

MANSON HOUSE.

The decision of the Council of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene to name its new Headquarters at 26, Portland Place, W., "Manson House" could not have been more appropriate, for it has thereby perpetuated and honoured the memory of its first President, Sir Patrick Manson, G.C.M.G., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., Father of Tropical Medicine, discoverer, original thinker, man of vision, of genius, the creative spirit of the London School of Tropical Medicine, and the first to associate experimentally a blood-sucking insect with the transmission of human disease.

"Manson House" was opened on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G.

The Prince, who was received by the Right Hon. Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.G., M.P., and Dr. Carmichael Low, the President of the Society, and conducted to the Fellows' Room, where presentations were made, was then escorted to the handsome Lecture Hall, where the Opening Ceremony took place; and the President delivered an Address of Welcome and gave a brief survey of the work of the Society, which had, he said, on its roll over 1,700 Fellows. Every institute of note dealing with tropical medicine and nearly every country was represented. Contributions to the fund for establishing the new headquarters had been received from all parts of the world, testifying to the increasing appreciation of the pioneer work inaugurated by Sir Patrick Manson. To meet their obligations a further sum of £15,000 was required.

Responding in felicitous terms, the Prince said in part:—From my fairly extensive travels I have always been very interested in tropical research, and, knowing its great value, I was very pleased to have been asked to perform this ceremony. It is not the first function that I have done for the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, but I feel more fitted to speak on this subject than I did on the last occasion. I am not going to claim that I have devoted any time to research, but as your President has mentioned my having been stricken with one of those tropical diseases, from which at times I still suffer, I can claim, at any rate, some experience and some knowledge of the nature, at least, of one of those diseases, and I hope more than most of you here this evening. It may even interest you to know that when I was convalescent after my first attack of malaria in Kenya Colony some of my friends were pleased that I was so quickly convalescent because they thought it was a good advertisement for the Colony. Malaria is looked on there as not very much more than a bad go of 'flu, and when they knew I was convalescent they were really quite pleased.

When we think of our great pioneer investigators—those fine men who devoted their lives, very often at the expense

of health, in order to gain this end—the name that naturally comes to our minds this evening is Patrick Manson, after whom this house has been so fittingly named. We are privileged to-day by the presence here of Lady Manson. A certain amount had been accomplished before Manson's day, but he was the first to associate experimentally a blood-sucking insect with the transmission of human disease. It was he who asked Ross to carry out the epoch-making investigations which led to the detection of the anopheles mosquito as the carrier of malaria, and it was he who first realised the want of schools where medical men destined for work in the tropics could be taught the latest knowledge on the subject. He was, in fact, the father of modern tropical medicine, and the practical effects of his genius were especially exemplified by the success which enabled the Panama Canal to be constructed through one of the unhealthiest regions of the world. . . .

Patrick Manson was not only a brilliant scientific investigator, but it was he who, with the help of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, that far-sighted statesman, founded the School of Tropical Medicine in London. But he also realised that there was need for something more than just a school of tropical medicine; he realised there was need for a clearing-house of knowledge, and so he it was who was the first president of this society, which was founded in 1907.

"Manson House" is a dignified mansion of the Adams period, though the fine Hall in which the Opening Ceremony took place has been newly built, and should prove most useful for meetings. There is also a Fellows' Room, a Library and Council Room, and various Offices.

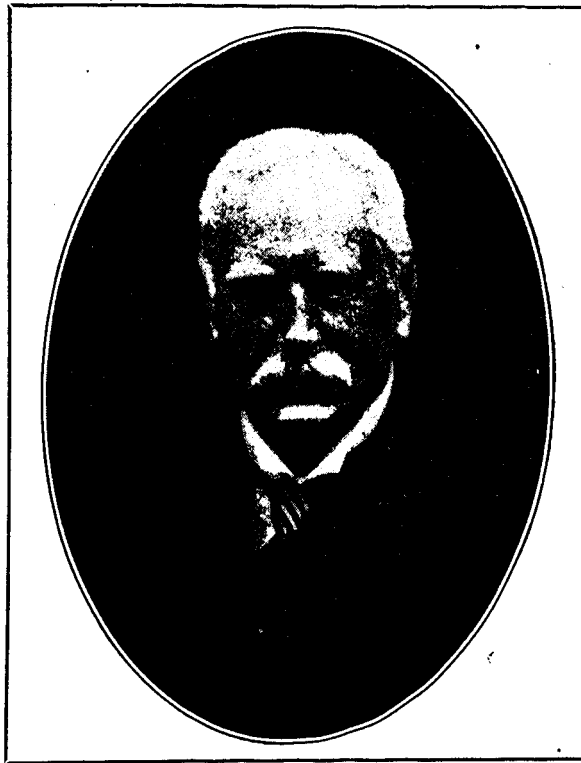
The great advantage of the Headquarters of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene is that from all parts of the world its Fellows, who number over 1,700, can meet here, and those returning from abroad can learn of the latest advances in the branch of work in which they are particularly interested.

We cordially wish the Society a fruitful and prosperous career

in its new quarters, and the acquisition of funds to meet its obligations.

The Melbourne correspondent of *The Times* reports that at the opening of the annual meeting of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Mr. C. H. Fagge, representing the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, delivered an official message from Lord Moynihan, the President, and presented on behalf of the Council the mace which its members have given to the College "as brothers to brothers."

The mace is inscribed with the names of the 24 members of the Council, and bears the arms of the Commonwealth of Australia, of the Dominion of New Zealand, and of the two Colleges. The cap bears the Royal Arms. Sir Henry Newland, President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, accepted the gift with the utmost pride as an emblem of the brotherly affection binding the two Colleges.



SIR PATRICK MANSON, G.C.M.G., F.R.S.
The Father of Tropical Medicine.

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