

Sir Ronald Ross Dies; Pioneer in Malaria Fight

Most Versatile of British
Physicians Found Mos-
quitoes Carried Germs

Poor as His Life Ended

Forced to Sell His Archives
to Eke Out Existence

By The Associated Press

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Colonel Sir Ronald Ross, who armed man against malaria in 1897 by demonstrating that the malaria parasite was carried by the anopheles mosquito, died here today. He was seventy-five years old.

Known for Versatility

Sir Ronald Ross was one of the most versatile figures in the history of English medicine. He was the second man to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. He wrote verse, fiction and satire, traveled thousands of miles seeking knowledge in research on medicine and sanitation, combatted and conferred with the greatest physicians of his time, and in the closing years of his life found himself so impoverished that he was compelled to sell the treasured archives of his work for \$10,000.

The war on malaria was his most enduring achievement. In India, Africa and America he studied mosquito parasites, selecting, classifying, feeding and breeding the insects by methods of his own devising. Sir Ronald followed in the footsteps of such investigators as Lancisi, Laveran and Sir Patrick Manson. They discovered the causes and effects of malaria. Sir Ronald's more practical find was the manner of the germ's transmission.

He was born in India a few days before the outbreak of the great mutiny of 1857. He was the son of General Sir Campbell Claye Grant Ross, a native of Scotland. On his family's return to England Sir Ronald received an unsystematic education in private schools, entering the Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital at the age of seventeen. His chief interests were reading and writing, and he began writing verse almost as soon as he could spell.

Educated Self Haphazardly

After matriculating at the medical school Sir Ronald was forced to educate himself in non-technical matters, and did so in a thorough but haphazard way. He crammed French and Italian grammar in order to read Tasso, Racine, Hugo and Alfieri. He tried mathematics, and found that the binomial theorem was like "the crash of the Iliad or the so-called Sonata Pathetique."

Sir Ronald entered the Indian Medical Service in 1881, and the first thing that impressed him on his return to the country of his birth was the devastating effect of malaria. In one year more than 70,000 members of the Indian army, whose numbers totaled 178,197, were admitted to hospitals as victims of the disease. A million or more natives died of malaria each year.

Ten years after his arrival in India, when he had served his apprenticeship and absorbed an amount of information concerning tropical diseases, Sir Ronald threw himself unreservedly into the war against malaria. In 1880 Dr. C. L. A. Laveran, a French army surgeon working in Algiers, had demonstrated that the cause of malaria was a parasite infection in the red corpuscles. A year later, Dr. C. J. Finlay discovered that yellow fever was transmitted by certain species of mosquito.

These discoveries entered into Sir Ronald's consideration, but his direct inspiration was the British surgeon, Sir Patrick Manson. He wrote frequent letters to Sir Patrick about his researches, and received encouragement and advice. In 1897 he found that one of the anopheles mosquitos he had been breeding carried on its body the malaria parasite.

Poem Accompanies Discovery

Enlarging on this discovery, Sir Ronald found that the moon-shaped variety of malarial parasite was continually to be seen in the body of the anopheles. The subsequent discovery that the germ could be transmitted by the mosquito from bird to bird led to the definite conclusions by Grassi and Bastianelli that malarial parasites developed only in the anopheles. Sir Ronald continued his work and applied it to the extensive cure and prevention of malaria.

On the evening of his original discovery of the parasite Sir Ronald wrote:

"This day designed by God
Hath put into my hand
A wondrous thing. And God
Be praised. At his command
I have found thy secret deeds,
O million-murdering death.

I know that this little thing
A million men will save—
O Death, where is thy sting?
Thy victory, O Grave?"

The first thrill and enthusiasm soon wore off, however. The young doctor found that his country was perfectly capable of forgetting the work of a physician. After announcing the results of his work in "The British Medical Journal," in 1897, Sir Ronald was sent to the Indian front for active service by the military commanders, who always had been unsympathetic toward his research.

Felt Others Appropriated His Findings

In 1899, he was given another opportunity of doing the work he preferred.

British Scientist



Associated Press photo
Sir Ronald Ross

general recognition of the world's debt to the medical profession.

"You throw your geniuses on the dust heap," he once said. "It has often been said that the man who will cure tuberculosis and the man who will find the cause and cure of cancer will both become millionaires. On the contrary, these men are more likely to die in the workhouse."

On another occasion Sir Ronald prophesied that a sweeping war on germs would eventually increase the span of man's life to 150 years. His talks and addresses were supplemented from time to time by the publication of books. His list of writings included a novel, "The Revels of Orsera," "Philosophies, Psychologies, and other Poems," "Memoirs," "Poems," "Fables and Satires," "The Prevention of Malaria" and "Studies on Malaria."

Illustrates Own Prophecy

In recent years Sir Ronald realized the truth of his prophecy concerning medical geniuses. He lived in retirement in Putney Heath, London, in a modest flat. His poverty became so great that in 1928 he sold his archives, covering thirty years of malaria research and filling a huge chest of steel drawers, to Lady Houston for £2,000. At periodic times he enjoyed sufficient health to earn a living at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, but for the most part he suffered from illness and the paralysis of one arm.

