Pupils of Shirando: The Subject of the Spread into the Area of Rangaku

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About a quarter out of 94 pupils in Saisho (a register of names of pupils) of Shirando which was a private school of Rangaku were common people. Shirando was organized by Otsuki Gentaku for the study of Western sciences by the means of the Dutch language. After they studied Western medicine at Shirando, the greater member of Gentaku's students who were physicians belonged to each feudal domain returned to their home and also set up medical school to educate students to be their successors or to help sick people in the area. From seventy percent to eighty percent of the students who learned in those schools were also common people and practicing doctors. They were engaged in treating sick people and played an important role in regional medical treatment.

Their descendants greatly contributed to modernize the way of medical treatment in each area even after the Meiji Period.