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Medical Anniversary

HANS CHRISTIAN JOACHIM GRAM, 13 SEPTEMBER 1853

Hans Christian Joachim Gram (1853-1938) was born in Copenhagen, son of a professor of law. He qualified in medicine (1878) and joined Dr Carl Friedlander's department of pathology in Friedrichshain in Berlin (1883) where he devised his technique for distinguishing Gram-positive from Gram-negative bacteria. He returned to Copenhagen where he became, in turn, professor of pharmacology and of medicine, wrote extensively, and had a large private practice. Just before he died in November 1938, when he was 85 years, he published an article on the serum treatment of patients with type III pneumococcal pneumonia.

- DG James