

I

Beginning of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office

BOOKS IN THE OFFICE OF SURGEON GENERAL JOSEPH LOVELL, 1818–1836

FEW of the world's great libraries started out with the intention of being that. The National Library of Medicine, the greatest or one of the greatest medical libraries in number of volumes and service rendered to patrons, began as a few books in the office of a Surgeon General of the Army in 1818 or '19. The officer was Joseph Lovell, 30 years old, a native of Massachusetts, who had joined the Army in 1812 and been appointed chief of the Medical Department in 1818.¹ There had been medical officers with titles of Physician General and Surgeon General in the Continental Army during the Revolution and in the United States Army during the following third of a century but the present-day Medical Department began in 1818 when the Army was reorganized, and a regular succession of Surgeons General began with Lovell.

Lovell's first office was in one or two rented rooms in some privately owned building (which building is not known) in Washington.² During the summer of 1819 he moved to a room in an early War Department building, now demolished, on Pennsylvania Avenue at Seventeenth Street, N.W. His furnishings were simple; a table, six chairs, and a bookcase.³ From this office, with assistance from a clerk who copied outgoing correspondence, filed incoming letters, and maintained records, Lovell directed approximately three score post surgeons, regimental surgeons, and surgeons' mates who served at forts, barracks, posts, hospitals, and arsenals within the United States.

The Army expected medical officers to buy whatever medical and scientific books they preferred to read, study, and consult, but it provided them with a reference book for each branch of medicine.⁴ Among the volumes purchased by the Medical Department during the early years for distribution to officers were the following: John Pringle, *Observations on the Diseases of the Army*, with notes by Benjamin Rush;⁵ *Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America*;⁶ Robert Thomas' *Modern Practice of Physic* and Samuel Cooper's *Surgical Dictionary*;⁷ "Bell on venereal," *Surgeons' Vade-Mecum*, and Thomas Sydenham, *The Works, on Acute and Chronic Diseases . . .*, with notes by Rush;⁸ John



Joseph Lovell, Surgeon General,
United States Army, 1818 to 1836.

Syng Dorsey's *Elements of Surgery*, and Thomas Miner and William Tulley, *Essays on Fevers*⁹

The department also subscribed to a medical periodical for each officer to enable him, even when he was isolated at a frontier post, to keep up with advances in the profession. The *Medico-Chirurgical Journal and Review*, published in London, was usually distributed, but apparently a different journal might be sent if an officer preferred.¹⁰

Surgeon General Lovell also procured, within limits of his tiny budget, whatever official documents, medical journals, newspapers, and reference books he needed as director of the Army's physicians. In 1823 he noted that he had purchased, during the 5 years he had been in office, an American atlas, seven maps of states and Mexico, Peter Force's *National Calendar*,¹¹ Laws of the 16th Congress, the Washington newspaper *National Intelligencer*, Judah Delano's *Washington Directory*, the *Medical Recorder*, and the *Medical Repository* for 1821.¹² He probably bought other publications, but the only one of which there is a record is John Godman's *Western Quarterly Reporter of Medical, Surgical and Natural Sciences*.¹³

During 1820 and 1821 the department spent approximately \$400 each year for medical publications, presumably for books and journals furnished to officers. In 1822 and '23 the amount dropped to \$300 a year. In 1824 the funds spent for books and "vaccine matter" were lumped together at \$400 a year and from 1825 to 1836 at \$500 a year, without any indication of the proportions spent for publications and vaccine matter.¹⁴

Books and journals purchased with government funds sat in the office book-

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case, probably in the company of some of Lovell's own books, perhaps those that he had studied at Harvard College and Medical School or purchased to improve his skill as a physician when he was in private practice from 1811 to 1812 and an Army surgeon in the Northern states, 1812 to 1818. There was also a variety of pamphlets, several of which, perhaps all, had been presented to Lovell by their authors.¹⁵ And the bookcase probably contained a copy of William Beaumont's *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice*, for Lovell appreciated Beaumont's investigations, encouraged him and tried to accommodate his requests for favors and furloughs, in appreciation of which Beaumont dedicated his book to the Surgeon General.¹⁶

