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## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### Medical Practitioners of African Descent In Colonial Ghana

*Charles Tetty*

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*<sup>1</sup> and the *Medical Register*,<sup>2</sup> both of which provide professional information in each entry, but exclude racial origin.

The old series of the *West African Medical Journal*,<sup>3</sup> 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 Asiatics 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.<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup>*Medical Directory* (London, 1845- ), annual.

<sup>2</sup>*Medical Register* (London, 1859- ), annual.

<sup>3</sup>*West African Medical Journal* (Lagos, 1927-38; Ibadan, 1952-1975).

<sup>4</sup>*Dictionary of African Biography*, 2nd ed. (London, 1971); *Who's Who in Nigeria: A Biographical Dictionary* (Lagos, 1956); *Gold Coast Year Book 1953-1956* (Accra; continued as *Ghana Year Book*, 1957); Allister MacMillan, *The Red Book of West Africa* (London, 1920); C.F. Hutchinson, *The Pen-Pictures of Modern African Celebrities*, 2 vols. (London, 1928); M.J. Sampson, *Gold Coast Men of Affairs (Past and Present)*, with an introduction by J.B. Danquah (London, 1937); L.A. Mbye, "Senior African Civil Servants in British West Africa, 1808-1859," 2 vols. (Ph.D. thesis, University of Birmingham, 1969).

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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

Davidson Nicol,<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

In his book on history of health services in Nigeria, Ralph Schram includes contributions of some early Nigerian doctors to modern medical care.<sup>10</sup> But the relevant writings of the Nigerian neurosurgeon, Professor Adelola Adeloje deserve special mention.<sup>11</sup>

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*<sup>12</sup> and the *Gold Coast Gazette*.<sup>13</sup> The latter, from the 5 April 1913 issue, contains an annual list of medical practitioners and dentists registered locally.

<sup>5</sup>M.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.

<sup>6</sup>M.C.F. Easmon, "A Nova Scotian Family," in M.C.F. Easmon, ed., *Eminent Sierra Leoneans (in the nineteenth century)* (Freetown, 1961), 57-60a.

<sup>7</sup>Davidson 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).

<sup>8</sup>George Shepperson, "An Early African Graduate," *University of Edinburgh Gazette*, No. 32 (1962), 23-26.

<sup>9</sup>Christopher Fyfe, *Africanus Horton 1835-1883: West African Scientist and Patriot* (New York, 1972).

<sup>10</sup>Ralph Schram, *A History of the Nigerian Health Services* (Ibadan, 1971).

<sup>11</sup>Adelola Adeloje, "West African Therapeutics as Seen by Some Nigerian Pioneers of Modern Medicine," *Journal of Medical and Pharmacological Marketing*, 1 (1972), 7-10; "Some Early Nigerian Doctors and Their Contributions to Modern Medicine in West Africa," *Medical History*, 18 (1974), 275-293; "Nigerian Pioneer Doctors and Early Politics," *Nigerian Magazine*, No. 121 (1976), 2-24; *Nigerian Pioneers of Modern Medicine: Selected Writings* (Ibadan, 1977).

<sup>12</sup>*Gold Coast Senior Staff List* 189601955/56 ... (Accra; title varies).

<sup>13</sup>*Gold 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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> 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 Ojoye 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 IreI 1879 MD  
 (avec distinction) 1879 Brux  
 HAYFORD, Ernest James MRCS LRCP Lond 1898 LM Rot Hosp Dubl 1898  
 MD 1899 Brux

<sup>14</sup>David Kimble, *A Political History of Ghana: The Rise of Gold Coast Nationalism 1850-1928* (Oxford, 1963), 97.

<sup>15</sup>T.S. Gale, "Sir Gordon Guggisberg and His African Critics," *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana*, 14 (1973), 271.

<sup>16</sup>K.D. Patterson, *Health in Colonial Ghana 1900-1950* (Waltham, Mass., 1981), 14.

