Visiting The History of Pharmacy Research Center

Earlier this year, IMS’s Director of Public Programs, Sarah Fischer, joined a road trip to Griffith, Indiana, home of The History of Pharmacy Research Center. The center houses incredible collections of pharmacy artifacts and resources, said Fischer, who has been with the project for 15 years.

Johns Hopkins graduated from Purdue University Pharmacy School in 1923, and during his career worked and operated his drug store across Northwest Indiana. He was also President of the North Central Pharmacists from 1920 until 1925. Operating the company, John was able to focus his attention improving and expanding his collection of pharmacy artifacts and completing his research, which spanned 22 years. John’s very knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour of his collection and the history of pharmacy in general was in line to arrive visits to the museum by appointment. Here’s what Sarah had to say about her visit to The History of Pharmacy Research Center.

For more information about The History of Pharmacy Research Center, please visit the center’s website at www.pharmacy.purdue.edu or call (219) 989-6900.

Spring in the Garden

Spring is a spring … spring! Our volunteers from Purdue Master Gardeners of Muncie County are planning on another fruitful season and have just begun planting in the 150x50 Medicinal Plant garden.

Every Saturday morning at 11 am, IMS will offer a free guided tour of the Medicinal Plant Garden by one of the dedicated Master Gardeners who lovingly maintain it.

For more information, please visit our website at www.indianamed.com or call the museum at 317-838-5080.

Favorites from the Collection: Stereoscopes

Stereoscopes (also called stereo viewers or stereopticons) give the viewer a three-dimensional view of special photographs called stereographs. The stereograph is made of two photos of the same object on microfilm placed side by side from slightly different angles. This causes the images to appear in three dimensions on the screen. When viewed through the stereoscope, the two-dimensional photographs merge together to become one three-dimensional image.

Beginning in the late 19th century, collecting and viewing stereographs became a very popular pastime. People often collected stereographs during their travels or purchased stereographs with images of people, places, and things we are accustomed to them ourselves. At a time when photography was still in its infancy, and in any case part of medical education, this technology was used to depict teaching aids for medical students. Even today the stereograph’s images of dividing cells, bacteria, and other physical symptoms of disease that may now otherwise have occurred — and reduce the risk of exposure to disease.

The Indiana Medical History Museum has a collection of stereoscopic medical stereographs that were used as teaching aids for medical students. A new stereoscope is also available to try on the museum tour.