

Post-Graduate Medical Journal.

LONDON, JANUARY 1, 1942.

Anglo-Soviet Medicine.

In the days of peace there was, rather regrettably, comparatively little interchange of medical ideas between this country and the Soviet Union. In trying to assess how this state of affairs came about we feel that there were probably faults on both sides. There was indeed considerable suspicion in this country directed perhaps towards totalitarian methods as a whole, and indeed this suspicion has had a considerable effect in retarding friendly relationships between nations. On the other hand, one must bear in mind that the so-called democratic methods used in this country were not regarded with a particularly friendly eye by the Soviet and because of this doubtless they were reluctant to disclose or discuss the methods they were using. If any good can come out of war, perhaps the better understanding that war brings is paramount.

In this number we are particularly fortunate in a foreword by M. MAISKY, the Russian Ambassador, and an introduction by Sir ALFRED WEBB-JOHNSON, who is not only President of the Royal College of Surgeons, but also President of the Anglo-Soviet Medical Committee. As M. MAISKY says, "an exchange of experiences . . . will prove of immense benefit to both our countries." And Sir ALFRED says much the same thing when he expresses the opinion that "by a free exchange of opinions and experiences we may each find some elements of good in the other's methods . . ."

A sincere effort is made in this number to present a fair and impartial view of Soviet activities in the medical world and to this end special contributors have been asked to write on their particular subjects. It will be noted that although the special circumstances and methods of direction entail detailed differences between the methods in the two countries, nevertheless there is an over-all resemblance between them, and this is perhaps particularly noticeable in dealing with subjects such as tuberculosis, where partial control by the State has already taken place in this country. Indeed, the experiences of the Emergency Medical Service administered by the Ministry of Health in this country would not differ widely from what we see expressed in some of the descriptions of the Soviet methods. Perhaps at this time the outstanding difference lies in the provision of polyclinics in Russia, and although to some extent these institutions correspond to the Out-patients' Departments of our hospitals, they vary very considerably, and it may be doubted whether polyclinics as such would be acceptable to the average Briton. Again, there is at this present time no hospital for industrial diseases in England, and perhaps the nearest thing in this country are the special industrial boards where diseases incurred in industry, such as silicosis, are assessed, but these boards can only recommend treatment and have no facilities for seeing it carried out.

Perhaps this brief mention of the differences in the two systems brings out in clearer relief their resemblances, and when the war is over we shall be able to apply to the benefit of the community the lessons learnt in this terrible time.

POST-GRADUATE NEWS.

M.R.C.P. Courses.

GENERAL MEDICINE : By Dr. J. B. Harman at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Ealing, on Saturdays at 10 a.m. on February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, 1942. (Limited to 6.) Fee, to Members of the Fellowship of Medicine, £2 2s. od., and to non-Members, £2 12s. 6d.

NEUROLOGY : By Dr. C. Worster-Drought and Dr. Norman Hulbert, at the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, March 3rd to 27th, 1942. Fee, to Members of the Fellowship of Medicine, £2 2s. od., and to non-Members, £2 12s. 6d.

CARDIOLOGY : By Dr. Courtenay Evans, at the Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, 1942. Fee, to Members of the Fellowship of Medicine, £1 11s. 6d., and to non-Members, £2 2s. od.

ANAESTHETICS. Department of Anaesthetics, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Professor R. R. Macintosh, D.M., F.R.C.S., D.A.

First Assistant : Freda B. Bannister, M.A., M.D., D.A.

Tuition is available for any period from one week upwards. No special lectures or demonstrations will be arranged, but as much teaching will be given as the ordinary hospital routine will permit. Only a limited number of post-graduates may attend at any one time.

Fee, to Members of the Fellowship of Medicine, £3 3s. for one week, and £2 2s. for each consecutive week after the first ; to non-Members, £3 13s. 6d. for one week, and £2 2s. for each consecutive week after the first.

Occasional Intensive Revision Courses each of two weeks' duration (fee, £10 10s.) will be given during the year, and while these Courses are in progress the above-mentioned tuition will be suspended.

Applications must be made to the Fellowship of Medicine, *not* to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. No application sent direct to Oxford will be dealt with there, but will be forwarded to the Fellowship of Medicine.

Copies of the Index for Volume XVII (1941) can now be obtained on application to the Fellowship of Medicine.