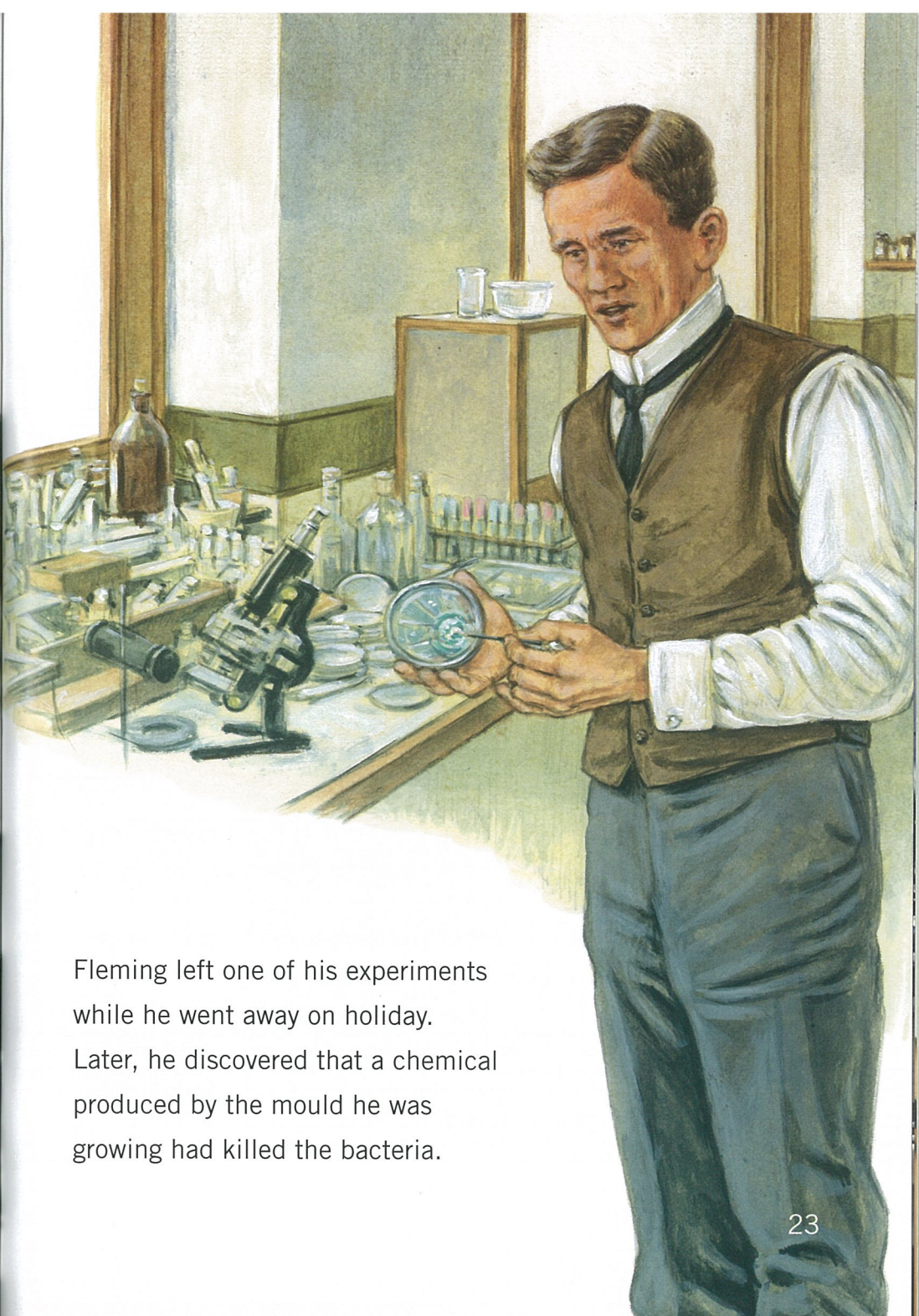


Antiseptics kill germs outside the body, but infection happens when germs get inside the body from the air, dirty water, weapons or surgical tools.

Antibiotics are medicines to kill bacteria in the body. The first modern antibiotic, penicillin, was discovered by accident in 1928 by the Scottish scientist Alexander Fleming.

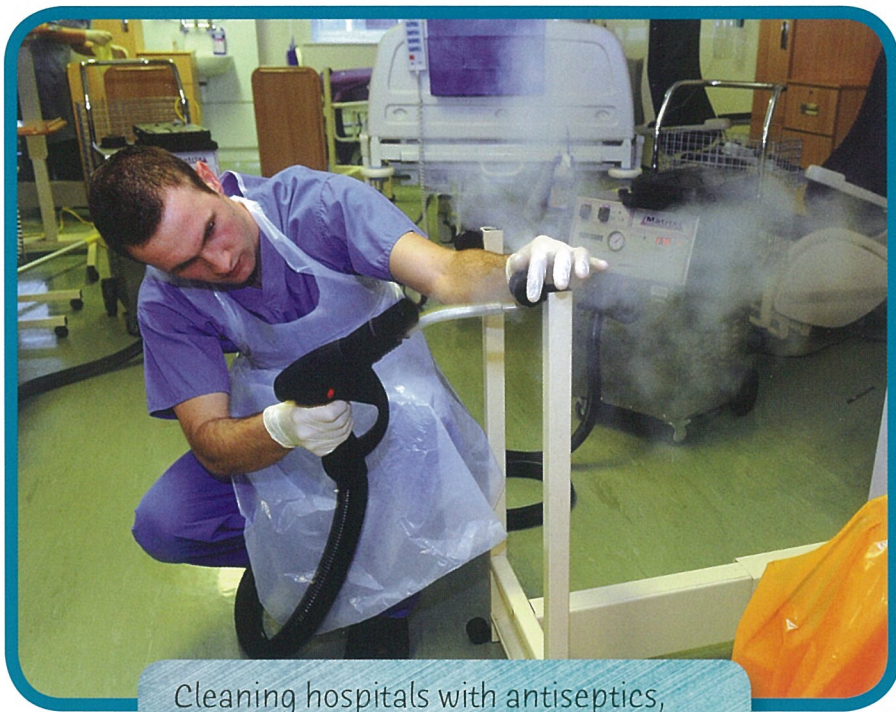
Alexander Fleming



Fleming left one of his experiments while he went away on holiday. Later, he discovered that a chemical produced by the mould he was growing had killed the bacteria.

We now have many different antibiotics, used to kill different bacteria. But some bacteria are changing and are no longer killed by existing antibiotics. Scientists constantly look for new antibiotics.

Keeping hospitals very clean is even more important as antibiotics work better in clean conditions. Medical staff scrub themselves with soap and wear sterile clothes. Instruments are sterilised by boiling or radiation, and surfaces are all cleaned thoroughly with antiseptics.



Cleaning hospitals with antiseptics, disinfectant and steam aims to kill all the germs in the building.



Surgeons wash their hands thoroughly before they go into surgery.