely to her, she produced a great many historical articles especially valuable for the truth of her statements, which were only made after laborious research in original documents.

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School at Amherst College, Mass. She was for a short time in charge of the Y. M. C. A. Library, Montreal, where her excellent work as a cataloguer brought her to the notice of McGill, and she was appointed as the first trained woman librarian to the Medical Faculty. In furtherance of the growth of the Library, her interest and enthusiasm caused her to plan in conjunction with Dr. Gould of Philadelphia, an Association of Medical Librarians, which was shortly accomplished, Dr. Gould being appointed its first President, and Miss Charlton, Secretary.

To her work at McGill Miss Charlton devoted all the enthusiasm and indomitable courage and ~~insight~~ insight of her nature, and in the "British Medical Association Official

Guide & Souvenir, Montreal, 1897" occurs the following reference to her success:

"The library (Medical) has an interesting history, and its growth has been marvellous of late chiefly owing to the exertions of the assistant librarian, Miss Charlton."

as Lynn Hetherington

While at McGill Miss Charlton wrote several articles for the University Magazine, then edited by Sir Andrew MacPhail, and letters of appreciation of these articles were received by her. Her work on "The History of Medicine in the Province of Quebec," a valuable and comprehensive account, was brought out in "The Annals of Medicine," as well as a Sketch of the Life of Christopher Widmer, an army surgeon of 1812, afterwards practising in Lorette.

After seventeen years of work for the Medical Faculty of McGill, Miss Charlton was invited to Toronto to build up the Library of the Academy of Medicine there. That she accomplished the task successfully was attested to in a letter addressed to her in 1918 by the Secretary of the Academy:

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It gives me much pleasure to forward this to you, and to add my appreciation of all you have done to increase the facilities of the Library of the Academy,...

(over)

as well as your work in stimulating interest in the growth of the Library which has so rapidly enlarged under your efficient guidance."

Most sincerely yours,
(Signed) Jabez H. Elliot,
Hon. Secretary."

Miss Charlton died on May 1st. 1931.

But - later - see leaf 22 at end →
W.W.F.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, TORONTO.
13, QUEEN'S PARK.

December 24th, 1935.

r. W. W. Francis,
sler Library,
cGill University,
ontreal, P. Q.

y dear Dr. Francis:

In reply to your letter of December 10, e Miss Charlton, I regret I can give you very little information. She came to the library in October, 1914, and left ay, 1922. As I did not take up my duties here until September of that year I did not know her at all.

The library increased from 6578 to 12000 olumes during her regime and until she came was classified nly in very general divisions, no numerical classification. he inaugurated the Dewey Decimal system and ~~it~~ the library was nearly ll catalogued when I came. As to the reason why she left, I ave never really heard- I think she simply retired after her ong service in McGill and here.

I told Dr. Elliott of your letter and what was replying and he had no further suggestions. Dr. Locke f the Toronto Public library was instrumental in bringing iss Charlton here and told me she had been recommended by Sir illiam Osler. She certainly did splendid work here.

G.H.

Please overlook my delay in answering; every ne has been very busy and I held over my letter until I saw r. Elliott.

With best wishes for the Christmas and the ew Year,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

M. Edna M. Poole

M. Edna M. Poole,
Librarian.

EMP/G

MARCIA C. NOYES
Librarian.

Library of the
Medical and Chirurgical Faculty
of the State of Maryland.
1211 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore.

May ninth
1 9 3 6

Dr. William Francis
The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

My dear Dr. Francis,

Just a month late but possibly as the meeting has been postponed still in time to be of service. We have had two big parties since your inquiry came, the latter being our Annual Meeting so you may understand that we have been going in circles.

I am glad to add my mite to what is known about Miss Charlton's connection with the M. L. A., but it too is vague and I have little to substantiate it. As one of the founders my memory clings to the fact that Miss Charlton felt the need of an association of the medical librarians because her attendance at the A. L. A. meetings had been barren as far as medical work was concerned. Whether she took this up with Dr. George Gould directly, or Dr. Osler acted as intermediary, they both backed her in the suggestion. Some felt that the thought was Dr. Gould's but I feel this was not so.