In 1830 the little collection of publications moved with the Surgeon General from the War Department to a State Department building on Pennsylvania Avenue at 15th Street, N.W., and in 1831 to a room or two in "Mr. Vevan's House" at 18th and G Streets. Lovell and his family lived in an attractive home he built across the street from the White House. Now known as Blair House, it is owned by the United States and is used as the residence of visiting foreign dignitaries. In 1836 Lovell died shortly after his wife passed away, leaving 11 children fatherless and motherless. He was buried in Congressional Cemetery in the presence of the President's family, Cabinet members, the faculty of Columbian College Medical School, and officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

From the few dozen books, journals, and pamphlets whose accumulation took place over a span of 18 years during the presidencies of James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, and Andrew Jackson, when the steamboat and railroad were in their infancies, when the United States was primarily a land of farmers, and the flag had only half of the stars it has today, developed over the next one and one-half centuries the mammoth million-volume National Library of Medicine.¹⁷

THE COLLECTION OF BOOKS BECOMES A "LIBRARY" DURING THE TERM OF THOMAS LAWSON, 1836-1861

Assistant Surgeon Benjamin King, who was on duty in Washington at the time of Lovell's death, was placed in charge of the small office for a few weeks until President Jackson appointed Thomas Lawson, a veteran of 25 years of service, as the new Surgeon General.¹⁸ While King was Surgeon General "ad interim," the time arrived for submission of the Medical Department's estimates of expenses for the coming fiscal year. King sent to the Secretary of War an estimate including \$150 for "medical books for office."¹⁹ This seems to have been the first request for funds to buy books specifically for the Surgeon General's office. Even though King signed the document, undoubtedly Lawson, as senior surgeon of the Army and the person expected to be promoted to the rank of Surgeon General, expressed his wishes in the estimates. For several years thereafter, until at least 1841, Lawson submitted the same estimate for books.²⁰

A
Catalogue of Books
in the Library
of the
Surgeon General's Office
Washington City
1840

The earliest known list of books and journals in the Library. The collection was less than two decades old, and contained fewer volumes than many persons owned in their home libraries.

In 1842 Congress, apparently alarmed at the growth of government libraries (there were libraries for the House of Representatives, Senate, State Department, Coast Survey, Army Artillery School, Army Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Patent Office, Treasury, and more on the way) laid down guidelines for the purchase of books through a provision in the appropriation act. During fiscal year 1842-1843 the Surgeon General had to affirm to the Secretary of War that such works as he ordered were "necessary and proper to carry on the business."²¹ Secretary John Spencer approved subscriptions to several medical journals and other strictly medical works but not to Audubon's *Birds of America*, parts of which the Medical Department had already bought, nor to Samuel Hazard's *United States Commercial and Statistical Register*, nor to the Washington newspaper *Daily Globe*²² But within a few years restrictions relaxed, and the Surgeon General was purchasing Audubon's *Quadrupeds of North America*²³

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<u>A</u>	
<i>Amputation surgery</i>	2 Vol.
<i>Adams on Epilepsies</i>	1 Vol.
<i>American Dispensatory</i>	1 Vol.
<i>American Almanack</i>	
<i>American Medical Journal</i>	
<i>Ammoniacal Solution Dictionary</i>	1 Vol.
<i>Art of preserving the feet</i>	1 Vol.
<i>Army Regulations</i>	
<i>Amstutz on Typhus fever</i>	1 Vol.
<i>Amicals Med. Clinic</i>	1 Vol.

Page of the catalog of 1840, showing the volumes listed under the letter A.

After 1843 books and journals for the office were purchased with money from the contingency fund. Books and journals for distribution to officers in the field were bought with money from the appropriations for "medical books and vaccine matter," or "medical books, stationery, printing, etc.," or other groups of supplies.

Four years after Lawson became Surgeon General, someone in his group of associates listed in a small notebook the authors and short titles of the volumes in the office. This is the earliest known catalog of the Library; through some miracle it escaped the housecleanings that went on in the department during the 19th and 20th centuries, and today it rests in the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine.²⁴

At that time there were 134 titles, of which 8 were journals, on the shelves. The exact number of volumes was not stated in the catalog and cannot now be ascertained; it could have been any number between 187 and 226, depending

upon the number of volumes present in each series of journals.²⁵ The entire collection could have been held by a four-shelf bookcase, shoulder high and 7 or 8 feet wide.

