Bio4270 – The Story of Louis Pasteur (1936)

This film is made in 1936, after Pasteur has been shown to be correct on the matters depicted, and his fame established, but before significant subsequent discoveries, such as antibiotics. How does this affect the way in which events are portrayed?

A husband blames the death of his wife on poor sanitary practices by her physician. Given the state of knowledge at the time, do you think that the Doctor is responsible for the wife's death? Does Louis Pasteur bear any responsibility for the murder, after he publishes his theory, as some characters in the film suggest? - 2:40

Louis Pasteur says, "The dead and dying enough proof." Should this be enough for others to take him seriously, despite having no experimental evidence of his claims? - 5:28

What does Pasteur's speech to the Emperor and his colleagues say about the beliefs and practices of the time? Why might they be so opposed to Pasteur's ideas? -9:45

What is Anthrax? Why is it such a concern? Did it remain a concern in 1936, or now?-15:47

The government minister states, "How or Why is beyond the scope of science." What does this say about scientific practices at the time? Can such questions be regarded as within the scope of science. - 16:13

How did Pasteur create his Anthrax vaccine? How does it work and is it related to the life cycle of Anthrax bacteria? - 23:30

The governments lack of understanding could have made the Anthrax problem substantially worse. Is this kind of thing still a problem today? Can you think of current examples? -26:30

Is the proposed experiment with the sheep scientifically sound? Is there any reason for Pasteur not to agree to it? -27:55

"The benefits of science are not for scientist; they are for humanity". Do you think this a mindset shared by the modernday scientific community? -32:19

The methods for creating the Anthrax vaccine do not work on Rabies. What makes Rabies different from Anthrax? - 41:37

Dr. Charbonnet injects himself with the virus but does not become ill. Why is this the case? How does this lead Pasteur to a breakthrough? - 52:17

Should Pasteur be allowed to try the experimental treatment on the child? Does it matter what the doctors think if the Mothers and the child consent to it? -58:30

What are possible ramifications of Pasteur treating the Russian patients with his untested treatment? Should Pasteur be held responsible for any negative outcomes? - 1:05:55

What does Dr. Charbonnet gain by making Pasteur agree to his deal? What does it say about him as a doctor and/or a scientist? If he went through with the deal would it have even changed anything since Pasteur's rabies vaccination was already complete? -1:10:10

What is the honor that Pasteur receives? Does Pasteur's closing speech and advice still hold through today? -1:24:40