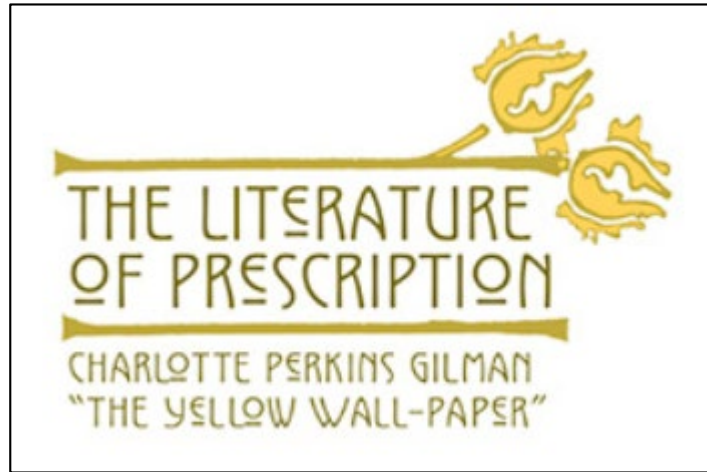


NLM Traveling Exhibitions

PR Information



www.nlm.nih.gov/literatureofprescription

The National Library of Medicine produced *The Literature of Prescription: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Yellow Wall-Paper,"* guest curated by historian and educator Manon Parry, PhD (University of Amsterdam).

The traveling exhibition and companion website explore a short story that challenged 19th-century notions of female weakness and social conventions that restricted women's professional and creative opportunities. During a time when women were challenging traditional ideas about gender that excluded them from political and intellectual life, artist and writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman rejected these ideas in a short story titled "The Yellow Wall-Paper."

[The Literature of Prescription](#) includes an [education component](#) featuring two K-12 lesson plans, a university module.

Please include this courtesy line with all public announcements about the project:

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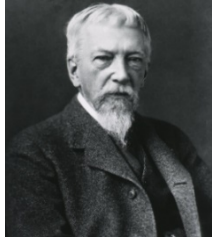
Host venues for *The Literature of Prescription* receive the following PR images. For your reference, there are brief captions for the images. Please include their corresponding **courtesy** noted below when using them.



Charlotte Perkins Gilman became an influential advocate for women's rights and prolific author. She published her pioneering book, "Women and Economics" in 1898, in which she urged financial independence and meaningful work for women.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman at her desk, ca. 1916-1922

Courtesy Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute Harvard University



Like others at the time, Dr S. Weir Mitchell believed that the difference between the sexes meant women were prone to nervous exhaustion when they attempted to exceed their natural limits. When Charlotte Perkins Gilman consulted him during her unhappy marriage, Dr Mitchell prescribed the "rest cure," which included isolation and rest.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, ca. 1900

Courtesy National Library of Medicine



The narrator of "The Yellow Wall-Paper" was imprisoned in her room after her physician prescribed the rest cure. Similarly, the author of the short story, Charlotte Perkins Gillman, had received a similar prescription. Since its first publication in 1892, "The Yellow Wall-Paper" has been reprinted many times and is now considered a classic of feminist literature.

Illustration from "The Yellow Wall-Paper," *The New England Magazine*, January 1892

Courtesy National Library of Medicine



Charlotte Anna Perkins was born on July 3, 1860 in Hartford, Connecticut. Soon after, her father left, leaving the family to struggle on the limited funds he provided while Charlotte and her brother Thomas were growing up. Charlotte sought independence early in her life following the example of her mother's efforts to cope with these difficult circumstances.

Young Charlotte Perkins

Courtesy Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute Harvard University