Papers on Anthrax Collected by Dr J.H. Bell and Dr Fritz Eurich. Collection Description.

Archive reference: GB 0532 ANT

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# INTRODUCTION

This small archive tells the story of the terrible disease anthrax, which ravaged workers in Bradford’s wool industry during the 19th century. Doctors Bell and Eurich identified the disease and explored ways of preventing it.

Find out more in Number 21 of the 100 Objects exhibition: *Death and the Woolsorter: Bradford doctors against anthrax*.

<http://100objectsbradford.wordpress.com>

This description was written in 2001. It is being made available with minor edits as part of our Quick Wins programme to publicise key archives by putting existing catalogues online.

Alison Cullingford, Special Collections Librarian.

# Collection description

## Reference code

GB 0532 ANT.

## Title

Papers on Anthrax collected by Dr J.H. Bell and Dr Fritz Eurich.

## Dates

1878-1911.

## Level of description

Collection.

## Extent

0.04 linear metres.

## Name of creator

Dr. John H. Bell, died 1906, and Dr. Fritz Eurich, 1867-1945.

## Administrative/biographical history

Anthrax, "the wool-sorters' disease", was a particular problem in late 19th century Bradford; at the end of the century there was, on average, one case a week, a third of these being fatal. Dr. John Henry Bell was a Bradford practitioner who helped found the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital and had worked on the identification of miners’ nystagmus: in 1879 he confirmed the identification of woolsorters’ disease with anthrax. Dr Eurich set up a practice in Bradford in 1896 and in 1905 was appointed as bacteriologist to the Bradford and District Anthrax Investigation Board. His work led to the institution of various measures against anthrax, including the building of the Wool Disinfecting Station at Liverpool

## Immediate source of acquisition

The originals were lent to the J.B. Priestley Library for photocopying by Mrs. Margaret Bligh Scrutton, daughter of Dr. Eurich.

## Scope and content

Photocopies of 2 scrapbooks containing an indexed collection of news cuttings (1878 to 1911) on anthrax, and of part (pp. 98-131) of the Annual Report for 1880 of the Medical Office of the Local Government Board: “An inquiry by Mr. John Spear on the occurrence of anthrax amongst persons engaged in the London Hide and Skin Trades”.

## Access conditions

Available to researchers, by appointment. Access to archive material is subject to preservation requirements and must also conform to the restrictions of the Data Protection Act and any other appropriate legislation. There are currently no restrictions on access to this collection.

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## Language of material

English.

## Existence and location of originals

Returned in April 1978 to Mrs. Evelyn Imrie of Ilkley, daughter of Dr. Eurich.

## Archivist’s note

Described by John Brooker, minor edits by Alison Cullingford.

## Rules or conventions

ISAD(G) 2nd ed.

## Date(s) of description

12 April 2001 (minor edits May 2013).

## Indexing

### Persons

Bell, John, d.1906

Eurich, Fritz

Spear, John

### Subjects

Anthrax – England – West Yorkshire – Bradford

Anthrax – England – London

Occupational diseases

Wool trade and industry – Health aspects – England – West Yorkshire – Bradford

Hides and skins industry – Health aspects – England – London

### Locations

Bradford – West Yorkshire – England

London – England