"Would you have lived your life any other way if you had anticipated a reward like this?" Sir Ronald was asked not long ago.

"I just want to go out again and carry on my work," he answered.

William Walker Smith, Former Diplomat, Dead

Left U. S. Service in 1924 to
Resume Law Practice

Special to the Herald Tribune

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 16.—William Walker Smith, former diplomat and lawyer, died today at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, where he had been living for more than a year. He was fifty-eight years old.

Mr. Smith was born in Covington, Ky., and received an LL.B. from the Cincinnati Law School at the University of Cincinnati. He was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1900 to 1904.

In 1910 he was appointed third secretary of the embassy at Constantinople. Next he was promoted to secretary of the legation at Berne, Switzerland. He served as consul general at Santo Domingo, and during the early years of the World War he was acting chief of the Western European Division of the Department of State.

He was next sent to Copenhagen, and then transferred to Lima, Peru, after which he was returned to Berne. He acted as charge d'affaires at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and in 1923 was assigned to the Division of Mexican Affairs in the Department of State, a post from which he resigned the following year to resume private law practice in Washington.

His wife, Mrs. Blanche Crawford Smith, was with him when he died. His mother, Mrs. William Walker Smith sr., of Cincinnati, also survives. Burial will be in Cincinnati.

Lincoln Dixon, 72, Dies; U.S. Tariff Commissioner

Coolidge Appointee. Indianan,
Had Served in House

LYNDON, Ky., Sept. 16 (AP).—Lincoln Dixon, United States Tariff Commissioner since 1927, died late this afternoon at the home here of his son-in-law, Colonel Charles Richmond. He had been here since last July endeavoring to regain his health. Mrs. Dixon was with him when he died. He was seventy-two years old.

President Coolidge appointed Mr. Dixon to the commission in 1927 as a Democratic member. He was reappointed June 17, 1931, by President Hoover for a term of six years.

Was Prosecutor in Indiana

Lincoln Dixon was born in Vernon, Ind., on February 9, 1866, the son of Samuel M. and Belinda Foster Dixon, and was graduated from Indiana University in 1880. He was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1881 and began the

Ronald followed in the footsteps of such investigators as Lanceli, Laveran and Sir Patrick Manson. They discovered the causes and effects of malaria. Sir Ronald's more practical find was the manner of the germ's transmission.

He was born in India a few days before the outbreak of the great mutiny of 1857. He was the son of General Sir Campbell Clave Grant Ross, a native of Scotland. On his family's return to England Sir Ronald received an unsystematic education in private schools, entering the Medical School of St. Bartholomew's Hospital at the age of seventeen. His chief interests were reading and writing, and he began writing verse almost as soon as he could spell.

Educated Self Haphazardly

After matriculating at the medical school Sir Ronald was forced to educate himself in non-technical matters, and did so in a thorough but haphazard way. He crammed French and Italian grammar in order to read Tasso, Racine, Hugo and Alfieri. He tried mathematics, and found that the binomial theorem was like "the crash of the Iliad or the so-called Sonata Pathetique."

Sir Ronald entered the Indian Medical Service in 1881, and the first thing that impressed him on his return to the country of his birth was the devastating effect of malaria. In one year more than 70,000 members of the Indian army, whose numbers totaled 178,197, were admitted to hospitals as victims of the disease. A million or more natives died of malaria each year.

Ten years after his arrival in India, when he had served his apprenticeship and absorbed an amount of information concerning tropical diseases, Sir Ronald threw himself unreservedly into the war against malaria. In 1880 Dr. C. L. A. Laveran, a French army surgeon working in Algiers, had demonstrated that the cause of malaria was a parasite infection in the red corpuscles. A year later, Dr. C. J. Finlay discovered that yellow fever was transmitted by certain species of mosquito.

These discoveries entered into Sir Ronald's consideration, but his direct inspiration was the British surgeon, Sir Patrick Manson. He wrote frequent letters to Sir Patrick about his researches, and received encouragement and advice. In 1897 he found that one of the anopheles mosquitos he had been breeding carried on its body the malaria parasite.

Poem Accompanies Discovery

Enlarging on this discovery, Sir Ronald found that the moon-shaped variety of malarial parasite was continually to be seen in the body of the anopheles. The subsequent discovery that the germ could be transmitted by the mosquito from bird to bird led to the definite conclusions by Grassi and Bastianelli that malarial parasites developed only in the anopheles. Sir Ronald continued his work and applied it to the extensive cure and prevention of malaria.

On the evening of his original discovery of the parasite Sir Ronald wrote:

"This day designed by God
Hath put into my hand
A wondrous thing. And God
Be praised. At his command
I have found thy secret deeds,
O million-murdering death.

I know that this little thing
A million men will save—
O Death, where is thy sting?
Thy victory, O Grave?"

