

ALEXANDER FLEMING

Alexander Fleming was born in Scotland on 6 August 1881. He studied in London and after some years he decided to study medicine and was interested in bacteriology.

By 1927, Fleming had been investigating the properties of staphylococci. In 1928, he discovered the penicillin, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945.

The discovery was due to an accident; he had stacked all his cultures of staphylococci on a bench in a corner of his laboratory. On returning, Fleming noticed that one culture was contaminated with a fungus, and that the colonies of staphylococci immediately surrounding the fungus had been destroyed, whereas other staphylococci colonies farther away were normal.

Alexander Fleming finally died on 11 March 1955, in London of a heart attack.

His discovery paved the way, as penicillin handled many illnesses, like pneumonia and scarlet fever.

