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Castellani The man behind the paint

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Aldo Castellani(1877-1971) is known mainly for Castellani's paint which is still used in some countries to treat otomycosis. He grew up on a Chianti vineyard. A man of exceptional qualities and one of the greatest physicians of the first half of the 20th Century he graduated magna cum laude from the medical school of Florence, and was fluent in many languages. He is still considered by some as the father of tropical dermatology. Was President of the International Society of Dermatology (1960–1964). During his life he became a Professor at the Universities of Ceylon, Naples, London, New Orleans, Rome and Lisbon. (During one year he was teaching in England, New Orleans and Rome while also keeping a flourishing private practice on Harley Street with 3 European Queens in his waiting room at one time). He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London. King George V knighted him (1928). He was the Count of Chisimaio. He was an excellent swordsman and an author.

When Italy declared war against England in 1940 he said "This is the most tragic day in my life" and he left London. He was an Italian Anglophile. In 1942 he was named Head of Italian Military Health. Ironically Mussolini regarded him as his personal friend and physician. Lord Donegal British Foreign Minister said of him "Who let Castellani go?" and Time magazine 1936 called him "the man who won the Abyssinian war". He was still teaching in his nineties.