

THE LASKER AWARD  
FOR  
MEDICAL RESEARCH

PRESENTED BY  
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
TO  
OSWALD T. AVERY, M. D.

1947

The Kasker Award 1947

presented by


The American Public Health  
Association


to

Oswald T. Avery, M.D.

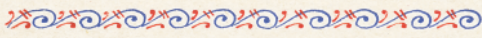
For distinguished services through  
studies on the chemical constitution  
of bacteria

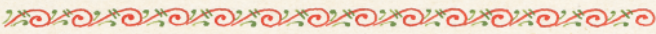
**W**ith unusual persistence, remarkable insight and extraordinary accuracy of observation, Oswald T. Avery has devoted the greater part of his scientific career to the study of the pneumococcus.


**A**nimated by an unsurpassed intellectual curiosity and a desire to conquer one of the most deadly enemies of man, he undertook to elucidate in logical sequence the biological activities, the immunological characteristics and the pathogenic properties of the pneumococcus. In this he so far succeeded that today it is fair to say that more is known about this organism than about any other human parasite. 

**W**ere this all it would be a unique accomplishment, but quite early in the course of his investigations he became interested in searching for a chemical explanation for the type specificity of pneumococci. As a consequence, he discovered and identified the capsular polysaccharides and demonstrated their role in determining this specificity. 

**H**e furthermore succeeded in throwing light on the immunological relationships of the intracellular constituents

of this organism. 

**T**hrough these discoveries he laid the foundation for his brilliant analysis in chemical terms of the antigenic constitution of the whole pneumococcus. He thus established a perfect pattern for the antigenic analysis of other micro-organisms both by himself and by others who have followed in his footsteps. 

**A**mong Dr. Avery's many brilliant contributions to scientific knowledge none has been more outstanding than his studies on the antigenic constitution of bacteria. Through them he is one of the founders of the science of immunochemistry. Because of them our comprehension of the complex problems of infectious disease has been immeasurably enriched. 

*Harry S. Mustard* President  
The American Public Health Association

*George Bachr* Chairman  
The Lasker Awards Committee of the American  
Public Health Association

