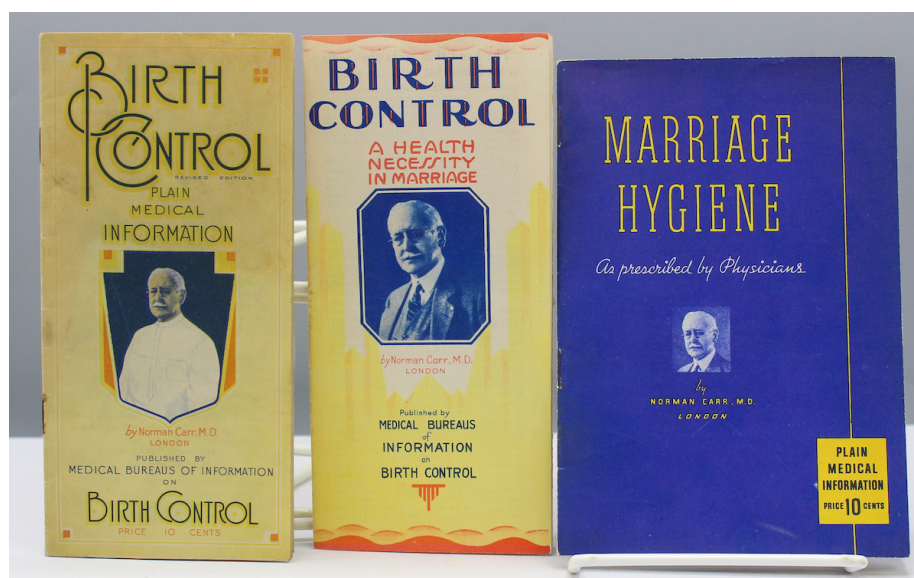

An Inalienable Right

Reproductive Rights, Women's Health, and Women in Medicine, 1830-1950

Michael R. Thompson Rare Books, ABAA/ILAB
8242 W. 3rd Street, Suite 230
Los Angeles, CA 90048

mrtbksla@pacbell.net ♦ mrtbooksla.com ♦ (323) 658 - 1901



“Every Woman’s Inalienable Right”

1. [BIRTH CONTROL.] CARR, Norman. [Three booklets on birth control in the early twentieth century.] [Chicago:] Medical Bureaus of Information, [1930, 1931, 1935].

Three booklets, (two 3¼ x 6¾”, one 4½ x 6½”). 12; 22; 20 pp. All with illustrations of birth control methods and advertisements for Lanteen Libraries contraceptives printed in color. Booklet titles are as follows: *Birth Control: A Health Necessity in Marriage* (1930); *Birth Control: Plain Medical Information* (1931); and *Marriage Hygiene: As Prescribed by Physicians* (1935).

Original color-printed paper wrappers. Light dustsoiling to wrappers, some staining around staples of one booklet. Very clean throughout. A very good set of scarce and important items.

\$850

First edition of *Birth Control: A Health Necessity in Marriage* (1930). The 1931 booklet is the second edition of *A Health Necessity*, expanded with a new style of diaphragm and a section titled

“Opposition Explained” that rebuffs anti-birth control arguments. Second edition of *Marriage Hygiene* (1935), published about four months after the first.

These booklets advocate for women's access to birth control methods like spermicides, sponges, and the diaphragm, the latter of which was a crucial innovation that offered more reliable protection than methods like douches, intrauterine “wishbones” (a precursor to the modern IUD), and ejaculation control. These booklets also promote reproductive health clinics run by the Medical Bureaus of Information on Birth Control, the first of which opened in Chicago in 1929. The clinics were staffed exclusively by women physicians and were crucial for distributing birth control at a time when laws banned or severely restricted its distribution outside of medical clinics.



The “Opposition Analyzed” section in *Birth Control: Plain Medical Information* rebuffs anti-birth control arguments, including the beliefs that birth control was dangerous, immoral, medically unethical, and would lead to rampant sexual deviance. Carr writes, “Those few who still say they are opposed to Birth Control are often very ignorant of the problem...This is the kindest light in which we can view them.” He goes on to write that certain birth control opponents are “[B]lindly prejudiced and incapable of logical reasoning,” while others “oppose it for material reasons, for their own mercenary gain, or from the military viewpoint or the ambition to increase the relative strength and power of their own organization.”

The sentiments in the “Opposition Analyzed” sections echo the first sentences of *A Health Necessity in Marriage*, which state that women should be able to protect themselves from “the physical, mental, and moral degradation of unwilling maternity.” Carr writes, “It is every woman's inalienable right to regulate the time of birth and the number of her children. Hers is the pain and hers is the travail.”

We could not locate much information on Norman Carr (which may have been a pseudonym). The *Marriage Hygiene* booklet describes him as a London physician and “probably the most widely read author on [birth control] in the entire world,” and states that “his technical treatises are respected by the medical profession as fully as his non-technical works.”



**Sex Education for Everyone, Regardless of Class,
With a Foreword by the Inventor of Endometriosis and PCOS Treatments**

2. [BIRTH CONTROL.] KELLY, G. Lombard. *Sex Manual for Those Married or About to Be*. Written for the Layman...With a Foreword by Robert B. Greenblatt...Augusta, Georgia: Southern Medical Supply Company, [1946.]

5½ in. x 7½ in. [iv], 84 pp. With nine full-page diagrams of reproductive organs.

Publisher's light blue printed paper wrappers. Somewhat dampstained and soiled. Very clean throughout. Despite wear to binding, a very good copy of this scarce sex education manual.

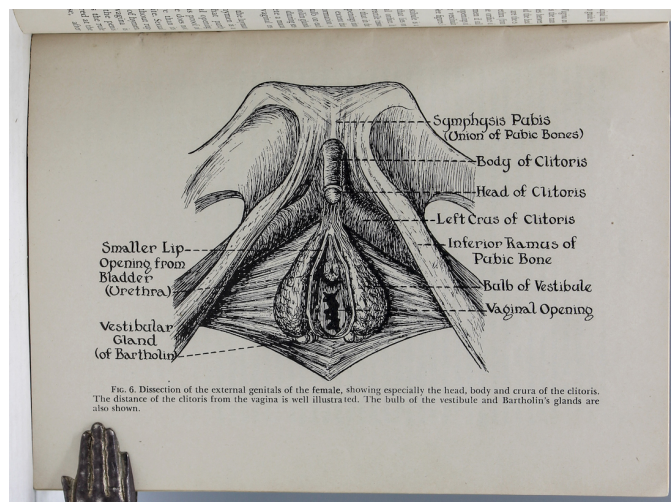
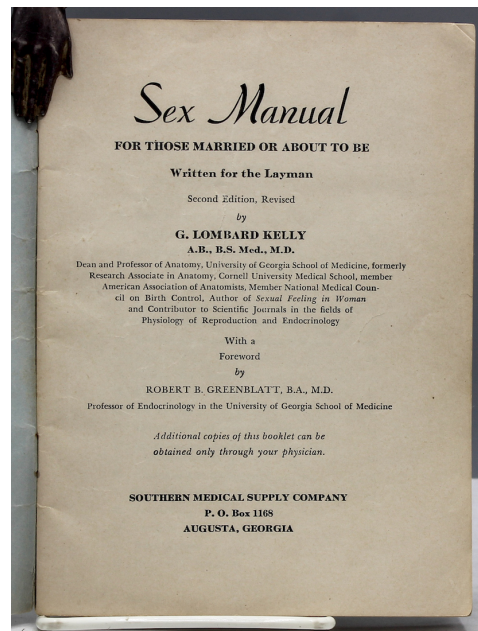
\$175

Second edition, revised, with the first appearance of the foreword by Greenblatt (dated 1946). The first edition was published in 1945. All editions are scarce: OCLC records one copy of the first (University of Georgia) and seven copies of the present edition.

Covers the reproductive system, condoms, masturbation, pregnancy, menopause, and more. George Lombard Kelly (1890 – 1972), dean and president of the Medical College of Georgia, takes a thorough, scientifically-backed approach to these topics, and stresses the importance of sex education for people of all education levels and social classes, as well as for young people.

Robert Benjamin Greenblatt (1906 – 1987) was an important physician and medical researcher. He served as professor and chair of the endocrinology department at the Medical College of Georgia (later the Georgia Health Sciences University), the first department of its kind in the United States. While teaching at the college, Greenblatt described *granuloma inguinale*, a rare sexually transmitted infection widely endemic in the American South at the time. His research into antibiotic cures for the disease led to its eradication in the area. His other major medical advancements include the development of treatments for endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome that are still in use today. Greenblatt was also one of the first United States scientists to travel to Nagasaki and investigate the effects of the atomic bomb.

