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EDITORIAL.

IMPERISHABLE LUSTRE.

The death of Sir Ronald Ross on September 16th last, at the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases at Putney Heath, a centre of treatment and research, "removes the greatest figure in British medicine."

According to an inspired leader in *The Times*, all those who know of his strenuous and untiring labours, through years of struggle and depreciation, before he achieved the discovery that the parasite of Malaria fever is carried by the female Anopheles mosquito, will rejoice that this unique discovery will be for ever associated with his name, and recognised as one of the most inspiring annals of science.

We are told in his Memoirs that he had examined microscopically, so many types of mosquito that his eyesight threatened to fail. "He had achieved nothing; none of these insects showed in their tissues or organs the parasite of malaria for which he was searching. The monsoon was about to break and the weather was suffocating. But, lest the draught from his punkah might blow away his precious flies, he worked on without relief of any kind, toiling far into the night and becoming almost delirious with the effects of the heat. Still the quest remained unrewarded. His strength was beginning to flag when there alighted near him a mosquito of a type which he had not yet examined. He caught it. As it happened the boys whom he had engaged to catch mosquitoes for him brought in others of the same type on the same day. A few days later

Ross's microscope showed him in the bodies of these new flies the organism for which he had sought so long and so gallantly. He was accustomed to make a record of his feelings in poems written while these feelings endured. That night he celebrated his discovery in his wonted fashion. The poem is included in his Memoirs. The rest of his life was devoted to enlarging and completing what he had begun. It was passed in an obscurity which is likely in the future to occasion surprise as well as regret."

This sympathetic writer ends his brilliant record of genius with the following eulogy: "One thing is certain—namely, that Ross's service glows with an imperishable lustre.

He slew the dragon and delivered mankind from immemorial bondage. His name will live as long as the names of HARVEY and JOHN HUNTER, of JENNER and PASTEUR and LISTER, of MANSON and BRUCE and LEISHMAN."

And yet how little thanks and praise this great man enjoyed in his lifetime. No doubt his deeds are his best obituary. Not many men in any age can

have died in such assurance of immortality as this great benefactor of mankind. He obtained scant recognition from the world, measured in material things.

Meantime, Honours came to him. In 1901 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, receiving later the Royal Medal. In 1902 he was Nobel laureate and prizeman for medicine. He was made C.B. in 1902, K.C.B. in 1911, and K.C.M.G. in 1918, and received many distinctions from British and foreign universities and learned societies. His fame belongs to all the World.



SIR RONALD ROSS
"The Man with the Microscope."

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