

substantiation of the idea. Samples of the base paper were then sent to the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Disinfection and Sterilization. In July 1987, the chief physician of the Sanitation and Epidemiology Station of the Lithuanian SSR, A. Vaichyulis, received a letter signed by the Institute's Director, Prof. P.P. Lyarsky, which confirmed on the basis of test results that the types of paper sent could be used as packaging material for medical supplies. Despite the positive response, Skaishgiris' continued to look for new ways of using the by-product in the field of medicine.

When we met Skaishgiris' wife, herself a doctor at a gynecological clinic in Vilnius, she spoke of yet another use that had been found for the by-product.

"My husband came home overjoyed," she said. "The product being put out by his paper mill had been assessed as suitable for use in the field of medicine. Resourceful as all women are, I straightaway set to thinking how this product might be used in my line of work, gynecology..."

The answer to this question soon became evident as several of the country's hospitals began to test the product of the Novo-Verkyaiskaya mill with good results.

For example, during the testing by doctors of the Lithuanian Clinical Hospital, medical instruments were wrapped in the creped paper and subjected to sterilization in dry-heat sterilizers for two hours at a temperature of 180°C. When the instruments were unwrapped, the creped paper was used as a sterile towel.