

but only begun. Even in the hour of triumph, when the shouts of victory might have distracted him, he wrote, in the very first paper he published after the discovery, that the way of progress was by further "experiment and research". It was, however, to be "experiment and research" on a scale larger, in time and space, than the medical profession had visualised, and the results have come in slowly for that reason; but solid progress

has been made, and Ross's last birthday was brightened by good news from Africa about the development of the work to which he had devoted his genius and his life. Then clouds closed over one of the most active minds of his generation one of the foremost men of science of his time and on one of the great benefactors of mankind. He died at the Ross Institute, London, on Sept 16, 1932. MALCOLM WATSON.

News and Views

Sir Ronald Ross

FOR many weeks the thoughts of scientific colleagues everywhere, as well as those of a large group of the lay public, have frequently turned to the bedside of Sir Ronald Ross where he was lying grievously ill. All who knew Sir Ronald personally cherished the hope that they might again be privileged to meet him, though in their minds they knew that such an event was unlikely. The parting came on Friday last, when he crossed the dark river into the land of silence. To few men have such brilliant and intellectual attributes been given, and none has had greater influence upon the comfort and welfare of the human race. The versatility of his genius was really remarkable. Not only was he the author of several mathematical works of high order, but his volumes of verse showed him to possess rich talents of poetic conception and expression. His scientific work is appropriately surveyed on p. 465 of this issue by Sir Malcolm Watson, director of tropical hygiene and principal of the Department of Malaria Control at the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, where Sir Ronald Ross died. We are fortunate in being able to publish this appreciation from one who did so much to apply the results of Sir Ronald's investigations to anti-malarial measures in the Federated Malay States, Singapore, and elsewhere, and has been closely associated with him at the Ross Institute for several years.

SIR RONALD ROSS was born on May 13, 1857, at Almora, India, and after being educated at a private school, studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and entered the Indian Medical Service in 1881. His investigations on the life-history of the malarial parasite and the means of preventing malarial infection began with a clue indicated by Sir Patrick Manson. When Ross first attacked the problem in 1895, at Secunderabad in India, the circumstances entailed much difficulty and many delays. Here he opened up an investigation as to whether the malarial parasite, discovered by Laveran, passes part of its life-history within the body of a living insect. After more than two years of fruitless experiments, Ross discovered a stage of the human malaria parasite in the tissues of the mosquito, anopheles, which had been allowed to feed on the blood of a malarial patient. In 1898 he proceeded to work out in detail the life-history of the malarial parasite found in sparrows and

larks in India. He traced the stages in development of this parasite from its inception into the stomach of the gnat, *Culex fatigans*, which feeds on the blood of these birds, to its passage back into their blood through the secretion of the poison gland of the insect. Thus he furnished conclusive experimental proof of the part played by the insect in propagating the infection. Ross was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1901, and in 1909 was awarded a Royal medal of the Society. He was awarded the Nobel prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1902; and national recognition of his work is represented by the honour of K.C.B. conferred upon him in 1911 and K.C.M.G. in 1918.

Egypt Exploration Society's Jubilee

By exhibiting two relatively small collections of objects and manuscripts from the many thousands presented to the British Museum by the Egypt Exploration Society during the fifty years of its existence, the authorities of the Museum have fittingly marked the jubilee of the Society and once more reminded the public of the way in which the national collections have been enriched and the sum of the nation's wealth increased by the benefaction of private effort. Yet the objects which may be exhibited in the collections of a museum, however intrinsically valuable, priceless for their rarity, or instructive as a means of re-creating the history or the everyday life of a vanished civilisation, represent but a part of the achievement of an association of private individuals engaged in the common pursuit of the scientific exploration of the obscurer phases of the early history of mankind. A year or two ago, when the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies celebrated its jubilee, its services to the cause of classical scholarship and the study of early Mediterranean culture were duly recognised. The Egypt Exploration Society, having in view its wider appeal, may justly claim an even greater achievement. With no assistance from public funds, it has brought to light, restored, and handed over to the Egyptian Government in trust for future generations some of the most impressive of the monuments of Egypt's past, such as the temples of Deir el-Bahari, the Osireion, and the tombs of Beni Hassan, while its most recent excavations in a humbler, but historically no less instructive, sphere at Amarna have revealed the material surroundings and dwelling-places of the general population of an Egyptian city.