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## PEOPLE OF SOVIET RUSSIA

(Continued from page 7.)

thing which in the western countries has not been recognized at all.

Those are the main features of the Soviet Medical organization which enabled the Commissariat of Public Health to come out victoriously from a struggle in which the greatest authorities on all sides predicted nothing but defeat. Life put us through the severest examination, and the Soviet authorities passed it brilliantly.

The Commissariat itself is divided into separate departments and sections. In each department and section all proposals and measures are subjected to a preliminary discussion at meetings of the workers of the respective department or section. The Commissariat debates general questions in a collegium composed of managers of departments and their assistants. Thus all institutions of the Commissariat of Public Health observe the collegiate principle which holds good with all government institutions of Soviet Russia. On scientific questions the Commissariat hears the opinions of its scientific medical council composed of representatives of medical scientists elected by the highest scientific and educational institutions of the republic.

In conclusion, we wish to illustrate the results of the Commissariat by a few figures, bearing on its struggle against epidemics. The number of cases of spotted typhus in February, 1920, was 401,907, in September of the same year it was 16,487, and at the present time (\*) it is 47,288. During 1919 the entire number of cholera cases was 6,000. At the present time this disease has been almost eradicated. The bubonic plague was localized and prevented from spreading from the Urals and the Astrakhan province and Batoum to other parts of Soviet Russia. Likewise, the epidemics of typhoid fever, dysentery and smallpox have been halted.

In view of the extraordinary conditions under which this struggle had to be carried on, the success achieved cannot but demonstrate the correctness and the vitality of the principles on which the Soviet Medical work is based.

Editor's Note.—We do not know the exact date of writing. This report however, is the latest received by the S. R. M. R. Committee from the recently organized Department of Foreign Information of the Commissariat of Public Health.

We are specially requested by the S. R. M. R. Committee to publish the report in full.

## BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from page 5)

Germany versus Great Britain for the control of Europe. After Versailles it is the U. S. versus Great Britain for the control of the capitalist earth. Both nations must spend the next few years in active preparation for the conflict." p. 238

To Nearing it would appear that the significance of the adolescent imperialism of the U. S. is the likelihood of new and more horrible wars, of further repressions of popular liberties. To a Marxist, however, the significance is rather that indicated in the very title of Lenin's pamphlet "Imperialism, the Final Stage of Capitalism." In U. S. we see a country only a few years removed from the absorption of foreign capital, already completing the change from an object of imperialism to a new empire; and thereby indicating how capitalism violently works itself out to an impossibility.

Nearing's "American Empire" is a readable book, stored with data of the utmost interest, well worth the price to any slave who has it.

F. W. THOMPSON.

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## JAPAN AND SOVIET RUSSIA

"Novij Mir" reports: The Japanese are manifesting a strong interest in Soviet Russia. They have no diplomatic representatives in Russia and only in the Baltic states since December, 1920. The heads of this mission in Riga are Mijakava and Udas. They observe carefully how the population of the Baltic states regard Soviet Russia and collect information over Russia not only from anti-Russian sources but also from independent sources.

## RUSSIAN HELP FOR CHINA

Moscow, May 8th.—As a result of the outbreak of the plague in Charbin and Manchuria the Soviet government has made the proposal to the Chinese government to send sanitary and disinfectants to the area concerned.—"Rosta Wein."

## THE METRIC SYSTEM

"Trud reports that the Optical and Mechanical factory in Petrograd has begun the production of weights and scales of the metric system.

## Concessions to the European Co-operative.

Moscow, May 8th.—It has been proposed to the Council of Commissaries to grant concessions to groups of German and English workers for the preparation of agricultural products.—"Rosta Wein"

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