

## A MONOLITH FOR THE IBADAN'S FOUNDATION PROFESSORS

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**SUMMARY**

On Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1983, a communication from Mr. Ayo Eyalade (on behalf of the then Principal Assistant Registrar to the College) provided information that Prof Adelola Adeboye of the Department of Surgery has been nominated to deliver the University lectures for the 1982/1983 session on behalf of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The title of the lecture was "Practice and Practitioners of Medicine in Nigeria." The lecture was delivered in three parts; (1) In the Beginning, (2) The Middle Passage, and (3) Achievements and Challenges. Held in 1983, Adeboye paid glowing tributes to the five Ibadan's Foundation Professors. Thirty seven years later, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020 (a Thursday), to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the College of Medicine University of Ibadan, a six-headed Monolith was unveiled on the administrative grounds of the College. Grand in her design, beautiful in her appearance, historical in her significance, the monument beckons to all who gaze upon her, calling upon them to feel, to some extent, the Professors and moments in history that opened the way to modern medical education in Nigeria.

**The Early University Lectures:** On Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1983, a communication from Mr. Ayo Eyalade (on behalf of the then Principal Assistant Registrar to the College) provided information that Prof Adelola Adeboye of the Department of Surgery has been nominated to deliver the University lectures for the 1982/1983 session on behalf of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Dentistry, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The title of the lecture was "Practice and Practitioners of Medicine in Nigeria." As traditionally done, the lecture was delivered in three parts; (1) in the beginning, (2) The middle passage, and (3) Achievements and Challenges.

Over the years the University lectures of the premier University, University of Ibadan, have brought to focus burning issues relevant to the growth and development of different aspects of the diverse, yet hybridized, communities in Nigeria. The ivory tower, the origin of systematic thought, has held and become the repository of the highest thoughts on the socio-cultural, economic, religious, and scientific landscape of the Country.

The university lecture by Professor Adelola Adeboye described in great details the history of medicine and selected medical practitioners in Nigeria. Elaborately

described were the origins and early histories of Nigeria's Medical Schools, proving glowing details of the medical school of the premier university, University of Ibadan. From the initial efforts of starting a medical school at Kano and Yaba, the medical school at Ibadan was established as the third of the three foundation faculties of the University of Ibadan in 1948. From humble beginnings lined with many glorious moments, the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan rose rapidly to become a colossus of a medical school in the West African sub-region. With a vision of attaining a medical standard that will command international respect and recognition, the administrators of the medical school set out to attract some of the most brilliant medical teachers in the world.

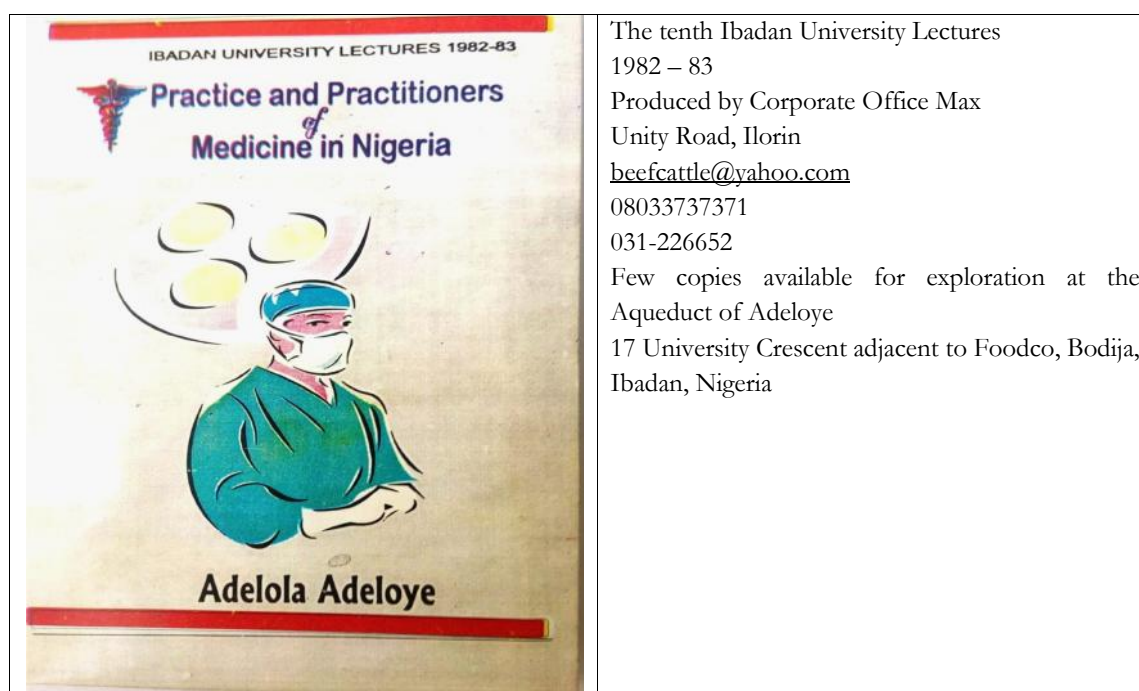
Prof Adeboye's University lecture was delivered in three parts. Lecture one delivered on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1983 was on the beginning of Medicine before 1900, earliest practice, origins of traditional medicine, the quack, definition of traditional medicine, under-development in traditional medicine, the beginning of modern medicine, the earliest doctors, beginning of the twentieth century, the medical missions, doctors in public service, private practitioners and politicians, and the West African Medical Journal.

