Medical Practitioners of African Descent in Colonial Ghana

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NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

Medical Practitioners of African Descent
In Colonial Ghana
Charles Tety

The topics of African medical history and the formation of a Western educated elite in West Africa have aroused a great deal of attention in recent years. This documentation of a surprisingly large number of medical practitioners of African descent in colonial Ghana is intended as an aid to scholars interested in these problems.

Medical practitioners of African descent who experienced the British colonial era in West Africa are not generally known, even among their successors. They began to practice in West Africa as early as the second half of the nineteenth century, a fact which many still find difficult to believe. Not unlike their white colleagues, they possessed qualifications registrable in the United Kingdom. Accordingly, they are listed in the Medical Directory \(^1\) and the Medical Register, \(^2\) both of which provide professional information in each entry, but exclude racial origin.

The old series of the West African Medical Journal, \(^3\) the earliest English language medical journal to be published in West Africa, and one of the most important for research into the history of medicine in the area, contains obituary notices only for members of the defunct West African Medical Staff, an organization from which Africans and Asians were excluded. The new series of the Journal, however, contains occasional obituary notices and other relevant information on doctors of African descent.

Other Sources of Biography

General biographical sources carry sketches of African doctors, however. Noteworthy are the Dictionary of African Biography; Who's Who in Nigeria: A Biographical Dictionary; Gold Coast Year Book; and the works of Macmillan, Hutchinson, Sampson, and Mbye. \(^4\) As should

\(^*\)Research for this paper was supported by a grant from the University of Ghana Medical School as part of a larger study of the professional lives of these doctors. K. David Patterson read the typescript and made suggestions.

\(^1\)Medical Directory (London, 1845- ), annual.

\(^2\)Medical Register (London, 1859- ), annual.


be expected, contemporary local newspapers are also fruitful sources of biographical and other relevant information.

Some special studies are also available. M.C.F. Easmon, himself a Sierra Leonean doctor, compiled and annotated a list of his compatriots who practiced in their native land from 1858 to the early part of 1956. He also published the history of his family, which included four other doctors, and discussed the life of John Farrell Easmon, the first doctor in that well-known family.

Davidson Nicol, another Sierra Leonean doctor, has written a short biographical sketch, and has also made available extracts, with introductory notes from the writings of one of his outstanding predecessors, James Africanus Beale Horton. George Shepperson wrote a brief but timely paper on this illustrious African doctor. The paper shows how little indeed was, and still is known of early African doctors, even by some eminent members of the world press. Christopher Fyfe, for many years the government archivist in Sierra Leone, has written what appears to be the definitive biography of this African pace-setter.

In his book on history of health services in Nigeria, Ralph Schram includes contributions of some early Nigerian doctors to modern medical care. But the relevant writings of the Nigerian neurosurgeon, Professor Adelola Adeloye deserve special mention.

However, there is not a single source for biographical data on all the doctors of African descent who experienced the colonial era in West Africa. Such data, including portraits and bibliographies, are being assembled for Ghana. Meanwhile, a checklist of these doctors is presented here. In the compilation of this list, some of the sources described in this paper were useful. But two other sources were especially useful, namely the Gold Coast Senior Staff List and the Gold Coast Gazette. The latter, from the 5 April 1913 issue, contains an annual list of medical practitioners and dentists registered locally.

5M.C.F. Easmon, "Sierra Leone Doctors of the Nineteenth Century," Sierra Leone Studies (Journal of the Sierra Leone Society) (n.s.), 6 (1956), 81-96.
7Davidson Nicol, "A Far-Sighted Sierra Leone Doctor," in Easmon, ed., Eminent Sierra Leoneans, 54-56; Davidson Nicol, ed., Black Nationalism in Africa (1867); Extracts from the Political, Educational, Scientific and Medical Writings of Africanus Horton (New York, 1969).
12Gold Coast Senior Staff List 1896-1955 ... (Accra; title varies).
13Gold Coast Gazette 1872-1956 (Accra; title varies).
This writer would appreciate it if readers would kindly bring to his attention errors and omissions. He would also be grateful to receive on loan relevant portraits for reproduction.

A Checklist of African Doctors in Colonial Ghana

The list is arranged in three parts; each part contains only persons whose first service in the country fell within the period.

Part I covers the period from 1859, when the first two African doctors, J.A.B. Horton and W.B. Davies assumed duty in the country, to the end of the nineteenth century. During the greater part of this period, although there were pockets of discrimination, all doctors officially enjoyed the same conditions of service and salary. Horton rose to be the head of the Army Medical Department in 1879; another African, Dr. J.F. Easmon, was appointed head of the Colonial Medical Service in 1893. In 1897, however, Easmon, the African Chief Medical Officer, "was ruthlessly hounded out of his post" by the new governor, Sir William Maxwell, and replaced by a European.14 Ironically, Easmon was offered a handsome retainer by the merchants at Cape Coast in Ghana where he practiced until his death in June 1900.

