

B/N SEACOLE, Mary

From: The TIMES Saturday December 16 1961 Letters to the Editor

Sir,- In view of the current discussions on immigrants with particular emphasis on the West Indians, I think it is interesting to see the following note, which appeared in the Morning Advertiser in 1855, probably some time in August of that year (I am sorry I cannot find the exact day, but the note was reprinted in the Jewish Chronicle of August 10, 1855):-

We have at present a lady of colour in Balaklava, (sic) and occasionally in camp, who is quite an original in her way; and an amusing specimen of the adaptability to circumstances of the darker specimens of the genus homo. She is both a Miss Nightingale and a Soyer in her way. A native of Jamaica she has travelled extensively on the American continent, and has acquired great experience in the treatment of cases of cholera and diarrhoea. Her powders for the latter epidemic are now so renowned that she is constantly beset with applications, and it must be stated, to her honour, that she makes no charge for her powders. She is often seen riding out to the front with baskets of medicines of her own preparation, and this is particularly the case after an engagement with the enemy. Her culinary powers are also so great, that even Soyer told her, the other day, she knew as much about cooking as himself. Mrs Seacole is, moreover, a highly intelligent woman, and a further proof that the race from which she sprung is one capable of high intellectual development.

Yours &c,
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*This was sent by Miss
Ursula Raymond.*