New Georgia Encyclopedia.



“Equal Rights for the Two Sexes...Would Bring Us to the End of the Patriarchal System,”
By a Groundbreaking Feminist Who “Called for Nothing Less than a Revolution”

3. CAIRD, Mona. *The Morality of Marriage and Other Essays on the Status and Destiny of Woman*. London: George Redway, 1897.

Octavo. xvi, 239 pp.

Publisher's brown cloth stamped in gilt. Some soiling to cloth and chipping to head of spine. A large copy with edges untrimmed. Contemporary ink signature to front flyleaf (Edmund C. Barnett). Foxing to endpapers and first and last few leaves. Otherwise quite clean throughout. A good, tight copy of this collection of the author's "most important feminist articles."

\$600

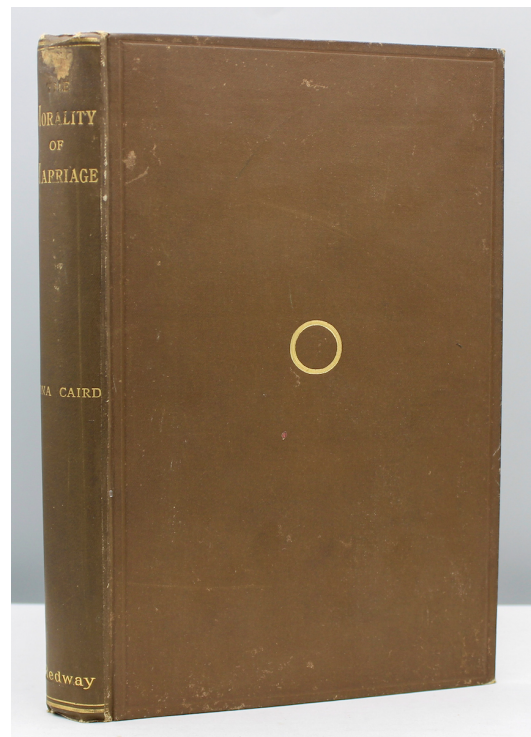
First edition.

A collection of feminist essays by Alice Mona Caird (1854 – 1932), a journalist and experimental novelist whose writings “stimulated widespread discussion of such controversial subjects as undesired marital sex, birth control, unwanted pregnancy, single motherhood, wages for housework, public childcare, free relationships and the right to adultery after marital breakdown,” (Heilmann, p. 67). In the present work, Caird argues against the notion that women are “naturally inferior” because of biological differences between women and men.

“Writing from within a tradition of Enlightenment thought, Caird asserted women’s right to full citizenship and their duty to respect...their own freedom. Although equal by nature, women and men had been made different through nurture. Women’s artificial and debilitating difference resulted from the separation of spheres and women’s enforced dependency on and subordination to men: in other words, from their slave-status under patriarchy. Though casting herself as a mere reformer and meliorist...Caird called for nothing less than a revolution,” (Heilmann, p. 73)

Caird writes, “Equal rights for the two sexes; the economic independence of women...the establishment...of real freedom in the home – this at last would bring us to the end of the patriarchal system. – May we speed the parting guest!” (p. 32).

Heilmann, Ann. “Mona Caird (1854 - 1932).” *Women’s History Review*, vol. 5, no. 1 (1996).



Robust Timeline of Women in the Medical Field in the Nineteenth Century

4. CHADWICK, James R. *The Study and Practice of Medicine by Women*. [Cover title.] New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1879.

6¼ x 8¾ in. [27] pp. Paginated 444 - 471. Ads to back cover and inside of wrappers.

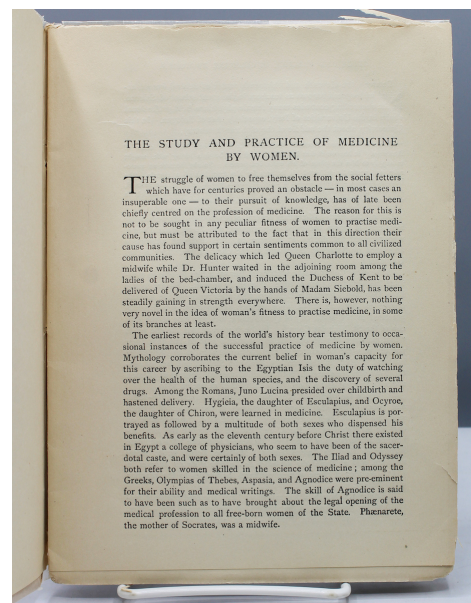
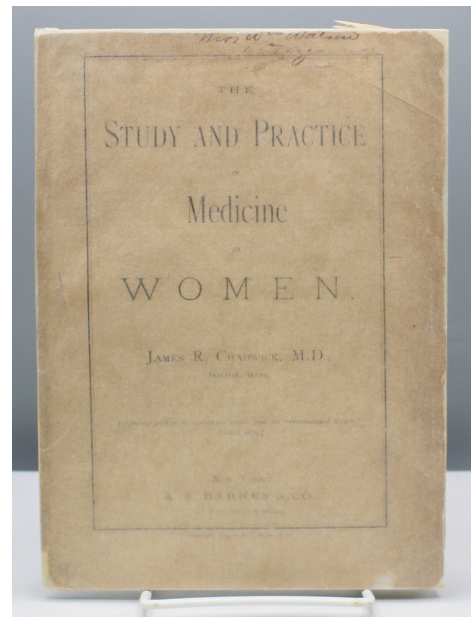
Original beige paper wrappers titled in black. Some toning and light chipping to wrappers. Contemporary ink ownership signature to top margin of cover. In later glassine dust jacket. Edges untrimmed. Some chipping to edges. Quite clean throughout aside from some minor marginal toning. A very good copy of a fragile item.

\$200

First edition in this format. Reprinted from the *International Review* (October 1879).

An overview of the growing presence of women in the medical field in the mid- to late-nineteenth century and their struggle for opportunities on par with those of men. James R. Chadwick (1844 – 1905), co-founder of the Boston Medical Library Association and the American Gynecological Society, reports on pioneering women physicians like Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, founder of the London School of Medicine for Women, and Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to earn an MD in the United States. Chadwick also details the achievements of women doctors in Russia and Continental Europe and touches on doctors in India and Australia.

Chadwick concludes with a statement that humanity would benefit from the presence of well-trained women in the medical field, but his writing also betrays his ambivalence toward their presence. Chadwick argues that well-trained women physicians can be as capable as men, but that women are not predisposed to be physicians and lack the ability to innovate in the same way as men. Women in the medical field did not cause societal collapse, writes Chadwick, “except in Zurich during the two years of Russian invasion” — when, in 1872-3, Zurich saw a boom in Russian women seeking medical degrees. These Russian students, Chadwick writes, were immature and prone to “political agitation and...the delusive fascinations of free love.” In his argument, Chadwick reveals his discomfort with women entering the field in large numbers and appears to prefer a modest trickle of respectable women as opposed to a revolution in the medical field’s status quo.



Arguing Against the Punishment of Women for "Sins of Unchastity,"
Association Copy Inscribed by the Author to Her Collaborator and Friend

5. COBBE, Frances Power. *The Hopes of the Human Race, Hereafter and Here: Essays on the Life after Death*. With an Introduction Having Special Reference to Mr. Mill's Essay on Religion...Second Edition. London: Williams and Norgate, 1880.

Octavo. 222 pp.

Publisher's mauve cloth with gilt-titled spine. Dark red rule and gilt fleur-de-lis on upper board. A bit of toning to spine and some light rubbing to extremities. Two light smudges on lower board. Partially unopened. Some light foxing to the first few leaves and a bit of faint toning to margins. A very good, clean association copy inscribed to by Cobbe (dated 1896) to her "old friend" Philip G. Peabody, a contributor to Cobbe's book *Vivisection in America*.

