

---

## Guide to the Cooper Medical College Collection

Daniel Hartwig

Stanford University Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections & University Archives.

Stanford, California

May 2011

Copyright © 2015 The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University. All rights reserved.

---

**Overview**

**Call Number:** SC0923

**Creator:** Stanford University

**Title:** Cooper Medical College collection

**Dates:** 1857-1974

**Bulk Dates:** 1857-1894

**Physical Description:** 0.75 Linear feet

**Language(s):** The materials are in English.

**Physical Location:** Special Collections and University Archives materials are stored offsite and must be paged 36-48 hours in advance. For more information on paging collections, see the department's website: <http://library.stanford.edu/spc>.

**Repository:** Dept. of Special Collections & University Archives.

Stanford University Libraries.

557 Escondido Mall

Stanford, CA 94305-6064

Email: [speccollref@stanford.edu](mailto:speccollref@stanford.edu)

Phone: (650) 725-1022

URL: <http://library.stanford.edu/spc>

**Cite As**

[identification of item], Cooper Medical College Collection (SC0923). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

**Cite As**

[identification of item], Cooper Medical College Collection (SC0923). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

**Biographical/Historical note**

The Medical Department of the University of the Pacific was the first medical school on the West Coast, founded in San Francisco in 1858 by Dr. Elias Samuel Cooper. Following the death of Dr. Cooper in 1862, the program was suspended. In 1864, Dr. Hugh Huger Toland founded Toland Medical College in San Francisco, which later became the medical department of the University of California. By 1872 the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific was reorganized as the Medical College of the Pacific in affiliation with University (City) College. In 1882 Dr. Levi Cooper Lane generously donated a state of the art building to the medical school and the name of the school was subsequently changed from the Medical College of the Pacific to Cooper Medical College in honor of Dr. Lane's uncle, Dr. Elias Samuel Cooper. In 1908, Dr. Lane granted permission for the equipment and properties of Cooper Medical College to be transferred to Stanford University. Instruction by Stanford University began in 1909 and continued in San Francisco until 1959, at which time the Stanford School of Medicine opened on the Stanford campus.

**Scope and Contents note**

The Cooper Medical College collection consists primarily of ephemeral material such as commencement invitations, programs, and addresses from Cooper Medical College and its predecessors, the Medical College of the Pacific, and Toland Medical College. Also included are several printed lectures from the Medical College of the Pacific, 1861-1879, annual reports, medical publications, faculty handbooks, clippings, and an alumni directory.

**Access Terms**

Cooper Medical College.

Cooper, Elias Samuel, 1820-1862.

Lane, Levi Cooper, 1833-1902.

Medical College of the Pacific (San Francisco, Calif.)

Toland Medical College.

University of the Pacific. Medical Dept.

Medicine--California

Medicine--History

Medicine--Study and teaching--California --Stanford.

---

**Collection items**


---

**Toland Medical College**

Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Toland Medical College-Opening Address 1866</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Toland Medical College-Valedictory Address 1869</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>Toland Medical College-Annual Announcement of Lectures 1871</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Toland Medical College-History from: Thompson, William Benbow. The Story of the Professorship of Obstetrics at the University of California. Reprinted from: Portland, Or: Western Journal of Surgery Pub. Co 1950</b>

---

**Medical College of the Pacific**
**Announcement of the Medical Department of the University of the Pacific**
**Scope and Content Note**

The present pamphlet indicates that while the school was established in 1858, it did not begin normal operation until the spring of the following year. "The regular Annual Course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on the first Monday in May, 1859, and be continued for eighteen weeks" (p. 8). The pamphlet also includes a brief outline of the courses offered and a schedule of fees.

Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Medical College of the Pacific-Lectures 1861-1879</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Medical College of the Pacific-Annual Announcements 1872-1882</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Medical College of the Pacific-Commencement Programs 1871-1879</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	

**Cooper, Elias Samuel-publications, addresses, biographical 1856-1938**
**Biography/Organization History**

Elias S. Cooper, founder of California's (and the West Coast's) first medical school, came to San Francisco in May 1855 and immediately embarked on an ambitious program to advance the status of medicine in the state. He not only established his own medical and surgical practice in the city (which he promoted vigorously, to the dismay of some of his rivals), but also began his own private medical teaching program), agitated for improvements in the teaching of anatomy, helped to found both the San Francisco County Medico-Chirurgical Association and the California State Medical Society, began publishing the prestigious Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal, and in the fall of 1858 founded California's first medical school, attached to the University of the Pacific. The medical school's faculty originally consisted of Cooper and six others; Cooper's nephew, Levi Cooper Lane, joined the faculty in 1859. Cooper served as professor of anatomy and surgery at the school from its inception until his death eight years later. After Cooper's death the school went into decline, being eclipsed by the foundation in 1864 of the rival Toland Medical College, ancestor of the University of California's medical school. In 1870 Cooper's school was revived by Levi Cooper Lane and Henry Gibbons; in 1882 it was renamed Cooper Medical College after its founder. After several decades of independent existence, Cooper Medical College was acquired by Stanford University; Stanford University's School of Medicine thus can trace its ancestry back to the first medical school founded on the West Coast.

Box 1, Folder 9

**Lane, Levi Cooper-dissertation, publications 1876-1891, undated**

Box 1, Folder 10

**Thorne, W. S.-"Report on Surgery" 1885**


---

**Cooper Medical College**

Box 1, Folder 11	<b>Cooper Medical College-Annual Announcement 1885</b>
------------------	--

---

Box 1, Folder 12	<b>Cooper Medical College-Annual Report (Morse Dispensary) 1884-1890</b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Cooper Medical College-Annual Report (Dispensary) 1891-1893</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b>Cooper Medical College-Annual Report of Clinics 1894</b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>Cooper Medical College-Commencement Invitations and Programs 1883-1912</b>
Box 1, Folder 16	<b>Cooper Medical College-Commencement Addresses 1884-1888</b>
Box 1, Folder 17	<b>Cooper Medical College-Commencement Addresses 1889</b>
Box 1, Folder 18	<b>Cooper Medical College-Commencement Addresses 1890</b>
Box 1, Folder 19	<b>Cooper Medical College-Commencement Addresses 1890</b>
Box 1, Folder 20	<b>Cooper Medical College-Announcement of Lectures 1859</b>
Box 1, Folder 21	<b>Cooper Medical College- <i>Anatomical and Surgical Lectures</i> (advertisement); <i>To the Medical Profession</i> (advertisement). 1856, 01858</b>
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Cooper Medical College-Building-Dedication 1882</b>
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>Cooper Medical College-Building: Shuman, Ronald. Portraits: The Cooper Medical Building, the Lane Hospital Building. San Francisco: Pacific Medical Center 1974</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>Cooper Medical College-Rules for the Government of the Faculty of Cooper Medical College 1891</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Cooper Medical College-Stanford University, and J. H. Wythe. Faculty of the Cooper Medical College, Successor to the Medical College of the Pacific, San Francisco, 1882-1912. [Palo Alto]: Stanford University, School of Medicine 1969</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>Cooper Medical College-Letter to Alumni 1911</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Cooper Medical College-Alumni Directory, 1859-1912. San Francisco, CA: Cooper Medical College 1916</b>
Box 2, Folder 7	<b>Cooper Medical College-Barkan, Hans. Cooper Medical College, Founded by Levi Cooper Lane; an Historical Sketch. San Francisco, Ca: Stanford Medical Bulletin 1954</b>
Box 2, Folder 8	<b>Cooper Medical College-Clippings 1973</b>