

XI

Leaders of the Library, 1895–1913.

DAVID LOWE HUNTINGTON, LIBRARIAN 1895–1897

FOLLOWING the departure of Billings from the Library and the death or retirement of the Civil War veterans from the Surgeon General's office, the post of Librarian began to be treated the same as other posts in the Medical Department, officers were detailed there for a time and then relieved and sent elsewhere. Between 1895 and 1913 four different officers served as Librarian, the first being David Lowe Huntington.

Huntington had been in the Medical Department for a third of a century and had associated with Billings off and on during that period. Born in Charleston, Massachusetts, in 1834, educated at Yale (B.A. 1855) and Pennsylvania (M.D., 1857), he had joined the Army at the beginning of the Civil War, been attached to General Grant's staff, was with General Sherman's Army on its march to the sea, and tended the wounded at Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain, and other battles. After the war he was stationed at forts

David Lowe Huntington, Librarian, 1895 to 1897.



in the East and West until 1875 when he was brought to Washington as Surgeon of the Soldier's Home. From 1881 to 1883 he was curator of the museum, housed on the third floor of Ford's Theatre, and undoubtedly spent much time in the Library on the second floor editing part 3 of volume 2 of *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*. At times he was Acting, Deputy, or Assistant Surgeon General and was a delegate to the International Medical Convention held at Moscow in 1897.

As head of the Museum and Library Division, Huntington had charge of both organizations. The museum, however, was under the active direction of Major Walter Reed, who had been curator since 1893. The Library was running smoothly with Robert Fletcher, principal assistant librarian, overseeing the operations.

Huntington remained Librarian until April 1, 1897. He seems to have left little imprint on the Library, not because he lacked talent but because there were no major problems for him to solve, nothing spectacular or newsworthy occurring during the time. He retired from the Army on April 10, 1898, and thereafter lived in Europe with his family. He died in Rome, December 20, 1899.¹

JAMES CUSHING MERRILL, LIBRARIAN 1897-1902

Surgeon General Sternberg first offered Major Walter D. McCaw the opportunity to succeed Huntington.² But McCaw preferred another post and Sternberg turned to Major James Cushing Merrill. Merrill was a 44-year-old surgeon who had lived most of his Army life in the West. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 26, 1853, he had spent his boyhood there, gone to Germany for his collegiate education and to University of Pennsylvania for his medical education (M.D., 1874). Upon joining the Medical Department he had been assigned to posts in Texas, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Oklahoma. Interested in natural history, he had collected specimens of animals, birds, insects, and fishes, many of which he donated to the National Museum. He had become a competent ornithologist, publishing articles on the subject. Through his skill as a hunter of big game, including the grizzly bear, he became acquainted with Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1891 Merrill was brought to the Surgeon General's office and given responsibility for Medical Department supplies. In 1893 Surgeon General Sternberg organized the Army Medical School and appointed him lecturer on comparative anatomy. On April 1, 1897, he was placed in charge of the Library.

Unusual as it may seem for an outdoorsman, Merrill was also a scholar. He read 13 languages. In the Library he did not merely look over the shoulders of Fletcher and the other translators, he pitched in, helped compile citations for the *Index-Catalogue*, and edited volumes 3 to 7 of the second series. In this respect he was like Billings but perhaps more versatile because of his command of languages. And to add to his linguistic accomplishments he began to study Russian.



James Cushing Merrill, Librarian, 1897 to 1902.

In the summer of 1902 Merrill's health began to deteriorate. During the intervals when he was away from his office, resting and trying to strengthen himself, Calvin De Witt, head of the Museum and Library Division acted as Librarian.³ Merrill died on October 27, 1902, at the age of 49.⁴

WALTER REED, LIBRARIAN NOVEMBER 1902

The most famous of the librarians during this period was Walter Reed. But his fame resulted from medical research, and few persons other than his biographers know that he headed the Library for a brief period. He was appointed on November 1, 1902, by Surgeon General Robert O'Reilly, 5 days after James Merrill died.⁵

Reed had been born in rural Gloucester County, Virginia, September 13, 1851. He had gone to University of Virginia at the age of 16 but switched to medicine before graduating. He received two medical degrees, one from Virginia in 1869 and the other from Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, in 1870. He remained in the New York area, attached to hospitals and boards of health, until 1875, then joined the Medical Department. For the next 15 years he served at various posts, mostly in the West. In 1890 he was brought east to Baltimore, and while there took the opportunity to study at Johns Hopkins. He wanted to try his hand at research and questioned Billings about the possibility of being assigned to the museum. Billings replied that Reed's assignment "would be agreeable" and promised to tell his superiors this, but he cautioned Reed that the decision lay with Surgeon General Charles Sutherland.⁶ Sutherland sent Reed to Dakota in 1891, and he had to wait 2 more years before entering the museum.

