

(1) Resolution No. (1) be approved provided that the words "when satisfactory cleansing of the house, clothing and bedding by soap and water and exposure to sunlight and fresh air is carried out" are inserted before the words "terminal disinfection" in the original resolution.

(2) Resolution No. (2) be not approved.

(3) Resolution No. (3) be approved.

## Book Reviews

**Socialised Medicine in the Soviet Union.** By HENRY E. SIGERIST, M.D., William H. Welch Professor of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. London: Victor Gollancz. 1937. pp. 382. Price 15s. net.

Of the many books which deal solely, or partly, with medicine in the Soviet Union, this is undoubtedly one of the best. Mr. Sidney Webb, in his introduction, says that it must supersede nearly all the books produced by the British and American doctors who have visited Russia in the last twenty years. The author is one of the best known of medical historians, and he puts to good use his capacity for seeing facts against their historical and communal background.

Professor Sigerist's book begins with a chapter on the background of Soviet medicine in which he describes briefly the political events which gave rise to the present régime in Russia. He also describes in this chapter the main principles of medicine in Tsarist Russia. The following chapters are devoted to the principles of Soviet Medicine, central and local administrative organs, and medical workers and their training. Thereafter there are two chapters which deal with the public health movement in Russia, divided mainly into the protection of groups—for example, industrial medicine, food and housing, epidemic diseases, social diseases; and the protection of the individual, as exemplified by maternity and child welfare work, and by the Soviet system of medical supervision and treatment for the general population. The final chapter deals with the progress of science and research in Soviet Russia.

The statistics which are given make it evident that the health of Tsarist Russia must have been extremely bad. In 1913 the number of cases of typhus fever was 118,419, and in 1922, by which period the Soviet system had not yet got into swing, there were 1,467,955 cases, which is equivalent to a rate of 109.6 per 10,000 of the population. In later years these figures fell rapidly, and by 1929 the rate from this disease was only 2 per 10,000. Under the Soviet system there has been a considerable reduction in practically all other infectious diseases. But malaria evidently remains a stumbling block.

It is obviously impossible to deal satisfactorily in short space with a book of this type. Due emphasis is placed on the Soviet system of prevention and on the provision of a free medical service for all. The growth of hospitals, rest-homes and sanatoria, and the increase of physicians and hospital facilities are adequately dealt with. Critics of the Soviet system may be inclined to compare current figures with those for other more highly developed countries, but in the light of the historical data which

Professor Sigerist gives it should be evident that in most spheres much has been accomplished.

The book is well produced and is illustrated by a number of excellent photographs. It should be of great interest, not only to the public health administrator, but also to those who are engaged in social work for the welfare of the people.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Practice.** A Modern Conception. By R. C. WINGFIELD, B.A., M.B., B.CH., F.R.C.P. London: Edward Arnold & Co. 1937. pp. 122. Price 9s. net.

It may be said briefly that this small book by Dr. Wingfield consists essentially of two parts. One part is a description of the non-specialist methods of treatment which are employed in connection with the different types of pulmonary tuberculosis, and for certain individual symptoms or complications. The other part is a full discussion of the terminology adopted by Dr. Wingfield a few years ago to describe the sequence of events in the pathology of the disease, and to provide a clear conception of the inter-relation of these events.

It may also be said that the section of the book which deals with treatment is likely to be of great value to the practitioner, and of considerable interest to the tuberculosis physician. The descriptions of treatment are clear and concise, and the book contains many suggestions which, though not original, are not often considered of sufficient importance to warrant mention even in large text-books. For example, mention is made of the danger of the extraction of many teeth at one sitting, in patients who are suffering from certain types of pulmonary tuberculosis. Quite rightly Dr. Wingfield emphasises the fact that a patient can often suffer more harm indirectly through exposing a sputum bottle in public than he would by swallowing his sputum.

The whole conception of the book is based on Dr. Wingfield's thesis regarding the pathology of the disease. There is no doubt that his terminology is of assistance to the specialist in tuberculosis, in helping him to crystallise in his mind the various stages of the disease. The practitioner will also find Dr. Wingfield's chart of assistance in this direction. But we doubt whether the terminology which is suggested will for him really simplify the position. The day may come when Dr. Wingfield's terminology will be widely adopted. Until then it is doubtful whether it will be generally accepted by the general practitioner. The book is rather expensive, but in extenuation it should be said that it is beautifully produced, and that it contains numerous excellent radiographs.

MEMBERS of the Society will have read with gratification the announcement in the King's Birthday Honours List that Dr. James Fenton has been awarded the C.B.E. This honour will be associated with the fact that Dr. Fenton is President of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and Chairman of the Central Council for Health Education and will be recognised as a just recognition of his distinguished tenure of these two offices.