In the collection were works on anatomy, physiology, fevers, diseases of children, dentistry, epidemics, pharmacy, midwifery, medical jurisprudence, and military surgery. There were books and journals that had been purchased for distribution and others apparently for reference. Among the latter were Robert J. Thornton's *Family Herbal*, Benjamin Moseley's *Treatise on Tropical Diseases*, Joseph Nancrede's translation of Orfila's *General System of Toxicology*, John M. Good's multivolume *Practice of Medicine*, works on civil and military law, Robert Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary, Samuel Johnson's English Dictionary, Baron George Cuvier's *Theory of the Earth*, Erasmus Darwin's *Zoonomia*, and James Cutbush's *Philosophy of Experimental Chemistry*.

The catalog lists only the titles present in 1840. Other volumes had been purchased for the office between 1818 and 1840, among them Godman's *Western Quarterly Reporter of Medical, Surgical and Natural Sciences* and Miner and Tulley's *Essays on Fevers*, but they were missing when the catalog was compiled. Perhaps books had been borrowed but not returned, or outmoded works had been thrown away.²⁶

The Surgeon General's was one of the smaller medical literature collections of the country.²⁷ The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland possessed at least 437 books and several journals, the medical library at the Philadelphia Almshouse more than 1,100 volumes plus several journals, and the New York Hospital library about 5,000 volumes and 100 periodicals.²⁸ A decade earlier the library of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia owned more than 3,400 titles, hundreds of theses, and approximately 150 periodicals.²⁹ Seventeen years earlier the Boston Medical Library contained more than 1,300 volumes and several journals.³⁰ Firmly established medical schools had bigger libraries, and some scholars and physicians possessed larger collections. William Byrd of Virginia had 141 volumes, and Thomas Dale of South Carolina had 325 volumes on medicine back in colonial times.³¹ The library of John Redman Coxe contained 4,835 lots when it was auctioned in 1864, and that of John B. Beck had 784 lots when auctioned in 1851.³²

During the late 1830's, 1840's, and 1850's, the little Library continued to expand. Surgeons stationed outside Washington used the following books, copies of which were probably in the Library: John Hennen, *Principles of Military Surgery*; William P. Dewees, *A Compendious System of Midwifery, A Treatise on the Medical and Physical Treatment of Children, and Treatise on the Diseases of Females*; "Paris' Med. Dictionary," probably John A. Paris, *Pharmacologia*; James Copland, *A Dictionary of Practical Medicine*; William Gibson, *The Institutes and Practice of Surgery*, George Gregory, *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Physic*; Benjamin Ellis, *The Medical Formulary*, William J. Erasmus Wilson, *Practical and Surgical Anatomy*, Anthony T. Thomson, *Conspectus of*

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the *Pharmacopeias of the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Colleges of Physicians*; John Eberle, *A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine*; Robert Hooper, *The Surgeon's Vade-Mecum*, and *Medical Dictionary*; Louis Martinet, *Manual of Pathology* (or perhaps his *Manual of Therapeutics*), Bernard M. Byrne's *An Essay to Prove the Contagious Character of Malignant Cholera*; the *United States Pharmacopeia*; and dispensaries.³³ Some of the books consulted by surgeons of the previous generation, as the works of Rush, Bell, and Cooper, still lingered at forts and posts, perhaps no longer used but still retained because regulations forbade the destruction of government property.³⁴

For the use of surgeons in the General's office was purchased Jean-Nicholas Gannal, *History of Embalming*, Jones Quain and W. J. E. Wilson, *Anatomical Plates*; Robley Dunglison, *New Remedies and Medical Lexicon*; Thomas Watson, *Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic*; Samuel Ashwell, *Practical Treatise on the Diseases Peculiar to Women*; Charles Meigs' translation of Marc Colombat, *A Treatise on the Diseases and Special Hygiene of Females*; John Elliotson, *Principles and Practice of Medicine*; Robert Graves, *Clinical Lectures*; William Stokes and John Bell, *Theory and Practice of Physic*; Joseph Maclise, *Surgical Anatomy*; François C. Maillot, *Aide-Mémoire Médico-légal*; George B. Wood, *A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine*; Maximilian Joseph von Chelius, *A System of Surgery*; William Pirrie, *The Principles and Practice of Surgery*; Charles D. Meigs, *Obstetrics*; Samuel D. Gross, *A Practical Treatise on the Diseases and Injuries of the Urinary Bladder, the Prostate Gland, and the Urethra*; William Stokes, *Treatise on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Chest*, John H. Bennet, *Clinical Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine*, Joseph Leidy's translation of Gottlieb Gluge, *Atlas of Pathological Anatomy*, Jonathon Pereira, *The Elements of Materia Medica*; William B. Carpenter, *Principles of Human Physiology*; Carl Rokitansky, *A Manual of Pathological Anatomy*; Robert W. Smith, *A Treatise on Fractures in the Vicinity of Joints*.³⁵

