

Emil Fischer Encyclopedia Article

Emil Fischer

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Contents

Emil Fischer Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Emil Fischer.....	3

Emil Fischer

1852-1919

German organic chemist who made significant contributions to our knowledge of the structure of sugars and proteins; awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1902. Fischer was the first to show that naturally occurring sugars existed as molecules with either right or left-handedness. In 1903 Fischer synthesized a class of molecules called barbituric acids. Derivatives of barbituric acids called barbiturates were subsequently used as sedatives.