

These comments eloquently and at first sight, fully describe the advantages of the former "by-product". However, physicians and workers at the Novo-Verkyaiskaya mill keep finding new uses for creped paper. In July 1988, toxicological testing of creped paper was completed at the All-Union Research and Experimental Institute of Medical Technology. In the conclusion of the report, which is signed by the Institute's director B.I. Leonov, it is recommended that base paper be used for the treatment of wounds, i.e. as a paper bandage. In the resuscitation ward of the Oncological Clinic of the Lithuanian SSR, it has been tested as an isolating cover for surgical patients, replacing the usual cotton sheets. It was found to be useful in the operating room as well.

"All of the doctors remain satisfied with our product," says Skaigiris, "but the nurses are not very pleased with it. They say that the paper is somewhat rough to the touch. So now I am trying to find a way of making softer creped paper, though the surgeons say it is fine the way it is. I think that if there is a chance to make our product even better and the work of doctors easier, we should definitely seize the opportunity."

We visited several hospitals and clinics where the paper produced by the Novo-Verkyaiskaya mill is being used. The Lithuanian doctors are particularly pleased with it, but not only because Lithuanians came up with the idea. Rather, it is because the mill supplies the acquisitions department of the Ministry of Health of the Lithuanian SSR with packaged sheets of creped paper of convenient sizes. The medical establishments of other republics receive this paper in rolls and spools, and so the nurses at the hospitals and clinics have to cut the rolls into sheets, first with knives and then with scissors.