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Medical Anniversary

AXEL MUNTHE, 31 OCTOBER 1857

Axel Martin Fredrik Munthe (1857-1949) was born at Oskarshamm, Sweden, the youngest of three children of a prosperous professional family. He qualified in Paris (1879) with a thesis on uterine haemorrhage. He practised medicine in Capri, Paris, Rome, Stockholm and also had the time to write *The story of San Michele* (1929), perhaps the most popular medical autobiography ever. He married a wealthy English girl, Hilda Pennington in 1907 and lived at 31 St James' Place, Piccadilly, London, where two sons were born. He became physician to Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden in 1908 and was a close friend of King Gustav of Sweden. He died of pneumonia on 11 February 1949. His dream home, San Michele in Capri, was left to Sweden to house the Swedish Institute of Art. — *DG James*