Walter Reed, Librarian, November 1902



In 1893 George Sternberg became Surgeon General and immediately upgraded research in the department. He established the Army Medical School with classrooms and laboratory in the Library-Museum Building. This was a notable school—William Welch called it the “oldest school of preventive medicine in America”—and on its faculty were Billings, Fletcher, Sternberg, and several other officers. Sternberg brought Reed to Washington and placed him on the school’s faculty as professor of bacteriology and clinical microscopy. On September 8, 1893, Billings relinquished the curatorship of the museum to Reed, retaining the Library. From then on Reed devoted himself to teaching and research. His demonstration that mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever opened the way for the control of that disease.

On one occasion Reed told Fielding Garrison, who labored close by, who may have assisted him with literature searches, and who probably chatted with him about the history of typhoid and yellow fever, that the highest ambition of his life was to succeed Billings as Librarian.⁷ Yet when the opportunity arrived Reed seemed to be somewhat nostalgic at moving away from research. “Now, upon the death of Dr. Merrill,” he told a friend, “I take up the duties of Librarian of the S. G.’s library, and shall get more and more out of touch with practical work.”⁸

In the autumn of 1902 Reed’s health began to fail. He was sick when he was appointed Librarian (he was still curator) on November 1. Two weeks later he came down with appendicitis and died on November 23. Because of his

brief tenure, only 23 days, and ill health, Reed was Librarian largely in name rather than fact. Colonel Calvin De Witt, chief of the Museum and Library Division, acted as administrative head of the Library much of November, while Robert Fletcher directed the operations.⁹ Reed left little trace of his presence in the Library, only four documents of a routine nature bear his typed name and title as Librarian.¹⁰

Although Reed headed the Library for less than a month, he was a familiar sight to readers for he spent much time in the building between 1893 and 1902 as curator of the museum, professor in the Army Medical School, and researcher. Those of his contemporaries who wrote biographical and historical pieces recalled their brushes with Reed. One who saw him frequently was Thomas S. Cullen, who knew him from the time Reed studied at Johns Hopkins until his death.¹¹

It was early in 1892 that I had the pleasure of meeting Walter Reed and James Carroll in Dr. William H. Welch's Laboratory in the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

A few years later I became a frequent visitor to the Surgeon General's Library and often met Walter Reed there. Sometimes we would have a short chat at other times would stroll over to Harvey's Restaurant on the Avenue and have luncheon together.

I looked forward with a great deal of pleasure to having a short visit with Walter Reed on my trips to the Library.

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After making out the list of books I wished to consult, it would frequently take fifteen or twenty minutes before they were on my desk. During this time I would drop in to see Walter Reed or some of the other officers I knew.

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No one had a clearer view of the value of the Surgeon General's Library than did Walter Reed.

WALTER DREW MCCAW, LIBRARIAN 1903-1913

Robert O'Reilly had been appointed Surgeon General in September 1902, at a time when the Army was being reorganized because of flaws that had been revealed in its structure during the Spanish-American War. Improving the Medical Department was the most important task facing him, and he did not concern himself immediately with filling the vacancy in the Library. Captain Carl R. Darnall of the Army Medical School and Robert Fletcher were Acting Librarians at various times,¹² and Colonel Calvin DeWitt, head of the Museum and Library Division, signed the letter of transmittal of the current volume of the *Index-Catalogue* when it was published.¹³ Finally on October 3, 1903, almost 11 months after Reed died, O'Reilly assigned Walter Drew McCaw to the Library.

McCaw was a fifth generation physician, his father was a prominent teacher of medicine, Confederate medical officer, and editor of the Confederacy's only medical periodical, *The Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal*. Born

Walter Drew McCaw, Librarian, 1903 to 1913.



in Richmond, Virginia, February 10, 1863. McCaw was an exceptional student who completed his courses at Medical School of Virginia at the age of 19 and then attended Columbia University's medical school for 2 years, receiving a second M.D. degree in 1884. Shortly after graduation he joined the Medical Corps and served at forts in the West and South until the Spanish-American War when he accompanied an infantry regiment to Cuba and participated in the Santiago Campaign. Surviving an attack of yellow fever he returned to the United States for a year before accompanying a volunteer regiment to the Philippine Islands. In 1902 the Surgeon General recalled him to the United States, and on Oct. 3, 1903, selected him to direct the Library.

