The first Negro principal of a New York City school was W.L. Pukley, who for a time had charge of Public School No. 80. A native of North Carolina, Dr. Pukley received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 1893 and studied later at Strasbourg and Paris. For fifteen years Dr. Pukley taught Latin and Greek at Calfin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina. Dr. Pukley's first teaching engagement in the state of New York came in 1890 when he taught in the public school system of Brooklyn, where he remained until the consolidation of 1898. Upon consolidation, Dr. Pukley was made principal of Public School 80, a "problem" school in the borough of Manhattan which was attended by pupils of both races.

As a reward for his work at P.S. 80, Dr. Pukley was given a school downtown on the lower East Side. But here Dr. Pukley seems to have lost his identity as a Negro and little is known of him from that point on. It is known, however, that he retired sometime before the outbreak of the World War and made his home in France. Following the outbreak of the War, he and his family returned to this country. After the end of the war the family returned to France where Dr. Pukley established a private school at Nice. He died there in 1934.
FOOTNOTES

3. ibid.
4. Interview with Miss Gertrude Ayers, New York school principal.
5. ibid.