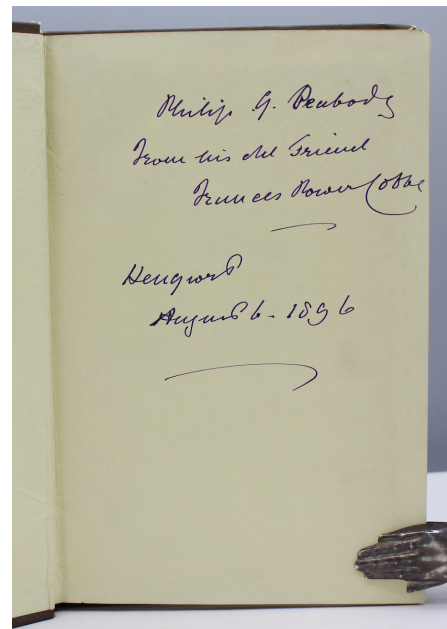
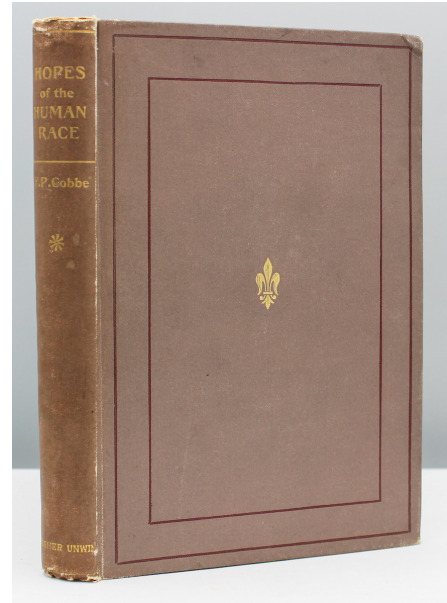
\$500

Second edition. First edition published by Williams and Northgate in 1874.

The four essays included in *The Hopes of the Human Race* discuss the afterlife, sin, godly omnipotence, and divine justice and explore the ramifications of those philosophies on the organization of society. Cobbe takes particular issue with the conflation of religious ideals and the law, like legally punishing women for "sins of unchastity" (p. 92-93), and asserts that moral good must exist "outside of conscious or recognized religious influences" (p. 205).

Frances Power Cobbe (1822 – 1904) was a suffragist, a nonfiction writer, and an animal rights advocate who founded both the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection and the National Anti-Vivisection Society. Cobbe was also an acquaintance of Charles Darwin, though she took issue with his theories on the supposed biological inferiority of women and published an article, *Darwinism in Morals* (1871), to critique his *Descent of Man*. Cobbe's other works include *On the Pursuits of Women* (1863); *Criminals, Idiots, Women and Minors* (1869); and numerous articles, books, and lectures opposing vivisection.

Philip G. Peabody (b. 1857) was a lawyer, writer, and lecturer. Peabody was a longtime member of Cobbe's National Anti-Vivisection Society and provided an introduction and testimonials to the fourth edition of Cobbe's *Vivisection in America* (1890). For information on Peabody, see *The Free Thought Magazine*, vol. XIV, 1896, pp. 317-320.



The Roots of Mental Health Advocacy in the United States

6. [DIX, Dorothea Lynde.] *Memorial Soliciting a State Hospital for the Insane*. Submitted to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1845. Philadelphia: Isaac Ashmead, 1845.

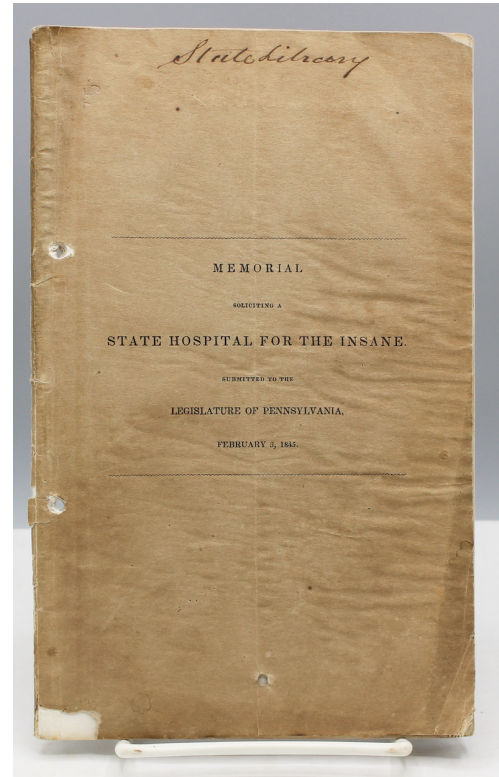
Octavo. 52 pp.

Original printed brown paper wrappers, disbound. Wrappers somewhat chipped and soiled. Contemporary ink signature ("State Library") to top margin of front cover. Remarkably clean and fresh inside aside from some light foxing to first few leaves. A very good, internally clean copy of a fragile, scarce item.

\$250

First edition, second printing. Preceded by a Harrisburg printing earlier that year.

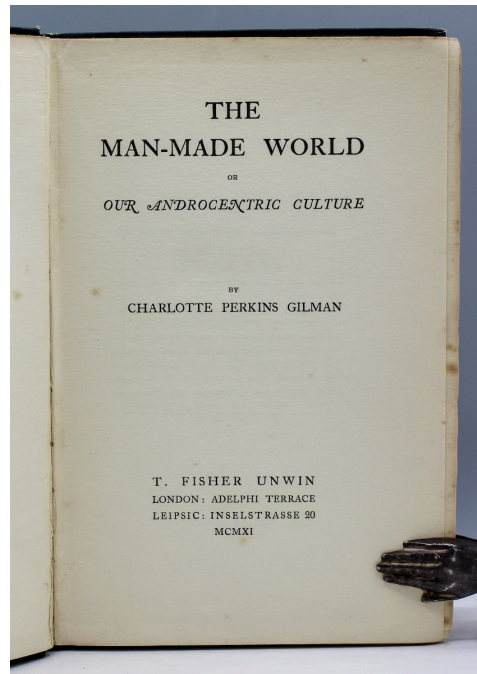
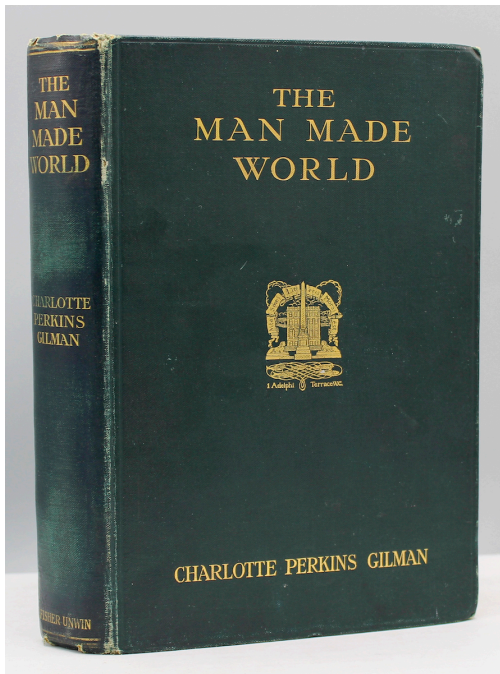
After surveying the conditions in dozens of poorhouses and prisons across Pennsylvania, Dorothea Lynde Dix (1802 – 1887) presented this memorial to the Pennsylvania State Legislature. She writes, "I come to represent to you the condition of a numerous and unhappy class of sufferers, who fill the cells and dungeons of the poorhouses and the prisons of the state. I refer to the pauper and indigent insane, epileptics, and idiots of Pennsylvania. I come to urge their *claims* upon the commonwealth for protection and support, such protection and support as is only to be found in a well-conducted Lunatic Asylum."



Dix was a pioneering activist who championed mental health care in the United States at a time when such services were practically nonexistent. As part of her research into the cause, she toured asylums and hospitals across both Europe and the United States and campaigned socially and politically for improved conditions in those facilities. During the Civil War, Dix turned her attention to organizing and training nurses for the Union Army. Dix eventually appointed about fifteen percent of all Union Army nurses (National Women's History Museum website).

"In America in the 1840s there were only thirteen institutions for the mentally ill providing less than 2,500 beds...This was the state of affairs when in March 1841 Miss Dix, a schoolmistress, took the Sunday School Service for the female convicts at East Cambridge Jail, Massachusetts. She was so appalled by the indiscriminate mixing of insane with criminals, healthy with sick, herded together in terrible conditions, that she from then on devoted herself to the cause of the insane. By 1880 when her life's work was done there were 123 institutions for the insane in America...of which 32 had been founded directly by her efforts," (Hunter & Macalpine, *Three Hundred Years of Psychiatry*, p. 911). Also see: Deutsch, *Mentally Ill in America*, second ed., pp. 158-85.





“When We Learn to Differentiate Between Humanity and Masculinity,
We Shall Give Honor Where Honor is Due”

7. GILMAN, Charlotte Perkins. *The Man-Made World or Our Androcentric Culture*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1911.

Octavo. 269, [2, publisher's ads] pp.

Publisher's green cloth stamped in gilt. Binding is attractive despite some minor edgewear. Ink signature dated 1911 to front flyleaf. Bookplate of the Co-Operative College J.J. Worley Memorial Library, dated 1946, to front pastedown. Light occasional foxing. A very good, tight copy.

\$600

First UK edition. First published by Charlton Co. in New York earlier the same year.