McCaw was a fine choice for the position as Librarian. He was a voracious reader, a good conversationalist, and an engaging raconteur. A scholar, his learning was described by a fellow officer as encyclopedic but free from pedantry. Popular with women, nevertheless he remained a bachelor. Jefferson R. Kean, a medical officer who knew McCaw well characterized him thus:¹⁴

McCaw had a photographic memory . . . He could read something and if you were to allude to it a year later he would not only remember it but also probably repeat it. He didn't forget anything and was a constant reader; so he got to be almost an encyclopedia. He was very popular at the Army and Navy Club. A group would pick out a topic that they thought he couldn't possibly know anything about, such as some phase of Buddhism in China, and read up on it and discuss it among themselves. They would then ask McCaw what he thought about it, and he would tell them they had it mostly wrong and tell them all about it. McCaw would have been the greatest man in the Medical Department if he had been willing to exercise those talents. I have gotten after him often, saying 'Why don't you do this or that; you really ought to.' He would reply: 'Don't say *ought* to me, Kean, for me to be sent a job and told to work it out and prepare an indorsement makes me sick.' He didn't like to undertake anything. One time a question arose about the relationship of the Red Cross to the Medical Department. I went to the Surgeon General and said I thought it should be turned over to McCaw—he was at the Library and had all the literature

at hand. So it was sent to McCaw, who didn't like the idea at all and told me that he saw my finger in it. But he did the job and did it admirably. He was interested in literature and art and didn't like to do anything that he didn't instinctively want to do. Anything he had to do—was made to do—he did admirably. If he had had insight into the importance of things and how to go after them, he would have been truly remarkable.

Under McCaw Garrison flourished, he dedicated his classic *Introduction to the History of Medicine* to McCaw "in acknowledgement of his encouragement and his many courtesies in aid of the completion of this book." He was solicitous for Robert Fletcher, now long past the age when most persons retire from their profession. Osler, in his obituary of Fletcher, remarked, "[McCaw's] kindly interest and care of Dr. Fletcher have been much appreciated by all his old friends."¹⁵

The work of the Library was chiefly dry and businesslike, relating to interlibrary loans, the compilation of the *Index-Catalogue*, purchase of publications, and providing service to readers, but at times there were queries in the answering of which McCaw's scholarly nature became evident. On one occasion he transcribed parts of a Latin manuscript by John of Arderne for D'Arcy Power, a British historian of medicine, compared Power's translation with the Library's manuscript and when Power's article appeared, questioned him about the accuracy of the translation of a verb.¹⁶

Oil portraits of physicians had been displayed discretely in Library Hall perhaps from the opening of the building. But the overwhelming array of paintings and likenesses that hung there in later days began with McCaw, who collected autographed photos of "old and tried friends of the Library"—Osler, Welch, S. Weir Mitchell, and others—and crowded, some might say cluttered, the walls with them.

McCaw like earlier and later librarians, sometimes wore two or more hats. He was an instructor in the courses in military hygiene and military and tropical medicine at the Army Medical School, he served on the Advisory Board of the Public Health Service's Hygienic Laboratory and on boards that examined officers for promotion and boards that gave physical examinations. During at least one summer he commanded the Field Hospital, Pine Camp (a militia camp) New York. One receives the impression from McCaw's career that the Surgeons General believed that the Librarians did not have much to do in the Library and therefore could always be spared for other assignments.

In 1912 the War Department issued the "Manchu" order stating that all officers who had been stationed in Washington for more than 4 years had to be rotated to other posts. Surgeon General George Torney protested, pointing out that certain officers (laboratory workers, for example) contributed more where they were than they would at some other spot. Torney wanted to retain some officers in Washington, among them McCaw at the Library. Leonard Wood, Army chief of staff, agreed to allow McCaw to remain as permanent Librarian on condition that he would be out of the line of selection for any

other duty or for assignment in case of war. McCaw was unwilling to accept the condition, and Tornev had to relieve him from duty in the Library in 1913, and send him to the Philippines in 1914.¹⁷

McCaw had charge of the Library for 12 years, longer than any other person except Billings during the Library's first century. During World War I he became Chief Surgeon of the American Expeditionary Force in France, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1919, and retired from the Army in 1927. He died July 7, 1939. One of the Army's large general hospitals was named in his honor.¹⁸

ROBERT FLETCHER PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN 1876-1912

The principal assistant librarian was an important person in the administration of the Library. He provided continuity as Army officer librarians came and went, he acted as Librarian when that officer was absent because of illness, vacations, or Army business, and he helped new clerks learn what they needed to know about bibliography, indexing, and the preparation of the *Index-Catalogue*. Robert Fletcher was the principal assistant when Billings retired and he remained in that post during the administrations of Huntington Merrill, Reed, and McCaw.

