

Newtown Eliza Ankum: A Trailblazing Woman in Medicine and Education



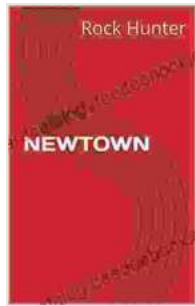
NEWTOWN by Eliza D. Ankum

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
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Lending : Enabled

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Early Life and Education

Newtown Eliza Ankum was born on February 27, 1896, in the town of Axim, Gold Coast (now Ghana). She was the daughter of John Mensah Ankum, a wealthy merchant, and Mary Araba Ankum. Ankum's early education took place at the Basel Mission School in Axim. She then attended the Methodist Girls' School in Cape Coast, where she excelled in her studies and developed a passion for science and medicine.

In 1919, Ankum traveled to England to pursue her medical education at the University of Edinburgh. She faced many challenges as a woman of color in a predominantly white and male field but persevered and graduated with honors in 1925. Ankum returned to Ghana and became one of the first two women to practice medicine in the country.

Medical Career

Ankum's medical career began at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, where she worked as a medical officer. She quickly gained a reputation for her skill and dedication to her patients. Ankum was particularly passionate about women's health and worked tirelessly to improve healthcare for women and girls in Ghana.

In 1930, Ankum founded the Midwifery Training College in Accra. This institution provided training for women to become midwives, a critical role in providing healthcare to women in rural and underserved areas. Ankum's work in midwifery helped to reduce infant mortality rates and improve the health of women in Ghana.

In addition to her work at the Midwifery Training College, Ankum also played a key role in the establishment of the Ghana Registered Nurses Association. She served as the organization's first president and worked to promote the professional development of nurses in Ghana.

Educational Advocacy

Ankum was not only a talented physician but also a passionate advocate for education, particularly for women and girls. She believed that education was essential for empowering women and creating a more just and equitable society.

In 1931, Ankum co-founded the Girl Guides Association of Ghana. This organization provided girls with opportunities for leadership, character development, and service. Ankum served as the association's first president and worked to expand its reach to girls throughout the country.

Ankum also served on the board of directors of the Wesley Girls' High School in Cape Coast. She was instrumental in the development of the school's curriculum and helped to ensure that girls had access to a high-quality education.

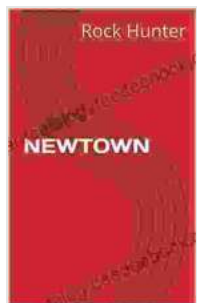
Legacy

Newtown Eliza Ankum died in Accra, Ghana, on March 15, 1991, at the age of 95. She left behind a legacy of service, dedication, and empowerment.

Ankum's work as a physician and educator helped to improve the health and education opportunities for women and girls in Ghana. She was a pioneer in her field and an inspiration to countless women who followed in her footsteps.

In recognition of her contributions, Ankum was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1951 and the Order of the Volta in 1984. She was also honored with a commemorative stamp by the government of Ghana in 1996.

Newtown Eliza Ankum is remembered as a trailblazing woman who dedicated her life to improving the lives of others. Her legacy continues to inspire and motivate women and girls in Ghana and around the world.



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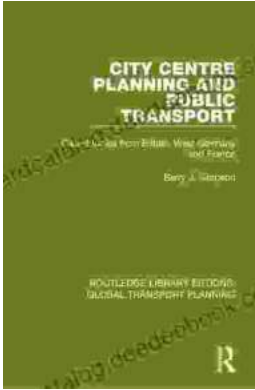
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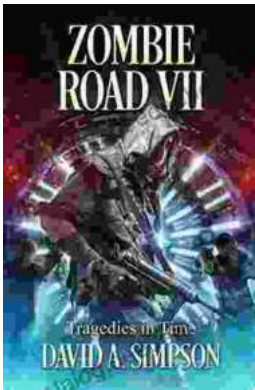
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