

BIL

Publications of Dr Roy Billington (1908-1997)

28 items, 1951-2017

Presented by Dr Billington about August 1994 and October 1995 (Acc. 19/5), with supplementary material presented by his son Dr Timothy Billington, December 2016 and February 2017

Catalogued by Sue Sutton February 2001. Introduction expanded, BIL 2/5 added and some format, etc., revision August – September 2016. Supplementary material in BIL 4 catalogued by Philip Saunders March 2017.

Roy Billington was the son of a professor of surgery at Birmingham University (see BIL 4/8). After school at Shrewsbury he entered Trinity College Cambridge, before returning to Birmingham for clinical training. He became a committed Christian at Holy Trinity church in November 1927 and was involved in CICCW. He was one of the 1930 Cambridge Missionary Fellowship who promised ‘to go abroad as the Lord directed’. In 1937 he went to Uganda as a medical missionary for the Church Missionary Society, working at Mengo Hospital, Kampala, and remained there until 1970, from 1950 as Medical Superintendent. An autobiographical account of his years there based in part on contemporary notes and journals, now unlocated, is contained within *A tune on black and white keys: partnership in healing; the story of Mengo Hospital* (1993; CCCW Library 266.2 BIL). His service is remembered by the ward of the hospital named in his memory.

In 1970 he became CMS representative in Uganda and advisor on health and welfare to the church in Uganda. In 1972 he returned to the United Kingdom as CMS Medical Secretary with worldwide responsibilities, living in south London and later in Lewes (East Sussex). He died in 1997 (Cecil Pulford, *Eating Uganda: From Christianity to Conquest*, p.201, CCCW Library 266.676 PUL; see also the obituary by his son Tim in *British Medical Journal*, cccxvi, 152 (10 Jan.1998)). His publications show him to have made significant contributions to health education in Uganda as well as having a critical interest in the achievement of his better-known predecessor Sir Albert Cook (1870-1951). Papers in BIL 3-4 contains useful biographical information.

BIL 1/ Articles in Journals

1/1. ‘Albert Cook. A Biographical Note’, *East African Medical Journal*, No. 10 Vol. 28 (October 1951) pp. 397-401

Details the work of Cook as a medical missionary at the Mengo Hospital, Kampala. Article includes photographs and reproductions of case note pages from 1897 and 1898. Photocopy

1/ 2. 'Custom and Child Health in Buganda, III, Pregnancy and Childbirth', *Tropical and Geographical Medicine*, Vol. 15 (1963) pp. 134-137
Photocopy

1/ 3. 'Neurosyphilis in Uganda: A Comparison of Two Five-Year Periods', *East African Medical Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 11 (November 1966) pp. 469-473
Photocopy

1/ 4. 'The Problems of the Epileptic Patient in Uganda', *East African Medical Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 8 (August 1968) pp. 563-569
Photocopy

1/5. *Christian Graduate*, Vol. XXII, No. 3 (September 1969) including, pp. 9-10, by Billington, 'To break every yoke ...'.
Problems of World poverty with special reference to Uganda

1/ 6. *The Uganda Practitioner*, Vol. 2, No. 4 (November 1969) including, pp. 4-7, by Billington, 'Looking Back and Forward'.
A survey of the progress of medicine during his time in Uganda and the problems still remaining.

1/ 7. 'Albert Cook 1870-1951: Uganda Pioneer', *British Medical Journal*, Vol. 4 (1970) pp. 736-740
Pages extracted from issue.

1/8. *The Uganda Practitioner*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (July 1970), including, pp.99-102, by Billington . 'Mengo Hospital Since Albert Cook'. A centenary issue on the life of Dr Albert Cook. Papers given at the centenary celebrations with other papers by M.S.R. Hutt, A.C. Stanley Smith, H.C. Trowell and by E.S. Grech and K.M. Masters on reducing maternal mortality.

1/ 9. 'The Third World and its Needs', *Graduates Fellowship Magazine*, (September 1970), pp. 65-68.
Pages extracted from issue.