The part of our work that was Dr. Gould's brain child is the Exchange. As a publisher he realized the amount of material that was being lost to posterity, and the Exchange seemed to him a way out. The first year of its life it was operated in Philadelphia by someone under his guidance, and the two first meetings of the Association were held in his office in Philadelphia.

Dr. Osler was hand and glove in the formation of the Association but not present at either of the first meetings, but he paid Miss Elizabeth Thies' and my way to Philadelphia that we might urge the formation of the Association. He wrote letters to librarians with whom he was acquainted, and Dr. Brigham from Boston was present at that first meeting at Dr. Osler's suggestion. I distinctly remember Miss Charlton speaking of her feeling that a smaller group with kindred problems should be formed for medicine, and to me she has always stood as the moving factor in its formation. As I said at our meeting here this would probably never have become a fact without the backing of Dr. Gould's dynamic force and Dr. Osler's vivid personality.

Bull., 1934-5, 23, No. 1 (Aug 1934), p. 38.
W.W.F.

MARCIA C. NOYES
Librarian.

Library of the
Medical and Chirurgical Faculty
of the State of Maryland.
1211 Cathedral Street,
Baltimore.

#2--Dr. Francis

May 9, 1936

While Miss Charlton seemed vague and purposeless in those early years there was a depth of force in her and tenacity that few realized, and she had vision. She was the first secretary and interested to the end in the Association. After the rift in Montreal she did not appear to take any interest in the Association, but at your Montreal meeting she was very keen to hear all about it from those of us who were fortunate to have visited with her at that time. It was difficult for her to accept modern ways in a Library, but they have come to stay and we must keep in the van of progress.

We do not have all of Spivak's "Medical Libraries" ourselves and there are no duplicates to my knowledge. Miss Charlton did very little writing in the early days of the Association. From memory I should say that the others present at the formation of the Association were Dr. Rothrock of St. Paul, Dr. Fisher of Philadelphia, and Dr. William Browning of Brooklyn. If I find a record of this latter I will send it to you in time to use in your address.

Until the change of date I did not expect to be in St. Paul and I am not sure now that I shall go, but would like very much, if possible, to be present at your meeting. I passed you message on to your old girls here, and was fortunate in speaking with Mrs. Chapin over the phone when she was in Baltimore last week. She was so glad to hear of your interest in the Association and we all hope that you will continue to carry on.

Yours very sincerely,

Marcia C. Noyes

Marcia C. Noyes, Executive Secretary.

MCNA:W

Miss Smith's letter from you has just come. She will send you the names of those at the first meeting if they can be found.

M. C. N.

16

AMHERST COLLEGE

Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 26, 1936

Dear Dr. Francis:

Your letter of May 23rd to the President has come during his absence from Amherst, and I am taking the liberty of handing it to Mr. Andrews, Treasurer of Amherst College, who has in his office the old employment records of the College. I cannot find Miss Charlton listed as a student but she may, as you suggest, have worked in the library here, though probably under a later Librarian than Dewey, who was with us only from 1874-1877. A fire in our Administration Building the early part of the century destroyed a good many of our employment records but the Treasurer will write you as to what he is able to find in a day or two. I am sorry your earlier inquiries should have gone unanswered.

Yours very truly,

Rena M Sheehan

Secretary to the President

W.W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian, Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

17

AMHERST COLLEGE
Amherst, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

May 27, 1936

Dr. W. W. Francis, Librarian
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear Dr. Francis:

The secretary of President King has handed to me your letter of May 23 inquiring as to Miss Margaret R. Charlton, and copy of her letter of May 26 to you.

Owing doubtless to the fire of some years ago which destroyed our administration building my office has no records which will in any way assist in this matter. I am today, however, addressing our former Librarian, Mr. Robert S. Fletcher, now of Florida who was our Librarian back as far as about 1905 and whose father was our Librarian for 20 or more years prior thereto. It is barely possible that Mr. Fletcher may have some knowledge which will help us. I will communicate with you again as soon as I hear from him.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Anderson

CAA:LMS

Treasurer

Lost letter

From Miss Elliot,
513 Côte St. Antoine Rd.,
postmarked 2 Nov. 36.
Coming from Miss C.'s
contemporary + best
friend – equally bitter
~~over~~ over the "McGill
unpleasantness", I
take this to be praise,
indeed.
W.W.F.