The department continued to supply journals to regular (not "acting" or temporary) officers for their "professional improvement."³⁶ *New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences* was chosen by a board of officers as the standard periodical in 1843³⁷ and was continued until 1851 when Surgeon General Lawson replaced it by *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* and *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*.³⁸ Thereafter officers received both of these journals.³⁹

The Surgeon General himself received two or three other periodicals. In the early 1840's these included *American Medical Intelligencer*, *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, and *Bell's Medical Library*.⁴⁰ When the *Intelligencer* expired in 1842, Lawson switched to *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.⁴¹ A few years later he was also receiving *Journal of the Franklin Institute* and *American Journal of Science and Arts*.⁴² In the 1850's he took, at times, *American Medical Monthly*, *Half-yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences*, *Ret-*

rospect of Medicine, and the New York edition of the London *Lancet*.⁴³ In 1861 he ordered a subscription for *American Medical Times*, which had recently begun publication.⁴⁴

That the journals in the General's office were considered part of a library rather than current reading material to be thrown away periodically is indicated by the binding of issues into annual volumes. On one occasion in 1850 Lawson had bound six volumes of *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, six of *New York Journal of Medicine*, four of *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, three of *American Journal of Science*, three of *Lancet*, four of *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, four of *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, and three of *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.⁴⁵

EARLY EXCHANGES AND GIFTS

The Medical Department was the first government organization to collect data on the weather systematically, decades before the U.S. Weather Bureau was established. Surgeons and mates at hospitals, forts, and posts kept diaries in which they noted the temperature at three specified times each day, the course of the winds, and other information. In 1840 the Surgeon General's staff edited and published some of the data in a small volume, *Meteorological Register for the Years 1826–1830*. They also compiled observations on the health of soldiers from 1819 to 1839, publishing the material in a book, *Sickness and Mortality in the Army of the United States*. Lawson sent these works to the Medical Department of the British Army, receiving in return statistical compilations which he referred to as "a valuable acquisition to our little library."⁴⁶ This was perhaps the first exchange.

The first gift to another library may have been the meteorological and statistical volumes sent by Lawson to Harvard College library in 1847.⁴⁷

A few years later the Philadelphia College of Medicine sent Lawson three dozen copies of its constitution and bylaws for distribution. Presumably the college hoped to induce Army surgeons to call the attention of prospective students to the school. This led to another exchange, the Surgeon General sending to the college library copies of the *Meteorological Register*, *Statistical Report on the Sickness and Mortality*, *Regulations for the Medical Department*, *Directions for Taking Meteorological Observations*, James Espy's meteorological charts, and Thomas Henderson's *Hints on the Medical Examination of Recruits for the Army*.⁴⁸

The first gift to the Library may have come from John Kearsley Mitchell who offered 50 copies of his recent book, *On the Cryptogamous Origin of Malarious and Epidemic Fevers*. Mitchell, a prominent physician of Philadelphia who attended Edgar Allan Poe and fathered S. Weir Mitchell, the novelist and neurologist, may have been trying to gain recognition for and to spread his theories rather than help develop the Library, but one copy undoubtedly ended up in the bookcase while the other 49 were distributed to surgeons in the South, Southwest, and West where fevers were more prevalent.⁴⁹ Daniel



Thomas Lawson, Surgeon General, United States Army, 1836 to 1861.

Drake sent a copy of his *Systematic Treatise, Historical, Etiological, and Practical, on the Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America*, in return for which the Surgeon General promised to send him suitable Army reports on illness of the region.⁵⁰ Blanchard & Lea, a Philadelphia publisher, sent the Surgeon General a copy of the latest edition of Robley Dunglison's *New Dictionary of Medical Science*, perhaps hoping for a large order from the department.⁵¹

Because a group subscription to a journal or book from the department meant a sale of up to 80 copies, a number sufficiently large to cause publishers to compete for business, publishers sent sample issues.⁵² Lindsay & Blakiston sent Lawson numbers of the *Medical Examiner*, but he would not substitute it for either of the journals being purchased by the department.⁵³ On the other hand three volumes of the *Virginia Medical Journal* sent by editor James B. McCaw caused Lawson to place an order for 20 subscriptions.⁵⁴

