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


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 CICCU. 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

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. 


Pages extracted from issue.


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Photocopy 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.


**BIL 2/ Books and Pamphlets**

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

‘Developing patterns of ‘medical missions’ of Christian health care or church-related health care, particularly in the Third World’.

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

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

3  W.R. Billington, ‘What led me to Tropical Africa’ (typescript)
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*  
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*  
Includes obituary of WR Billington drawing on text of previous item.  
1998

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