In Gilman's words, the Androcentric Theory supposes that men are the true form of humanity and women developed from men (e.g., Eve from Adam's rib). In contrast, Gilman proposes the "Gynæocentric Theory," which supposes that "the female is the race type, and the male, originally but a sex type, reached a later equality with the female, and, in the human race, became her master for a considerable historic period," (pp. 7-8). Gilman writes, "When we learn to differentiate between humanity and masculinity, we shall give honor where honor is due," (p. 8).

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 - 1935) was one of the most important feminist voices and one of the most widely read woman authors of her day. Gilman's best-known literary work is a short story entitled *The Yellow Wallpaper*, which portrays a woman's psychological breakdown after she is unwillingly confined to her home (supposedly for her own wellbeing) after a difficult pregnancy. Her non-literary works are characterized by a wit and clarity that is more frequently associated with

poets and fiction writers. (Lester F. Ward said she had a “cosmological perspective on society”). Her other works include *Women and Economics* (1898), *Human Work* (1904), and *Concerning Children* (1910).

Gilman was born and educated in Boston, but lived most of her life in South Carolina, where she built her writing career and became one of the most popular women writers of the first part of the nineteenth century. She adopted the South as her home and became a keen observer of its people and customs. Her novels like *Recollections of a Housekeeper* (1834) and *Recollections of a Southern Matron* (1838) contrast the sensibilities and cultures of the North and South. In 1895, she moved to Pasadena, California, where she joined organizations like the Pacific Coast Women's Press Association, the Ebell Society, and the California State Council of Women.

ANB. Blain, *Feminist Companion*, 427. Dictionary of American Biography. Flexner, Eleanor. *Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States* (Harvard UP, 1968).



“The Man Cannot Understand the Woman as the Woman Can,”
Women's Health Manual by a Homeopathic Doctor

8. HALL, Mary Jane, M.D. *Essays for Women*. London: G. Hill, 1889.

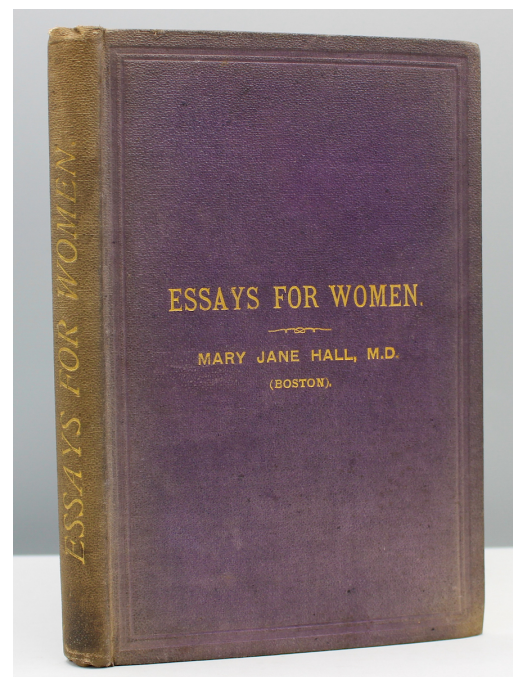
Octavo. 139 pp. With two illustrations of the female reproductive system and a full-page illustration of a pessary.

Original purple cloth with gilt title. Sunning to spine and edges. Yellow endpapers. A very good, clean, and fresh copy of an uncommon health manual for women.

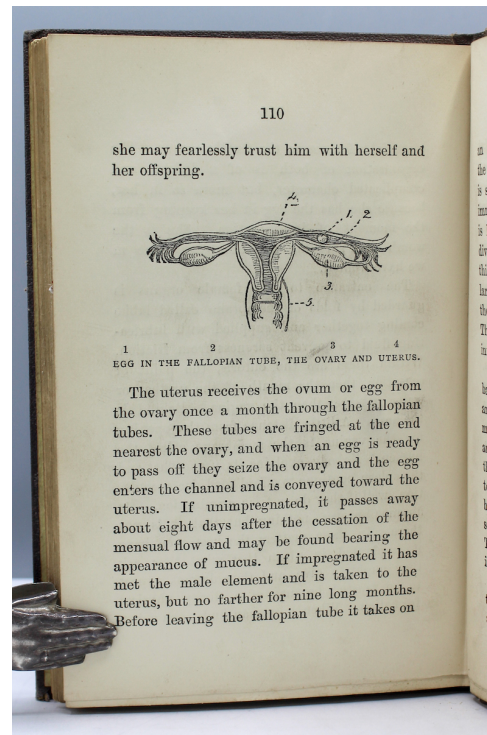
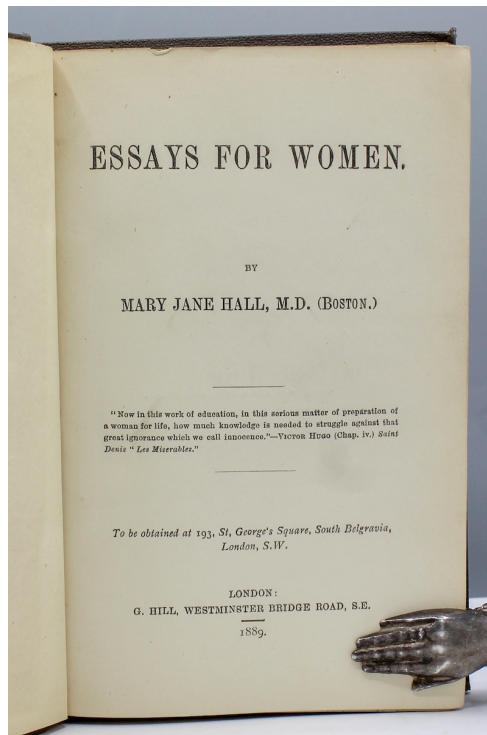
\$1,250

First edition.

The present work seeks to educate women about their bodies, as well as motherhood and childcare, and offer women a greater sense of independence. The author also encourages women to find the “common power” among themselves: “Being of the same sex, we may, by a commonality of interest and feeling, understand each other...The womanhood forms the bond between us — we are all bearing the same yoke — we may all draw at the harvest. When we speak of ourselves, we know what is meant though the thing be only half-way spoken, because



we share...the man cannot understand the woman as the woman can," (p. 12-13). The text covers anatomy (including the skeleton, muscles, nerves, and circulatory system), the reproductive system, treatments for women's health concerns, pessaries, and homeopathy.



Mary Jane Hall-Williams was a Kansas-born homeopathic doctor who graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine in 1880. Dr. Hall-Williams later moved to Kensington, England, where she lived in Phillimore Terrace. She was also an anti-vivisection advocate who hosted the Friends' Anti-Vivisection Association at her home.

The Animal's Defender and Zoophilist (June 1, 1891), p. 32.

King, William Harvey. *History of Homeopathy and its Institutions in America* (1905), p. 200.





“The Earliest Serial Publication...
that Catered to the Public’s Growing Concern with Personal Health,”
With Numerous Articles on Women’s Health

9. [HEALTH AND MEDICINE.] *The Journal of Health*. Conducted by an Association of Physicians. Philadelphia: [H.H. Porter,] 1830, [vol. 1; vol. 2:] Literary Rooms, Office of the Journal of Health, Family Library of Health, etc., 1831.

Two volumes, octavo. [6, index], 384 pp.; [1-2], [6, index], 3-386 pp. Volume two with text illustrations on 6 pages and a full-page illustration of a woman exercising; also with a six-page table showing the typical diets of people in various cities across England, and in hospitals.

Contemporary half sheep over marbled boards. Red leather spine labels. These copies assembled and bound for a subscriber, Lyman A. Spaulding, whose signature can be found at the head of several issues throughout. Some rubbing to sheep and fading to boards. Volume one is clean and fresh throughout. Volume two is largely clean besides some occasional foxing and toning. Some chipping and creasing to edges of a few leaves in volume two. A very good, tight set.

\$750

First edition. Volume one begins at September 9, 1829 and volume two ends at August 24, 1831. There were two more volumes published before the *Journal of Health* went defunct in 1833. OCLC records only four physical copies of this edition of volume one (BL, Woodstock Theological College, NYPL, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) and two physical copies of this edition of volume two (BL and Woodstock). Copies of the individual issues are also uncommon.

The Journal of Health was “the earliest serial publication in the United States that catered to the public’s growing concern with personal health, domestic sanitation, temperance, etc. It is also an

example of an emerging phenomenon in American publishing of the 1830s: the mass-circulation of the periodical," (Atwater 2053). The present volumes feature many articles on women's health, including a guide to calisthenics for girls, a review of *The Mother's Book* (1831) by Lydia Maria Child, the benefits of horseback riding and becoming a nun, woman surgeons (v. 1, p. 156), and a section that details the exact diet and schedule for optimizing the education of girls (v.1, pp. 265-268).

