

LANGUE ANGLAISE

Travail à faire par le candidat

Traduction sans dictionnaire du texte ci-après

MEDICINE'S ACCIDENTAL HERO

The world at midcentury showered 25 honorary degrees, the keys to 15 cities, and more than 140 other honors, on Alexander Fleming, a small Scot with twinkling eyes and a trademark bow tie. Every schoolchild learned the Fleming legend — his discovery of penicillin mold in a dish, his long, tireless struggle against technical obstacles and a legion of skeptics, his ultimate triumph when penicillin emerged as the greatest medical advance of the 20th century.

Decades later, serious historians would still be tidying up after the myth makers. A routine scientist, a likable fellow with mundane skills and modest ambitions, had been mistaken for a genius. Yes, Fleming discovered penicillin. But, no, he did not realize what he had discovered — he didn't have an inkling. It was left for two other scientists, Howard Florey and Ernst Chain, to rescue the healing fungus from oblivion, prove its efficacy, and deliver it to humanity, opening the age of antibiotics.

Fleming, a poor farmer's son risen to a learned profession, spent nearly his entire career as a bacteriologist at St. Mary's Hospital in London. Serendipity⁽¹⁾ made two notable visits to his lab. The first came in 1922, after Fleming, suffering from a cold, sneezed on a culture plate. He observed that when bacteria later formed on the plate, none developed in the spots of mucus. Pressing his investigation, Fleming discovered lysozyme — a substance found in body tissues that dissolves bacteria. He thought it might be the key to a potent natural antiseptic but soon lost interest: Tests showed that it acted against harmless organisms only.

From US News and world report.

⁽¹⁾ Serendipity = le don de faire des découvertes.