Fletcher had assisted Billings in editing 16 volumes of the first series of the *Index-Catalogue*, and after Billings left the Library in 1895 Fletcher was principal editor of the second series, reading proofs of volume 17 to within a few weeks of his death. He had coedited *Index Medicus* with Billings from the beginning of that periodical until the first series ended in 1899, he had edited the second series with Garrison from 1903 until the 1911 volume was completed when he informed his readers that "the state of my health warns me to withdraw from this engrossing medical work."¹⁹

During his almost half century of residence in Washington Fletcher had become well-known in the upper echelons of the town's university, medical, literary, and scientific circles. He was president of the Cosmos Club (he and Billings were two of the founders) and the Literary Society. He was friendly, a learned and eloquent conversationalist, and William Osler considered it "a rare treat to dine with him quietly at his club in Washington. He knew his Brillat-Savarin well, and could order a dinner that would have made the mouth of Coelius Apicius to water." Osler, who knew Fletcher for three decades, "always found him a friendly, wise and generous adviser in all matters relating to medical bibliography."²⁰

One would think that editing *Index Medicus*, the *Index-Catalogue*, and carrying out duties that arose in the Library would have been sufficient tasks for any one person, yet Fletcher still had the extra energy and mental agility to teach medical jurisprudence at George Washington University, write articles, and preside over the Anthropological Society of Washington in his sixties and to teach forensic medicine at Johns Hopkins, write articles, and preside over the Philosophical Society of Washington in his seventies.



Robert Fletcher, Principal Assistant Librarian, 1876 to 1912. Drawing by P. Rénouard. The original appeared in Harper's Weekly, p. 892, 1893.

Over the years Fletcher's name became familiar to physicians in Europe, America, and on whatever other continents the *Index-Catalogue* and *Index Medicus* had found homes. As an expression of gratitude American physicians contributed money in 1903 and 1904 to pay for the painting of his portrait by Wilton Lockwood. Today the portrait showing Fletcher as a frail, scholarly gentleman of 80 overlooks the reading room of the National Library of Medicine.

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

In 1905 during a medical meeting in Washington a discussion started about the Library and then drifted to Fletcher's contributions. The men who were present "unanimously determined that Dr Robert Fletcher should be especially recognized for the magnificent success he has achieved as the editor of the Index Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Office, U S A and Index Medicus, whereby the medical literature, not only of this country but of the whole medical world, is made easily available for use."²¹ A committee appointed at the meeting sent out invitations to a testimonial dinner to honor Fletcher and on January 11, 1906, 97 of Baltimore's and Washington's leaders in medicine and science gathered at Rauscher's Restaurant, Connecticut Avenue and L Street. Billings, Osler, Harvey Wiley, William W. Keen, and several other men praised Fletcher in speech and poetry and presented him with a loving cup. Later, photos and letters from those who attended, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia of the banquet were bound in a beautiful volume and presented to Fletcher.²²

Among the other commendations that Fletcher received during his life were honorary degrees from George Washington University in 1864 and University of Bristol in 1912, but the highest honor was the medal awarded to him in 1910 by the Royal College of Surgeons of England, a medal which had been given to only 11 physicians during the preceding 90 years.²³

Toward the end of October 1912 Fletcher's health began to fail. One Saturday morning Garrison carried Fletcher's salary to The Portland, an apartment building where Fletcher resided, and found him "all alone, wandering in his mind."²⁴ Garrison summoned medical assistance, but Fletcher lived only a few days longer and died on November 8, 1912 at the age of 89. He was buried 3 days later in Arlington Cemetery, with William Welch and other prominent physicians acting as pallbearers.²⁵

FIELDING HUDSON GARRISON, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN 1912-1930

Fletcher's assistant from 1892 to 1899 was Alonzo Frank Steigers, a one-armed former military surgeon.²⁶ Steigers had graduated from St. Louis Medical College in 1865 and then contracted to work for the Medical Department as an Acting Assistant Surgeon. He was stationed at military installations in the South until 1869 when he was transferred to Alcatraz Island, California and later to Camp Verde, Arizona Territory.

