

THE HISTORY OF NURSING PROFESSION IN CAMEROON

The history of nursing profession in Cameroon seemed not to have been recorded, and this is a challenge in getting a clear picture.

Before 1884 [the precolonial period] the sick was treated with traditional medicine ,where wives relatives or the traditional doctor will care for the sick.

Between 1884-1959 [the colonial era] the Germans trained Dressers who were employees of the native authority .They were trained in the native hospital In Victoria around 1923;supervised by Europeans officers ,entry requirement standard 4 or 6 certificate.The first Cameroonian nurses were trained in the Albert Nursing Home in Victoria.

The Cameroon Wealth Development corporation now CDC,started training Dressers in the late 1940,thus a training school was opened in Tiko in the late 1940s to train Nigerian Registered Nurses.

Between 1960 to 1999 [after the colonial era],nursing education started in Bamenda in the Bamenda Nursing and midwifery school today called Training School for Health Personnel. Prerequisite GCE certificate.

In 1970 a French system of training Assistant nurses, midwives and nurses started.

Nursing training in French Cameroon date back to the advent of Dr Eugene Jamot .Between 1920 – 1922,Jamot started training auxillary nurses.in 1932 Jamot created a school in Ayos to train nurse aiders .This was then followed by the training of certified nurses.

In 1955 pupils were registered for the French state Registered Nursing

In 1960 ,catholic nursing school of Yaounde and protestant school of Douala started training nurses.

In 1954 c

Shisong catholic hospital started training nurses while BBH started in the 80s.

In 2009 a center of health sciences was opened at the faculty of medicine and biomedical sciences [TSOU 2009] but this was short lived, as it shut its doors to Cameroonian students.

Today there are many training school for nurses in the country like the university of Buea , university of Bamenda , catholic university of central Africa, CATUC ,CCU etc.

Presently, the entry requirement is the advanced level and training is for three years. The MOH selects its trainers through an entrance examination ,whose candidates are given the SRN certificate while the Ministry of Higher Education gets her candidates through the study of files with minimum qualification being the Advanced level .They are awarded a a Higher National Diploma at the end of their course.