History:

Kaare K. Nygaard (1903-1989) was a native of Norway who received an M.D. from Royal Fredriks University, Oslo, in 1929. He emigrated to the United States, where he spent a 5-year residency at the Mayo Clinic as a surgeon and researcher on blood. During World War II he organized a wing of the White Plains (N.Y.) Hospital to care for sick and wounded Norwegian merchant seamen at minimal costs; he operated on 4,000 of them. He continued as a general surgeon at White Plains for 40 years, retiring in 1979.

Dr. Nygaard was the author of Hemorrhagic Diseases; Photoelectric Study of Blood Coagulability (published in 1941) and also of over 50 professional papers, mostly on his research on blood. While at the Mayo Clinic he invented and patented the first machine to use photoelectric principles in blood analysis.

Before his medical career began, Dr. Nygaard was a sculptor; he continued his art work throughout his life, with public exhibitions and sales of his work. The United Nations honored his sculpture with a commemorative stamp. He published an autobiography, Knife, Life and Bronzes, in 1986.

Scope and Content:

The collection includes drafts of chapters and sections (some hand-written) of Nygaard's book Hemorrhagic Diseases. A 22-page typed draft represents a chapter of a book (title and date unknown) on "The photoelectric principle and its application to problems of medical interest."

Also included are a large number of file cards recording Nygaard's handwritten notes on patient's conditions.

For more information contact the Archives Center at 202-633-3270 or archivescenter@si.edu
cases and his research.

**Provenance:**

This collection was donated to the Division of Medical Sciences, NMAH, by Dr. Nygaard's widow in May 1990. It was transferred to the Archives Center on September 7, 1990.

Don Darroch, 10/4/90
rev'd., C. A. Orr, 12/30/91