Part II covers the beginning of the twentieth century to the end of 1945. During this period, the medical services in British West Africa were amalgamated and in 1902 the West African Medical Staff was formed. African doctors "were relegated to a separate service, with a lower salary scale." In the face of this racial prejudice, many West Africans turned from the study of medicine to law.15

Part III ends on 5 March 1957, the eve of independence. During and after the Second World War, a liberal policy was adopted. In 1946 African and European doctors were placed on a common list.16 Funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts and the Government Scholarship Scheme for the Africanization of the Public Service, plus other grants, stimulated the training of more African doctors. More than half a century after Easmon was removed from his post, an indigenous medical practitioner, E. Akwei, was appointed in 1955 to the same position, chief medical officer of Ghana. At the same time, another indigenous medical practitioner, E.W.Q. Bannerman became deputy chief medical officer.

Part I: 1859-1899

COKER, James Ojoje MB CM 1892 Edin
COLE, Sylvester John MD MS 1883 St. And.
DAVIES, William Broughton MRCS Lic Midwife Lond MD St. And. 1858
EASMON, Albert Whiggs MB CM 1895 Edin
EASMON, John Farrell MRCS Eng 1879 LKQCP and LM Ire1 1879 MD (avec distinction) 1879 Brux
HAYFORD, Ernest James MRCS LRCP Lond 1898 LM Rot Hosp Dubl 1898 MD 1899 Brux

HORTON, James Africanus Beale MRCS Lic Midwife 1858 Lond MD 1859 Edin
QUARTEY-PAPAFIO, Benjamin William MRCS Eng 1886 MB CM 1886 MD 1896 Edin
SMITH, Joseph Spilsbury LSA 1883 LRCS Edin 1885
WALDRON, Derwent Hutton Ryder MB CM 1879 Edin

Part II: 1900-1945

AKWEI, Eustace MB ChB 1940 DTM&H 1941 DPH 1949 Edin
AMEGATCHER, Joseph Ebenezer Ofoe MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1943
AMORIN, Ignacio Jerominus MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1935
AMPOFO, Francis Edward Oku LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1939
ANNAN, Daniel Nee MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1937
ARMAH, Joseph Erziah MB ChB 1933 Edin
ASAFU-ADJAYE, Isaac Boaten MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1933
ASTEDU-OFOE, Emmanuel Samuel MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1931
AUGUSTE, Edmund Leon MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1925
BANNERMAN, Charles Henry MB ChB 1935 Edin
BANNERMAN, Emmanuel William Quartey MB ChB 1935 Edin
BEAUSOLEIL, Amedee Edwin Charles MB ChB 1910 Edin
BECKLEY, Emmanuel Olubomi LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1913
MB ChB 1913 Edin
BUSBY, George Alfred MB ChB 1925 NU Ire1
DOVE, Arthur Farrell Renner MB BS 1916 Dunelm MRCS Eng LRCP Lond DTM&H 1916 Lpool
DOVE, Horace George Bennet MB 1916 BS 1917 Dunelm DTM&H 1917 Lpool
DUKER, Samuel George LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1932
FLEISCHER-DJOLETO, Ellis Jacob MB ChB 1944 Edin DPH Lond 1963
GEORGE, Daniel Beyiku MB ChB 1938 Edin
HAMMOND, Gabriel Jonas Dowuona LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1921
HAYFORD, Mark Davy LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1934
HESS, Neil Quarmina BA 1927 MB BS 1935 Durt DTM 1938 Lpool
HOARE, Benjamin Jonathan Odumbaku MB ChB 1911 Edin
HOYTE, Ralph Allan Sergeant MB ChB 1919 Edin
HUGHTON, Isaac Frank Kwamina LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1940
HUTTON-MILLS, John Edward MB ChB 1937 Edin
KOI, Alexander Herman Ansah MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1935
MENSA-ANNAN, Tete BA 1916 Camb MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1920
MERCER-RICKETTS, Henry MB ChB 1927 Edin
MURREL, James Henry LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFFPS Glasg 1923
NANKA-BRUCE, Frederick Victor MB ChB 1907 Edin
NANKA-BRUCE, William Cuthbert Kwaku BA (Hons) 1928 Camb MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1931 B.Chir 1931 MA 1932 Camb
OBASA, Orisadipe MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1891
PHILLIPS, Pieter Martinus Johannes MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1936 DPH 1965 St. And
REINDORF, Charles Ellias MB BS 1910 MD 1928 Durt
RIBEIRO, Francisco MB ChB 1923 Glasg
SAVAGE, Agnes Yewende MB ChB 1929 Edin
SAVAGE, Richard Akiwande MB ChB 1900 Edin
SIMMONDS, Francis Mathews LMSSA Lond 1897 SCPAR and Bac Univ of Paris 1909
TAGOE, Edward MA 1921 Camb MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1921 MB BChir Camb 1923 DPH RCPS Eng 1924
TAYLOR, Charles Johnston Shaw Ojumiri MB ChB 1928 Edin DTM,&H 1930

