

# KWASHIORKOR

and  
Dr. Cicely Delphine Williams



Cicely Williams



Cicely Williams with severely malnourished child



Children suffering from Kwashiorkor



Princess Marie Louis Hospital (PML), where Dr. Williams first described Kwashiorkor

Dr. Cicely Williams was a Jamaican national who worked in the Gold Coast from 1929-1936.

She was the first woman to be appointed in the British Colonial Medical Service to be sent to Gold Coast (now Ghana).

Dr. Williams' most important work in the Gold Coast was her diagnosis of the common and often fatal condition **Kwashiorkor**. She learned that "Kwashiorkor" meant the sickness the older child gets when the next baby is born. This seemed to indicate that, when they were no longer breast-fed, children were not receiving enough to eat. Dr. Cicely Williams discovered that the medical symptom of swollen bellies, diarrhoea, and vomiting was protein-calorie malnutrition. The cure for kwashiorkor was therefore education on children's nutritional needs. She quickly published her diagnosis of kwashiorkor as a protein deficiency disease, which attracted the attention of the medical world.

The first description and diagnoses of the protein deficiency syndrome "Kwashiorkor" was first published from the Princess Marie Louis Children's Hospital.



Due to her efforts in the hospital a sculpture of her was mounted in the hospital in memory of her. (Above)

## KWASHIORKOR cont'd

### Cure

The cure of Kwashiorkor was therefore education on children's nutritional needs due to Dr. Cicely Williams publication. This led to the establishment of a Nutritional Rehabilitation Center in the hospital.

Below are some pictures of their cases treated and reported to the centre in picture presently.



Before  
treatment

After  
treatment

CHILDREN WITH KWASHIORKOR



MARASMUS

