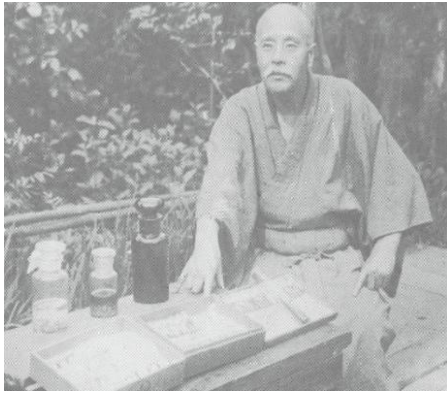


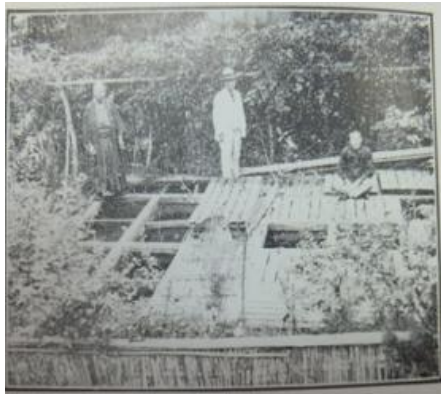
Kumahichi Mikamo

(1865~1946)



The Mikamo family had been the heads of the hot springs for generations. Kumahichi was born in Yubara, and studied medicine at Okayama Medical School, and at the request of Professor Genkyou Oka, worked as Meiji Emperor's pharmacist in the royal household. After the death of the Meiji Emperor, he left his job and returned to Yubara in 1915. When he returned, he received a request from Chiyomatsu

Ishikawa, for research on the Hanzaki in Yubara. As he ran a pharmacy in the village, he also set up breeding ponds in his back garden, and continued to observe the hanzaki alongside Ishikawa. In 1898 and 1899, as Ishikawa visited Yubara for more reasons than just his research, their friendship deepened, with letters requesting for more medicine-perhaps due to a lack of it in the research room-between the two remaining today. There was also a report in 1919 of the birth of eggs in the breeding pond. Prof Ishikawa's research was spread across regions from Tokyo to nearby Gifu, but the focus in Yubara was on breeding, although in 1934 the breeding facility was destroyed by a typhoon, and it all was lost. The remnants of the pond still remain today, behind the Yubara Onsen Museum.



Kumahichi Mikamo's breeding ponds



Former site of the breeding ponds
(behind the Yubara Onsen Museum)