Medical College of Pennsylvania

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION ON WOMEN IN MEDICINE

CATALOGUE

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INTRODUCTION

In September, 1976, a two-year oral history project on women in medicine was initiated at the Medical College of Pennsylvania under a grant from Roche Laboratories. The goal of the project was to conduct a series of approximately forty interviews of scholarly and humanistic value with women physicians around the United States. These interviews constitute primary historical documents that, along with other available records, will help to advance our knowledge about the past and present role of women in the medical profession.

Despite much progress in the years between 1870 and 1900, women doctors encountered formidable obstacles in their efforts to gain a foothold in twentieth century medicine. Doubts embedded in Victorian culture regarding women's physical, emotional, and intellectual capacities continued to plague female medical aspirants well into the new century. Misgivings about the biological capabilities of women eventually gave way to social convictions against their working. As women's role became more and more that of a "scientific" homemaker, middle class women were urged to view their place at home as their "profession." Though women took advantage of higher education in increasing numbers, social pressures led them to regard such training as a means of becoming better wives and mothers rather than as preparation for a career outside the home. Few chose to brave public disapproval by studying medicine, especially when temporary careers in social work, business, and teaching requiring considerably less deviation from accepted behavioral norms became more readily available.

As the standards for medical education rose early in the twentieth century, many schools of lower quality—schools which had often been more receptive to women applicants—closed their doors. Simultaneously, the promise of coeducation and the increasing cost of first-rate training led all but one of the several "respectable" female medical schools either to merge with existing schools or to disband. The sole surviving medical college for women, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, battled intermittent financial difficulties throughout the century. Meanwhile, professional coeducation proved disappointing to medical women. Medical institutions continued to discourage and discriminate against them in subtle ways. Though comparatively few schools denied them admission, most limited the number of female students through an informal quota system. Furthermore, women medical graduates continued to experience difficulty acquiring clinical training; as late as 1932, 86% of accredited hospitals refused to accept women as interns. As specialization increased, women found themselves concentrated in a handful of low-prestige, "feminine" fields. Few role models were available to younger women doctors.

Those women who persisted in following a career in medicine accepted these obstacles and found ways of working around them. They clustered in the specialties thought to be suited to women—pediatrics,
psychiatry, and public health—or developed medical interests such as anesthesiology and pathology which permitted them a regular schedule and more flexibility to handle family responsibilities. They formed the American Medical Women's Association to compensate for being shut out of the "old boy" network represented by the American Medical Association. Some became missionaries, a choice which enabled them to express their humanitarian impulses while practicing among patients who were not in a position to be fussy about the sex of their physician. Yet despite the individual achievements of this minority, the number of women physicians remained low. Discrimination, sex role stereotyping, and the compromise of family life which the profession seemed to demand led most women to shy away from medical careers.

Over the past decade, however, the old patterns have begun to change, and medicine is currently in a state of flux. Demands for physician accountability and for better and more democratic health care have challenged the authority of the medical profession and undermined its prestige. The federal government has increased surveillance and regulation. An army of specialists has replaced the old general practitioner, and solo practice has given way to group and hospital-based care. More and more physicians are salaried. Dr. Theodore Cooper, former Assistant Secretary for Health, predicts a "total revision of the system in the next five years—a reshaping of American medicine."

The dramatic rise in the number of women seeking medical training, stimulated, in part, by the revitalization of feminism, may be among the most significant of these changes. The proportion of women medical students is approaching 25%; some pundits predict this percentage will double in the next decade. For the first time, women will have an opportunity to influence the course of American medicine and to put their own stamp upon the profession.

This project was established to explore the impact of these new developments. It was conceived as a multifaceted undertaking that would include interviews with women physicians of a wide variety of ages, specialties, practice patterns, life choices, and geographic areas. We sought out women who pursued quiet careers as well as those who rose to prominence or led unusual lives. The interviewees were chosen from a pool created by canvassing several hundred individuals, organizations, and institutions; the final group, though not representative in a statistical sense, is as comprehensive as we have been able to make it and is intended to reflect both typical and atypical experiences. In order to provide a more varied perspective, we have also included selected interviews with people whose personal lives or professional careers have been associated with those of women physicians. Taken as a whole, this material should shed light on the issues which affected women doctors and convey a feeling for the heterogeneity, the breadth of experience which has characterized women's participation in medicine over the course of this century.

