1. Record Nr. UNINA9910454084303321

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Titolo Pioneers of microbiology and the Nobel prize [[electronic resource] /] /

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River Edge, NJ,: World Scientific Pub., c2003 Pubbl/distr/stampa

1-281-92824-0

9786611928247 981-277-556-0

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (190 p.)

Disciplina 579/.09034

ISBN

Soggetti Microbiology - History - 19th century

> Microbiologists - History - 19th century Nobel Prizes - History - 19th century

Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Includes bibliographical references (p. 173-174) and index. Nota di bibliografia

Nota di contenuto Contents: Preface: Introduction: THE ERA OF THE CELL; The Sites of

Diseases: Vitalism and Natural Philosophy: A Memorial in Hotel-Dieu: Cellular Pathology; A Young Revolutionary in 1848; The Triumph of the Microscope: A Cancelled Duel: The New Physiology: The Indestructable Energy: Bankruptcy and a Gleam of Hope: Variolation: A Country Doctor in Gloucestershire; A WORLD UNKNOWN; Contagion Versus Miasma; Seeds of Infection: A Poisonous Effluvium: Cholera and the Final Verdict: Miasma Revisited: The Birth of Microbiology: Louis Pasteur:

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Institute: The Advent of Chemotherapy

Salvarsan - Success and TroubleHonors and a Premature Death; ELIE METCHNIKOFF; A Sensitive Young Man; The Road to Paris; Aging and Death; NOBEL PRIZES AND NOBEL COMMITTEES; 1901; Nobel Committee and Nominees; The Discovery of the Antibodies; The Recommended Candidate; 1905; Nobel Committee and Nominations; Evaluating a Monument; 1908; Paul Ehrlich; Nobel Committee and Nominations; Evaluations; Elie Metchnikoff; Nominations; Evaluations; In Defence of the Nobel Prize; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

We are swamped with information and each day seems to bring new discoveries that must be considered. Never before in the history of science have so many scientists been as active as today. It has become a major problem for the expert just to keep up with the literature in his or her own field of research. Why, then, should experts and their poor students worry about the pioneers of microbiology, those half-forgotten scientists who a century ago devoted their lives to a new science that was on its way to revolutionizing medicine? With so many new facts and problems screaming for our attention, i