Thomas Lawson served as Surgeon General longer than any other officer; he died on May 15, 1861, shortly after the Civil War started. During the quarter century of his tenure the practice was begun of calling the small collection of books and journals the "Library," the first estimate of funds for books was made, the Library's first catalog was compiled, and the first exchange and gift of books took place. Yet, the collection was still insignificant and unorganized if the statement of Joseph J. Woodward, a member of the Surgeon General's office from 1862 to 1884, is accepted: "At the time the late Civil War broke out nothing deserving the name of a medical library existed in Washington."⁵⁵

A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Notes

¹ Histories of the Medical Department may be found in Louis C Duncan, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the Civil War* (1910), Percy M Ashburn, *A History of the Medical Department of the United States Army* (1929), Harvey E Brown, *The Medical Department of the United States Army from 1775 to 1873* (1873)

Biographies of Surgeons General and other notable medical officers may be found in James E Pilcher, *The Surgeon Generals of the Army of the United States of America* (1905), James M Phalen, *Chiefs of the Medical Department United States Army 1775-1940* (1940), Edgar Erskine Hume, *Ornithologists of the United States Army Medical Corps, Thirty-six Biographies* (1942) Biographies of individual officers, as of George M Sternberg, Walter Reed, and John Shaw Billings, have appeared in books, and biographical articles of many officers have been published in journals

² Locations of the office are from George A Sheerer, *Notes on the Army Surgeon General's Office in Washington, 1818-1948* (1948), and other sources

³ " a suitable case for the papers and books of the office ", letter, Lovell to Secretary of War John C Calhoun, July 31, 1819 NA (National Archives)

⁴ " the object in furnishing books to medical officers being merely to secure to them a standard work in each department of medical science, and not to supercede the necessity of their providing themselves with such other books as they may deem necessary", letter, Surg Henry L Heiskell, SGO, to Asst Surg J J Milhau, Sept 10, 1852 NA

⁵ Letter, Lovell to Surg Wilham Wheaton Nov 9, 1818 NA Sir John Pringle, *Observations on the Diseases of the Army* with notes by Benjamin Rush

⁶ Letters, Lovell to Sec of War Calhoun, Jan 12, Feb 21, 1820, Lovell to Apothecary General Francis Le Baron, Aug 15, 1820 NA Calhoun directed Lovell to subscribe to 75 copies for use of surgeons and mates

⁷ Letters, Lovell to Surg Sylvester Day, Mar 1, 1823, Lovell to Surg Thomas G Mower, Aug 13, 1831 NA Probably, Robert Thomas, *The Modern Practice of Physic*, with an appendix by David Hosack (New York, 1820), and Samuel Cooper, *A Dictionary of Practical Surgery*, with notes and additions by John Syng Dorsey (Philadelphia, 1810) Also mentioned were a dispensatory and the U S *Pharmacopoeia*

⁸ Letter, Lovell to Surg Thomas G Mower, Aug 13, 1831 NA Probably, Thomas Sydenham, *The Works, on Acute and Chronic Diseases, with their Histories and Modes of Cure*, with notes by Benjamin Rush Dorsey's Cooper was also mentioned "Bell on venereal" may have been Benjamin Bell, *Treatise on Gonorrhoea Virulenta*

⁹ Letter, Lovell to Asst Surg Samuel W Dalton, Nov 14, 1831 NA Also mentioned were *Army Regulations*, a dispensatory, *Surgeon's Vade-Mecum*, Thomas' *Practice*, Cooper's *Surgery*, Dorsey's Cooper, and the U S *Pharmacopoeia* Probably, John Syng Dorsey, *Elements of Surgery*, Thomas Miner and William Tullev, *Essays on Fevers and other Medical Subjects* and Alexander P Wilson Philip's book on fevers or on laws of vital functions

¹⁰ Letter, Surg Gen ad interim Benjamin King to Asst Surg Lyle Day Jan 20, 1837 NA "I presume there will be no objection to supplying you with the Select Medical Library in lieu of Johnsons Medical Journal which is the periodical usually furnished" James Johnson's *Med Chir J Rev* started publication in 1816 and underwent changes in title

