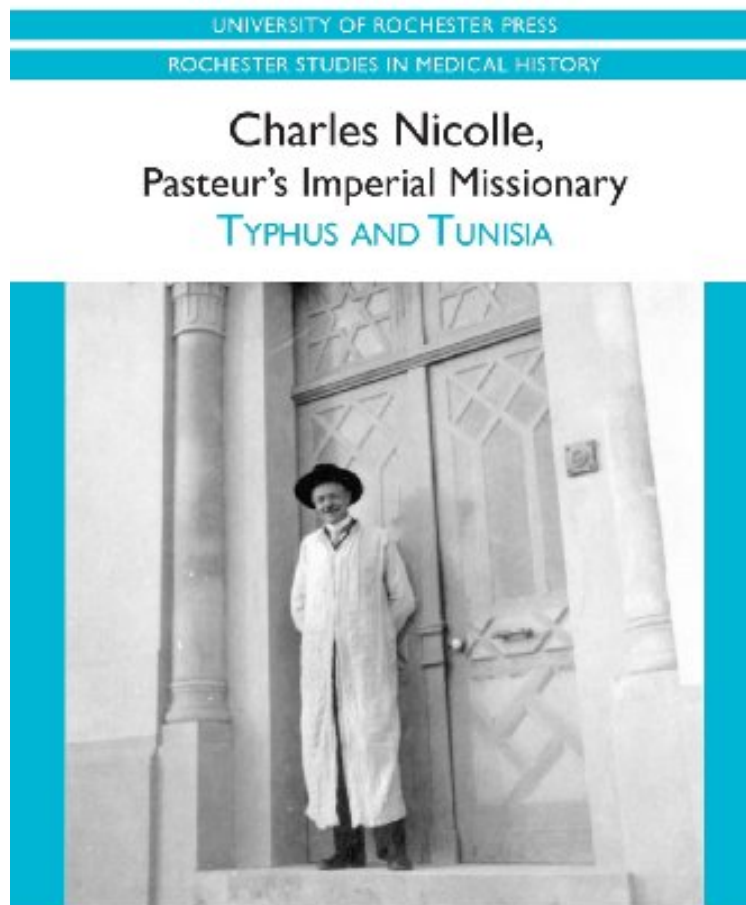


(Download free pdf) Charles Nicolle, Pasteur's Imperial Missionary: Typhus and Tunisia (Rochester Studies in Medical History)

## Charles Nicolle, Pasteur's Imperial Missionary: Typhus and Tunisia (Rochester Studies in Medical History)

*Kim Pelis*

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**Kim Pelis : Charles Nicolle, Pasteur's Imperial Missionary: Typhus and Tunisia (Rochester Studies in Medical History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charles Nicolle, Pasteur's Imperial Missionary: Typhus and Tunisia (Rochester Studies in Medical History):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book about a fascinating manBy History professorThe

book is beautifully written, first of all. Dr. Pelis is able to do for medical biography what few others are able to and that is contextualize the person she's writing about not just in his own time and place but in his intellectual field as well (and the book contains an excellent history of the field of disease research to boot). The book can be read by anyone, not just specialists in the history of medicine - it holds something for doctors, anthropologists, various kinds of historians, as well as the well-read layperson. The book is not bogged down in technical jargon, but it was clearly written by a scholar who knows her literature as well as her history. Pelis really does justice to this complex character and gives more than just the tired old "brilliant but tortured man" trope. Nicolle's letters really allow Pelis to bring him to life and despite his personal flaws, one comes away from the book in awe of and with respect for the man who did so much for the world, yet still felt he was a failure in the end.

This book examines the biomedical research of Nobel Prize-winning bacteriologist Charles Nicolle during his tenure as director of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis. Using typhus as its lens, it demonstrates how the complexities of early twentieth century bacteriology, French imperial ideology, the "Pastorian mission," and conditions in colonial Tunisia blended to inform the triumphs and disappointments of Nicolle's fascinating career. It illuminates how these diverse elements shaped Nicolle's personal identity, the identity of his institute, and his innovative conception of the "birth, life, and death" -- or, the emergence and eradication -- of infectious disease. Kim Pelis blends exhaustive archival research with a close reading of Nicolle's written work -- scientific papers, philosophical treatises, and literary contributions -- to explore the complex relations between biomedical ideas and sociocultural context. The result is a study that will be of interest not only to students of French history, colonial medicine, and the history of the biomedical sciences but also to anyone seeking to understand how individuals have attempted to deal creatively with complex times and ambiguous knowledge. Kim Pelis, a medical historian by training, is a writer for the director of the National Institutes of Health.

Kim Pelis has written a magisterial biography of Charles Nicolle, the Nobel prize-winning microbiologist who demonstrated the louse-borne transmission of one of humankind's most dreaded scourges: typhus fever. But this beautifully written book covers so much more than Nicolle's exemplary scientific life. Indeed, it is a superb and scholarly exploration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century medicine, colonialism, international public health, and the social and cultural history of disease. --Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D., George E. Wanzel Professor of the History of Medicine, University of Michigan, author of *When Germs Travel* Charles Nicolle was one of the most complex and creative of Pasteur's disciples. His combination as scientist, clinician, administrator, novelist, philosopher, and tortured individual makes him a fascinating man. Kim Pelis has done justice to all facets of Nicolle's life and work. This is a gem of a book. --W. F. Bynum, M.D, Ph.D, FRCP, Professor Emeritus of History of Medicine, University College London There was no shortage of competition in the hunt for the cause of typhus, and Nicolle's claim to have discovered the louse as the agent of transmission did not go uncontested. Few important discoveries do. Taking us through the socio-scientific history of typhus, Pelis adroitly details how Nicolle and his close collaborator, Ernest Conseil (director of public health in Tunis), arrived at their discovery. --H-France About the Author Kim Pelis, a medical historian by training, is a writer for the director of the National Institutes of Health.