Guide to the J. W. Eighmy Notebook 1875

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: J. W. Eighmy Notebook
Dates: 1875-1875
Identification: MS-0468
Creator: Eighmy, J. W.
Physical Description: 0.20 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Biographical Information:
J. W. Eighmy, M. D., was a physician in California during the 1880s, and had previously practiced in Brownsdale, Minnesota. According to the Medical and Surgical Directory of the United States of 1886, the nearest post office to his practice was that of Antioch, California. This volume identifies Dr. Eighmy as an eclectic physician, or one specializing in the combination of natural remedies and pharmaceutical medicines. He was certified by the exam board in California.

Access Terms
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Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers

Topical Term:
Eclectic medicine
Medicine -- Formulae, receipts, prescriptions

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, J. W. Eighmy Notebook , Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Scope and Contents
This handwritten notebook was titled "Practical Notes and Formulae. By J. W. Eighmy, M. D." by its author, and dated October 10th, 1875. It is a collection of 77 recipes and formulae for treatments to numerous illnesses. Eighmy wrote these in a blank book of prescription forms from "J. H. Burnham, Druggist and Apothecary, Commercial Block, Sutter Street, Folsom, California."
Formulas are included for a variety of ailments, including: whooping cough, "bites of serpents and tarantulas," gangrene, tapeworm, scrofula, itch, cancer, croup, syphilis, epilepsy, gout, dysentery, gonorrhea, rheumatism, diphtheria, cholera, and granulated eyelids. Some formulas are multi-purpose cures for a variety of health problems, such as the recipe for "Mexican mustang liniment." The entries also give dosage and proper length of treatment.

Eighmy seems to have used this book as a sort of commonplace or scrapbook, pasting in newspaper clippings and cuttings towards the end of the book. These cuttings include poetry, informative facts, and popular maxims in addition to recipes for various cures.

One newspaper clipping is an advertisement for the author's patent medicine: "Dr. Eighmy's Magic Cure for Rattlesnake Bite." The advertisement, titled "A Wonderful Discovery," claims that this cure is "warranted to cure the bite of all venomous reptiles, hydrophobia, and the stings of poisonous insects in 20 minutes. Price $1 per bottle. Traveling agents wanted everywhere, to whom great inducements will be given. Prepared only by Dr. J. W. Eighmy, Brownsdale, Minn."

Box 1, Folder 1
"Practical Notes and Formulae. By J. W. Eighmy, M.D." 1875