¹¹ The National Library of Medicine (hereafter referred to as NLM) has a copy of Peter Force's *National Calendar*, vol 6, Washington 1828, with Lovell's name on the title page and front cover It seems to me that this volume was Lovell's personal property else he would not have written his name in large letters in such prominent places

¹² Letter, Lovell to Sec of War Calhoun Jan 24, 1823 NA The publications were paid for with money from the contingency fund

¹³ Letter, Lovell to Godman, July 29, 1822 NA

¹⁴ Letter, Lovell to Sec of War Calhoun Nov 1, 1819, estimate of expenses of the medical department for the years 1821 1822, 1823 1824, 1825, 1826, 1831, letters Lovell to Sec of War James Barbour, Oct 18 1826, Oct 12 1827, to Sec of War Peter Porter Oct 30 1828, to Sec of War John Eaton, Oct 23 1829 to Sec of War Lewis Cass, Oct 20 1831, Oct 20, 1832, Oct 14, 1833, Oct 23, 1834, Nov 2, 1835, Nov 12, 1836 NA

¹⁵ In NLM is a volume containing 18 medical essays and tracts, 1804-1807 six of which have inscriptions from the authors to Lovell call no WZ/270/M4889/1804

Another volume of pamphlets, 1819-1827, presumably presented to Lovell by the authors was titled "Slang Whanging" by an office hu

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morist because of the controversies engaged in by the writers call no WZ/270/S631/1819

¹⁶ In the records of the SGO, National Archives, are many letters from Lovell to Beaumont

¹⁷ In the mid-1930's the Librarian, Colonel Edgar E. Hume, decided that the Library ought to have a birthdate. He picked the year 1836. Apparently he did this arbitrarily for he had no evidence to support his claim. Billings had been careful to state that the book collection was begun prior to 1836 [Billings, "Who Founded the National Medical Library?" *New York Med Rec* 17: 298-9 (1880)]. Surgeon General Barnes, equally cautious, wrote "From the purchase of a few common textbooks and one or two current medical journals commenced about 1830" (Letter, Barnes to Senator L. M. Morrill, Chairman, Joint Committee on Libraries, Feb. 9, 1872, NA). But Hume wrote "Lovell, in the year 1836—we do not know the exact date—began a collection of books for the use of his officers and himself" ["Buildings for the Army Medical Library," *Military Surgeon* 80: 45 (1937)]. Hume used this date to bring about the Library's "Centenary Celebration" in 1936. The date has been used on other occasions.

¹⁸ Lovell died on Oct. 17, 1836. Lawson was appointed Nov. 30.

¹⁹ Letter, King to Secretary of War, Nov. 12, 1836, NA.

²⁰ Letters, Acting Surg. Gen. King to Sec. of War, Nov. 20, 1837; Lawson to Sec. of War Joel Poinsett, Nov. 14, 1838, July 15, 1840; Acting Surg. Gen. Henry L. Heiskell to Sec. of War John C. Spencer, Nov. 3, 1841, re estimates for fiscal year 1842-43, NA.

²¹ Letter, Acting Surg. Gen. Heiskell to Sec. of War Spencer, Sept. 2, 1842, with endorsement by the Secretary of War, NA.

²² Letters, Heiskell to Spencer, above, Heiskell to Blair and Rives, Sept. 1, 1842, NA.

²³ Letter, Surg. R. C. Wood to C. S. Francis & Co., May 1, 1856, NA.

From the time of Lewis and Clark Army officers explored the West, and sent back to Washington accounts of birds, fishes, animals, shrubs, climate, minerals, and much else. It is probable that Audubon's writings were used for reference in the Surgeon General's office.

²⁴ A facsimile was published in 1961 to commemorate the founding of the National Library of Medicine.

²⁵ Fielding H. Garrison, *John Shaw Billings, a Memoir* (1915) p. 213, wrote "In 1840, there was prepared a manuscript catalogue which shows, by actual count, that it consisted of 135 works, comprising 228 volumes." Since the 1840 catalog does not give the number of volumes for

10 titles, including 3 journals, I do not know how Garrison could have calculated a precise total. Addition shows that there were 134 titles and at least 187 volumes, but there could have been as many as 226 volumes.

²⁶ Some of the volumes mentioned in the 1840 catalog have disappeared from the Library. Some were judged later to be out of scope and were exchanged away. It is uncertain whether some of the books now in the Library were the copies actually there in 1840, for the Library then had no acquisition book or numbering system, and rebinding has destroyed the original end papers and covers that might have provided evidence.

