

B/W - SEACOLE, Mary

National Library of Jamaica

MRS. MARY SEACOLE

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, in the Early part of the 19th century Mrs. Seacole had from youth a yearning for practical medical knowledge. After the early death of her husband, she left Kingston in 1850 for Panama which was soon to be ravaged with Cholera. There she kept a hostel and during the epidemic, laboured unceasingly for the comfort of the stricken.

Within a few years she was struggling with the war office to have them accept her voluntary services as a nurse in the Crimea. After their final refusal, she staked all she had and paid her own expenses out to the Crimea in 1854. There she established another hostel in the nature of a canteen and ministered to the sick and wounded even under fire.

After the Crimean War she returned to Jamaica and resumed her hotel proprietorship. She died in London on May 14th, 1881.