

CHARLES W. PILGRIM (1855-1934) PAPERS ARCHIVES FINDING AID

[Processed by W. E. Baxter, 19 November 1985.]

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Charles Winfield Pilgrim was born in Monroe, New York on 27 March 1855. After receiving his preliminary education at the Monroe Institute, he began his medical career at the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, graduating in 1881. He served as an intern at Bellevue for a year and a half. His medical education was continued later by special courses at Vienna, Munich, and Berlin during the years 1885, 1886, and 1889.

Dr. Pilgrim's connection with psychiatry began in 1882 at the State Asylum for Insane Criminals at Auburn, New York. In 1884 he was transferred to what is now the Utica State Hospital and advanced through various grades until he attained the rank of acting superintendent. From this position in February 1890, he was transferred to the superintendent of the Willard State Hospital where his abilities as a physician and organizer were demonstrated by notable improvements in the medical and administrative features of that institution. His work attracted the attention of the Managers of the Hudson River State Hospital at Poughkeepsie, New York, and in May 1893, he was appointed superintendent of that hospital.

In April 1906, Governor Higgins asked Dr. Pilgrim to assume the duties of chairman of the State Commission on Lunacy. Dr. Pilgrim accepted with the understanding that he might return to the Hudson River State Hospital if at the end of the year he wished to do so. Dr. Pilgrim preferred the active duty of the hospital, and contact with the patients, to the duties of commissioner, and at the end of the year, he returned to Poughkeepsie. In 1916, he was recalled to Albany by Governor Whitman and again served in the capacity of chairman until he resigned in December 1921. His administration was marked by the expansion of the system of mental clinics and the extension of social service and other forms of preventive work.

Dr. Pilgrim's resignation signaled the completion of forty years of state service. One hundred thirty of his friends gave him a testimonial dinner in New York City on 8 December 1921.

Dr. Pilgrim was a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association: he served as secretary from 1906 to 1909 and as president in 1911. He was member and president of the Medical Society of the County of Dutchess, Society of Alumni of Bellevue Hospital; a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and the Poughkeepsie Academy of Medicine, and a member of the New York Psychiatric Society. He was associate editor of the *American Journal of Insanity* from 1882 to 1890, and associate editor of the "Institutional Care of the Insane in the United States and Canada" which was published under the direction of Henry Mills Hurd.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The papers of Charles W. Pilgrim came to the Archives of the American Psychiatric Association from an unknown source at an unknown date. The collection totals .25 linear feet and is comprised of one series: *APA Secretary's Correspondence, 1906-1909*. These correspondence deals almost exclusively with dues payments, new memberships, and meetings arrangements.

SERIES: APA Secretary's Correspondence, 1906-1909 **Archives Box 100673**

Folders

1. A-B
2. C-D
3. E-F
4. G
5. H-K
6. L-N
7. O-R
8. S
9. T-Z