

WEST AFRICAN MEDICAL SERVICE

The West African Medical Service was established in 1902.

Racial discrimination was instituted within the service. Unlike what had happened previously with the colonial medical service, Africans were not allowed to serve in top posts.

African physicians were given the title “Native Medical Officer” or “African Medical Officer”, always a lower rank than Europeans.

Dr. W. R. Henderson implemented this policy.

The case of Dr. Edward Tagoe (hired September 1, 1926) was of particular interest. Europeans in the mining area of Dunkwa objected to being attended by him, until Governor Guggisberg declared that “Dr. Tagoe had proved himself so far to be the equal of any European in his professional qualifications and his personal character, and therefore he would remain at Dunkwa.”