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# GENERAL ADDRESS ON CHEMIO-THERAPY

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PROFESSOR DR. PAUL EHRLICH

It must be a great pleasure and a special honour for all of us to meet here personally on British soil for a scientific purpose, in order to take part in the great work which will be of benefit to the whole world. Are we not here in a country that has produced two men who must be considered among the greatest men of all times, Jenner and Lord Lister? Like a star in the darkness of his age, Jenner's great achievement, which broke the power of such an awful public plague as small-pox, still shines with peerless splendour. And on the occasion of the last Congress which was held here we gathered with wondering admiration round Lord Lister, who through his introduction of antiseptics brought about a revolution in surgery which stands alone in the history of medicine. Here in England the first example of a modern Institute for Tropical Diseases, which is a model for all other institutes of this kind, was created under the direction of Sir Patrick Manson. Through Ross's excellent work, Laveran's discovery of the causes of malaria was so far advanced that entirely new lines were opened up for the hygienic struggle against tropical and subtropical diseases.

The proof by Castellani that a trypanosome is the cause of sleeping sickness, the classical work by Bruce on illnesses caused through trypanosomes, the specific cause of kala-azar (Dum-dum sickness) as proved by Leishman, are all well known to us. The therapeutic influence of atoxyl in the cases of trypanosome diseases was first established in the Liverpool Tropical Institute by Thomas and Breinl, and quite recently Plimmer has brought forward the use of tartar emetic as an effective weapon against protozoal diseases.

The life-work of Almroth Wright is also known to all of us, i. e. his work on opsonins and on the prophylactic treatment of typhoid fever, which has been carried out in a practical and most excellent manner. Even these few names, to which I might add many others, show what a high and leading position England has taken and still holds in the fight against infectious diseases. To prevent the spread of and to heal infectious diseases was at all times the highest aim of medical aspirations; however, a systematic pursuit of this purpose has only been possible in recent times, as through the labours of all civilized nations we have got an