

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
WESTERN RESERVE STUDIES SYMPOSIUM

**BUILDING A MEDICAL COMMUNITY
IN THE WESTERN RESERVE**

October 12-13 2001

Allen Memorial Medical Library
Ford Auditorium

**The Making of a Modern Hospital in Cleveland: Planning and
Construction of Lakeside Hospital, 1895-1905**

James M. Edmonson

This presentation explores the design of the “new” Lakeside Hospital, opened in 1898. This hospital, the predecessor of today’s University Hospitals of Cleveland, was the first hospital in Cleveland built upon a plan specifically influenced by the germ theory of disease. The Cleveland planners in particular admired the design of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Hopkins plan therefore directly shaped the configuration of Lakeside Hospital. However, John Shaw Billings’ 1876 plan for Hopkins was over twenty years old by the time that the Cleveland structure was built. This presentation explores the consequences of this lag between initial design and construction, especially in light of changes soon to be introduced in American hospital design at the turn of the 20th century. The presentation concludes with a look at one additional aspect of the impact of Johns Hopkins upon the Cleveland medical scene: the arrival of several Hopkins-trained physicians and surgeons who staffed Lakeside and taught at the Medical Department of Western Reserve University.