Students of the Sakura Juntendo and Their Spread: Students from Its Student Records and a Study of These Materials

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Many students from around Japan thought to number in their thousands gathered at Sakura Juntendo, a school of Western medicine opened in Motomachi, Sakura by Sato Taizen, a practitioner of Western medicine. Still, apart from some well-known figures, an overall picture of the school is not necessarily clear. Just as in the case of Ogata Koan’s Tekijuku, another medical school in Osaka, this is due to constraints relating to historical materials because of the lack of extant student records covering its entire history. Although many of the student’s names have been cited in Ichiro Murakami’s “Ran’i Sato Taizen” (The Western Physician Sato Taizen), the absence of records of their place of origin makes it difficult to undertake a survey to track down these students.

It is under such circumstances that this paper presents the situation of students for a certain period, for which the recording of places of origin for these students is indeed valuable. Thus, this paper introduces students for which details are available and examines their diffusion throughout the country on the basis of the findings of a survey undertaken on students who were recorded in the Sakura Juntenjuku Shachu Seimeiroku (Juntendo School Register of Names) dating from May 1865.

This paper also introduces historical materials related to Nishi Tomosuke, a physician for the Sakura feudal domain who was active as a military physician in the Meiji Period, and Tsukahara Shuzo, a native of Chiyokawa village in Ibaraki Prefecture who was an official during the Meiji Period. In the case of both these students it was possible through the survey to confirm the whereabouts of their descendents.

Lastly, I introduce the Juntenjuku Seimeiroku (Juntendo School Name Register) which was found among materials relating to Tsukahara Shuzo in the course of the survey and which he is believed to have compiled while at Juntendo. This has been used to make a study by conducting a comparative study with student records whose existence has been known about for some time.