Part III: 1946 - Eve of Independence

AKIWUMI, Akiwusi Abiola MB ChB 1950 Edin MRCP Edin 1958 DTM&H 1955 Lpool
ANTHONY, Matthias Yaw LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1938
AWUKU-ASABRE, Timothy MB ChB 1952 Edin LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRCPs Glasg 1952
BANISTER, Hastings Kamuzu LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1941
BANNERMAN, Henry Satorius MB ChB 1947 Edin
BANNERMAN, Robert Henry Obuabasa MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1944 MB BS 1945 Lond MRCOG 1953 FGAAS 1958 FICS 1963 FRCP 1965
BARNOR, Mathew Anum MB ChB 1947 Edin
BENTSI-ENCHILL, Kwesi Kobea BA 1944 MB BCh 1950 Dubl MRCP 1960 FRCOG 1970
BOSSMAN, Jonathan Emmanuel LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1944
BRERETON, Ardon Beresford MB ChB 1930 Edin DMRE Camb 1937
CHRISTIAN, Ferdinand Francisco MB MCh BA 1952 NU Ire1 LM 1952 MPSI Dubl 1952 DMRD 1962 Lpool
CLERK, Matilda Joanna MB ChB 1949 Edin DTM&H 1952 Eng
CUDJOE, Seth Dzifanu LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1939
DANKYI, Richard Isaac BA 1952 MB BCh BA 1954 Dubl LAH Dubl 1955
DARKWA, Asare Abankwa MB BS 1953 Durh
DEVO, Joseph Menoah LAH Dubl 1952
EVANS-ANFINOM, Emmanuel MB ChB 1944 DTM&H 1948 Edin FRCS Edin 1955 FICS 1960

GLOVER, Joseph Idrisu Titus MB BS 1951 Lond FRCS Edin 1963

GRANT, Francis Chapman MB ChB 1954 Sheff DPH 1961 Lond


KUTA-DANKWA, Albert Kobina LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1946


LUTTERODT, William Kofie MB ChB 1951 Edin LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1951

MENSAH, John Kweku MB ChB 1952 Sheff

MILLS, Francis MB ChB 1955 St. And

MORTON, Titus Aruna LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1946


OTOO, Samuel Nii-Amu MB ChB 1949 Edin DTM&H 1950 Eng DPH Conjoint 1959

QUARCOO, Emmanuel George Koranteng LRCP&LM LRCSI&LM 1954

QUARCOOPOME, Cornelius Odarquaye MB ChB 1953 Birm MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1953 D0 1958 Lond FWACS 1973

QUARSHIE, Reginald Augustus Annang LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1951

QUARTEY, John Kwateboi Marmon MB ChB 1948 Edin FRCS Eng FRCS Edin 1953

QUARTEY-VANDERPUIJE, John Lampetey LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1946

ROBERTS, Frank Rowland BA 1926 DURH LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1946 DTM&H 1948 Eng

ROBERTS, Lewis Randolph MB ChB 1950 Edin

ROBERTSON, James Neequaye LRCP Edin LRCs Edin LRFPS Glasg 1945 DPH 1958 Edin

SAAKWA-MANTE, Kwafo MB ChB 1952 Leeds DTM&H 1953 Eng MSc (Stats) 1946 Aberd DPH 1955 Eng MFCM 1973


SIMANGO, Louis Komba MB BS 1952 DURH MRCP Edin 1961 DTM&H 1963 Eng

SANGMUAH, Ekrakow (formerly Sangmuah, Isaac Benjamin) BA 1953 MB BCh BAO 1955 Dubl DPScych 1962 Toronto

TAGBOTO, Emmanuel Kofi MB ChB 1953 Leeds DTM&H 1954 Eng

TAGOE, Ezekiel Browning MB ChB 1950 Edin

WARMANN, John St George LSM Nig 1939 DPH 1948 Birm MRCP Eng LRCP Lond 1950