

The production of penicillin (1959)

[Music]

NARRATOR: Penicillin was discovered in 1928, but it was not until 1941 that it was produced in useful quantities, in England. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratory has now produced tonnes of penicillin each year. It is no restricted scientific activity, but a major industrial undertaking. The drug, used by doctors in tiny doses, in tablets or hypodermic needles, starts its processing in tanks holding thousands of gallons.