The particular virtue of oral history is that it can serve as a valuable supplement to conventional historical research. It can provide insights into the thoughts and feelings underlying decisions made and
actions taken; it can convey the flavor of a living, breathing personality as the written record never could. Oral history gives a sense for life at a particular point in history as it is lived on a day-to-day basis and allows us to assess large historical movements from the point of view of the individual. Although each oral history is by definition biased, a properly-conducted interview can evoke memories, observations, and thoughts that might otherwise have been lost forever.

We have attempted in these interviews to balance an underlying uniformity of structure with responsiveness to the idiosyncratic twists and turns in the life of each individual. A set of questions developed by our academic consultant and principal interviewer, Dr. Regina Morantz, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Kansas and an authority on the history of women in medicine, served as the skeleton for all the principal interviews. This questionnaire was designed to elicit extensive autobiographical information as well as the interviewee's perceptions of current trends in medicine, particularly as they relate to the issues of female health and women's increasing participation in the profession.

The shaping of each interview, starting from the selection of the interviewee and ending with the transcription in its final form, was a complicated and time-consuming process involving extensive research into the papers, biographical records, and general background of the interviewee. As Principal Investigator, Ms. Carol Fenichel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, originated and oversaw the Project; she was also responsible for the individual indexes and for the combined index to all the volumes. Dr. Morantz' intellectual contribution and continuing historical researches considerably influenced the substantive content of the Project. Dr. Cynthia S. Pomerleau, Project Director, supervised the preliminary research and edited the transcripts. Ms. Sarah Burke carried out most of the research and transcription in her capacity as Research Assistant. Introductions to each volume were prepared by Drs. Pomerleau and Morantz.

Our goal has been to evoke each woman's story, her own interpretation of events and of how she came to be what she is. Our hope is that we have succeeded in providing a rich body of source material for future researchers in the history of women in medicine.

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3. The Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College
4. Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
5. Biomedical Library, University of California, Los Angeles
6. Department of Special Collections, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

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Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine
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BARNES, ANN, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1936
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: September 29, 1977
Place: Cambridge, Massachusetts
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Dr. Ann Barnes, the second woman to complete a residency at Boston Lying-In Hospital, has conducted research on DES daughters in addition to her teaching and clinical responsibilities at Harvard. She has also served on the Admissions Committee and as chairperson of the Joint Committee on the Status of Women. Dr. Barnes discusses the vicissitudes of her eventful career as well as the problems of marrying a man seventeen years her senior, becoming the mother of six stepchildren, and raising her own son. (4 60-minute cassettes; 72 pages)

BARTUSKA, DORIS, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1928 1929
Specialty: Endocrinology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: April 4 and 5, 1977
Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Dr. Doris Bartuska is Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Medicine, at her alma mater, the Medical College of Pennsylvania. She is also married to an engineer and is the mother of six daughters. She describes her childhood in a Polish community in rural Pennsylvania and tells how she has coped successfully with the competing demands of career and a large family. (4 60-minute cassettes; 80 pages)

BENES, SUSAN, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1948
Specialty: Ophthalmology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: March 10, 1978
Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Terms of Use: tapes: restricted

After withdrawing from her premedical studies to become a science teacher, Dr. Susan Benes returned to her original ambition and is currently an ophthalmology resident at Wills Eye Hospital. Now married to an
engineer and the mother of two small children, she discusses the difficulties and rewards she has experienced in her medical training and tells of her search for satisfactory alternatives in child care. (3 60-minute cassettes; 63 pages)

BENNETT, MAXINE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1915
Specialty: Otolaryngology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: May 13, 1977
Place: Madison, Wisconsin
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Dr. Maxine Bennett, a full-time member of the University of Wisconsin faculty since 1953, was chairperson of the Otolaryngology Division from 1959 to 1969. At the time of this interview, though hard at work on a medical textbook, she was tentatively planning to retire from medicine to pursue non-medical interests, ranging from antiquing to mountain-climbing; she even flirted briefly with attending law school! (3 60-minute cassettes; 54 pages)

