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The Chester Beatty Research Institute is descended from the Free Cancer (Royal Marsden) Hospital, founded by Dr. William Marsden, in 1851, for the purposes of treatment and research. Cancer investigations began here in 1856 at the turn of the century, a Cancer Research and Pathology Department was established under Dr. Alexander Paine. In 1909 the department was reconstituted as the Cancer Hospital Research Institute, which was removed to a separate building two years later. The Institute of Cancer Research of the Royal Cancer Hospital was again enlarged in 1939 when new quarters were provided at Fulham Road (S. W. 3). This facility became known as the Chester Beatty Research Institute in honor of its benefactor and patron, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (b. 1875).

Alexander Haddow (b. 1907 in Scotland) was appointed fourth Director of the Chester Beatty Institute in 1946. Classic contributions from the Institute include Leitch's work on the latency of tumor induction through coal tar applications to mouse skin and the carcinogenic effect of shale oil ("mule skinners' cancer"). The pioneer studies on hydrocarbon carcinogenesis by Ernest Kennaway, third Director, and his coworkers took place here. Under Haddow, the Institute has undertaken fundamental explorations on the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, aimed at "a kind of synthetic comprehension of the carcinogenic process in general" (J. Am. Med. Assoc., 201: 715—716, 1967), and has been in the forefront of investigations on the chemotherapy of cancer. For a review see: Brunning, D. A., and Dukes, C. E., The Origin and Early History of the Institute of Cancer Research of the Royal Cancer Hospital. Proc. Roy. Soc. Med., 58: 33–36, 1965.

The photograph of Haddow is reproduced from a Lotte Meitner Graf original. Also shown are the Cancer Institutes of the Royal Cancer Hospital as they appear today. We are indebted to Sir Alexander Haddow for submitting the illustrations.