

of all the doctors who were complaining about the lack of equipment: "Exactly what is it that you are lacking?" The physicians did not come up with a single concrete request. It turned out that they themselves did not know what they required. It is no accident that last year in the Yakut ASSR as a whole, modern medical equipment worth practically 400,000 rubles remained in storage - and half of it remains untouched even today. More or less the same muddle exists with regard to medicines.

If the will were present, even the problem of severe colds among children could be solved. But not one of the fifteen children's pre-school institutions in Mirnyi, as it turned out, was of the sanatorium type, even though the capability exists. The Municipal Executive Council even passed a resolution in regard to this matter. One element is missing: anguish over the children's health and the will to show some initiative.

We can see the importance of this by glancing at the example of Noril'sk, where 17 of the 30 kindergartens and day nurseries are classified as "sanatoria." The health-improvement efforts that were carried out in these institutions not only reduced severe colds among children, they also reduced the need for parents to stay home from work in order to care for their children.

The poor level of knowledge displayed by the local doctors is, very likely, one of the most neglected illnesses in regional public health. The guilty parties in this situation are, first of all, the Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute and Yakutia University, who "produce" the local personnel. Recently, the local population's confidence in their physicians has fallen quite noticeably. Many people are now prepared to spend the time required to make a long journey simply in order to obtain qualified medical advice. Some 1288 people from