Dr. W. W. Francis

Dear Sir,

I want to thank you for troubling to send me a copy of your address referring to my old friend Miss Charlton.

I think on the whole you have been very fair in your criticism of her character, and in appreciation of her services to McGill, and my great regret is that her sisters did not live to know of it

Yours with thanks

A. Elliot

and of her friendship with your Uncle and others, including yourself.

We have heard from friends of your valuable work and the wonderful collection in the Osler Library, of such interest to Canadians, and their Brethren, and we hope that you will long continue your good work there and as President of the Interesting Association of Medical Librarians.

Sincerely yours,
M. A. Barber.

Monday,
November 9th. 1936.

1948.
Miss Wanda } Carter: Keep for a private show
" Ruby }

Miss Gertrude Jarvis (formerly of the Hospital Library)
513 Cole-St. Portland EL. 8745;
Can communicate with these. Miss J. is
lending us her file of Miss A. for
reproduction in the Bulletin, 50th anniversary
issue for Oct. 1948 L.W.F.

1953. It is not in Vol. 36. 1948.

Dear Dr. Francis,

My sister and I wish to thank you for the interest you have shown in your address to the memory of our aunt Margaret A. Charlton, and for the copies of your address which you sent us, also for your recent kind letter and visit.

We are glad to know that our Aunt's devoted work was appreciated by her kind friends, and to hear echoes of her work,

have resigned as I knew that few others would have tolerated her oddities, which in my opinion were more than balanced by her energy and ability.

I always regretted that the Faculty refused to express any appreciation of her work — she had had too many differences of opinion with many of its members.

Your reference to myself is altogether too flattering. I am far from possessing the good qualities with which you endow me.

Again apologizing for my seeming indifference

Yours sincerely,

Fred.c S. Tilley

Nov. 8th 1936.

1551, Bishop Street,
Montreal.

My dear Francis,

I owe you an apology for not having acknowledged your charming and appreciative address on Miss Chaillon. I have just come across the pamphlet in an unopened envelope, lying under other papers.

You have given a very understanding account of her work and character. I held on to the post of Hon. Librarian long after I should

21

38, Belvedere Road,
Westmount, P.Q.
November 2nd

Dear Dr. Francis,

Your presidential address is delightful reading. Thank you for sending me a copy with personally interesting foot-notes. I shall pass it on to Dorothy, who will be equally interested. Neither of us appreciated Miss Charlotte's visits of complaint which she made to Father. I am afraid her voice was then often querulous, more than "caressing".

We did not realize that she was a person of importance, as a writer as well. I am afraid we did not think of her once she had left Mt. Zion, & her subsequent history is interesting. I have never come across anything she has written. I feel quite sorry that I did not cultivate her acquaintance.

With kind regards to the family,

Yours sincerely,
M. Cecilia Robb.

[Mrs Robb, Dr. F. J. Shepherd's daughter.]

(Compare leaves 3 [p.62] & 13, above.)

Extracts from two letters of a former officer of the Toronto Academy of Medicine to Dr. Francis, on receiving a copy of the reprint:

Jan. 18, '37: "Thank you very kindly for the President's address which I have read with interest. I was so sorry to see Miss Charlton go away from here. I am afraid she and one of the presidents never pulled very well. He was perhaps a little unkind. She was perhaps a little careless in the remarks she would make about him. That side of her life I see you have touched upon."

Jan. 21, '37: "As for Miss Charlton I can remember very well at one of the council meetings at the Academy that the President ... was determined that she be asked to resign. She had distinctly flouted him, and the impression is she had gone away on a holiday without even letting them know, and his statements were to the effect that she was impossible to work with. She never hesitated to criticize him on all occasions."

W.W.F.

Date Due

JAN 21 1958			
MAY 28 1958			

15483
~~54368~~
~~C4392~~
C4817
STACK

MS
Acc. no. 233