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PUBLIC HEALTH AND PEDIATRICS IN THE USSR

MAIN FILE

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND PEDIATRICS IN THE USSR

A. Great Concern for Public Health

Following is a translation of an unsigned article in Voprosy Okhrany Materinstva i Detstva (Problems of Safeguarding Maternity and Childhood), Vol. 5, No. 2, Moscow, Mar/Apr 1960, pages 3-6.

The Soviet people, in putting into practice the historic resolutions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU, has achieved great successes in the development of industry, agriculture, science, culture, while raising the material well-being of the workers.

The rates of growth of industrial production achieved in 1959 significantly exceed the average yearly rates of growth, anticipated in the Seven-Year Plan. The industrial production exceeded the yearly plan by almost 50 billion rubles. The plan of production of goods required by the people was overfulfilled.

The successes in the field of agriculture are evoking legitimate pride among the Soviet peoples. In 1958 the Soviet Union had already overtaken the United States in the production of milk. In our country the production of butter per capita exceeds that of America.

In January 1960 the Supreme Soviet USSR adopted a historic resolution concerning a new considerable reduction of the armed forces of the USSR, directed at strengthening peace in all the world. A great part of the resources, which will be saved as a result of the new considerable reduction in the armed forces, will go for the further raising of the well-being of the workers, including the improvement of the medical service of the population.

The Communist Party and the Soviet government tirelessly concern themselves with the improvement of the material and cultural level of the people, concerning the preservation and prolongation of the life of the Soviet citizen. The Soviet peoples received with enormous satisfaction the decree of the Central Committee CPSU and the

Council of Ministers USSR "Concerning measures for the further improvement of the medical service and protection of the health of the population of the USSR" as a new manifestation of the tireless concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet government for the welfare of the people.

As a result of the profound social transformations -- the growth of the material well-being and culture of the people, the creation of a wide network of medical institutions, the providing of the population with free, qualified medical aid, the development of medical science and the wide dissemination of physical culture -- we have achieved great successes in strengthening the health of the population. For the years of Soviet power, the morbidity rate has been significantly diminished, the total mortality has been lowered by more than four times, child mortality -- by almost seven times. The average length of life of the Soviet citizen has increased more than two times.

In providing the people with physicians, our country has arrived at the leading position in the world. In the Soviet Union there are now 380,000 physicians and 1,300,000 intermediate medical workers. The number of hospital beds has increased twofold in the postwar years. Along with State construction, the construction of medical institutions upon the initiative and at the expense of the resources of the collective farms has developed widely. A large quantity of sanatoria and rest homes has been created in the country, in which more than 5,000,000 persons rest and are treated annually.

The quantity of higher and intermediate medical institutions grows from year to year. More than 30,000 scientific co-workers work 273 scientific-research institutions and 79 higher medical educational institutions of the country.

There are considerable achievements in the medical industry. The production of medical agents and medical technology has increased more than threefold in the seven-year period.

These totals are the result of the greatest achievements of the Soviet social system, which puts all the achievements of economics, science, technology, culture at the service of men. In not a single capitalistic country is there such extensive State medical aid for the people.

However, in spite of the great achievements in the field of medico-sanitary service of the population, there are also serious defects, which were noted in the decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR "Concerning measures pertaining to the further improvement of the medical service and protection of the health of

the population of the USSR."

The medical service still does not satisfy the growing requirements of the population, particularly in the regions of new industrial construction, in villages, in the virgin soil regions and in the Far East. The population is insufficiently provided with ambulatory-polyclinic aid. Serious defects are encountered in the organization of stomatological and dental-prosthetic aid. In a number of therapeutic-prophylactic institutions the medical service is still of low quality and culture. The therapeutic-prophylactic institutions are insufficiently equipped with modern equipment and special apparatus. The construction of therapeutic institutions is being conducted slowly in a number of oblasts, krays, and autonomic republics of the RSFSR. The workers of the scientific-research and medical institutes are insufficiently conducting the study of the causes and the search for effective agents of prophylaxis and treatment of mass diseases -- influenza, angina, children's infectious diseases, etc.

It is noted in the decree that certain Party, Soviet, and trade union organs are paying little attention to problems of the medical service of the population, the construction of therapeutic institutions and the organization of the mass movement of the population for sanitary culture. As a result, in a number of cities and villages, the water supply, sewage system, cleaning of streets, squares and courts, is unsatisfactorily organized.