BRAUNWALD, NINA, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1928
Specialty: Thoracic Surgery
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: September 24, 1977
Place: Weston, Massachusetts
Terms of Use: tapes: closed until after death of interviewee

Dr. Nina Braunwald, the first woman to be board certified in thoracic surgery in the United States, has managed to combine an outstanding career in this difficult subspecialty with marriage and three children. After several satisfying years with the National Institutes of Health and a brief stint at the University of California at San Diego, she is now on the faculty of Harvard and a staff surgeon at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. She discusses the problems of tracking two careers (her husband is also a prominent academic physician) and her intense commitment to professionalism. (3 60-minute cassettes; 57 pages)

BROWN, DOROTHY, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1919
Specialty: General Surgery
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: February 27, 1978
Dr. Dorothy Brown, a faculty member at Meharry Medical College and Chief of Surgery at Riverside Hospital in Nashville, was for many years the only black woman surgeon in the South. In addition to her medical duties, she has served in the Tennessee State Legislature and was the first single woman in Tennessee to adopt a child. She tells of her childhood in a Troy, New York orphanage and of the determination, energy, and hard work that enabled her to overcome the formidable obstacles she has faced in fulfilling her dream of a medical career. (5 60-minute cassettes; 88 pages)

Although she worked as a nurse's aide, a chemist, an elementary school teacher, and a blood bank technician, Dr. Nadine Bruce's overwhelming ambition from childhood was to enter medicine. Thwarted in her first attempt to gain admittance to medical school, she persisted and is now practicing in Hawaii, where she is also on the faculty of the new University of Hawaii Medical School. She describes the difficulties of her education as well as her strict Catholic upbringing and her current satisfying relationship with an environmental engineer. (3 60-minute cassettes; 51 pages)

Dr. Esther Bridgman Clark was the first pediatrician to serve the San Mateo/San Jose, California area. A pioneer in the concept of group practice, she was part of the nucleus of what is now the Palo Alto Medical Clinic boasting 140 physicians. Her campaigns for smallpox and DPT immunization and later for child accident prevention led one newspaper to credit her with making Palo Alto "the safest place in the world for a
baby to be born." At the time of this interview, Dr. Clark had embarked on a vigorous retirement that includes African safaris, wild-life photography, and snorkling. She recalls a long and satisfying career and reminisces about medical education early in the century. (3 60-minute cassettes; 42 pages)

CONLEY, FRANCES, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1940
Specialty: Neurosurgery
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: June 20, 1977
Place: Palo Alto, California
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Dr. Frances Conley, one of a handful of women trained in the difficult and demanding subspecialty of neurosurgery, serves on Stanford's faculty and practices at the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital. She has also distinguished herself as a competitive distance runner. Married for thirteen years to a successful financial analyst, she and her husband have concluded that having children would be unfair to all concerned. Despite the busy schedule she must maintain to accommodate her clinical and teaching duties as well as her research interests and outside activities, Dr. Conley finds the life she has chosen a rewarding one. (3 60-minute cassettes; 71 pages)

DE SCHWEINITZ, LOUISE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1897
Specialty: Pediatrics/Public Health
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: February 18 and 25, 1977
Place: Kansas City, Kansas
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Although she ranked first nationally on Part II of her National Board examinations, Dr. Louise de Schweinitz subordinated her career to that of her husband, Dr. Daniel Darrow (now deceased), an eminent pediatrician and researcher at Yale. She spent most of her professional life working in student health and well-baby clinics, serving as a volunteer on other people's projects, and giving lectures to school and YMCA groups; raising her five children always took precedence over these part-time positions. Yet she expresses satisfaction with the choices she has made, given her options at the time. (4 60-minute cassettes; 109 pages)
Both of Leah Docking's parents are physicians in rural Kansas; her sister, grandfather, uncle, and three cousins are also M.D.'s, and two brothers are in medical school. At the time of this interview, Ms. Docking was newly married to a young lawyer and, following family tradition, had embarked upon her own medical career as a first-year student at the University of Kansas Medical School. She talks about her hopes for the future, which include a practice in rural Kansas like that of her parents. (3 60-minute cassettes; 49 pages)

