

CHARLES McCONAGHY ROSS, O.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Belfast 1926),
C.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Liverpool), Fellow of the Royal Society of
Tropical Medicine—1903-1964

Dr. Charles McConaghy Ross died suddenly in Nairobi at the age of 61, on the 24th of June 1964. He was the third Director of the East African Leprosy Research Centre at Alupe, Kenya. His remarkable life of service abroad was chiefly in leprosy. After his graduation in 1926 in Queen's, Belfast, he served two years in Dublin in the Dublin Medical Mission and sailed for Africa on the 7th of June 1928, to join the work in the Qua Iboe Mission in Western

Nigeria. He served there until 1940, when he went to the Uzuakoli Leprosy Research Unit. There he worked in scientific research on leprosy until 1949. At that time he took charge of and rebuilt the Rivers Leprosarium in Western Nigeria. His leprosy work was particularly notable for reliable surveys in Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Bornu in Eastern Nigeria. In December 1952, he went to Kaduna as leprologist to Northern Nigeria. There his work was stupendous. He succeeded in training paramedical workers and set up a dispensary and leprosarium control scheme for over 200,000 patients. I personally visited Northern Nigeria and saw his work at first hand; the energy and hard work and practical effectiveness of the Northern Nigeria campaign under Dr. Ross were outstanding. In 1961 he retired, but in January 1963 he went to the Leprosy Research Centre at Alupe as Director, where he remained until his death in June this year. An interesting point in his previous career was that he went to Ceylon under WHO as Adviser in the leprosy program there.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Charles Ross were numerous and valuable in trials of certain new drugs. Above all he had a flair for reliable assessment of leprosy incidence. These surveys were made with a small number of personnel, including the qualified assistance of his wife, who brought her nursing knowledge and practical knowledge of leprosy to the task. The result was that if one really wanted to know the leprosy incidence of a country or area, a survey by Dr. Charles Ross gave the truth.

His whole life was directed to leprosy investigation and relief, and countless patients in Africa will now be grateful for his hard work and efficiency.

As a colleague Dr. Charles Ross was known to all leprologists for his integrity, grace and loveliness.

—J. ROSS INNES