In a number of oblasts, krays, and autonomous republics of the Russian Federation there are serious defects in the matter of the medico-sanitary service of women and children. Here and there there is a high gynecological morbidity, while the scope of hospital aid for the parturient in the village still amounts to 70 percent. In certain gynecological consultation rooms, dispensing is conducted poorly. In individual autonomous republics, the child mortality is still high and the prophylactic and therapeutic aid in the child consultation rooms is insufficiently adjusted.

A considerable lag in the organization and quality of medico-sanitary service of women and children is observed in rural localities, where the hospitals and polyclinics are considerably less in number and are not completely staffed with physicians.

In the decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR, a wide complex of practical measures was noted, directed at the further development of the public health protection of the people. In the current Seven-Year Plan, the quantity of hospital beds in the country has

increased from 1,532,600 to 2,148,600. In the Russian Federation, 1,230 hospitals, 70 maternity homes, and 40 dispensaries will be constructed. The number of beds in the children's municipal hospitals will increase from 62,000 in 1958 to 84,000 in 1965; the number of maternity beds in the cities will increase from 60,000 to 84,000. Measures are noted pertaining to the widening of the capacity of the polyclinic institutions and the improvement of the quality of their work.

The Party and the State have found it possible in the current Seven-Year Plan to increase the volume of capital investment for the construction of public health institutions, medical industry enterprises, scientific-research institutes, experimental factories, drug stores by 1,800 million rubles. The local Party and soviet organs are charged with encouraging in every possible way the initiative of the collective farms in the construction at their expense of buildings of therapeutic-prophylactic institutions according to type projects, and with giving them aid in providing this construction with materials and equipment.

Great tasks are set in the matter of raising the quality of the preparation and training of medical workers. Measures are mentioned for increasing the number of stomatologists, improving the system of postgraduate training of cadres, improving the conditions of work and life of medical workers, particularly in rural localities. In this connection, the initiative of the Tashkent physicians, who voluntarily went to work in rural therapeutic-prophylactic institutions, has important significance. The medical workers of a number of cities of the Russian Federation have followed their example.

Enormous tasks stand before the organizers of public health regarding the training of cadres. It is difficult at times to grasp the work of the physician from an isolated work chart; he sometimes has to solve weighty problems to save a patient. The sense of consciousness of his duty, discipline, and responsibility are most important for a physician. A sensitive and attentive relationship toward people, systematic work to perfect his specialty, the study and putting into practice of advanced experiment -- are the fundamental determining factors of the life and activity of the physician.

Taking into account the existing defects in the providing of therapeutic-prophylactic institutions with medicines and equipment, great measures are contemplated for the development of medical industry.

Medical industry is called upon at the end of the Seven-Year Plan to increase the volume of production of

medicines, subjects of medical technology, and other medical articles by three and one-half times. The release of antibiotics, the production of new preparations (colimycin, mycerin), of vitamins and hormonal preparations is being increased. At the same time, it is incumbent upon physicians to use these agents judiciously and economically. The broadening of the drug-store network is contemplated.

In the matter of the serving of women and children, particular attention is being paid to the putting into effect of prophylactic measures, the organization of conditions of work and life of pregnant women, the broadening and improvement of the work of gynecological consultation rooms, collective farm maternity homes, felidsher-obsterical sites, the creation of gynecological consultation rooms at enterprises. It is necessary to broaden scientific searches to prevent stillbirths and premature births, to provide further lowering of the maternal mortality and the mortality of the newborn.

The medical service of extremely young children and school children should be considerably improved. For these purposes, the broadening of child nutrition, the free issuing of it to children up to a year in age from dairy kitchens, the broadening and improvement of the work of children's institutions (creches, kindergartens), is envisaged.

To improve the medical service of school children it is necessary to extend the network of polyclinical and sanatorium institutions, to raise the responsibility for the health of children on the part of the physicians of polyclinics, to inculcate the dispensary method of service widely.

It is necessary to perfect the methods of physical education of children, to coordinate better the lessons in schools with physical culture and sport. Appropriate normative work loads should be worked out more quickly for children of various ages.

