

genetic effects on bodies of water, it is necessary to dilute the effluent 1,000-fold, which is neither practical nor cost-efficient. As we are seeing, the new plants on the Angara are proving no better, and this economic approach can hardly be termed scientific. We must return to developments in the field of synthetic fibres."

Q. "But isn't there a lesson to be learned from the Baikal Pulp-and-Paper Mill?

A. "No, there's more to it than that. A large thermal-electric power station operating on Cheremkhovo sulfurous coal was built for the mill and the town. A vast quantity of sulfurous gas which is extremely harmful to the forest is emitted with the smoke when this coal is burned. Work is now being carried out to improve the gas scrubbing process at the Baikal Pulp-and-Paper Combine. This is a single example, but one which serves to emphasize the overall problem. Not only here, but in other regions too, the forest is being adversely affected by sulfurous gas emissions. They are mainly a result of the processing of sulphitic ores in ferrous metallurgy. For instance, large expanses of the taiga are dying as a result of the millions of tonnes of sulfurous anhydride which are emitted annually into the atmosphere around Noril'sk. The same thing is occurring wherever sulfurous fuel - both solid and liquid - is burned: at the thermal electric power stations of the USSR Ministry of Energy and the Ministry for the Timber Industry.

The problem of removing sulfurous anhydride from the gases in smoke emitted by thermal energy facilities has not been finally resolved, either in the Soviet Union or abroad. Soviet design work on