Sir Patrick Manson Encyclopedia Article

Sir Patrick Manson

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Sir Patrick Manson

1844-1922

Scottish parasitologist who founded the field of tropical medicine. While practicing medicine in China, Manson studied elephantiasis, a lymphatic disease that causes the tissues of the limbs and genitals to become extremely swollen. In 1877 he showed that the cause of this disease, the parasitic *Filaria bancrofti* worm, is spread to humans by mosquitoes. Manson's discovery—that an insect can carry a parasite which it transmits to humans—helped Ronald Ross (1857-1932) to identify the parasite that causes malaria, also a mosquito-borne disease.