In order to provide a further improvement of the protection of the health and preservation of the life of children, it is necessary in each oblast, kray and autonomous republic -- taking account of the local conditions -- to note the complex of measures with the object of a sharp lowering of the morbidity and to achieve the complete elimination of a number of infections. The analysis of the structure of child mortality shows that it is necessary to intensify the struggle for the lowering of the mortality of newborn from pneumonia, birth trauma and premature birth.

The population always actively participates in the work of the therapeutic-prophylactic institutions. N. S. Kruschev indicates: "It is necessary not only to provide

man with excellent lodgings, but also to teach him correctly, to use the common blessings, to live correctly, to observe the rules of the socialist community. This does not happen spontaneously, but can be achieved in a prolonged and stubborn struggle for the victory of the new Communist way of life."

Almost everywhere in our country a people's movement is being developed for a high sanitary culture, for the improvement of the conditions of work and life according to the initiative of the workers of the Tul'skaya, Omskaya, Moshkovskaya, Kalininskaya, and other oblasts. The medical workers in this movement are playing the responsible role of organizers and consultants. Their tasks consists in conducting sanitary-hygienic measures for a higher level, achieving the conscious participation of all citizens in the sanitization of their work and life. For these purposes, the medical propoganda among the population should be conducted on the basis of profound scientific knowledge, with the active participation of scientists of all specialties. In the propaganda of sanitary knowledge, it is necessary to use all methods not from situation to situation, but constantly.

At all therapeutic-prophylactic institutions there should be created permanent councils with the participation of Party, soviet, trade union, konsomol, and economic organizations and of the population itself. Raising the role of the community in the improvement of the medico-sanitary state and prophylactic work appears to be a most important condition for the further rise of Soviet public health. The constant concern for the health of the Soviet man -- the improvement of his life and conditions of work -- is the vital affair of all medical workers.

Soviet medical personnel, inspired by the historic resolutions of the 21st Party Congress, warmly support the measures, outlined by the Party and State. They do not spare their force and knowledge to fulfill honorably the grand program outlined by the Party and State for the further development of public health, the improvement of medical service, and the protection of the health of the builders of Communist society.

B. TASKS SET FORTH BY THE ALL-RUSSIAN CONGRESS OF PEDIATRICIANS

Following is a translation of an article by M. M. Bubnova and N. N. Grigor'yeva in Voprosy Okhrany Materinstva i Detstva (Problems of Safeguarding Maternity and Childhood), Vol. 5, No. 2, Moscow, Mar/Apr 1960, pages 7-13.

The All-Russian Congress of Pediatricians was held in Moscow from 14 to 19 December 1959.

At the All-Russian Congress of Pediatricians a series of problems and questions, directed at the further improvement of the protection of the health of children, was touched on. The problems of rheumatism and tuberculosis and the physiology and pathology of the newborn period were discussed. Special attention was paid to the problem of the physical development and medical service of school children. The Deputy Minister of Education RSFSR, M. P. Kashin, gave a report. The reports of the Chairman of the Board of Administration of the All-Russian Society of Pediatricians, Prof. A. F. Tur, as well as the reports of the editorial board of the journal "Voprosy okhrany materinstva i detstva" ("Problems of Safeguarding Maternity and Childhood"), were presented; elections of the administration board of the All-Russian Scientific-Medical Society were held.

Thanks to the unwavering raising of the material and cultural level of life of the people, to the creation of a wide network of medical institutions, providing the population with free qualified medical aid, to the successful development of medical science and the wide dissemination of physical culture and sport, an improvement of the physical development and a strengthening of the health of the Soviet peoples has been achieved. The morbidity among the population has been considerably diminished, the general and child mortality has been lowered, the average duration of human life has been increased.

Our country has become the most progressive country in the world in the field of people's education, of scientific-technological achievements. Our scientists, designers, engineers, technologists, and workers are the first to have mastered cosmic space, having launched the artificial earth satellites, the cosmic rockets, the first luniks. To them belongs the first atomic ice-breaker in the world, which bears the name of the great Lenin.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government are undeviatingly and consistently conducting the struggle for

the realization of the Leninist principle of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems. The journey of N. S. Krushchev to the United States played an outstanding role in the mitigation of the international tension. The peoples of all countries have called the speech of N. S. Krushchev at the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations dealing with a proposal on general and complete disarmament a highly humane peace program.

