The disease of wine and beer had been fought by Pasteur since 1863. His most recent achievement was of greatest importance. He had discovered the cause of the disease and had demonstrated that it could be prevented. The disease was caused by a microorganism that produced an exotoxin. Pasteur had isolated this microorganism and shown that it could be destroyed by heat or by the addition of a chemical agent. He had then shown that the disease could be prevented by the use of these methods. Pasteur had made a great contribution to the science of microbiology and his discoveries had led to the production of many useful products.