Patrick Manson and Ronald Ross:
malaria and the rise and fall of a scientific friendship

An evening lecture with Professor William Bynum (University College London)

| 15 October 2013 | Bowland Auditorium, Berrick Saul Building, University of York | 6.00 pm |

This is a free event and all are welcome to attend

Often described as the ‘father’ of tropical medicine, Sir Patrick Manson’s *Tropical Medicine* was the first textbook to demonstrate that diseases in tropical climates were not simply caused by unique environmental conditions, but had specific microbiological causes. His research in China had also implicated the mosquito as an agent in the transmission of filariasis. Working in London in the 1890s, he met Ronald Ross, an officer in the Indian Medical Service. Manson convinced Ross that mosquitoes also transmitted malaria. Their correspondence after Ross returned to India records the blind alleys and final triumph, as Ross discovered and demonstrated that bird malaria was transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.

However the two men, both Scottish but radically different in temperament, eventually quarrelled. Ross came to believe that Manson had not supported him sufficiently. This lecture examines the rise and fall of their scientific friendship.

This lecture celebrates the launch of the William Bynum Prize, an international essay competition for doctoral students and early career post-doctoral researchers, coordinated by Medical History’s editorial offices at the University of York. The Prize is generously supported by Cambridge University Press.