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The following review appeared in the November '96 issue of CHOICE:

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Patton, Adell. Physicians, colonial racism, and diaspora in West Africa.
University Press of Florida, 1996. 343p bibl index afp ISBN
0-8130-1432-8, \$49.95

This book has four important objectives: description of the historical development of West African medicine, examination of the introduction of Western medical practices in that region, determination of the nature and extent of colonial racism in restricting professional mobility of African physicians at the beginning of the 20th century, and documenting their response to their disenfranchisement from serving their indigenous communities. Patton accomplishes these goals with an artful combination of historical detail, bibliographies, demographic information, and epidemiological data, taking a broad sweeping perspective beginning with the origin of African medical practices of 3,000 years ago through the Cold War and Perestroika. There are multiple appendixes, figures, maps, and tables. This book is quality scholarly work on a highly specialized topic, and a very suitable acquisition for libraries serving the academic needs of scholars in medical sociology, African medicine, African history, comparative studies, public health, and public policy, from both a national and an international perspective. Although intended for general readers as informational about African history and especially African medical history, it may be too focused to attract that audience. However, no person could read this very factual book without coming away with a sense of outrage regarding colonial racism and a deep respect for the physicians who despite this, struggled and found a way to serve. Graduates through professionals. - R. E. Darnell, University of Michigan