The daily striving of the Communist Party to establish a strong and lasting peace on earth is particularly close and dear to medical workers. Who, if not physicians, daily encountering cases of suffering and ailments, well remembering those horrors and ravages which war brings to humanity, can evaluate the undeviating striving for the establishment of a stable peace on earth.

To us, physicians of children, is entrusted the dearest thing in our country -- the life and health of children, who are the builders of Communism. Favorable material conditions, the modern level of science, the presence of qualified cadres have created the necessary conditions for the solution of the concrete problems pertaining to the further improvement of the protection of the health of children.

The All-Russian meeting of pediatricians, conducted at the end of 1957 jointly with Party, soviet, and trade union organs, has facilitated the improvement of the work pertaining to the protection of the health of children. Similar meetings were subsequently held in 46 administrative territories of the RSFSR. Congresses and meetings of pediatricians have been held in 26 oblasts. Representatives of all krays, oblasts, and ASSR's of Siberia and the Far East have been enlisted in participation in the inter-oblast scientific conferences in Omsk and Khabarovsk, conducted jointly with the administrative board of the All-Russian Society of Pediatricians. In a number of oblasts, krays, and ASSR's, detailed resolutions of oblast Party and soviet organs pertaining to questions of the improvement of the protection of child health were adopted.

Particularly much progress has been made in the improvement of work with children by the Leningrad Health Department (head of the municipal department of health, V. M. Minyayev; deputy head Ye. I. Smirnova). The organizers of public health and the scientists of Leningrad maintain close contact and are improving the quality of prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment of children. A characteristic trait of the Leningrad pediatricists is the search for what is new, the organization of schools of mothers in consultation rooms,

the elimination of diphtheria, and other undertakings. The Leningrad Scientific-Medical Society of Pediatricians is working actively under the chairmanship of member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR Prof. M. S. Maslova.

The community movement for raising the sanitary culture, sanitization of work and life of the population, begun by the medical workers of Tul'skaya Oblast, has great political, educational, and sanitizing significance. The initiative of the Tul'skaya Oblast medical men merits wide dissemination and is an important measure in the creation of a healthful medium for the rising generation. With the object of improvement of the protection of the health of children it is necessary to use the initiative of the masses widely, to encourage the organization of co-action councils in the children's therapeutic-prophylactic institutions, to activate the work of the deputies of the local soviets, and of public health commissions.

The Ministry of Health RSFSR warmly supports the movement, begun by the academic medical men of Rostov-on-the-Don, since the direct work of scientists in the polyclinics should aid in solving more rapidly a number of practical public health problems. This movement undoubtedly involves a change of the forms and methods of education in medical institutes and medical schools and widens the possibilities of work under polyclinic conditions for students and pupils.

A clear-cut organization of work in the district and in the polyclinic, the opportune conduct of prophylactic inoculations, the organization of rational feeding and nutrition of children, their hardening, the wide sanitary propaganda of correct training of children -- all this will facilitate the further lowering of the morbidity and child mortality.

At the present time, the child mortality has been considerably lowered not only in comparison with the pre-Revolutionary period, but also in comparison with the prewar period, 1940, and continues to be lowered from year to year. The ministry of Health RSFSR is setting before pediatricians the task for the current Seven-year plan of lowering the child mortality twofold.

In the structure of child mortality, a significant specific weight is occupied by the pathology of the newborn period; consequently it is necessary to pay particular attention to the correct organization of medical service of children during the first month of life, continuing actively to conduct the uninterrupted observation for children during the first year of life. The correct organization of the polyclinic service, the area work, will have enormous significance in solving this problem. The

room of the young mother, organized on the example of Leningrad in many child polyclinics, should facilitate the training of the healthy child.

For the last few years, the morbidity of children with pneumonia, tuberculosis, skin diseases, has been significantly lowered. In 1959 the morbidity from diphtheria has been lowered by 30 percent. Before the medical workers of the RSFSR stands the task in the next few years of eliminating diphtheria, of considerably lowering the morbidity from whooping cough, rheumatism, gastro-intestinal diseases. In this connection, the scientists of our country have the task of searching out new, maximally effective methods and agents of prophylaxis and treatment of acute children's infections, gastro-intestinal, and virus diseases.

Great attention should be paid to the improvement of the medical service in the village, to the improvement of specialized aid for children in the city and village. In this connection, a great role should be played by the oblast children's hospitals and children's division at the oblast hospitals, which should be opened in all krays, oblasts, and ASSR's of the Russian Federation.