**Table:** The early university lectures of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Session	Faculty	Title	Lecturer
1972/73	Arts	The education elite in Nigerian society	Prof E.A Ayandele
1973/74	Arts	Why 'Darkest' Africa? Archeological Light on an old problem	Prof Thurstan Shaw
1974/75	Medicine	Medicine ad Society; Contemporary issues in Africa	Prof A.O. Lucas
1975/76	Science	Herbage, fish, and the quality of human existence	Prof V.A Oyenuga
1976/77		On development and development	Prof Mabogunje
1977/78		No lecture delivered	
1978/79	Education	Development and Underdevelopment in African Education	Prof E.A. Yoloye
1979/80	Veterinary Science	Vetrinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine	Prof. G.O. Esuruoso
1980/81	Art	Rome and race	Prof L.A. Thomson
1981/82	Science	Science, technology, and Nigerian Development: An overview	Prof Olumuyiwa awe
1982/83	Medicine	Practice and Practitioners of Medicine in Nigeria	Prof Adelola Adeloye

Lecture two, delivered on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1983, was on the middle passage, medical journalism and associations, medical education before independence, Yaba Medical School, Kano Medical School, Medical School at Ibadan, **Ibadan foundation Professors**, the University Teaching Hospital, medical education

after independence, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Enugu Medical School, Ahmadu Bello University Medical School, Faculty of Health Sciences Ife, College of Medical Sciences, Benin, other medical schools, and postgraduate medical education



**Figure 1:** Print version of Professor Adelola Adeloye's University Lecture



**Figure 2:** The six headed Monolith in honor of Ibadan Foundation Professors and the first Principal of the University of Ibadan, located within the administrative grounds of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

Lecture three delivered on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1983 was on achievements and challenges, achievements of traditional medicine, achievements of scientific medicine, manpower and publications, yellow fever research, case reports that made history, ideas and ideals, integration of medical practices, research in herbal medicine, medical history, medical associations, mission hospitals, the Nigerian nurse, medical journals, medical and university education, and problems of leadership. During these lectures, Adeboye gave due recognition to the Ibadan foundation Professors.

**A Six Headed Monolith for the Ibadan Foundation Professors:** A moment of history occurred when the government of Nigeria at that time appointed the visionary Kenneth Mellanby as the first Principal of the University of Ibadan in July 1947. An avid fund raiser, Dr. Mellanby left no stone unturned in laying down policies that ensured that the finest teachers were attracted to Ibadan at the foundation stages. At the new medical school only the best could do. The first of the Pioneers to arrive was a lady doctor and surgeon, Professor Beatrice Joly who was appointed Professor of Surgery and Head of Department in March 1948. She arrived Nigeria on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 1948, a Wednesday. The second



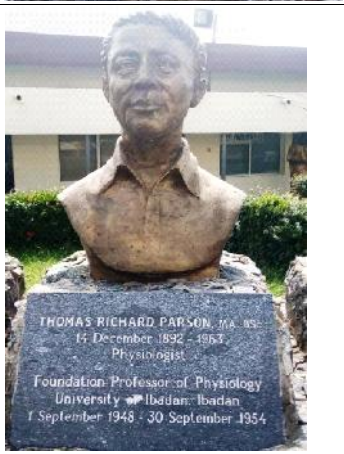

Professor to arrive was Thomas Richard Pearson, the first Professor of Physiology. He assumed duty on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 1948, a Wednesday. The third foundation Professor to arrive was Alexander Brown who was appointed to the chair of medicine on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1948, a Friday. He was followed by the fourth foundation Professor, a Nigerian, Oladele Adebayo Ajose of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine. His appointment to the department took off on the first day of September 1948, a Wednesday. The fifth foundation Professor was Alastair G, Smith who held the Chair and Headship of Anatomy from the first day of October 1949 (a Saturday) to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1962, a Sunday.