²⁷ The first medical library, that of the Pennsylvania Hospital, was started in 1763. Excluding libraries in medical schools, succeeding libraries were those of the College of Physicians in Philadelphia, 1788; Medical Society of South Carolina, 1791; and New York Hospital, 1796. By 1800 there were 8 medical libraries, by 1876 60. See J. S. Billings, "Medical Libraries in the United States," in *Public Libraries in the United States* (1876), pp. 171-82, reprinted in F. B. Rogers, *Selected Papers of John Shaw Billings* (1965). C. D. Spivak, "The Medical Libraries of the United States," *Philadelphia Med J* 2: 851-8 (1898).

²⁸ *Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Library of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland* (Baltimore, 1835). *A Catalogue of the Medical Library Belonging to the Philadelphia Almshouse* (Philadelphia, 1824). *A Catalogue of the Books Belonging to the Library of the New York Hospital* (New York, 1845).

²⁹ *Catalogue of the Medical Library of the Pennsylvania Hospital* (Philadelphia, 1829).

³⁰ *Catalogue of Books in the Boston Medical Library* (Boston, 1823).

³¹ Wyndham Blanton, *Medicine in Virginia in the Eighteenth Century*, pp. 109-111. Joseph I. Waring, *History of Medicine in South Carolina, 1670-1825*, p. 205.

³² George L. McKay, *American Book Auction Catalogues, 1713-1934*.

³³ Hennen's Military Surgery, Dewees on Females, Dewees on Children, Dewees on Midwifery, Paris' Medical Dictionary, along with Bell on Venereal and Bell on Ulcers, are mentioned in letter Lawson to Surg. Edward Maccomb, Ft. Leavenworth, Aug. 12, 1837. Hennen is also mentioned in letter, Asst. Surg. R. H. Coolidge to Asst. Surg. Charles H. Smith, Fort Meade, Fla., Jun. 26, 1854. Copland is mentioned in letter, Lawson to Surg. W. V. Wheaton, West Point, Feb. 4, 1840. Gibson's Surgery, and Thomas' Practice, are mentioned in letter, Acting Surg. Gen. H. Heiskell to Surg.

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Nathan S Jarvis, Fort Jessup, La , Apr 26, 1842 Gregory is cited in letter, Heiskell to Surg Presley H Craig, New Orleans, July 7, 1843 Ellis is mentioned in letter, Lawson to Asst Surg J H Bailev, Fort Smith, Ark , Nov 3, 1845 Wilson's Anatomy, mentioned in letter, Heiskell to Surg W L Booth, Nov 21, 1849 For Thomson see letters, Heiskell to Asst Surg Jonathon Letterman, Ft Meade, Fla , May 8, 1851 For Eberle, see letter, Heiskell to Dr S G J DeCamp, Fort Columbus, N Y , Jan 21, 1853 For Hooper's Vade Mecum see letter, Heiskell to Dr J J B Wright, Jan 27, 1853, and for Dictionary see letter, Coolidge to Langworthy, Oct 19, 1854 For "Martinet's Manual" see letter, Coolidge to Asst Surg C Sutherland, Fort Fillmore, Mo , May 2, 1854 Byrne, a surgeon in the U S Army Medical Dept , was courtmartialed in 1859, his book is mentioned in letter, Lawson to Childs & Peterson, Phila , ordering 100 copies of the book "provided the cost does not exceed one dollar per copy " Letters in NA

³⁴ At Fort Defiance, N Mex , there was a copy of Bell's Anatomy in 1854 letter, Surg Richard H Coolidge to Asst Surg Elisha P Langworthy, Oct 19, 1854 At Fort McHenry there were copies of Rush's Pringle, Rush's Sydenham, and Bell on Venereal in 1846 according to letter, Acting Surg Gen H Heiskell to Asst Surg J F Head, Sept 1, 1846, and of Rush's Svdnham in 1852, letter, Surg R H Coolidge to R C Wood, Jan 3, 1852 SGO records, NA