David Francis Condie (1796 – 1875) and John Bell were the primary forces behind by the titular "Association of Physicians." Condie's other publications included *Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Children* (1868). He also edited Fleetwood Churchill's *On the Diseases of Women: Including Those of Pregnancy and Childbed* (1857). We could not locate any additional information on Bell.



Scarce Lecture on Pregnancy, Childcare, and Teaching Girls About Sex

10. [HEALTH AND MEDICINE.] *A Mother's Responsibility to Her Daughter*. An Address...Delivered at Convention Hall, Rochester, N.Y. before nearly four thousand women, said to be the largest audience of women ever gathered together in that city. Chicago: International Association of Rotary Clubs, [1921].

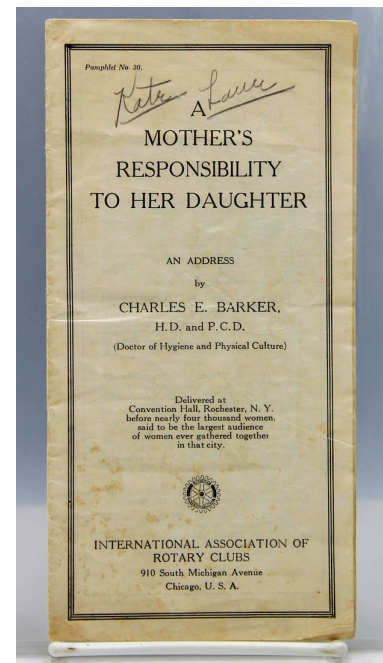
3¾ in. x 7¾ in. 20 pp. (including wrappers).

Printed paper self-wrappers, stapled. Foxing and some creasing to wrappers. Contemporary pencil ownership signature to front cover. Some toning and creasing inside. One leaf laid in at original position, as issued. A very good copy of a fragile item.

\$125

First edition.

A Mother's Responsibility to Her Daughter follows up on *A Father's Responsibility to His Son*, another lecture given by Dr. Charles E. Barker (1869 - 1948) at the 1919 International Rotary Convention in Salt Lake City. In the present work, Barker opines on the duty of women to take care of themselves during pregnancy, how mothers should discipline children, how to discuss reproduction with children; chaperoning; and the dangers of "Familiarities, 'Spooning,' etc."



Barker, who is identified in the present work as a Doctor of Hygiene and Physical Culture, was the health advisor to President Taft and a traveling lecturer for Rotary International. After debuting the present lecture in Rochester, he traveled the East Coast, delivering it in conjunction with *A Father's Responsibility to His Son*.

"Dr. Barker gained the trust of his audience with lively humor and a promise to not be 'preachy,' but his message was straight forward, 'Vice is a monster dancing his way into every part of the United States and it is up to the older people to correct the social and moral standards of civilization which have been hanging in the balance since the world war [WWI].' Of particular concern for young women were: automobile rides at night, dancing to modern jazz, impure motion pictures, and immodest clothing," (*Memories of Mont Amoena*, UNC Charlotte, website).

OCLC records three copies: two in the United States (University of Rochester, UNC Wilmington) and one in Germany.



"She Was Responsible for the Passage of the 'Sterilization Law'
for Degenerates and Criminals in Oregon"

11. OWENS-ADAIR, [Bethenia Angelina]. *A Souvenir*. Dr. Owens-Adair to her friends. [Salem, Oregon: Statesman Publishing Co.,] 1922.

Octavo. 64 pp. With elaborate half-page illustration of Father Time on page 64.

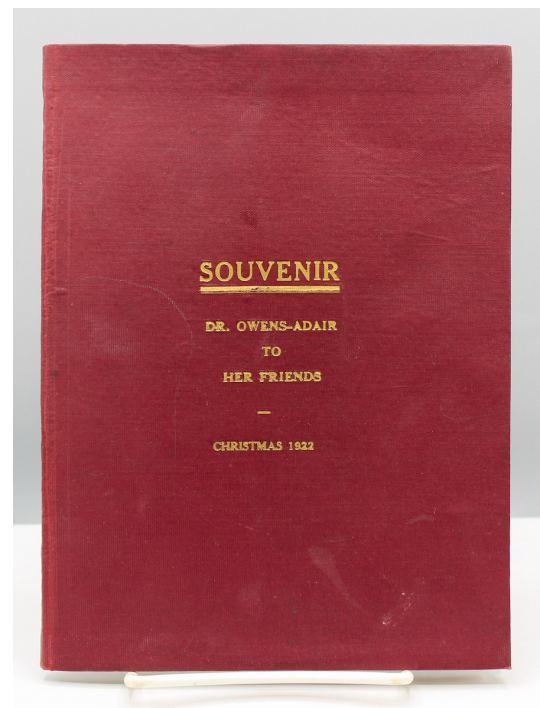
Dark red cloth over flexible boards. Titled in gilt. A bit of faint foxing and toning. Inscribed by the author to her friend Olaf Erickson. A very good, very clean copy of a work by the first practicing woman physician in the Pacific Northwest and an ardent advocate for eugenics and forced sterilization.

\$375

First edition.

The present collection of letters and testimonials was assembled by Dr. Bethenia Angelia Owens-Adair (1840 – 1926) to commemorate her eighty-second birthday and the recent publication of her memoir. An important testimonial describes Owens-Adair as "a remarkable woman...she was responsible for the passage of the 'sterilization law' for degenerates and criminals in Oregon, and has made this her work for many years. She has written and worked entirely for the adoption of eugenic and hygienic laws in Oregon as well as in other states," (p. 63).

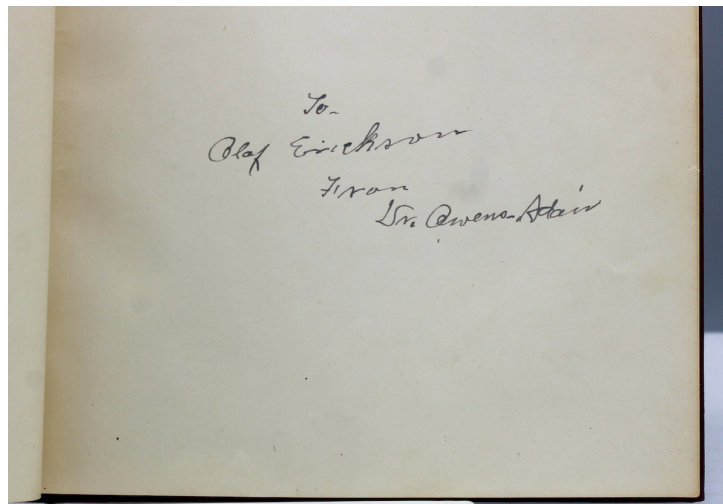
Owens-Adair campaigned for the passage of a sterilization law, authored by her, for ten years until it



was finally passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1917. The law, which reached its final form in 1923, permitted the forced sterilization of people deemed “feeble-minded, insane, epileptic, habitual criminals, moral degenerates and sexual perverts,” (Kaelber). The sterilization law was not repealed until 1983. In 2002, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber apologized for the law and stated that 2,648 people were recorded as having been sterilized (Kaelber).

Aside from her lifelong support of eugenics, Owens-Adair was one of the most vocal proponents of women’s suffrage in Oregon, “the first practicing woman physician in the Pacific Northwest” (p. 63), and a migrant of the first major wagon train to Oregon led by Jesse Applegate.

The present work is both a record of the career of a pioneering woman physician and a reminder of the prominence of eugenics in science, medicine, and politics at the turn of the century. Figures like Francis Crick, William Shockley, and Winston Churchill all advocated for eugenics programs during their careers, as did Margaret Sanger and many other feminists of the day. Much like temperance was seen as a feminist cause on the grounds that curbing alcoholism would reduce rates of widowhood and violence against women, forced sterilization of poor and disabled women was considered as a way of reducing the number of children born into poverty and, as a result, reducing the financial and logistical strain on their mothers. Now, eugenics programs are widely recognized as both morally reprehensible and scientifically unsound, but remembering the history of eugenics in the twentieth century is crucial when considering the contemporary reality of forced sterilization in the United States by powers like ICE and the California prison system.