In the matter of improving the service of children, the workers of the scientific-research and medical institutes are exerting great aid by work in children's therapeutic-prophylactic institutions, by participation in the preparation of cadres and scientific-research work.

N. S. Krushchev at the 21st Congress of the CPSU said "The development of biology is a necessary theoretical prerequisite for raising the level of medical science, as well as for agricultural sciences. The significance of the complex of biological sciences will particularly grow in proportion to the utilization in biology of the achievements of physics and chemistry. At the same time, such branches of science, as biochemistry, agrochemistry, biophysics, microbiology, virology, genetics, will play a large role." Unfortunately, problems of physiology, biology, biochemistry, virology and microbiology have been worked out extraordinarily inadequately in pediatric science.

The practical public health workers expect from the scientific workers of medical and scientific-research institutes the answers to very important questions posed by life: on methods of lowering the stillbirth rate, on new, more effective agents of prophylaxis and treatment of influenza, scarlet fever, measles, and other acute children's infections. The scientific-research and medical institutes have proposed nothing new pertaining to the treatment of epidemic hepatitis; there are almost no works pertaining to problems of the physical loading of school children in

connection with new conditions of their training; few investigations have been conducted pertaining to problems of the organization of public health; the study of the organization of the hospital-polyclinic service of children has almost ceased; problems of the organization of the medico-sanitary service of children in the village are not being worked out. All these questions can not fail to interest practical workers.

We should so strive that with each year in our country the boundary between scientific workers and the so-called practical physicians is increasingly less felt. Let us remember the words of the distinguished Soviet pediatrician Prof. A. A. Kisel', whose 100th anniversary we celebrated in 1959 and to whose memory the All-Russian Congress of Pediatricians was dedicated. A. A. Kisel' said that there should be no practical physicians; [rather,] every physician should be a scientific worker. But for this it is necessary to deepen one's knowledge constantly, to follow the current literature, to participate actively in the work of the scientific-medical society of pediatricians. Only under these conditions will we succeed in the immediate future to improve the culture and quality of the work of children's therapeutic-prophylactic institutions and to fulfil the tasks pertaining to the improvement of the protection of the health of children, set before us by the Party and State.

At the present time the workers of public health and education face very important tasks in connection with school reorganization. The physician and the teacher are responsible to society for the correct physical and moral training of the younger generation, for its health and all-around harmonious development. The success of the reorganization of public education will in many respects depend on the participation in this great affair of all society, of all economic and scientific institutions and, in the first place, of public health workers.

Public education and public health workers should in the immediate future study questions of overworking school children with school work, should find the correct approaches to a better organization of the work processes of school children, should provide the medical examination of children. Problems of industrial safety measures, production sanitation, correct physical training of school children, prophylaxis of trauma also require solution.

The organs of public health in the immediate future should sharply improve the medical service of students, pay more attention to the correct setting up of physical culture in the schools. The school physicians and the regional pediatricians should aid in organizing the lessons of physical

culture with students put in special groups. Special attention should be paid to the correct organization of the regime and training in boarding schools on the example of the physicians of Leningrad, who are occupied with studying organizational forms of the medical service of school children.

The workers of the scientific-research and medical institutes should also be included in this work.

The delegates of the Congress subjected the problem of rheumatism to a detailed discussion, 25 reports were heard, and 26 individuals spoke in the debates.

The improvement of the therapeutic-prophylactic service of children, rheumatism patients, the complex treatment of acute attacks with the inclusion of hormonal therapy and successive treatment in stages have contributed to a more favorable course of rheumatism in children (A. B. Volovik). However, the greater frequency of morbidity with rheumatism in later years of children of the younger group -- from two to six years -- is noteworthy (Ye. V. Kovaleva, A. G. Krovit-skiy, G. S. Postol). According to the observation of Ye. V. Kovaleva, in the majority of children there are displayed phenomena of rheumocarditis, and valve defects of the heart in the presence of rheumatism are diagnosed in the presence of clinical observation among 25 percent of the children of the younger age group and in almost 50 percent of the older children. In other words, even at the present time rheumatism remains a severe disease and often leads to irreversible changes of the heart. Consequently it is not surprising that pediatricians are manifesting great interest in the given problem, concerning which there still remain many unsolved questions.

