

Sir Ronald Ross : Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

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The first Briton ever to be awarded a Nobel Prize, the world-renowned malariologist, Sir Ronald Ross, spent a significant period of his career at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

He joined the Indian Medical Service and while in India used his time to conduct longterm investigations into the mode of malaria transmission. On 20th August 1897 he identified the nopheles Mosquito as the carrier of the malaria parasite. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902 for this momentous discovery, and **20th August annually remains World Mosquito Day**.

Ross left the Indian Medical Service in 1899 to become the first senior lecturer, and subsequently Professor, at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), the first institution devoted to tropical medicine anywhere in the world. While at the School he participated in malaria expeditions to Sierra Leone (1899 and 1901) and to Lagos (1901) during which he instructed and advised local people in making sanitary improvements to eliminate mosquito breeding places. He organised gangs of

local labourers into "Mosquito Brigades". They removed litter where mosquitoes might breed and repaired footpaths, streets and drainage facilities, to render them unsuitable for mosquito breeding. Ross also travelled to the United States in 1904, and visited Panama to observe malaria and yellow fever control measures.

His work at LSTM, which continued until 1916, led to many distinguished honours and numerous expeditions to Africa, Asia and South America. He also published several short works which accompanied his work in the area of Public Health, including Instructions for the Prevention of Malarial Fever (1899) and Mosquito Brigades and How to Organise Them (1902).

A larger and more significant publication was The Prevention of Malaria (1910). Ronald Ross set the foundation for scientists at LSTM and around the world to make further discoveries and improved treatments for mosquito-borne diseases.