Dr. Karen Dolby is the only physician in a sparsely populated county in Colorado, where her duties have included those of coroner and sheriff as well. Married to a high school science teacher and the mother of five children, she credits her husband's active participation in the child-rearing process with minimizing the conflicting demands of career and family. After several satisfying years as a rural physician, Dr. Dolby is tempted by the idea of moving to a teaching center and becoming involved in academic medicine. (3 60-minute cassettes; 64 pages)

After almost thirty years of research on cardiovascular disease and hypertension at the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Harriet Dustan was looking forward at the time of this interview to a major shift in her career--to the Directorship of the Cardiovascular Research and Training Center at the University of
Alabama Medical School; she was also serving a year as President of the American Heart Association. She recalls her childhood in the starkly beautiful countryside of northern Vermont and the single-minded determination that has led to her current prominence as a researcher in a field just now coming into its own. (4 60-minute cassettes; 60 pages)

FAY, MARION, PH.D.

Date of Birth: 1897
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: July 11, 1977
Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Terms of Use: tapes: open
transcript: open

Dr. Marion Fay's long career as president and dean of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania brought her into extensive contact with woman physicians, including many of the great names in modern medicine, on both a personal and professional basis. Dr. Fay shepherded the College through the critical War years and helped to fend off the threat of a merger with Jefferson Medical College; later she participated in the series of steps leading to the College's ultimate decision to become coeducational. She describes her childhood in New Orleans, her training as a physiological chemist, and the series of events that thrust her into a leadership role during some of the most tumultuous years in the College's history. (3 60-minute cassettes; 54 pages)

GAMBLE, VANESSA

Date of Birth: 1953
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: March 15, 1978
Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Terms of Use: tapes: closed until the death of the interviewee's father
transcript: open

Raised by her mother and grandmother in the black ghetto of West Philadelphia, Vanessa Gamble managed to gain entrance to an academically-oriented public high school and then to the first freshman class of the new and innovative Hampshire College. At the time of this interview, Ms. Gamble was living in West Philadelphia once again--this time as an M.D./Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. She tells of the many strong and supportive people who helped her to overcome the sexual, racial, and class barriers she faced and speaks about her goal of involvement in social policy planning as well as the practice of medicine. (3 60-minute cassettes; 53 pages)
HARDY, HARRIET, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1906
Specialty: Occupational Medicine
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: October 13 and 14, 1977
Place: Lincoln, Massachusetts
Terms of Use: tapes: open

Dr. Harriet Hardy was a friend and professional associate of Dr. Alice Hamilton, pioneering industrial toxicologist, and has had a distinguished career in her own right in occupational medicine at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard. At the time of this interview, Dr. Hardy had retired but maintained a lively interest in her field. She describes her start as a school physician and her sudden rise to prominence when she demonstrated the hazards of the industrial use of beryllium; she also gives a fascinating glimpse of her delightful relationship with the Hamilton sisters. (4 60-minute cassettes; 68 pages)

HASELTINE, FLORENCE, PH.D., M.D.

Date of Birth: 1942
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Interviewer: Joyce Antler, Ph.D.
Date: August 8, 1977
Place: New Haven, Connecticut
Terms of Use: tapes: restricted until the death of the interviewee's parents--interviewee's permission required

At the age of six, Dr. Florence Haseltine decided to follow in her father's footsteps and earn a Ph.D. in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; at the age of twelve, she made up her mind to become a doctor. Having achieved both these goals, she is now an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a fellow in human genetics at Yale University—after a brief pause along the way to produce (with a co-author) a best-selling novel based on her experiences as an intern. What does the future hold? "Well, I would probably like to run a medical school someday." In addition to her dynamic professional career, Dr. Haseltine discusses her childhood in the Mojave Desert, the breakup of her first marriage, her subsequent remarriage, and her hopes of starting her own family. (5 60-minute cassettes; 135 pages)

