This is a guide to one of the collections held by the Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University. Visit the Osler Library Archive Collections homepage for more information.
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Name: M.H.F. Friedman, 1909-1998

M.H.F. Friedman fonds.- 1877-1950.- 30 cm of textual records.

Biographical Sketch: Dr. Moe Hegby Fred Friedman, originally from Montreal, received his B.Sc. in 1930 and his Ph.D. in Physiology in 1937 from McGill University. He was a student of Dr. Boris P. Babkin. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr Friedman joined the faculty of Wayne State University Medical College in Detroit. He later became Professor Emeritus of Physiology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. After retiring from Jefferson in 1974, he became Visiting Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he taught until 1995. He was founding president of the Philadelphia branch of the McGill Alumni Society. (From biographical statement composed by Dr. Friedman’s sons upon his passing.)

Custodial History: Donated by Dr. M.H.F. Friedman in 1996. Old accession number 934.

Scope and Content: Fonds contains Dr. M.H.F. Friedman’s personal papers and files relating to Dr. Boris P. Babkin and also correspondence with the editor of Babkin’s biography of I.P. Pavlov.

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on the documents in the fonds.

Language: The documents are in English.

Finding Aids:

General Note: Conservation and description of the fonds to be done.
Dr. M.H.F. Friedman, McGill PhD. 1937, was a student of Boris Babkin, 1877-1950, physiologist, McGill University. Professor Babkin was a student and friend of Russian physiologist I.P. Pavlov, 1849-1936. Babkin published a biography of his famous professor entitled Pavlov, A Biography, University of Chicago Press, 1949. Boris Babkin’s papers, which contain material relating to I.V. Pavlov, are found in the Osler Library, Acc. 390. Dr. Friedman helped edit the biography by reducing the size of the manuscript. Certain files appear to have remained in his care. He presented the files to the Osler Library in 1995 and 1997 and they form Acc. 934.

Included in this accession is personal material about Boris Babkin, lecture notes, reprints, manuscripts of publications and some correspondence.

Boris Peter Babkin was born on January 5, 1877 at Koursk, Russia. He graduated from the High School of St. Petersburg in 1895 and the Military Medical Academy, St. Petersburg, in 1901. He received his M.D. degree from the Military Medical Academy St. Petersburg in 1904.

From 1902-1912 he was assistant to Professor I.P. Pavlov. He worked with E. Fischer, E. Abderhalden and E. Hering in Germany from 1905-1906. He was a Lecturer (Privat-Dozent) in Physiology at the Military Medical Academy from 1907. He was appointed Professor of Animal Physiology in Novo-Alexandria Agricultural Institute in 1912, Professor of Physiology in the Medical Faculty of the University of Odessa in 1915. From 1922-24 he worked under the Medical Research Council in London, England. He was appointed Professor of Physiology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., in July 1 1924. He received the D.Sc. degree from the University of London, May 20, 1925. He was appointed Research Professor of Physiology, McGill University, Montreal, June 1, 1928 and Chairman of the Department of Physiology in 1940. He retired in 1942 and was appointed as a Research Fellow at the Montreal Neurological Institute. He died on May 2, 1950. He was predeceased by his wife and daughter.

There are three series in this collection: Babkin’s personal files, material relating to the Pavlov biography and Babkin’s lectures and publications.
1. List of publications and curriculum vitae

2. Testimonial to Elena Ivanovna Solovieva, citizen of the Russian Empire, and to her right to teach mathematics and biology, 1895-96. Given by the administrative section of the Royal Alexandra Institute of Petrograd, copied from the original in 1918.

3. Immigration, Rockefeller correspondence, Dalhousie University, c. 1918-

4. "Four Years at Dalhousie University", by Boris Babkin

5. Photographs of Pavlov, Babkin

6. Appointment diaries, 1924 (2), 1926, 1927, notebook 1928, 1929


9. Three notebooks incl. addresses, notes, accounts in rubles, c1905-08

10. Correspondence, B. Babkin to M.H.F. Friedman, 1938-42, 4 letters

11. Misc., incl. clippings, reprints lecture to students, lecture to surgeons, obituary of Pavlov

Pavlov Biography
12. Pavlov-Freud, Neuroses, notes, reprints

13. Notes, correspondence, misc., c. 1942

14. Notes, correspondence, drafts, c. 1946-49

   1946-1949
   80 letters

16. Chapters 7,8,9,10 of Babkin's biography of Pavlov

17. Correspondence about the publication of Pavlov, A Biography, with the University of Chicago Press, including letters of thanks for presentations of the book and Canadian customs forms for orders crossing the Canada/United States border.
   1948-1950
   83 letters

Lectures and Publications

18. Lectures on Mechanism of Secretory Activity of Digestive Glands, 1933-34


20. Chap. XVII Secretory Mechanism of the Digestive Glands
21. Photostat of *Secretary Work of the Pancreatic Gland*, 1904, in Russian

22. Lectures on the physiology of gastric secretion, given by Babkin, 1935. [Dr. Friedman’s signature on cover, Dept. of Physiology. Notes may have been taken by Friedman]

23. Lectures delivered about 1941, in Babkin’s handwriting


27. "Cerebral Cortex and Gastric Motility", Edinburgh Lecture, 1950, drafts, notes.


30. Three Russian language journals, 1899-1938