Typhoid Vaccine

Sir Almroth Edward Wright (1861-1947)
Britain’s first Academic Immunologist
A Pioneer of Medical Laboratory Science

He was qualified in both Modern Languages and Medico-legal and commenced his professional life as a pathologist. After working in Europe and Australia he returned to London. In 1889 he worked at the Royal Free Hospital in London under Dr. William Grant MacCallum, then was appointed as his successor, continued the work, modified the production method and improved the inoculum. In 1900 Wright moved to St Mary’s Hospital Medical School as Professor of Pathology and set up a laboratory and inoculation clinic.

Typhoid Inoculation

- Still convinced of the value of anti-typhoid vaccine Wright started a production unit in partnership with Parks Davies and arranged for a second unit of British troops stationed in India. The promising results were ignored by the army.
- In 1894 in the war of 1894 Wright appealed to the War Office to inoculate troops against typhoid and petitioned Lord Kitchener promising results were ignored by the army.
- Despite bad side effects he then inoculated 2835 British soldiers for a second study on British troops stationed in India. The programme was suspended.
- In 1896 Wright resigned his post at Netley. Leishman, who was appointed his successor, continued the work, modified the production method and improved the inoculum.
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