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WOMEN AND MEDICINE IN THE GOLD COAST AND GHANA, 1880 – 1963

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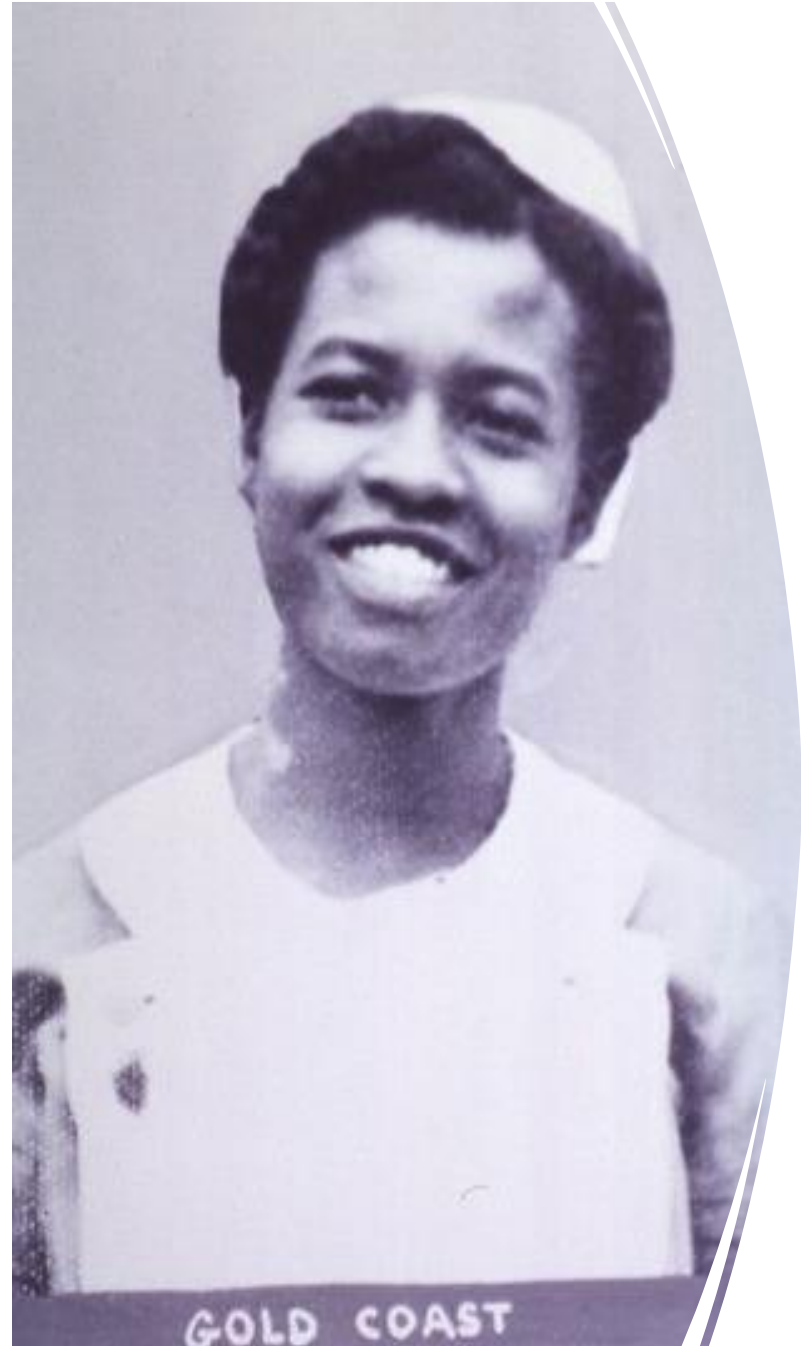
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Michael Osei

WOMEN AND MEDICINE IN THE GOLD COAST AND GHANA, 1880 – 1963



For several centuries ago, traditional medicine was the primary source of healthcare for the Gold Coast and other sub-Saharan African countries. Oral sources affirm that the traditional healers of the Gold Coast who possessed the knowledge of healing were men and women. The Gold Coast women featured prominently in the community-based healthcare system's curing and caring spheres during the pre-colonial period. However, women's place and power in medicine were altered due to the imposition of colonial rule.

Until the first half of the twentieth century, women, particularly African women, were sidelined, and if represented, they were often misconstrued in the broader colonial discourse by several scholars. The project to reclaim the historical memory of women followed the continuous trend of limiting African women's history to the political, religious, and economic realms. Unlike these overly explored spheres, African women's historical memory in traditional and western medicine has received little attention.