



Neil Pollock

The Medical Contributions of Louis Pasteur

Louis Pasteur is well known for introducing Pasteurization of milk and also other fluids such as wine. He also established a new field of science - stereochemistry and undertook significant research on fermentation and helped the silk industry. Some of his greatest contributions however were in the field of medicine. In association with Joseph Lister in the period 1860-1890 he helped to reduce in fact treat wound infections particularly of people in hospital. Hospitals in this period were known as 'houses of death' for the extremely high death rate. Edward Jenner is known as the Father of Immunity. He was successful at preventing smallpox but was unable to manage other infectious disorders. It was Pasteur and a co worker who determined the science behind immunity. These aspects of his research will be discussed. Pasteur was very intelligent and a careful researcher and his background will be briefly presented.