A. I. Nesterov in his report "The current state of the problem of the etiology and pathogenesis of rheumatism" presented, it would appear, convincing data in favor of the view, that rheumatism in its origin and development is linked with infections with α -hemolytic streptococcus of group A. However, the question of the etiology of rheumatism has not been finally solved, and, as A. I. Nesterov indicated, there exists another point of view, according to which rheumatism is an infectious disease which has its specific agent. For the study of the etiology and pathogenesis of rheumatism the combined work of pediatricians, immunologists, microbiologists, biochemists, pathophysiologists is required. A responsible task in relation to this confronts the Institute of Rheumatism RSFSR.

A. I. Nesterov presented a scheme of the pathogenesis of rheumatism, which has not only theoretical but also practical significance. In particular, the individual weakness of the protective mechanisms toward streptococcal

infection once again underlines the significance of the full-value physical training of children as a most important basis of the prophylaxis of rheumatism. This was very convincingly discussed in the report of A. F. Tur "Correct physical training -- the foundation of the prophylaxis of rheumatism and tuberculosis cases."

The report of V. I. Ioffe "Immunology of rheumatism in children" evoked great interest on the part of the audience. V. I. Ioffe gave the characteristics of the contents of the immunology of rheumatism, the basic methodological principles of clinico-immunological investigation and analysis, as well as data of comparative immunology in the presence of various forms and stages of the rheumatic process in children. One must agree with V. I. Ioffe that immunological investigations in the presence of rheumatism in children should be conducted in the following directions: 1) the streptococcal immunology of rheumatism; 2) the general immunology of the inflammatory and fever process; 3) the manifestation of autosensitization; 4) changes in the general immunological reactivity of the organism.

A number of reports (O. D. Sokolova-Ponomareva, N. A. Lavrisheva and others) and addresses in the debates (E. A. Gornitskaya, Zh. Zh. Rapoport, T. P. Churakova and others) showed that many pediatricians are working on the investigation of the general and immunological reactivity in children. The further joint study of these questions in comparison with the clinical manifestations of rheumatism should further facilitate a more profound understanding of the pathogenesis of rheumatism.

Problems of the prophylaxis of rheumatism in children (A. F. Tur) and of relapses (Z. I. Edel'man, M. I. Olevskiy) also require further study. The carefully conducted observations of Z. I. Edel'man have shown that tonsillectomy does not prevent the development of renewed attacks of rheumatism. M. I. Olevskiy attaches great significance to the correct indications for tonsillectomy and the appropriate pre-operative preparation of the sick child. These questions also require further joint study (by pediatricians and otolaryngologists).

The further study of the indexes of the activity of the rheumatic process, the clinical symptoms of the early manifestations of rheumatism with the object of early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, should have great significance. Forest schools should be an important link to the treatment by stages of rheumatism. It is necessary to show initiative in the localities in the organization of forest schools, and also of local sanatoria.

In the next few years morbidity regarding rheumatism

should be lowered, but it is possible to achieve this only under conditions of wide prophylactic measures, directed at strengthening the health of children. This work should be conducted in the first place by pediatricians.

Thirteen reports were devoted to the problem of tuberculosis, and 20 persons participated in the discussions. The achievements are considerably greater in relation to tuberculosis than in relation to rheumatism. The etiology of tuberculosis has long been well-known, and the routes of nonspecific and specific prophylaxis are also well-known. The rational use of antibiotics in complex therapy has permitted the mortality to be sharply lowered even in the presence of such previously hopeless forms as tuberculosis meningitis (M. P. Pakhitonova, K. P. Berkos, M. V. Gordeyeva, N. V. Nikolayeva, D. S. Futer, Ye. V. Prokhorovich and co-authors, I. Ya. Serebriyskiy, T. S. Polikarpova, and others). The efforts of pediatricians at the present time are directed at the diagnosis of the initial forms of the disease in young children (I. V. Tsimbler), which is practically unambiguous for the appearance of the fixation ["virazh"] period of tuberculin tests.