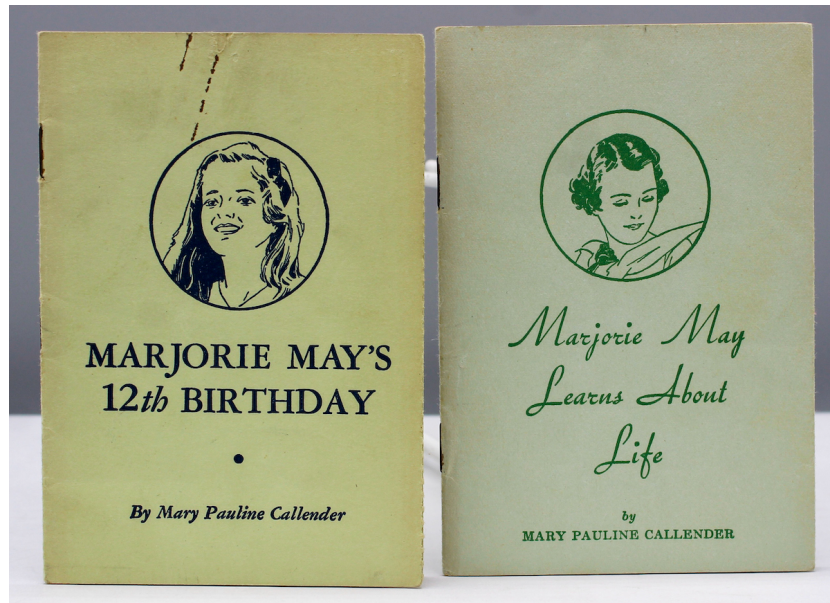
In the present work, Owens-Adair refers to Olaf Erickson as “my Granger friend,” (p. 46). We could not find any more information on Erickson nor on the significance of “Granger.”

Kaelber, Lutz. “Eugenics: Compulsory Sterilization in 50 American States.” See Oregon.

Medosch, Emily. “Not Just ICE: Forced Sterilization in the United States,” *Immigration and Human Rights Law Review* (blog), May 28, 2021.

Shoichet, Catherine E. “In a horrifying history of forced sterilizations...” *CNN* (website), September 16, 2020.





Health Guides for Girls by the Author of the First Kotex Educational Pamphlets

12. [PUBERTY AND MENSTRUATION.] CALLENDER, Mary Pauline. *Marjorie May's 12th Birthday*. Chicago: International Cellucotton Products Company, [1935].

3¼ in. x 4¾ in. [12] pp.

Light green paper wrappers printed in blue with portrait of a girl. Some marking from a paperclip. A very good, clean copy of this informative pamphlet about menstruation for girls.

First edition, fourth printing. All printings are scarce, with OCLC recording only seven physical copies total of the earlier printings. OCLC records five copies of this printing.

[with:]

CALLENDER, Mary Pauline. *Marjorie May Learns About Life*. Chicago: International Cellucotton Products Company, [1935?].

3¼ in. x 4¾ in. [12] pp.

Light green paper wrappers printed in green with portrait of a girl. A very good, clean copy of this follow-up to *Marjorie May's 12th Birthday*, focusing on pregnancy and reproductive anatomy.

First edition. OCLC records only three copies (Harvard, Duke, Princeton).

\$100

The *Marjorie May* series was published by Kotex in the 1920s and 30s to promote its products and educate girls about pregnancy, menstruation, and anatomy. *Marjorie May's 12th Birthday* teaches

girls how to use menstrual products and keep a calendar of their periods. It also encourages mothers to put together a kit of Kotex products and *Marjorie May* booklets, leave it where a daughter would find it in private, and "she will immediately know that Mother has again proved to be her best friend." *Marjorie May Learns About Life* is a more advanced follow-up that explains reproduction.

Mary Pauline Callender (1905 – 2005) is credited with writing the first Kotex educational booklets on menstruation. She may also have been the first actual person named in a menstrual hygiene ad in the United States. Along with her writing career, she also worked in television advertising and film (Museum of Menstruation website).



Scarce Period Education and Kotex Promotional Booklet for Girls

13. [PUBERTY AND MENSTRUATION.] [KOTEX.] *As One Girl to Another*. [Cover title.] [Chicago: International Cellucotton Products Company, 1943.]

5¼ x 7½ in. [2], 17 pp. With illustrations in blue, gray, and black on every page, including a two-page spread comparing activities that are healthy and unhealthy during menstruation.

Original pictorial paper wrappers printed in black, gray, and blue. Some foxing and toning to wrappers and throughout. A very good copy of a scarce, fragile item.

\$100

First edition, third printing. Date from Kotex calendar for July 1943-December 1944 printed on inside of wrappers. First issued in 1940. OCLC records no physical copies of any earlier printings and only one physical copy of this printing (Duke).

The makers of Kotex products issued informative booklets on menstruation targeted towards younger girls beginning with the *Marjorie May* series in the 1920s and 30s. Later booklets included *You're a Young Lady Now* (1952) and *Now You Are Ten* (1958). These booklets took a lighthearted, reassuring tone to dispel girls' fears about menstruation and encourage them to think of it as a natural part of growing up.



Rare Educational Booklet Promoting Modess-Brand Tampons to the Working Woman

14. [PUBERTY AND MENSTRUATION.] *It's So Much Easier When You Know*. Milltown, New Jersey: Personal Products Corporation, 1948.

5½ in. x 8 in. [12] pp. (including wrappers). With vignettes printed in blue and black on every page.

Printed paper self-wrappers with blue gingham pattern and vignette of a woman in black-and-white. Some chipping to edges and wear around staples. A very good, bright copy of a rare item.

\$85

First edition.

The present item advertises "Meds," Modess brand tampons, as an alternative to sanitary pads. The text is a lively explanation of the reproductive cycle, techniques for dealing with PMS, and how to use tampons (as well as dispelling myths about their use).

Meds are characterized as menstrual products for the modern, active, working woman: "Whether it's balancing a budget, whipping up a cheese soufflé, or solving a problem in higher mathematics — life is lots easier, more interesting, more fun when you have the know-how...when you *know*."

OCLC records one digital copy (Harvard) and no physical copies.



Early Tampax Promotional Material, with Color Diagrams,
By the Gynecologist Who Popularized Tampons

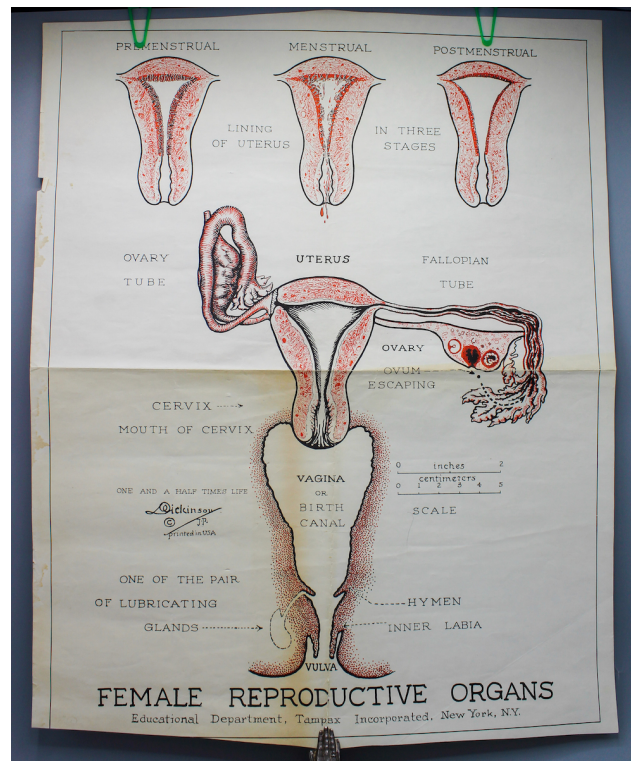
15. [PUBERTY AND MENSTRUATION.] [TAMPAX.] DICKINSON, [Robert]. "Female Reproductive Organs." New York: Educational Department, Tampax Incorporated, [n.d., ca. 1941].

16¾ inches by 21¼ inches. Broadside printed with four diagrams of the female reproductive organs in black with red accents.

Creasing where the broadside has been folded for storage. The paper on which the broadside is printed was cut imprecisely, leaving the top and bottom edges at an angle. Light toning at one of the creases and some toning to one of the four diagrams. Small dampstain to left edge and a few shallow tears there. Very small tear on far-right side of the broadside, closed with document repair tape on verso. Still a very good, bright copy of an educational poster created by gynecologist Dr. Robert Latou Dickinson, an early proponent of the use of tampons at a time when menstrual pads remained the standard.

\$375

Tampax Industries opened its official Educational Department in 1941 and began producing materials like the present broadside, another broadside titled "Standing Female Pelvic Organs," and educational statues. Tampax had begun selling the first commercially available tampons in the United States by 1933 and, shortly after, began sending saleswomen, nicknamed "Tampax ladies," into schools and colleges to promote the use of tampons over pads.