1/ 10. *In the Service of Medicine, Journal of the Christian Medical Fellowship*, No.64 (January 1971) including, pp. 27-9 by Billington, 'Looking Ahead Imaginatively'.
Adaptation of medical missionary work to the needs of post-independent Africa and Asia.

1/11. *Uganda Medical Journal*, Vol. 2 No. 1 (January 1973), including, pp.1-2 by Billington, 'The Importance of the Nursing Aide in Uganda's Medical Services'.

1/12. *In the Service of Medicine, Journal of the Christian Medical Fellowship*, No.74, Vol. 19.3 (1973), including, pp.15-19 by Billington, 'Diminished Personal Freedom in World Medical Care'.

1/13. 'Early Years of Medical Work in the Church of Uganda', *A Century of Christianity in Uganda*, (1978), pp. 90-93. Full copy in CCCW Library 276.4 TUM. Photocopy

BIL 2/ Books and Pamphlets

2/1. *What About the Third World* (Inter-Varsity Press, London, 1972)
Review of the problems of poverty and possible solutions. With a letter from publishers detailing sales at 15,997. 1984

2/2. *Good Health for You* (Uganda Church Press, 1974)
Basic health care for Ugandans in layman's terms

2/3. *Health A Surprising Joy* (CMS, 1976)
'Developing patterns of 'medical missions' of Christian health care or church-related health care, particularly in the Third World'.

2/4. *Health, CEM [Christian Education Movement] Probe* (January 1977)
Explores some of the themes which make up the subject of health and discusses what a Christian attitude to them should be.

2/5. Flyer (part only, including list of contents) for *Health has many faces* ([Conference of British Missionary Societies 1978]) with a note by Dr Billington '...this is all I can spare at present'. A copy of this is available at Cambridge University Library. [found loose in box August 2016. Apparently overlooked in 2001]

BIL 3/ Unpublished material

1. Answers to a questionnaire from the University of Oxford Rhodes House Development Records Project July 1983.
His answers reveal details of his work, his beliefs and an analysis of changes he would make in the organisation of health care in the Third World
17 pages, pp.10-17 photocopied

BIL 4/ Supplementary Material presented by Dr Roy Billington's son, Dr Timothy Billington on behalf of himself and siblings December 2016-February 2017

- 1 *Mengo Notes Nov. 1959 (photocopy)* including address given by WR Billington at thanksgiving service for Mengo Hospital at St Paul's Cathedral, Namirembe, Kampala, 5 July 1959 1959
- 2 Photocopy of Minute of [CMS] Africa Committee made on transfer of Dr and Mrs Billington to Home Staff.[as physician and medical secretary] 1973, summarising their careers and achievements in Uganda 1973
- 3 W.R. Billington, 'What led me to Tropical Africa' (typescript) 1995

- 1983/1995
Photocopy of a typescript publication of 1983 with a P.S. of 1995 concerning patients whom he now regards as having been demon-possessed.
- 4 *Mengo Notes Nov.1996* 1996
Includes continuation of hospital history for 1984-96 and account of new Centenary Chapel.
 - 5 Mengo Hospital centenary papers, including brochure for Centenary Tour organised by U.K. Friends of Mengo Hospital, programme and text of address by Roy Billington read for him by his brother Andrew 1997
 - 6 Obituary of W.R. Billington [presumably by someone other than Tim Billington, author of obituary in *B.M.J.*, as Roy's age at death is left blank] [1997]
 - 7 *Mengo Notes May 1998* 1998
Includes obituary of WR Billington drawing on text of previous item.
 - 8 Extract from online edition of Plarr's lives of fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons for William Billington (1876-1932) 2013-15
 - 9 Essay by Jane Perry for a CMS course, 'Introduction to Church History', entitled 'Pioneers in Mission History: Roy and Dora Billington, Mengo Hospital, Uganda, 1937-1973' 2017