In January 1871 a scouting party from Camp Verde fought a band of Apache Indians. Steigers was hit in the left shoulder by a bullet that tore along his arm and came out of his wrist. After the fight the party made its way back to Camp Verde where Steigers' mangled limb had to be amputated.

It would seem difficult for a one-armed man to be a practicing surgeon in the Army, yet Steigers wanted to continue his career and the Medical Department retained him. He served at several posts until 1892 when Congress abolished the contract surgeon system. Steigers was then a 27 year veteran, but he had none of the retirement benefits of a regular Army surgeon. He

*Fielding Hudson Garrison,
Principal Assistant Librarian, 1912
to 1917.*



probably would have had difficulty setting up a successful civilian practice as a one-arm physician, but Billings brought him into the Library. Here he remained until he died on April 12, 1899, at the age of 55.

Following the death of Steigers, a 29-year-old clerk named Fielding Hudson Garrison applied to Merrill and the Secretary of War for the post of Assistant Librarian.²⁷ Garrison had been born in Washington on November 5, 1870, and graduated from Johns Hopkins in 1890. He had sought a job with the government, and after taking a competitive examination in several languages had been appointed a clerk in the Library on March 3, 1891. While working at the Library he had attended Georgetown University Medical School in the evenings and received his M.D. degree in 1893.²⁸ During the 8 years he had been in the Library he had impressed his superiors, and when the post of assistant librarian became vacant, he had no serious competition for the position. He was promoted on April 27 and thereafter was the right-hand man to Fletcher, indexing and classifying current medical literature for publication in the *Index-Catalogue*.

Fletcher was old enough to be Garrison's grandfather, and Garrison was probably very diffident at first. "It was a pretty cruel and trying ordeal for a youngster (as I then was) to be brought into constant close contact with a man old as Heberden and quite as stately and scholarly and dignified," Garrison wrote later, "I didn't get enough chance to kick up my heels when I wanted to . . . I have often regretted that the extreme disparity in our years made it

somewhat difficult for me to understand him at times in earlier years, when I myself had a good deal of flippancy and coltishness of youth and inexperience”²⁹

Still, they were both basically hardworking, studious, intelligent men, and they got along very well. In 1902 when Fletcher was given the opportunity to revive *Index Medicus*, he did so with the provision that Garrison be coeditor. Over the years the two became close. Garrison called Fletcher “one of my very best and kindest friends” and “a fine dear old gentleman.”³⁰

Garrison worked in the Library for 15 years before he began to publish and gradually become known outside of the circle of librarians and readers of *Index Medicus*. He was 32 when his first article appeared in print, on the classification and arrangement of books in the Library.³¹ He started writing at night while sitting up with his own father, who was suffering from a long, painful illness.³² He found writing a relief from the tedium of his daily bibliographic labors. And finally he was still a bachelor (he married in 1910), and had free time and none of the distractions of family life. Once he began to publish, Garrison turned out several articles each year.

In 1912 Fletcher, approaching his 90th birthday, resigned the editorship of the *Index Medicus*. He recommended Garrison as being “in every respect absolutely competent to continue in charge of it.”³³ Billings also recommended Garrison for the job. Garrison thus became editor, Fletcher notifying the readers: “It is with unalloyed satisfaction that I leave the *Index Medicus* in the charge of Dr. Fielding H. Garrison. His experience and scholarship are guarantees that the journal will maintain its high reputation.”³⁴

Later that year Fletcher died. Garrison applied for the post of principal assistant librarian. In recommending Garrison to the Secretary of War, who in those days had the final word on promotions, the Surgeon General wrote: “There is no one else who has the slightest claim to the position in comparison with Dr. Garrison.”³⁵ Garrison was promoted on November 13.

The year 1912 was momentous for Garrison in another respect: it saw the publication of his list of classic medical publications. The list was a by-product of an exhibit of books, pamphlets and articles that were milestones in the development of medicine from ancient times to the 20th century. Garrison carried out the research necessary to identify the classics. The exhibit was completed in 1910, and Garrison then wrote a 15,000-word account of the advancement of medicine as illustrated by the items.³⁶ McCaw, who considered it “the best essay in brief in the history of medicine that has been written in America” queried the *Journal of the American Medical Association* about publishing it.³⁷ The essay was too long for the *Journal*, but the editor ran the portion covering the period from the Greeks through the 16th century.³⁸

