

never mind Manchester, than in Malawi. It is doubtful that there was ever even a brief period when more Malawian doctors worked in the UK than in Malawi. This argument does, of course, not hold when considering 'all Malawi doctors working anywhere abroad'. The 'more Malawi doctors in Manchester than Malawi' has always been a myth. There are a number of possible sources for this myth.

a) The agreement by Manchester University Medical School to accept A level and Chancellor College BSc graduates or bright post second year BSc students made Manchester perhaps the most accommodating university in the world for Malawian would be doctors. There was thus a cluster of Malawi students and doctors working around the Greater Manchester/North West area. This raised the profile of Manchester University in Malawi.

b) Malawi Government efforts at persuading British government to repatriate Malawian doctors working in the UK tended to centre on those working around the Greater Manchester area.

c) A meeting in 1981 (which JL attended) at which the Malawi Ministry of Health attempted, and partly succeeded, to persuade doctors and (medical students on completion of their studies) to return to Malawi. The meeting was held in Manchester and was well attended by Malawi doctors and medical students from all parts of the UK. This probably gave some of the Malawi officials on the entourage the impression that many of these doctors were working in Manchester.¹³

As the Malawi College of Medicine prospers, it is perhaps time to bury one medical myth.

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