

ALEXANDER FLEMING AND PENICILIN

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The pressing needs of man, both modern and ancient, have spawned some of the greatest thinkers in recorded history. These individuals faced the most insurmountable problems of their day and emerged with successful inventions and solutions. Without their resolve and tenacity, the world as you know it would look considerably different. People in the old times did a lot of hard work to bring this world to ease with their amazing inventions. One of them inventions was penicillin. It was discovered in 1928, almost by accident of Alexander Fleming. Sir Alexander Fleming (6 August 1881 – 11 March 1955) was born in East Ayrshire, Scotland in 1881. He was a biologist and pharmacologist most famous for his discovery of the antibiotic substance penicillin in 1928. He was awarded a Nobel Prize, jointly with Howard Florey and Ernst Boris Chain for medicine in 1945.

Penicillin antibiotics were among the first drugs to be effective against many previously serious diseases, such as syphilis and infections caused by staphylococci and streptococci. Penicillin antibiotics are still widely used today, though many types of bacteria have now become resistant to them.

The discovery of penicillin and the initial recognition of its therapeutic potential occurred in the United Kingdom, but, due to World War II, the United States played the major role in developing large-scale production of the drug, thus making a life-saving substance in limited supply into a widely available medicine.

In the history of mankind there has been another drug that would save so many lives. Penicillin by Fleming's insistence was not patented. He believed that the medicine that saves people's lives, should not be a source of income.

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