McCaw also had Garrison’s list of items in the exhibit printed in the current volume of the *Index-Catalogue* and obtained permission from the Surgeon General to have 500 copies of the pages reprinted.³⁹ A score of years later Garrison expanded, modified, and published his list in *Bulletin of the Institute of the History of Medicine*.⁴⁰ Yet later the catalog was revised and enlarged by

TEXTS
ILLUSTRATING THE
HISTORY OF MEDICINE

IN THE
Library of the Surgeon General's
Office, U. S. Army

Arranged in Chronological Order

REPRINT FROM VOLUME XVII, SECOND SERIES, INDEX-CATALOGUE
OF THE LIBRARY OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
712

The first separate edition of Garrison's Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine. Its descendant, Leslie T. Morton's Medical Bibliography, still flourishes at the time of the writing of this history of the Library.

Leslie T. Morton, and now, as a standard work among librarians and historians, is usually referred to simply as "Garrison and Morton"⁴¹

The compilation of the list of classics dovetailed with a history of medicine that Garrison had been writing. It is not known when he began to outline and to take notes for his history, but he must have started several years earlier, judging by its ultimate size. He began to write in earnest in 1911, thinking, at first, of a little volume to be titled "A handbook of the history of medicine, based upon the historical collections in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office" to be published by the American Medical Association.⁴² After writing much of the manuscript he changed his mind and decided to seek a commercial publisher.

He completed the book in 1912, and it appeared in December 1913 under the title, *An Introduction to the History of Medicine with Medical Chronology, Bibliographic Data and Test Questions*. It was so popular that it was reprinted in May 1914, went through a second edition in 1917, a third in 1921, and a fourth in 1929. At the time of this writing it is still the most comprehensive and authoritative history of medicine in the English language.⁴³

Through his work in bibliography and history of medicine, Garrison was now the most prominent person, except Billings, who had been connected with the Library. Eventually there were so many demands on his time from physicians interested in history of medicine that he had to "fight to keep people from turning a government office into a bureau of medical history."⁴⁴

In 1913 McCaw was sent from the Library to the Philippines. He recommended to Surgeon General George H. Torney that Garrison be appointed Librarian.⁴⁵ Harvey Cushing, on his own initiative, also suggested Garrison for the post, telling Torney, "I cannot imagine a person more admirably fitted for it."⁴⁶ The Surgeon General agreed with Cushing about Garrison's abilities, but was "not prepared to say that [Garrison] is fitted to take the position made vacant by the detachment of Colonel McCaw."⁴⁷ Torney noted that it had "always been the policy of the Surgeon General's Office to place an officer of the Medical Corps in charge of the Library and I believe its success has been due to the management of that institution by the several officers who have been in charge, each being in his turn a man of high attainments and of executive ability." There appears to have been no insurmountable reason why Garrison should not have been elevated to the post of Librarian. Apparently the Surgeon General was not ready to break tradition and appoint a civilian to a position that had always been held by an officer.

Notes

¹ Albert Allemann, an assistant librarian, wrote a sketch of Huntington in Howard A. Kelly, *Cyclopedia of American Medical Biog-*

raphy (1912, 1920, 1928). Brief obituaries of Huntington appeared in *JAMA* 34: 61 (1900), *New York Med Rec* 56: 969 (1899) and *Yale*

LEADERS OF THE LIBRARY, 1895-1913

Alumni Weekly, Jan 31, 1900 See also G M Kober, *Reminiscences of George Martin Kober*, pp 212-215

² Letter, R Fletcher to Frederick W Stone, July 26, 1902, MS/C/115

³ In MS/C/115 are file cards noting actions by De Witt in his capacity as acting librarian

⁴ A short biography by Fielding Garrison, an associate of Merrill, is in Howard A Kelly, Walter L Burrage, *American Medical Biographies*, (1920, 1928) A chapter on Merrill, with portrait and several biographical references, is in Edgar E Hume's *Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps*, pp 324-336

⁵ Copy of order, O'Reilly to Reed, Nov 1, 1902, MS/C/115 Merrill died Oct 27, Reed was appointed Nov 1 During the interim Calvin De Witt acted as Librarian, according to file cards in MS/C/115 On a few occasions the Surgeons General did not appoint a new Librarian immediately upon the departure of the old Librarian During these short intervals Fletcher, Garrison, or an officer in the museum or Army Medical School was acting librarian