Great theoretical and practical interest was evoked by the report of A. I. Kagramanov "The Primary manifestations of tuberculous infectiousness in young children." Clinical, pathomorphological, histological, and microbiological investigations have confirmed the clinical conception of A. A. Kisel' concerning the role of the lymphatic system in the pathogenesis of tuberculosis. The point of view, advanced by A. I. Kagramanov, to the effect that "the so-called primary complex is neither the beginning of tuberculous infection nor an obligatory component of it and that if it arises, then there is not always a primary tuberculous change," is also in agreement with the earlier firmly defended position of A. A. Kisel'. The infection of the organism with tubercle bacilli in the initial phase represents a systemic infection without pronounced local manifestations.

"In the light of these data," noted A. I. Kagramanov, "the teaching of the outstanding Russian pediatrician A. A. Kisel' concerning the distinctive syndrome of tuberculous infection, determined by him as "tuberculous intoxication without local manifestations" becomes completely supportable and explicable.

At the present time, with powerful antibiotics at our disposal, the complex use of which gives an effect even in the presence of very severe forms of tuberculosis, it is incumbent upon us with the correct combination of nonspecific prophylaxis and the early and correctly conducted

specific prophylaxis to achieve in the next few years a sharp lowering, and subsequently the elimination of tuberculosis in our country. It is possible to achieve this only with the active participation of pediatricians. The conduct of prophylactic vaccinations, the hardening of the child, correct physical training, and the early detection of tuberculosis should be accomplished by pediatricians.

As has already been mentioned, in the structure of child mortality, a significant specific weight is occupied by the pathology of the newborn period. One should note as a positive fact the rise in the interest of pediatricians in this question. Seventeen reports were heard at the section on the pathology of the newborn, and 15 persons spoke in the discussions. The most diverse questions were touched upon in the reports: Congenital defects of development, the causes of stillbirths, congenital toxoplasmosis, staphylococcal diseases, candidomycosis, intracranial traumatata, hemolytic disease of the newborn, etc. This indicates the diversity of the pathology of the newborn period and the organization of the study of these questions in a number of institutions.

In the discussions, the insufficient preparation of young physicians concerning questions of the physiology and pathology of the newborn period. Their poor familiarity with the organization of work in divisions for the newborn in maternity homes and often their complete perplexity in the presence of the necessity of attending premature infants, were indicated. In the immediate future these defects in the instruction at medical faculties should be overcome.

In the course of seven years the medical institutes of the RSFSR will have graduated 100,000 physicians, the medical schools -- 250,000 intermediate medical workers. The young cadres should be well prepared theoretically, in order that they may be able to combine prophylactic and therapeutic work.

"In the last analysis," the Minister of Health RSFSR N. A. Vinogradov has said, "our goal and real dream is the elimination and lowering of morbidity and mortality, the increase in the birth-rate, the improvement of physical development, as well as the increase in the length of the life of people, which must be enjoyed by the successes of Communism in a much greater period than at the present time." In the realization of this dream the work of the pediatrician should have great significance.

In regard to the sanitization of the population, the hygienic training of man has enormous significance. However, it should begin in childhood. In our era of hygiene and prophylaxis, we should convert our child therapeutic-prophylactic institutions into foci of progressive sanitary culture. We

should raise to a great height the sanitary-educational work and take all measures for the daily and active development of the movement of the population for the raising of the sanitary culture in living, for the sanitization of work. The pediatricians should carry the sanitary propaganda into the family, where the child lives and develops.

We do not need to treat the training of our progressive medical intelligentsia formally, for the personal example of the physician, pedagogue, has remarkably great significance. Pediatricians have always applied much energy and enthusiasm to their work, and one must hope that they will apply all measures in order to fulfill the tasks set by the Congress: the elimination of some diseases (diphtheria, typhoid fever, etc. and the sharp lowering of the child morbidity due to whooping cough, tuberculosis, rheumatism), and that they will achieve the maximal lowering of child mortality.

The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR have adopted a detailed decree "Concerning measures pertaining to the further improvement of the medical service and the protection of the health of the population of the USSR," in which is provided great aid of the local Party and soviet organs in extending the network, improving the outfitting and equipment of the medical institutions, improving the preparation of the cadres, improving the exploration of new agents for prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment.

A total of 1,800,000 rubles above the established control figures for the development of the national economy in 1959-1965 have been allocated for capital construction. The task of all medical workers is still to improve the quality and culture of the work of the therapeutic-prophylactic institutions. This will also be the best response to the new concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government concerning the health of the Soviet people.

END

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