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DESCRIBE THE HISTORY OF THE NURSING PROFESSION IN CAMEROON.

Before the introduction of the modern nursing care in Cameroon during the colonial era, the care of patients was in the hands of the medicine men and women who were believed to possess spiritual power, deep knowledge of herbs and other rituals to diagnose and treat both physical and spiritual ailments.

Nursing education in Cameroon starts at the colonial era during the annexation of Cameroon by the Germans in 1884. A type of medical personnel called “dressers” were trained who were considered as surgeon assistants. Their main duty was to dress wound and sores.

According to the National Observatory for Human Resources for health Cameroon in 1926, a mission to fight against sleeping sickness was sent to Cameroon, with Dr. Eugene Jamot as a team leader who trained nursing aides.

- In 1932 the training of Brevet nurses started for 2 years. The catholic mission in 1954 at Shisong was the first to start the training of Nurses.

The state owned Bamenda Nursing School was formerly opened in 1916 to train staff nurses.

- In 1972 the cycle of senior training in nursing care was opened in university teaching center in Yaounde for a period of 2 years.

University of Buea started 4 years programme and first batch of graduates in 2001.

- In 2002 training for Brevet stops.
- In 2004, Yaounde University Started a master program in nursing science.
- The university of Buea conferred its first Master's Degree in Nursing in 2009.

To conclude today, the nursing profession in Cameroon has expanded so much that we now have many people graduating in Master's in specialties like Public health, intensive care (critical nurse), anesthetic, reproductive health and many others. And holders of Phd in nursing. Many SRN, HND, Assistant nursing.