³⁵ For Gannal see letter, Act Surg Gen H Heiskell to Sec of War Spencer, Nov 3, 1841 For Quam see letter, Lawson to Sec of War Porter, May 19, 1843 For Dughlson, Watson, Ashwell, Colombat, Elliottson, Graves, Machse, and Stokes, see statement of disbursements of contingent expenses for year ending 30 June 1846 NA For Maillot, see statement of contingent expenses for year ending 30 June 1850 NA For Dughlson, Wood, Chelius, Pirrie, Meigs, and Gross see letter, Surg Heiskell to Surg T G Mower, Sept 14, 1852 NA For Stokes, Bennet, Gluge, Pereira, Carpenter, Rokitansky, and Smith see letter, Heiskell to Mower Apr 20, 1853 NA

³⁶ Letter, Surg H Heiskell to J M Galt, 1851 NA

³⁷ Letter, Lawson to Surg T G Mower, Aug 8, 1843 NA

³⁸ Letters, Sug H Heiskell to Surg T G Mower, Dec 9, 1851, Heiskell to Blanchard & Lea, Dec 9, 12, 1851, Jan 9, 1852, Lawson to Mower, Aug 8, 1843 NA Eighty subscriptions of *Amer J Med Sci* and *British Foreign Med Chi Rev* were ordered at a cost of \$3 50 a subscription

³⁹ Letter, Surg H Heiskell to Lindsay & Blakeston, Mar 7, 1854 NA

⁴⁰ Letters, Act Surg Gen H Heiskell to Sec of War J C Spencer, Sept 2, 1842, Surg R C Wood to D Clapp July 3, 1856, stopping subscription to *Boston Med Surg J* NA

⁴¹ Letter, Act Surg Gen H Heiskell to Sec of War Spencer, Nov 30, 1842 NA

⁴² Letters, Heiskell to editor of *J Franklin Inst* , July 20, 1848, Feb 22, 1850, Dec 11, 1857 In the Dec 11 letter the subscription was cancelled owing to shortage of funds Letter, Heiskell to Silliman & Dana, July 21, 1848 NA

⁴³ Letters, Surg R C Wood to editor of *Amer Med Monthly*, Dec 11, 1857, cancelling subscription owing to lack of funds, Wood to Surg R S Satterlee, Dec 23, 1859, re obtaining back issues of *Retrospect* and *Abstract* to complete office sets for binding, Surg R Coolidge to Stringer & Townsend, Mar 14, 1854, Wood to Satterlee, Dec 23, 1859, re binding of volumes of *Lancet*, Wood to Asst Surg W H Babcock, Mar 2, 1859, stating that *Lancet* was not distributed NA The *Lancet* was reprinted in New York under the title *London Lancet*

⁴⁴ Letter, Surg R C Wood to Baillière Bros , Apr 11, 1861, requesting back issues NA

⁴⁵ Statement of contingent expenses for year ending 30 June 1850 NA There are several references to the binding of publications in the records of the 1840's and 1850 s

⁴⁶ Letters, Act Surg Gen H Heiskell to Maj A M Tullock, London, Jan 31, 1842, Heiskell to Rep D D Barnard, May 18, 1842, Lawson to Sec of War J C Spencer, Apr 6, 1843, Lawson to Sir J McGrigor, June 15, 1843 NA

⁴⁷ Letter, Act Surg Gen H Heiskell to John L Sibley Harvard College, Oct 19, 1847 NA

⁴⁸ Letter, Lawson to James Brvan, president, Med Ch College, June 11 Sept 7, 1849 NA Although the letter was addressed to the Med Ch College, I believe this referred to the Philadelphia College of Medicine, with which Bryan was associated at this date

⁴⁹ Letters, Lawson to Asst Surg Benj King, Sept 21, 1849, to J K Mitchell, same date NA

⁵⁰ Letter, Lawson to Drake, May 27, 1850 NA

⁵¹ Letter, Surg R C Wood to Blanchard & Lea, June 15, 1858 NA

⁵² Perhaps the Army and Navy medical departments ordered the only group subscriptions in medical journalism at that time

⁵³ Letter, Surg H L Heiskell to Lindsay & Blakston, Mar 7, 1854 NA

BEGINNING OF THE LIBRARY OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

⁵⁴ Letter, Surg. R. C. Wood to McCaw, Jan. 8, 1856: NA

⁵⁵ Quoted by F. Harner, "A Plea for an American Medical Library," *Med. Surg. Reporter* 38: 449-50 (1878). Woodward was one of the editors of the *Medical and Surgical History*

of the War of the Rebellion. At the time Woodward made this statement he was accustomed to the everyday sight of the country's largest medical library, and in his mind's eye the few hundred volumes of 1861 were hardly worthy of being called a "library."