Robert Latou Dickinson (1861–1950) was a gynecologist and obstetrician who published the milestone report "Tampons as Menstrual Guards" in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 1945. He also partnered with Tampax to produce educational and promotional materials like the present item. At the time, tampons were not as commercially successful as pads because of the belief that they were unsanitary, unhealthy, or even immoral, but Dickinson's publication and his partnership with Tampax helped popularize tampons and dispel myths about their use.

See the following pages on the website of the Museum of Menstruation and Women's Health (MUM) for more information:

"Tampons as menstrual guards ('The Dickinson Report,' 1945)"

"Is this the first Tampax menstrual tampon?"

"Chart: 'Standing Female Pelvic Organs'"



Quack Medicine...Endorsed by Pioneer Women?

16. [OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.] *Twenty Seven Years Knowledge of Painless Childbirth.* [Cover title.] [Atlanta, Georgia: Bradford Regulator Company, 1914.]

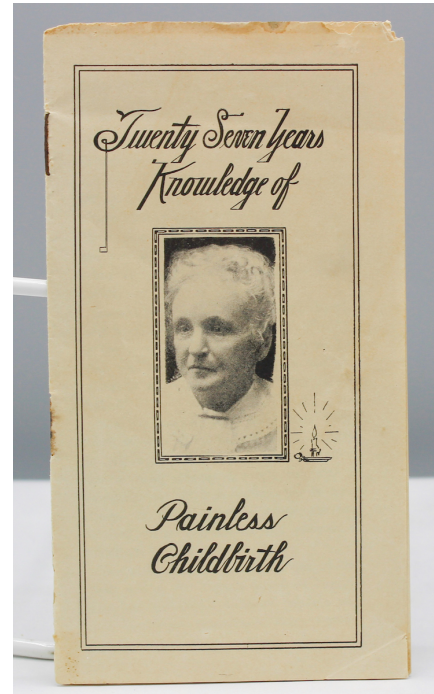
3¼ in. x 6 in. [8] pp.

Original pictorial paper wrappers printed with portrait of Mrs. Ellen Dakin Plank to front cover and illustration of a baby on back cover. Some foxing to bottom edge of back cover and small loss to edges. A good copy of a rare and fragile booklet.

\$250

First edition.

Advertising material for "Mother's Friend," a cure-all liniment for pain and discomfort during and after pregnancy and childbirth. The story of Ellen Dakin Plank (1836 – 1927) is used to bolster the claims about Mother's Friend, a quack treatment made to cash in on the patent medicine craze of the early twentieth century. Plank was, in fact, an early pioneer who traveled overland from Illinois to California in the 1850s, but the story presented here ad-libs on the true events of her life. According to the story, Plank devoted herself to nursing, eventually discovered the miraculous effects of Mother's Friend while nursing her daughter through pregnancy, and here offers her testimonial on the efficacy and importance of the treatment.

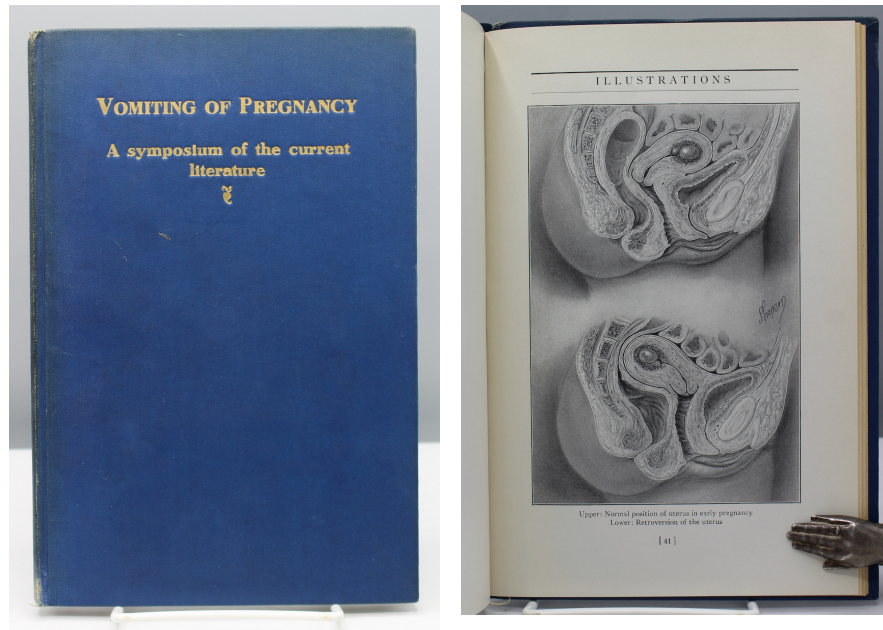


"Mrs. Plank's experience with this wonderful preparation can be taken advantage of by women of today. Mother's Friend has been used in her own family, and she has seen it used by many of her patients and friends. With this intimate knowledge of the efficacy of the preparation, she sincerely endorses it, and suggests its use to all expectant mothers," (p. [5]).

We could not locate any information to suggest that Plank was a nurse or midwife. In 1910 census records, her occupation ("Apartments") appears to be as a landlady or building manager.

OCLC locates no copies.





With Anatomical Diagrams and Depictions of Obstetric Procedures

17. [OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY.] *Vomiting of Pregnancy*. A symposium of the current literature. New Haven, Connecticut: The Bisodol Company, [1932].

Octavo. 76 pp. With 6 plates illustrated with anatomical diagrams and depictions of obstetric procedures.

Publisher's blue cloth lettered in gilt on front cover and spine. Some toning to spine. Rubbing to gilt on spine. Some toning to endpapers and to margins. Ownership stamps of "Dr. H.C. Gernand" on front endpapers. A very good, clean, and tight copy.

\$50

First edition.

The five sections of *Vomiting of Pregnancy* summarize contemporary findings by obstetricians and gynecologists on the etiology (pp. 7-23), treatment (pp. 24-31, 45-69), and prophylactic measures (pp. 70-71) of vomiting during pregnancy, plus illustrations (pp. 32-43) and a bibliography of the monographs summarized in the present work (pp. 72-76). A similar work published by the Bisodol Company was *Peptic Ulcers: A Symposium of the Current Literature* (1931).

The Bisodol Company was best known for their mint-flavored indigestion relief tablets, which are still produced by the pharmaceutical company Teva UK. The present work may have been funded by Bisodol to offer credibility to their products, as many of the summaries in the "treatments" chapter feature doctors attesting to the safety and usefulness of calcium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and magnesium carbonate – the active ingredients in Bisodol tablets – in treating vomiting during pregnancy. Modern literature on Bisodol tablets, however, state that they should not be taken during pregnancy without a doctor's approval.



The Banned Portland Edition with Material by Dr. Marie Equi that is Unique to this Edition

18. SANGER, Margaret. *Family Limitation*. Revised Edition. [Portland, Oregon: For the author, 1916].

4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in. by 6 in. 16 pp. Insides of wrappers also printed with a statement by doctor and labor organizer Marie Equi (1872 – 1952). With two diagrams of the female reproductive system.

Printed gray paper wrappers. Some offsetting to wrappers from the book in which this pamphlet was once stored. A very good copy of an essential work by Margaret Sanger, founder of the first birth control clinic in the United States, with material by Dr. Marie Equi.

\$600

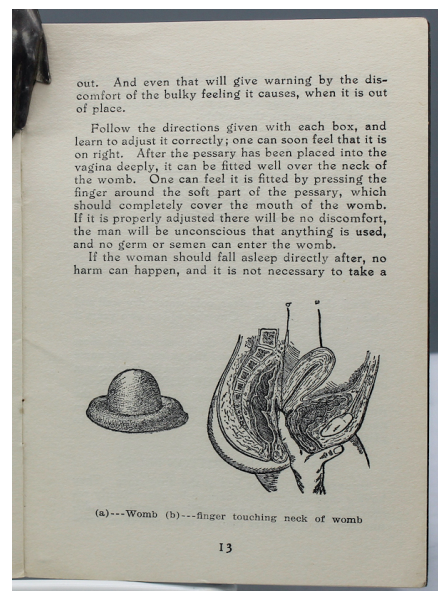
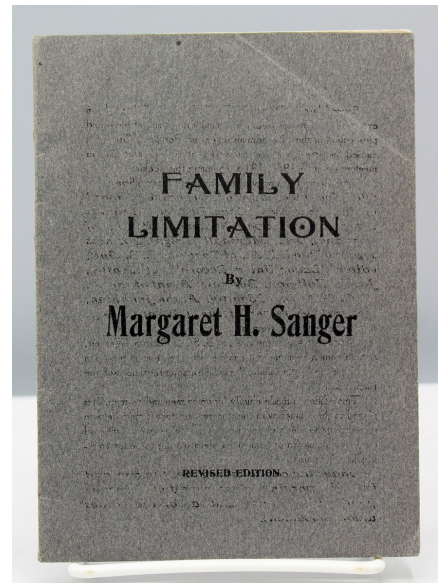
Revised edition. One of 1,000 copies printed for Sanger by an Oregon union organizer, possibly with funds provided by Dr. Marie Equi (Helquist, p. 274). The Portland edition is unique because it was revised by Dr. Equi and includes a statement by her specifying that “this edition is made chiefly for union men and women.” When Sanger distributed this edition at a lecture in Portland, she was arrested and jailed, along with Dr. Equi and five others, for circulating obscene material. The Portland City Council also convened an emergency meeting to ban the pamphlet (Helquist, p. 277).