## CONCLUSION


The Monolith for the Ibadan foundation Professor has come at the right time to honor five unique individuals who laid solid foundations for medical education in Nigeria. This monument will motivate undergraduate and postgraduate students of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. With time, the value of this historical monument will grow serving as a tourist attraction to scholars within the country and the entire Globe.




## The First Principal of the University of Ibadan and the Ibadan Foundation Professors

	<p><b>Dr Kenneth Mellanby</b> 26 March 1908 – 23 December 1993 Mellanby wrote a 263 paged book on the foundation years of the University of Ibadan – <i>The Birth of Nigeria's University</i>.</p> <p>Dr Mellanby reached Ibadan, Nigeria, in the Month of July 1947. From very humble beginnings, he overcame the challenges of establishing a world class University rated among the best in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>When he left Nigeria in 1953, he left behind a University with modern buildings, a spirit of scholarship, a tranquil and flowery campus, about 900 students studying diverse courses, a system that engaged the Foundation Professors, and the beginnings of an up-to-date Teaching Hospital.</p>
	<p><b>Professor Beatrice Mary Joly</b> 14<sup>th</sup> December 1902 – 22 August 1999 (Birth date on plaque will require adjustments)</p> <p>Beatrice Joly gained her MD degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the MRCP, both of London, in 1933. In January 1937, after postgraduate training and a brief experience in general practice, she was appointed Professor of Surgery and Head of Department at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi, India. Kenneth Mellanby heard of 'this lady with first class ability and an attractive personality'. He persuaded her to apply for the top position in Surgery in the new College of Ibadan. In a letter from Mr. L.V. Martin of the Colonial office, dated 01 march, 1948, the courageous Joly was appointed Professor of Surgery at the University College, Ibadan. She became Ibadan's first Foundation Professor.</p>
	<p><b>Thomas Richard Parsons</b> December 14, 1892 – 1963</p> <p>Parsons started his science career as a demonstrator in Zoology at Birkbeck College where he remained until 1914 when he graduated from London University with a B.Sc. Degree in Zoology, Chemistry, and Physics. Early in life he established himself as a Physiologist and a man of science. In 1919, Cambridge University appointed him as a demonstrator in Physiology and awarded him the Michael Foster Scholarship to further his research in human Physiology. A multi-linguist with a fluent knowledge of German and Russian, he visited many Physiology laboratories in Europe. In 1948, he was appointed the first Professor of Physiology at the University College, Ibadan.</p>
	<p><b>Alexander Brown</b> August 09, 1910 – February 22, 1969</p> <p>Appointed the Chair of Medicine in 1948. As a teacher Alexander Brown enjoyed conducting long ward rounds devoted to bed side teachings and finding solutions to basic clinical problems. He laced his teachings with numerous anecdotes, complex long names, and stories of the original description of diseases. Medical education particularly in Nigeria and Africa was of primary interest to Brown. As the Head of the Department of Medicine, Brown created the Departments of Paediatrics, Radiology, and the Medical illustration Unit.</p>

	<p><b>Oladele Ajose</b>  September 29, 1907 – July 02, 1978  The first African Professor appointed to the University College Ibadan, Oladele Ajose was the professor and Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine from 1948 - 1961. Under the London MBBS curriculum of those days the teaching of Social Medicine took place only in the clinical years. During his days in Ibadan Ajose was master of Tedder Hall from 1950 to 1953. He was awarded the honorary D.Sc Degree of the University of Ife in 1972 and that of the University of Ibadan in 1977.</p>
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	<p><b>Alastair G. Smith</b>  01 May 1902 – January 1978  Smith held the Headship of Anatomy from October 01, 1949 to September 30, 1962. An innovative lecturer, every medical student looked forward with eagerness to meeting their Professor of Anatomy. Even non-medical students were known to have smuggled themselves into one of the very classes in anatomy at the beginning of the session to catch a glimpse of the legendary Smith and listen to his stories of personal wizardry in Anatomy, his miscellaneous jokes, and his unique philosophy. Smith was known to enter into the Anatomy classroom with an athletic gait. A prodigious demonstrator and a tireless lecturer, Smith spent countless hours everyday dissecting cadavers. Smith created what became known to Ibadan medical students as the <i>Duncan line</i>, a line on the pass mark of 50.</p>
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	<p><b>Commemoration Plaque</b>  The Pioneer Professors of the University of Ibadan  Donated by the management of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, unveiled on Thursday June 25, 2020.  Provost of the College: Professor E.O. Olapade-Olaopa, 11<sup>th</sup> Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.</p>
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Prof. Adelola Adeyoye and Prof. E.O. Olapade-Olaopa

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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