

Alexander Fleming



His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to eke out a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life."

"No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education.

If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to a man you can be proud of."

And that he did. In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved him? Penicillin.

The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

Vocabularies

eke- last by careful use

mired- to soil with mud or slush

terrified- to fill with terror

carriage- a wheeled vehicle, especially a four-wheeled horse-drawn passenger vehicle, often of an elegant design.

nobleman- a rich person

Comprehensive

1. What did the farmer Fleming do to lad?
2. How was the payment/reward of the nobleman to the farmer?
3. What was the name of the son for the farmer?
4. Where did Alexander Fleming study?
5. What kind of sickness did Sir Winston Churchill have?
6. What did Sir Alexander Fleming discover?