

SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES

There's Plenty For Everyone To Do

The Sobriety Society of the Northern Marine Steamship Line, with the help of psychologist Dr. Sergei Yu. Sobolev, has done a sociological survey. The object was to clarify the attitude of various social groups towards the problems of drunkenness and alcoholism.

"Almost half", Dr. Sobolev tells us, "consider that there is currently no groundwork for a widespread battle with alcoholic habits. The prohibitions and restrictions which deflected the wave of mass drunkenness have, at the same time, given rise to indifference and unwillingness by wide sections of the population to willingly and actively participate in overcoming the disease. Oh well, the government will manage, you would hear them say."

Only 18 per cent of the participants in the survey agreed that restricting the sale of liquor was an effective method in the campaign for a sober lifestyle. The majority suggests that this has led to an even worse phenomenon: moonshine and bootlegging. Half of those surveyed said that the main reasons for drunkenness were badly organized recreation programmes and the poor social standards of the population. In answer to the question of what the main activity of the National Voluntary Society For Sobriety (NVSFS) should be, the vast majority said: its members should use persuasive methods, help in offering programmes to fill in leisure-time, and in creating an entertainment industry.

Having familiarized herself with the results of the survey, the chairman of the local chapter of NVSFS at the steamship line, Ms. Galina V.