The first thrill and enthusiasm soon wore off, however. The young doctor found that his country was perfectly capable of forgetting the work of a physician. After announcing the results of his work in "The British Medical Journal," in 1897, Sir Ronald was sent to the Indian front for active service by the military commanders, who always had been unsympathetic toward his research.

Felt Others Appropriated His Findings

In 1899, he was given another opportunity of doing the work he preferred, when he was sent to West Africa as the leader of an expedition to fight malaria on a large scale. The expedition was successful, although Sir Ronald complained later that at this time members of his profession began a concerted drive to appropriate his theories and findings. He retired from the Indian Medical Service in the same year with the rank of major.

In 1902, while he was principal of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, he was awarded the Nobel prize in medicine. A year later he visited the United States to conduct further investigations, and, impressed with the American plan of subordinating the medical service to the sanitary service, denounced the English plan of a precisely opposite nature.

Sir Ronald occupied a succession of posts in English education and government. He was malaria consultant for the War Office; director of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases; consulting member of the Indian Research Fund; physician for tropical diseases at King's College Hospital; president of the Society of Tropical Medicine; and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Science.

"Only King Showed Gratitude"

In 1911 the King made him a Knight Commander of the Bath, and Sir Ronald commented, in the last years of his life, that only the King ever had shown gratitude for his work.

Sir Ronald never confined his studies and speeches to the field of malaria, yellow fever and sleeping sickness, his specialties. He fought militantly for a

book. His list of writings included a novel, "The Revels of Orsera," "Philosophies, Psychologies, and other Poems," "Memoirs," "Poems," "Fables and Satires," "The Prevention of Malaria" and "Studies on Malaria."

Illustrates Own Prophecy

In recent years Sir Ronald realized the truth of his prophecy concerning medical geniuses. He lived in retirement in Putney Heath, London, in a modest flat. His poverty became so great that in 1928 he sold his archives, covering thirty years of malaria research and filling a huge chest of steel drawers, to Lady Houston for £2,000. At periodic times he enjoyed sufficient health to earn a living at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, but for the most part he suffered from illness and the paralysis of one arm.

"Would you have lived your life any other way if you had anticipated a reward like this?" Sir Ronald was asked not long ago.

"I just want to go out again and carry on my work," he answered.

William Walker Smith, Former Diplomat, Dead

Left U. S. Service in 1924 to Resume Law Practice

Special to the Herald Tribune

ATLANTIC CITY, Sept. 16.—William Walker Smith, former diplomat and lawyer, died today at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, where he had been living for more than a year. He was fifty-eight years old.

Mr. Smith was born in Covington, Ky., and received an LL.B. from the Cincinnati Law School at the University of Cincinnati. He was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1900 to 1904.

In 1910 he was appointed third secretary of the embassy at Constantinople. Next he was promoted to secretary of the legation at Berne, Switzerland. He served as consul general at Santo Domingo, and during the early years of the World War he was acting chief of the Western European Division of the Department of State.

He was next sent to Copenhagen, and then transferred to Lima, Peru, after which he was returned to Berne. He acted as charge d'affaires at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and in 1923 was assigned to the Division of Mexican Affairs in the Department of State, a post from which he resigned the following year to resume private law practice in Washington.

His wife, Mrs. Blanche Crawford Smith, was with him when he died. His mother, Mrs. William Walker Smith sr., of Cincinnati, also survives. Burial will be in Cincinnati.

Lincoln Dixon, 72, Dies; U.S. Tariff Commissioner

Coolidge Appointee, Indianan, Had Served in House

LYNDON, Ky., Sept. 16 (AP).—Lincoln Dixon, United States Tariff Commissioner since 1927, died late this afternoon at the home here of his son-in-law, Colonel Charles Richmond. He had been here since last July endeavoring to regain his health. Mrs. Dixon was with him when he died. He was seventy-two years old.

President Coolidge appointed Mr. Dixon to the commission in 1927 as a Democratic member. He was reappointed June 17, 1931, by President Hoover for a term of six years.

Was Prosecutor in Indiana

Lincoln Dixon was born in Vernon, Ind., on February 9, 1860, the son of Samuel M. and Belinda Foster Dixon, and was graduated from Indiana University in 1880. He was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1881 and began the practice of law in North Vernon in 1882.

From 1884 to 1892 Mr. Dixon was Prosecuting Attorney for the 6th Judicial Circuit of Indiana. He was a member of the Democratic State Committee from 1897 to 1904, and served in the House of Representatives from 1905 to 1919, serving as a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

In 1924 Mr. Dixon was in charge of the Western campaign headquarters of the Democratic party in Chicago. He married Kate Storey, of Vernon, Ind., October 16, 1884.

New York a Good

AMONG hundreds of other it buys annually 3,000,000 gallons of tons of coal, 3,500,000 pounds of pounds of butter. The city has a buys supplies to the amount of more a year, but it permits several large their own buying.

One of the problems taken up by McKee, with the help of expert at the city's Department of Purchases agency. The proposed new plan is which will appear in Section II of

Tomorrow's New York

of election oratory and party propaganda.

The second article by Professor Pollock will appear in Section II of the New York Herald Tribune tomorrow.