HELLER, FREDERICKA

Date of Birth: 1945
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: March 14, 1978
Fredericka Heller brings a varied past to her career in medicine, including work as a court interpreter in Spanish, as a bi-lingual secretary, as an English teacher in Mexico (where she lived for several years with her first husband, a Mexican national), and as owner and operator of a Mexican import shop. When this interview took place, Ms. Heller had divorced her first husband and married a biology professor at Albright College who has legally adopted her young son. At 32, she is a second-year medical student at the University of Pennsylvania and commutes to her home near Reading, Pennsylvania on weekends. She discusses the advantages and drawbacks of being a "late starter" in medicine. (3 60-minute cassettes; 56 pages)

HERMAN, JUDITH, M.D.

Dr. Judith Herman works as the Psychiatric Director of a woman-controlled mental health center and part-time staff psychiatrist at a multi-racial community mental health center; she also writes a health column for Sister Courage, a Boston-based feminist newspaper. She has done groundbreaking research on incest, heretofore dismissed as rare, showing how shockingly widespread the practice is. In this interview, she describes her upbringing in the New York Jewish intellectual community, the adjustments demanded of her at Radcliffe, and the breakup of her marriage; she also reflects upon the evolution of her feminist consciousness and its political implications for her as a physician. (3 60-minute cassettes; 56 pages)

HOLMES, GRACE, M.D.

An "all-around girl" and May Queen, Dr. Grace Holmes was discouraged from her medical aspirations in college and was almost tracked into nursing instead. But she persisted and, shortly after graduation, embarked with her
husband upon the first of two extensive stints as medical missionaries in Malaysia and Tanganyika. She now works 3/4 time in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas and also assumes most of the responsibility for her six children, a multi-racial brood of whom five are adopted. Although she doesn't consider herself a feminist, she has become involved in lodging a complaint against K.U. Medical Center for withholding tenure from half-time faculty, most of whom are women. (5 60-minute cassettes; 90 pages)

HOWELL, MARY, PH.D., M.D.

Date of Birth: 1932
Specialty: Pediatrics
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: April 15, 1978
Place: Watertown, Massachusetts
Terms of Use: tapes: closed for seven years
            transcript: open

Dr. Mary Howell served as the first female Associate Dean at Harvard Medical School, where she wrote (under the pen name of Margaret A. Campbell) "Why Would A Girl Go Into Medicine?", a major survey of the problems encountered by women attempting to enter the medical profession. Twice-divorced and the mother of six, Dr. Howell has emerged as an active and articulate spokeswoman for the feminist health movement. At the time of this interview, she had recently returned to the Boston area after practicing for several years in a collectively-run child health station in rural Maine and was working at a neighborhood health clinic, where she has been involved in precedent-setting efforts to unionize all employees from physicians to custodians. (4 60-minute cassettes; 73 pages)

JEFFRIES, RHONDA, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1951
Specialty: Pediatrics
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: February 20, 1978
Place: Shawnee Mission, Kansas
Terms of Use: tapes: open
            transcript: open

When interviewed, Dr. Rhonda Jeffries was completing her residency in pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center. She looked forward to joining the staff of the Children and Youth Project, serving a poor, black population whose experience contrasts sharply with her own middle-class background. As the wife of a radiologist and mother of two small children, she discusses the compromises and extra responsibilities required to maintain both career and family. (3 60-minute cassettes; 73 pages)
KARATINOS, GILLIAN, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1943
Specialty: General Practice
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: October 29, 1977
Place: Crofton, Maryland

Dr. Gillian Karatinos earned her M.S. in physiology in 1967 and worked as a physiologist for the Navy Department before beginning medical school in 1971. She was the only mother in her freshman medical class. At the time of this interview, she was working as the associate of a busy suburban general practitioner. (4 60-minute cassettes; 72 pages)

KOENEKE, IRENE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1898
Specialty: Surgery
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: March 6, 1977
Place: Halsedale, Kansas

Dr. Irene Koeneke went to the Hertzler Clinic in Kansas to study surgery and stayed to marry the clinic's founder--twice-divorced, nearly 27 years her senior, and the author of such popular books as Horse and Buggy Doctor. Though she has retired from surgery, she maintains an active medical practice there; she has also developed one of the few National Health Museums in the country, as a memorial to her husband. She describes her difficulties in securing surgical training and decries the changes that the medical profession has undergone in recent years. (4 60-minute cassettes; 79 pages)