Margaret Higgins Sanger (1879 – 1966), who saw birth control as a civil right, founded the first birth control clinic in the United States in 1916. Sanger also founded numerous organizations that researched birth control and provided birth control education, particularly to working class women who were typically unable to access essential information about reproductive health. The organizations included the American Birth Control League, the National Committee on the Federal Legislation of Birth Control, and Planned Parenthood.

Dr. Equi (1872 – 1952) was a lesbian feminist, labor organizer, abortion provider, and one of the first 60 women to become medical doctors in Oregon. She was also a dedicated anti-war activist and was imprisoned for sedition in 1918 after delivering speeches criticizing the involvement of the United States in World War I.

This is a scarce edition with only two copies recorded on OCLC (Princeton and Harvard).

Helquist, Michael. “‘Lewd, Obscene and Indecent’: The 1916 Portland Edition of ‘Family Limitation.’” *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, vol. 117, no. 2, pp. 274-287.



“Too Long Have They Allowed Themselves to...[Bow] to the Yoke of Motherhood,”
A Handbook on Birth Control, Pregnancy, Menopause, and More

19. SANGER, Margaret H[iggins]. *What Every Girl Should Know*. New York: Max N. Maisel, 1916

Octavo (5¾ in. x 7⅝ in). 91, [1, publisher's ad] pp. With three full-page illustrations, two of female anatomy and one of a faux advertisement (first printed in the socialist periodical *The New York Call*) mocking the USPS suppression of the present work.

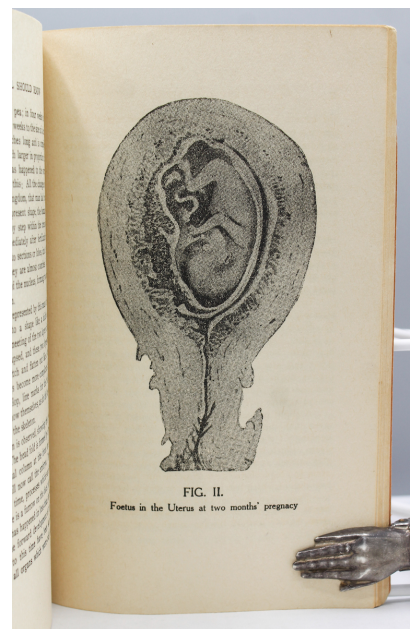
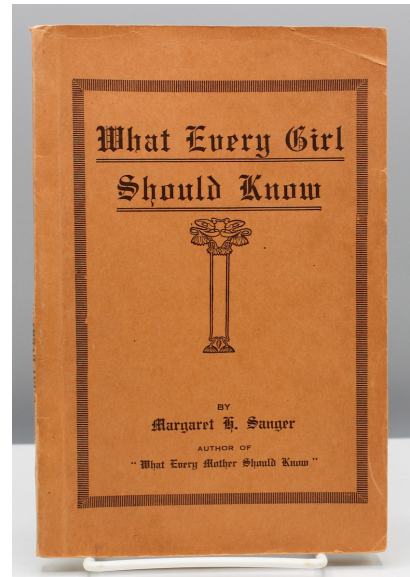
Original pinkish orange glossy paper wrappers. Light creasing to wrappers and to the corners of a few leaves, as usual. A very good, very clean copy in the original wrappers.

\$500

Fourth edition. Copies of this edition were also issued in matte pink wrappers. All previous editions are scarce. OCLC records only six copies of the 1913 edition, six copies of the 1914 edition, and three of the 1915 edition. OCLC records thirteen copies of this edition.

The present work is a sex education handbook for working class young women that covers topics likemenstruation; the “sexual impulse” and masturbation in both women and men; birth control, pregnancy, and abortion; sexually transmitted infections; and marriage. The final section, which covers menopause, heralds it as a positive change rather than a period of decline. Sanger writes: “Women must come to recognize there is some function of womanhood other than being a child-bearing machine. Too long have they allowed themselves to become this, bowing to the yoke of motherhood...No other thought has entered the mind except to become a good mother — which has usually meant a slave-mother...The woman of today is gradually ridding herself of such archaic notions. More and more is she realizing that motherhood is only one of her capabilities, that there are certain individuals more fitted for motherhood than others,” (p. 90).

Margaret Higgins Sanger (1879 – 1966), who saw birth control as a civil right, founded the first birth control clinic in the United States in 1916. Sanger also founded numerous organizations that researched birth control and provided sex education primarily to working class women. The organizations included the American Birth Control League, the National Committee on the Federal Legislation of Birth Control, and Planned Parenthood. She was also the founder and editor of *The Woman Rebel*, a monthly newsletter that circulated information on birth control and bore the anarchist slogan “No Gods, No Masters.”



Women's Health Manuals by a Quack Doctor and Radio Star

20. TAYLOR, M[arion] Sayle. *"Health and Happiness" for Women*. [Set of four booklets in a series.] Chicago: [Dr. M. Sayle Taylor Hygienic Orificial Co., 1928.]

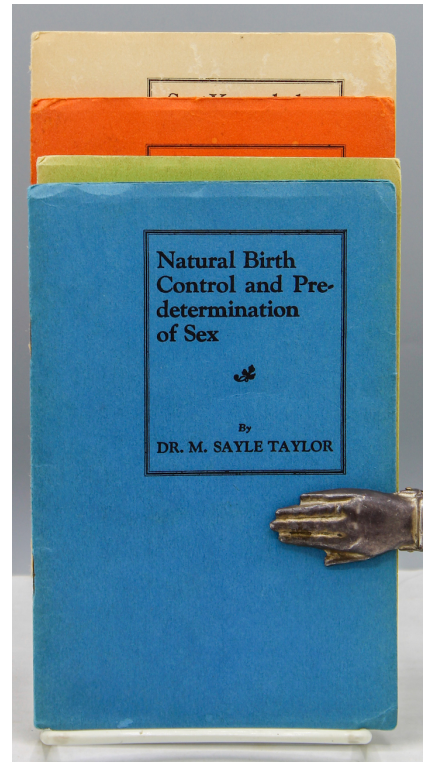
Four volumes (4" x 6¼"). 24 pp. (each of three booklets) and 16 pp. (one booklet). Booklet titles are *Natural Birth Control and Predetermination of Sex*, *How to Know Your Affinity: A Study of Glands*, *Facts for Wives: Plain Truths about Marriage*, and *Sex Knowledge for Children: A Parent's Duty to the Child*.

Original paper wrappers in blue, green, orange, and buff. Enclosed in the original envelope titled in blue. Envelope chipped at edges. Booklets are bright and clean. A very good set of rare women's health guides originating from the hugely lucrative radio quack industry of the early-to-mid twentieth century.

\$350

First edition. OCLC records no copies.

Marion Sayle Taylor was a radio host, quack doctor, and patent medicine salesman. His CBS radio show commanded a wide audience and Taylor received between ten and twenty thousand letters a week. He "treated" these patients in bulk by prescribing expensive patent medicine for common symptoms. Taylor's fellow radio hucksters included astrologers, matchmakers, and many, many other quack doctors. These stars sidestepped the FDA and FTC by setting up transmitters in northern Mexico, where the United States government had no jurisdiction, and broadcast at up to a million watts — about two hundred times the power of radio broadcasts on US soil.



Taylor devotes plenty of pages to his slightly esoteric ideas about matchmaking and pregnancy. In *How to Know Your Affinity*, he proposes that every person can be sorted into one of eight categories named after various glands (pituitary, adrenal, etc.) that indicate one's appearance and character. Certain categories necessarily attract or repel each other, and the ideal match is found in two people who naturally attract one another. The author also posits in *Natural Birth Control and Predetermination of Sex* that parents can control the sex of a child by conceiving under "male" or "female" moons, which correspond to specific days of the month.

Fowler, Gene. *Border Radio: Quacks, Yodelers, Pitchmen, Psychics...* (2010) pp. 7-9.
Also see "Man of the People," *Reply All* (podcast) episode 86 (January 18, 2017).