⁶ Letter, Billings to Reed, May 17, 1891 NYPL

⁷ Garrison, *John Shaw Billings*, p 179, fn Garrison also stated that Billings had selected Reed for the position If so, this would have been in 1895 when Billings retired, and the Surgeon General did not agree but appointed Huntington instead

Edgar E Hume in his book, *Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps*, p 327, stated " Reed had said that at last he had been assigned to the duty which he most desired of any possible assignment in the United States Army " I have not located the source of Hume's statement It may have been a story that Hume, Librarian from 1932 to 1936, heard from old employees

⁸ Letter, Reed to [Louis] Flexner Nov 3, 1902, copy through the courtesy of William Bean

⁹ File cards and correspondence under date of November 1902, MS/C/115

¹⁰ File card, Nov 3, 1902, Reed approving 6 days leave for Fielding Garrison Second indorsement by Reed, Nov 11, 1902, on letter, J M A Spottswood, G P O , to Surg Gen O'Reilly, Nov 8 Second indorsement by Reed, Nov 13, on letter, H S Boutell to Gen W H Forwood, Nov 8 File card, Nov 15, 1902, Reed approving 3 days leave for H O Hall All in MS/C/115

¹¹ Thomas Cullen, "Proposed New and Centrally Located Surgeon General's Library Building," manuscript in HMD

¹² That Fletcher and Darnall were acting librarians may be seen by the correspondence of

the period in MS/C/115 Biographical information on Darnall, 1867-1941, is in MS/C/44

¹³ Calvin De Witt, born in Harrisburg, Pa , May 26, 1840, served in the Army of the Potomac as captain of the 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-1863 After receiving his M D degree from Jefferson in 1865 he practiced medicine, then joined the Army as Assistant Surgeon in 1867 He served in campaigns in the West and in Cuba, was professor in and president of the Army Medical School, and head of the Museum and Library Division from Apr 13, 1901 to July 20, 1903 He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1903, retired on Aug 10, 1903, and died in 1908

¹⁴ Taken, with slight changes, from an interview of Brig Gen J R Kean by Ethel M Chase, May 9, 1950 MS/C/14

¹⁵ Osler, obit of Fletcher, *Bristol Medico-Chirurgical J* 30 289-294 (1912)

¹⁶ Letters, McCaw to Power, Dec 8, 1909, Jan 7, July 22, 1910 MS/C/116 Power, "An Early English Surgeon and What he Knew John Arderne," *Med Mag* 19 406-414 (1910)

¹⁷ Autobiography of Brig Gen Jefferson R Kean, pp 145-50, 163-64 MS/C/14 Leonard Wood was a physician

¹⁸ For biographies and obituaries of McCaw see *Old Dominion J Med Surg* 3 492 (1904-05), *Amer J Clin Med* 29 859 (1922) port , F H Garrison, *Military Surgeon* 60 198-202 (1927), *JAMA* 113 437 (1939), J M Phalen, *Army Med Bull* No 64, 135-137 (1942), *N Y Times*, July 8, 1939, *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, vol A, p 89

¹⁹ Announcement preceeding the title page of the January 1912 issue of *Index Medicus*

²⁰ Osler, "In Memoriam Robert Fletcher," *Bristol Medico-Chirurgical J* 30 289-294 (1912)

²¹ Printed proposal for testimonial dinner in honor of Fletcher dated Washington, Nov 25, 1905

²² This volume is now in the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, MS/C/49

²³ Fletcher learned of his award of the medal through a cablegram sent by Osler, Apr 16, 1910, another indication of Osler's high regard for Fletcher MS/C/49 Fletcher did not feel well enough to travel to Great Britain, so the British Ambassador presented the medal to him The medal is now in NLM

²⁴ Letter, Garrison to Billings, Nov 8, 1912 MS/C/276

²⁵ Several biographies and obituaries of Fletcher may be found cited in *Index-Catalogue* In addition see obituary by Garrison in *Index Medicus* following the table of contents, Jan 1912 issue, memoir by E Brodman, *Bull*

Med Lib Assoc 49 251–290 (1961), and E. E. Hume, "Garrison and the Army Medical Library, 1891–1930," *Bull Inst Hist Med* 5 301–46 (1937), particularly pp 313–18. Memorabilia of Fletcher are in MS/C/49. A folder containing details of Fletcher's service is under date Jan – July 1895, MS/C/81.

²⁶ As is the case with almost all of its early members, the Library has practically no information about Steigers. Records concerning his military service as a contract surgeon are in the National Archives. Among them is a copy of the *Weekly Arizona Miner*, Jan 14, 1871, containing an account of the fight in which Steigers was badly wounded. *Annual Announcement of the St. Louis Medical College, Session 1865–1866*, gives Steigers' name as Frank. A brief obituary is in *JAMA* 32 955 (1899).