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 LRFPS Glasg 1939  
ANNAN, Daniel Nee MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1937  
ARMAH, Joseph Erzuah MB ChB 1933 Edin  
ASAFU-ADJAYE, Isaac Boaten MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1933  
ASIEDU-OFEI, 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 LRFPS Glasg 1913  
MB ChB 1913 Edin  
BUSBY, George Alfred MB ChB 1925 NU Irel  
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 LRFPS Glasg 1932  
EASMON, Charles Odamteen MB ChB 1940 DTM&H 1941 Edin FRCS Edin  
1948 FICS 1958 FGAAS 1961 FWACS 1961 GM 1968 DSc Honorary  
1978 Cape Coast  
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 LRFPS Glasg  
1921  
HAYFORD, Mark Davy LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1934  
HESSE, Neil Quarmina BA 1927 MB BS 1935 Durh 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 LRFPS 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 LRFPS 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 Durh  
RIBEIRO, Francisco MB ChB 1923 Glasg  
SAVAGE, Agnes Yewande 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  
 AMPOFO, Daniel Asamua MB BS 1954 Lond MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1954  
 MRCOG 1963 MPH 1969 Johns Hopkins FWACS 1975 FRCOG 1976 FGAAS  
 1979  
 ANTHONY, Matthias Yaw LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1938  
 ARMAR, Augustus Amartei MB ChB 1954 Sheff MRCOG 1960 FRCOG 1975  
 AMARTTOE, Raphael Ernest M.Litt. HDipl Ed 1937 Lille LRCP Edin  
 LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1938  
 ASIRIFI, Yaw MB ChB 1954 Birm DCH 1963 Lond MRCP Edin 1964 FRCP  
 Edin 1971 FWACP 1976  
 AWUKU-ASABRE, Timothy MB ChB 1952 Edin LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRCPS  
 Glasg 1952  
 BADD00, Michael Allotey MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1950 MB BChir 1952  
 Camb DTM&H 1952 Eng DPH 1961 Eng FWACP 1976  
 BADOE, Emmanuel Augustus MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1950 MB ChB 1950  
 Sheff FRCS Eng 1953 FWACS 1961 DTM&H Conjoint 1963 FGAAS 1968  
 ChM 1976 Sheff  
 BANDA, 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 FRCOG 1965  
 BARNOR, Mathew Anum MB ChB 1947 Edin  
 BENTSI-ENCHILL, Kwesi Kobia BA 1944 MB BCh 1950 Dubl MRCOG 1960  
 FRCOG 1970  
 BOI-DOKU, Frederick Sowa MB ChB 1955 Birm DTM&H 1958 Eng D. Path  
 1961 Lond MRC Path (UK) 1964 FRC Path (UK) 1974 FWACP 1976  
 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 BAO 1952 NU Irel LM 1952  
 Rotunda LAH Dubl 1952 MPSI Dubl 1953 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 BAO 1954 Dubl LAH Dubl 1955  
 DARKWA, Asare Abankwa MB BS 1953 Durh  
 DE-GRAFT JOHNSON, John Talfourd Furley MB ChB 1951 Leeds LRCP  
 Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1951 DTM&H 1952 Lpool FRCS Edin  
 1958  
 DE-GRAFT JOHNSON, Susan Barbara Gyankorama (nee Ofori-Atti) MB  
 ChB 1947 Edin DRCOG 1949 DCH 1958 Lond DSc Honorary 1979 Legon  
 DEVO, Joseph Menoah LAH Dubl 1952  
 DODU, Silas Rofino Amu MB ChB 1951 Sheff MRCS Eng LRCP Lond 1951  
 MRCP Lond 1953 DTM&H 1953 Eng MD 1957 Sheff FGAAS 1959 FRCP  
 Lond 1969 FWACP 1976  
 EVANS-ANFOM, Emmanuel MB ChB 1944 DTM&H 1948 Edin FRCS Edin 1955  
 FICS 1960

- FORSTER, Edward Francis Bani BA 1941 MB BCh BAO 1943 Dubl LM  
1943 Rotunda MA MD 1946 Dubl DPM 1950 MRC Psychiatry 1972  
FWACP 1976
- GLOVER, Joseph Idrisu Titus MB BS 1951 Lond FRCS Edin 1963
- GRANT, Francis Chapman MB ChB 1954 Sheff DPH 1961 Lond
- KORSAH, Kweku Kyri MB BS 1954 Lond DTM&H 1958 Eng MRCOG 1962  
FWACS 1973 FRCOG 1975
- KUTA-DANKWA, Albert Kobina LRCP Edin LRCS Edin LRFPS Glasg 1946
- KWARKO, Kyesi Assoku MB ChB 1953 Glasg DTM&H 1955 Eng MRCOG 1962  
FRCOG 1974
- LAINING, William Neizer MB ChB 1952 St. And DTM&H 1953 Eng DCP  
1959 Lond MRC Path (UK) 1963 MSc-Med 1964 Queens, Canada  
FGAAS 1965 LLB 1972 Ghana FRC Path (UK) 1973 FWACP 1976
- 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
- OTCHERE, Emman Addo BA 1947 MA 1949 BAO 1950 MB 1951 Dubl LAH  
Dubl 1952 MPSI Dubl 1952
- 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 DO 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 Lamptey 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 Edn
- SAAKWA-MANTE, Kwafo MB ChB 1952 Leeds DTM&H 1953 Eng MSc (Stats)  
1946 Aberd DPH 1955 Eng MFCM 1973
- SAI, F.T. BSc 1950 MB BS (with distinguished honors in  
obstetrics and gynecology) 1955 Lond DTM&H 1956 Eng MRCP Edin  
1959 MPH 1960 Harvard FGAAS 1961 FRCP Edin 1964 FWACP 1976
- SIMANGO, Louis Komba MB BS 1952 Durh MRCP Edin 1961 DTM&H 1963  
Eng
- SANGMUUAH, Ekrakow (formerly Sangmuuah, Isaac Benjamin) BA 1953 MB  
BCh BAO 1955 Dubl DPsych 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 MRCS Eng LRCP  
Lond 1950