

Some 400 individuals from among the numerous quarry workers, among whom musculocutaneous problems take first place, are entered in doctors' registers, but, according to doctor A. Kuznetsova, only a few of them participate in group therapy. A more or less similar picture presents itself at the ore dressing plant.

We tried to find out from M. Romanenko, the Chief Physician at the Central Rayon Hospital, why the local doctors in essence disregard these alternative health "remedies." The Chief Physician said that they had not yet taken up these matters. Could that be why there is such a huge loss at enterprises of the Yakutalmaz Industrial Association due to illness - each working person is off work 14 days per year - despite the efforts of medical personnel. A similar situation can be found in many other cities of the northern region.

It would appear, however, that the new terms of economic management should force the managers of industrial enterprises to view public health in a new light. In the Khakass Autonomous Oblast, for instance, the state insurance fund saved more than a million rubles over the past two years as a result of a three per cent reduction in working time lost by illness, and the total economic savings amounted to three million rubles. Medicine was also a winner.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The sickness rate for dysentery and virus hepatitis is practically twice as high in the Yakut ASSR and in Krasnoyarsk Kray as the average for the Russian SFSR. In the last two and a half years alone, 17 outbreaks of acute intestinal infections have been recorded in Krasnoyarsk