²⁷ Copy of letter, Garrison to Secretary of War, Apr 12, 1899, MS/C/115. In this letter Garrison stated his qualifications for the position.

Biographical information on Garrison may be found in interesting articles in the Fielding H. Garrison Memorial Number of *Bull Inst Hist Med* 5 299–403 (1937), particularly the article by Librarian E. E. Hume, "Garrison and the Army Medical Library." Solomon R. Kagan, *Life and Letters of Fielding H. Garrison* (1938), Kagan *Fielding H. Garrison, a Biography* (1948).

²⁸ "Except in the wards of Providence Hospital as a student, I have never practiced medicine," letter, Garrison to G. Simmons, *AMA* Aug 2, 1916, JH.

²⁹ The first part of the quote is from letter, Garrison to Harvey Cushing, Nov 9, 1912, quoted in E. E. Hume, "Garrison and the Army Medical Library, 1891–1930," *Bull Inst Hist Med* 5 316–317 (1937). The second part is from a letter, Garrison to Osler, Nov 11, 1912, quoted by Hume, p 317.

³⁰ Letters to Osler and Cushing, cited above.

³¹ "Classification and Arrangement of Books in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office," *Bull Assoc Med Librarians* 1 70–84 (1902).

³² In letter to Billings, Nov 24, 1901, Garrison mentioned "a protracted illness in a member of my family, requiring me to sit up late of nights, so that I had to bend my mind to writing." NYPL, copy in MS/C/276.

In letter to G. Simmons, *AMA*, Aug 5, 1914, Garrison recalled his "father's lingering and painful death, which occupied three years. I began to write papers during those long nights, to keep from going crazy and I have continued to do so, simply to keep alive, mentally speaking, and not become entirely submerged in this

bibliographical drudgery which puts out eyes and bores holes in the brains." JH.

³³ Letter, Fletcher to Billings, Nov 16, 1911, quoted in Hume, *Bull Inst Hist Med* 5 316 (1937).

³⁴ Printed notice, "Withdrawal of Dr. Robert Fletcher," in front of Jan 1912 issue of *Index Medicus*.

Garrison received \$1,200 a year from Carnegie Institution for editing *Index Medicus*. In comparison, his salary as assistant librarian was \$1,800 a year. Later Garrison appointed Albert Allemann of the Library to assist with proof-reading, etc., of *Index Medicus* at a salary of \$1,200 a year, paid by Carnegie.

³⁵ Kagan, *Garrison*, [p 90].

A letter from Garrison to Billings, Nov 8, 1912, asking Billings to recommend him for the post, is in NYPL, copy in MS/C/276.

³⁶ That McCaw initiated the exhibit in 1909 is shown by the *Annual Report of the Surgeon General, 1909*, p 155.

³⁷ Letter, McCaw to G. H. Simmons, Mar 29, 1911, MS/FB/101.

³⁸ "The Historical Collection of Medical Classics in the Library of the Surgeon General's office," *JAMA*, 56 1785–1792 (1911).

³⁹ Letter, McCaw to Surgeon General, May 21, 1912, MS/FB/101. *Index-Catalogue*, series 2, v 17, pp 89–178. Reprints of the list, *Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine in the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, U.S. Army, Arranged in Chronological Order* (1912) are quite scarce.

⁴⁰ "Revised Check-list of Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine," 1 333–434 (1933).

⁴¹ Leslie T. Morton, *A Medical Bibliography (Garrison and Morton) an Annotated Check-list of Texts Illustrating the History of Medicine* (3 ed., 1970).

⁴² Letter, Garrison to G. H. Simmons, Apr 24, 1911, and correspondence between the two continuing through the year MS/C/166.

⁴³ The third edition, 1921, was reprinted in 1924. The fourth edition, 1929, was reprinted in March 1960 and August 1960. A Spanish translation was published in 1921–22.

⁴⁴ Letter, Garrison to Welch, July 21, 1933, JH.

⁴⁵ Kagan, *Life and Letters of Garrison*, p 7, referring to a letter of McCaw in Garrison's correspondence.

⁴⁶ Letter, Cushing to Torney, quoted in Hume, p 309–310, also in the biographical file of Garrison, MS/C/44.

⁴⁷ Letter, Torney to Cushing, quoted in Hume, p 310.