

**THE IDENTITY OF MRS.  
SEACOLE: "A LITTLE  
YELLOW WOMAN"**

The "Sunday Times" (London) of January 16 says:—

**THE EDITOR:** Sir,—I was interested to read the inquiry as to the identity of Mrs. Seacole. I think I am correct in stating that she was the daughter of a Scotsman and a native Jamaican woman.

She was very proud of her British nationality, and did much good work among the British troops in Jamaica. On the outbreak of the Crimean War she came to England, and tried very hard to obtain permission to go with Florence Nightingale to nurse the wounded.

She was unsuccessful, and I think she was under the impression that it was her dark skin that made the authorities refuse her application. She then decided to go to the war in any case, and shipped herself and a quantity of provisions, including many cases of champagne, to the Crimea, where she opened a hotel that would serve as a place of refreshment and rest for the troops.

I have in my possession a little book written by herself, and entitled "Mrs. Seacole," giving more or less her life history.

Curzon Street, W.I. THEA SCOTT.

**WORE A DOZEN MEDALS**

Sir,—Mother Seacole was a Creole who went out to the Crimea, and was one of the first to enter Sebastopol after the fall of that town. "Punch" said of her in some verses of that period: "No store she set by the epaulette, were it worsted or gold lace."

She addressed everyone, of whatever rank, as "My son." Her venture in the Crimea was not a financial success. A collection was raised for her, and this was publicly presented to her at an open-air meeting in Surrey Gardens after the war.

Thirty years after the Crimea she was described as "a little yellow woman, dressed in several bright colours, and wearing a dozen medals!" She was then making a good living as a "rubber" (the forerunner of the masseuse). She had used her skill on the Princess of Wales when the latter was suffering from lameness. A. C. WHITEHORNE  
Bournemouth. (Major).

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