MAGEE, JONI, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1941
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: April 1, 1977
Place: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Joni Magee is committed to practicing obstetrics in a non-traditional setting, and her published articles deal largely with
educating doctors to the patient's point of view. Recently divorced and the mother of three children, Dr. Magee was employed at the time of this interview at Booth Maternity Center, where she worked with a team of nurse-midwives to provide family-centered obstetrical care. She tells how her own negative experiences in childbirth, compounded by her husband's unsupportive attitude, governed her choice of specialty. (3 60-minute cassettes; 67 pages)

McGrew, Elizabeth, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1916
Specialty: Pathology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: May 10, 1977
Place: Chicago, Illinois
Terms of Use: tapes: open, transcript: open

After a hard-fought-for medical education that included a fellowship working with Dr. George Papanicolaou, developer of the Pap smear, Dr. Elizabeth McGrew has had a distinguished academic career in laboratory pathology at the University of Illinois, with a particular emphasis on cancer research. She describes the difficulties she faced in gaining admission to medical school and, later, her inability to secure a residency in hand surgery, the field of her choice. But her persistence has been rewarded with great career satisfaction—including a year as president of the American Medical Women's Association, an organization that plays an important social role in her life. (3 60-minute cassettes; 58 pages)

Michaelson, Beryl, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1918
Specialty: General Practice
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: July 27, 1977
Place: Eagle Butte, South Dakota
Terms of Use: tapes: open, transcript: open

Dr. Beryl Michaelson began her colorful career as a schoolteacher and later as a physician for the Indian Health Service in Alaska, where one of her proudest achievements was the initiation of successful ambulatory chemotherapy for tuberculosis. She then spent seventeen years as a general practitioner in her hometown of Humboldt, Iowa and describes with acerbity the mounting paperwork and malpractice insurance rates that finally drove her out of private practice. At the time of this interview, she had returned to the Indian Health Service, this time in South Dakota, where she was serving as a staff physician at the United States Public Health Service Hospital; she expresses her satisfaction at meeting the needs of a medically-deprived population. (4 60-minute cassettes; 69 pages)
In 1947, Dr. Alma Dea Morani, one of the few women surgeons of her day, became the first female member of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In this interview, she tells of her childhood as the daughter of Italian immigrants in New York City, where her father earned his living casting monumental statuary for public buildings, and relates her own avocation as a sculptor to the aesthetic aspects of plastic surgery. She also reviews her long and distinguished career as a member of the faculty of her alma mater, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, and her active involvement with the Medical Women's International Association. (5 60-minute cassettes; 106 pages)

Dr. Victoria Nichols feels that she has faced greater discrimination as a woman than as a black in her medical career. But despite the obstacles, she secured a prestigious residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Mayo Clinic and now serves on the faculty of Southern Illinois University, as well as with the Illinois Department of Public Health as a maternal health consultant. She explains the reasoning that has led her, while supporting women's rights, to question the Equal Rights Amendment and to become involved with anti-abortion groups. She also discusses the conflicts she experiences as a professional woman who is married and the mother of two pre-school children. (3 60-minute cassettes; 48 pages)
Catherine Scholl began her career as an obstetrical nurse at the New York University Hospital Medical Center. But after shepherding women through several hours of labor, she found it frustrating to have to turn them over to a physician for the actual delivery. She seriously considered midwifery training but finally opted for medical school and at the time of this interview was in her third year at Thomas Jefferson University Medical School. (3 60-minute cassettes; 56 pages)

SCUDDER, IDA, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1900
Specialty: Radiology
Interviewer: Joyce Antler, Ph.D.
Date: November 30, 1977
Place: Riverside, Connecticut
Terms of Use: tapes: open
transcript: open

