

## Sir Walter Mercer

**Reference and contact details:** GB 779 RCSEd GD/12

**Location:** RS R5

**Title:** Sir Walter Mercer

**Dates of Creation:** 1895-1965

**Held at:** The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

**Extent:** 42 series

**Name of Creator:** Walter Mercer

**Language of Material:** English.

**Level of Description:** series

**Date(s) of Description:** 1981; revised March 2009



### Administrative/Biographical History:

Sir Walter Mercer, MB ChB FRCSEd FRS (1891-1971), surgeon, was born at Stow, Midlothian. He was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh and Edinburgh University. He then held appointments as a house surgeon in Edinburgh and Carlisle. During the First World War he served as a captain with the RAMC. After being invalided home he served as a surgeon in the Edinburgh War Hospital at Bangour. In 1920 he was appointed surgeon of the Tynecastle Orthopaedic Clinic, and in 1921 his responsibilities were increased to cover Craighleith Hospital. That year he was also elected FRCSEd. He married Helen Maisie Lunan in 1923. In 1925 he moved to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh and was surgeon to the Edinburgh War Hospital. During the Second World War, Mercer was appointed as consultant in orthopaedic surgery to the Department of Health and surgeon to the thoracic unit for the East of Scotland. In 1948 became the Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery for Edinburgh University. Mercer was elected FRSEd, 1935 and was President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 1951-1957. He was knighted in 1956, and awarded an honorary MCh by Liverpool University in 1958, the year of his retirement. His publications include '*Orthopaedic Surgery*' (1932).

The papers of Sir Walter Mercer, MB, FRCSEd, FRS, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Edinburgh University comprise notes and articles spanning forty years, from the 1920s to the 1960s although most date from the 1940s and '50s. They include his own notes for lectures and articles and copy articles printed in medical journals on subjects which interested him. They are alphabetically arranged in his own subject headings.

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| GD12/1 Amputations.   | Typescript and printed, 1941-54              |
| GD12/2 Ankle, Fractures in Region of.   | Typescript and printed, 1926-51, n.d.        |
| GD12/3 Antiseptics.   | Typescript and printed, 1948, n.d.           |
| GD12/4 Arthritis.   | Typescript and printed, 1950, n.d.           |
| GD12/5 Athletic injuries: text of a lecture, with manuscript annotations.                       | Typescript, n.d.                             |
| GD12/6 Athletic injuries.   | Typescript and printed, 1937-50              |
| GD12/7 Boils and Carbuncles.  | Typescript and printed, n.d.                 |
| GD12/8 Bone Grafting: includes the text of a lecture or article by Mercer on the subject, 1923. | Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1923-43. |
| GD12/9 Bone, Injuries of.   | Typescript, n.d.                             |
| GD12/10 Brachial Plexus.  | Typescript, 1919-20                          |
| GD12/11 Bursae.   | Typescript and printed, 1939-49, n.d.        |
| GD12/12 Club Foot.  | Typescript and printed, 1925-34, n.d.        |

- GD12/13 Colles's Fracture, Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1932-50, n.d.
- GD12/14 Congenital Deformities. Typescript and printed, 1939-51, n.d.
- GD12/15 Cripples, with notes on the provision of medical services for orthopaedic cases in Scotland. Typescript and printed. Includes sample administrative records concerning an orthopaedic case, 1949-54
- GD12/16 Elbow. Includes draft texts of an article by Mercer on Tennis Elbow. Typescript and printed, 1923-48, n.d.
- GD12/17 Epiphysis. Includes the text of a chapter or article on Epiphysitis and notes by Mercer on the back of a requisition form for removal of a patient from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, 1920s. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1920s, 1930, n.d.
- GD12/18 General (101-200). Includes a numbered list of contents in Mercer's hand. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1895-1954
- GD12/19 Geriatrics. Includes three letters from the Secretary of Edinburgh and Leith Old People's Welfare Council, 1951. 1949-51
- GD12/20 Harvey. Includes texts of lectures given by Mercer as Harveian Orator, menu of the Harveian Festival Dinner and letters of Dr Clifford Kennedy and Dr James K Kennedy. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1957-9, n.d.
- GD12/21 Harvey Includes [?] a Scotsman supplement on British and Canadian Medicine, 20 July 1959, notes for and a text of an article or lecture by Mercer on heart surgery and papers on other matters. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1859-1959.
- GD12/22 Congenital Dislocation of the Hip. Includes draft lecture notes and texts of lectures. Typescript, manuscript and printed., 1934-49
- GD12/23 Injuries of the Hip. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1938-49, n.d.
- GD12/24 History. Printed 1927-57
- GD12/25 Knee joint, derangements of. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1920-46
- GD12/26 Occupational Therapy. Includes a typescript list of the members of the Scottish Association of Occupational Therapists, 1952 and two letters from Miss Jean Waterston, Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Association of Occupational Therapists, 1950-1. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1949-51
- GD12/27 Orthopaedics. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1949-60.
- GD12/28 Sacralisation. Includes two letters from a patient, 1933, a catalogue of J.S. Lowden Limited concerning a Stamp Sale, 11 December 1936. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1933-6
- GD12/29 Sacro-Iliac joints. Includes a letter concerning and short case-histories of sixteen patients at Bangour Hospital, 1956. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1956, n.d.
- GD12/30 Sciatica. Typescript, printed and manuscript, 1938-51
- GD12/31 Scoliosis. Includes short case history. Typescript and manuscript, n.d.
- GD12/32 Shoulder(1). Includes a letter of James S Hall, OBE, FRCSEd, 1958 and one of Charles G S Milne, 1958. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1939-58.
- GD12/33 Shoulder (2). Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1925-56.
- GD12/34 Soft Tissue Injuries. Typescript and manuscript, n.d.
- GD12/35 Spina Bifida Occulta. Typescript, manuscript and printed, 1937-57.
- GD12/36 Splints. Typescript and printed, 1940-7.
- GD12/37 Sutures. Typescript and manuscript, 1934, 1960, n.d.
- GD12/38 Sympathetic System, Disturbances of. Typescript and printed, 1934-53
- GD12/39 Hip Lecture. Typescript, manuscript and printed. Includes case histories and brief notes on patients, 1922-59.

GD12/40 Lecture notes on the contribution of Edinburgh to Orthopaedic Surgery and Sir Walter Mercer's inaugural lecture as Professor. Includes a printed copy of the lecture. Typescript and printed, 1949, n.d.

GD12/41 Reminiscences of a Surgical Training. Inaugural address by Sir Harold Stiles, Professor of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, 1919.

GD12/42 Draft Lecture or article concerning kidney transplants. Typescript and manuscript. Includes printed RAC map showing the Forth Road Bridge and two printed leaflets of the Scottish Clean Car Club, 1965, n.d.

Material concerning his patients will not be available due to Data Protection

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