

GR-1754
British Columbia
Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale
Originals 1872-1962 3.4 m

This material was transferred from Riverview Hospital in 1987. This accession contains admission registers from 1872, the first year of operation of the new Mental Health Services Branch of the Provincial Secretary. Until 1877, when the new asylum was built in New Westminster, the asylum was located on the Songhees reserve in Victoria's inner harbour.

The 22 volumes in this accession include admission registers (1872-1902 and 1913-1960), case histories (1887-1908), patients registers (alphabetical lists of patients) (1900-1913 and 1922-1946), probation records (1911-1939), a patient transfer book (1918-1962) and a book of medical certificates of death (1911-1915). The registers contain much useful information, including age, sex, marital status, paying or free, date of admission, religion, country of birth, present residence, duration of mental malady, diagnosis, supposed cause, number of attacks, occupation, degree of education and bodily state on admission. The admission registers are an index to the patient files because the register number assigned at admission was used as the patient file number.

For later registers from the mental hospitals (1947-1971) see GR 3019. For case files from the mental hospitals (1872-1942) see GR 2880. Although BCARS does hold some alphabetical registers, they do not constitute a complete alphabetical index to admissions. The records office at Riverview Hospital retains a complete index to case files.

The accession also includes the journal of W. Mackie (February 8 - March 2, 1935), who accompanied the 65 Chinese patients deported to China in 1935. The journal lists the names of the patients and gives information about their voyage. The annual report of the mental hospital for 1935 (Sessional Papers 1936) mentions that 65 Chinese patients were repatriated that year.

Volume		Date range
1	Admissions book	12 Oct 1872-31 Dec 1912
2	Admissions book	1 Jan 1913-31 Mar 1922
3	Admissions book	1 Apr 1922-13 Jun 1930
4	Admissions book	1 Apr 1930-14 Mar 1937
5	Admissions book	31 Mar 1937-28 Sep 1942
6	Admissions book	3 Aug 1942-25 Oct 1947
7	Case histories	4 Mar 1887-31 Dec 1892
8	Case histories	9 Jan 1893-31 Dec 1897
9	Case histories	7 Jan 1898-24 Feb 1901

10	Case histories	26 Feb 1901-4 Dec 1903
11	Case histories	8 Dec 1903-22 Aug 1906
12	Case histories	25 Aug 1906-18 Apr 1908
13	Case histories	23 Apr 1908-21 Oct 1908
14	Patients' register	7 Apr 1922-31 Mar 1930
15	Patients' register	5 Apr 1930-11 Dec 1946
16	Case histories	11 Nov 1896-11 Jan 1898
17	Register of patients (case histories)	29 Oct 1900-1 Jan 1913
18	On probation	2 Feb 1911-30 Sep 1939
19	Patients transfer book	20 Dec 1918-18 Apr 1962
20	Medical Certificates of Death	31 Dec 1911-30 Sep 1915
21	Record of voyage to China	8 Feb 1935-2 Mar 1935
22	Admissions/Transfer book	20 Nov 1924-28 Jan 1960