Four generations of the Scudder family--42 members in all--have dedicated themselves to missionary service. Dr. Ida Scudder, niece and namesake of the founder of what is now the Vellore Medical College and Hospital, carried on her aunt's tireless work in India for 35 years and, though formally retired, still returns periodically as a consultant. She describes her frenetic introduction, after the sketchiest of language training, into a chronically understaffed hospital. She goes on to tell of roadside clinic excursions where hundreds of sick and injured would congregate for treatment, and of her decision to specialize in radiology in response to the hospital's needs. The interview affords insight into what was once one of the major career options for women physicians. (4 60-minute cassettes; 69 pages)

SHAINNESS, NATALIE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1915
Specialty: Psychiatry
Interviewer: Ellen Chesler
Date: February 12 and 20, 1977
Place: New York, New York
Terms of Use: tapes: closed for five years
transcript: closed for five years

Dr. Natalie Shainess, a prominent psychoanalyst, studied or associated with many important figures in psychiatry, including Harry Stack Sullivan, Clara Thompson, Karen Horney, Erich Fromm, and Frieda Fromm-Reichmann. In recent years, she has emerged as a spokeswoman on women's issues and has agitated for the improvement of women's status within the profession. She is the mother of two physicians, one of whom (Ann Spiegel, M.D., q.v.) was also interviewed in connection with this project. (7 60-minute cassettes; 141 pages)
Dr. Marjorie Sirridge stopped practicing for five years when her four children were growing up; she later experienced difficulty in establishing herself professionally because of the unorthodox residency training she worked out to accommodate her need for a part-time program. After many years in private practice with her husband, she has joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Medical School, an innovative, six-year medical school whose student body is 50 percent female. Despite the new school's problems, Dr. Sirridge remains enthusiastic about teaching in this experimental program and is very conscious of serving as a role model for both female and male students. (5 60-minute cassettes; 110 pages)

Dr. Mary Sirridge is the daughter of Dr. Marjorie Sirridge (q.v.); at the time of this interview, she was an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin. She talks movingly of her experience growing up as the daughter of a professional woman and the influence it has had on her life—a subject of more than theoretical interest now that she is married and considering starting her own family. (1 60-minute cassette; 17 pages)

Dr. Stephen Sirridge, a psychologist, is the son of Dr. Marjorie Sirridge (q.v.). Unlike that of his sister, Dr. Mary Sirridge (q.v.),
his experience growing up as the child of a woman physician has not been an entirely positive one. Yet as an adult, he takes great pride in his mother's accomplishments. (1 60-minute cassette; 18 pages)

SOULE, JAN, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1945
Specialty: Pediatrics
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: December 16, 1977
Place: Del Mar, California
Terms of Use: tapes: open transcript: open

Dr. Jan Soule had already had her first child when she entered the charter class of the University of California-San Diego's new medical school. Her second child was born between her third and fourth years in medical school, while she was working on a research project on DDT in breast milk. She and her husband later adopted a third child, a Vietnamese refugee. At the time of this interview, she had embarked on an academic career in pediatrics at her alma mater. She describes her attempts to apply new solutions to old problems by arranging a shared-residency program, seeking part-time positions, studying and occasionally using acupuncture techniques, setting up an alternative birth center, and ministering to her own needs through Zen meditation. (4 60-minute cassettes; 75 pages)

SPIEGEL, ANN, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1947
Specialty: Pediatrics
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: June 21, 1977
Place: San Francisco, California
Terms of Use: tapes: closed until the death of the interviewee's parents transcript: open

Dr. Ann Spiegel comes from a family of physicians—her mother (Natalie Shainess, M.D., q.v.), father, and brother are all psychiatrists. At the time of this interview, Dr. Spiegel was just beginning her career; several major life choices lay ahead of her. She had just resigned from her job—as a pediatrician for a state-funded project to deliver comprehensive care to a multi-racial, low-income population—and was debating the relative merits of joining an established practice versus setting up a new joint practice. (3 60-minute cassettes; 47 pages)
SPURLOCK, JEANNE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1921
Specialty: Psychiatry
Interviewer: Joyce Antler, Ph.D.
Date: June 2, 1978
Place: Washington, D.C.
Terms of Use: tapes: closed for ten years

Dr. Jeanne Spurlock was hospitalized with a broken leg at the age of nine and emerged with two firm convictions: "I could have done things better for a child in the hospital than was done for me" and, "Poor people got such terrible care." Her resulting determination to become a physician carried her from the black neighborhood in Detroit where she grew up, through the rigors of a medical education financed largely through her own efforts, to her current position of prominence as Deputy Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association (where she specializes in the problems of women and minorities). She has also served as Chairperson of Meharry's Department of Psychiatry and maintains faculty appointments at Howard and George Washington University as well as a private psychoanalytic practice. She describes the discrimination she has experienced throughout her career both as a black and as a woman--starting in high school, when she was barred from the track team and the editorship of the school paper. (3 60-minute cassettes; 49 pages)

TECH SPEC

STEELE, PAUL

Date of Birth: 1954
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: March 7, 1977
Place: Prairie Village, Kansas
Terms of Use: tapes: open

At the time of this interview, Paul Steele was a fifth year medical student in an innovative six-year program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Medical School. He speaks of the influence that women professors such as Dr. Marjorie Sirridge (q.v.) have had upon his perception of women's role in medicine. (1 60-minute cassette: 17 pages)

STITT, PAULINE, M.D., M.P.H.

Date of Birth: 1909
Specialty: Pediatrics/Public Health
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: December 9, 1977
Place: Honolulu, Hawaii
Terms of Use: tapes: open

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Born to a mother who left high school to elope and a father whose aspirations for her did not extend beyond 'towel girl' in a rest room, permanently crippled in a polio epidemic that killed her brother, Dr. Pauline Stitt had to overcome many disadvantages to achieve her current pre-eminence in the field of pediatrics and public health. From the vantage point of a vigorous 'retirement' in Honolulu (where she teaches time at the University of Hawai'i), she reviews a rich life that has included important posts in the Children's Bureau as well as a distinguished academic and clinical career and wide-ranging outside interests. She has seen—and influenced—many changes in the pattern of American medicine, which she describes with great vivacity. (7 60-minute cassettes; 110 pages)

STURGIS, KATHARINE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1903
Specialty: Public Health
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: July 11 and 12, 1977
Place: Wynnewood, Pennsylvania
tapes: open
transcript: open

Despite her late start in medicine—she received her M.D. at 38, after a medical education interrupted by two years in a tuberculosis sanatorium—Dr. Katharine Sturgis has had a long and distinguished career as a researcher and specialist in diseases of the chest. Her lively stories and anecdotes paint a fascinating picture of her life and times and shed light on the history of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, her alma mater, where she served for many years as Chairperson of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine. She also discusses the vicissitudes of her personal life, which has included three marriages and two children. (6 60-minute cassettes; 88 pages)

THOMAS, CAROLINE BEDELL, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1904
Specialty: Epidemiology
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, Ph.D.
Date: November 2, 1977
Place: Baltimore, Maryland
tapes: restricted—interviewee's permission required
transcript: restricted—interviewee's permission required

When Dr. Caroline Bedell Thomas's three children were young, her professional life was limited to a series of research fellowships and part-time academic and clinical appointments. Then, she played an important role in establishing the link between streptococcal infection
and rheumatic fever; and in 1946, she launched the Precursors Study at Johns Hopkins, a pioneering epidemiological project on predictors of cardiovascular disease and other conditions that is now the longest prospective study of its type in the country. She remains professionally active at the age of 73. (4 60-minute cassettes; 82 pages)

WILSON, MARJORIE, M.D.

Date of Birth: 1924
Specialty: Administration
Interviewer: Regina Morantz, M.D., Ph.D.
Date: November 1, 1977
Place: Washington, D.C.
Terms of Use: tapes: open
transcript: open

Dr. Marjorie Wilson followed the standard educational pattern of college, medical school, internship, and residency, but since then she has developed an unusual career as a high-level administrator. After serving many years in the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Administration, she now works with the Association of American Medical Colleges, where she is responsible for the accreditation of medical schools and the development of a management program for medical school deans and other executives. Dr. Wilson and her husband postponed having children until her career was well established, and she discusses the impact of this decision upon her life. (5 60-minute cassettes; 86 pages)