

having but a poor idea of their needs and their problems. Such reproaches can only receive our support. Doctors and nurses in Yakutia, and in other areas of the Siberian north as well, are practically the last in line to receive residential housing and places for their children in pre-school institutions. Many have to wait for promised housing for ten or even fifteen years. Indeed, this, above all else, is the explanation for the high turnover of medical personnel in the region, and no changes can be expected until this problem can be solved.

HOW DO YOU FREEZE BACILLI?

I somehow had occasion to sojourn in Yakutia during the winter, in 60 degrees of frost. In one village I saw a strange sight: a pile of broken and rather dirty ice heaped up right next to a fence.

"We collect ice at the nearby lake and then we thaw it for water," they explained to me. "Other than that we can't get water anywhere."

As it turned out, this sight is a rather common one, and not just in Yakutia. I. Ismakaev, the Chief State Public Health Physician of the Chuckchee Autonomous Okrug - Chukotia - cited the following figures: more than one third of the inhabited areas under the jurisdiction of his service have no regular sources of water supply - in summer they utilize imported water, and in winter they thaw ice. When we consider further, that the majority of combines in the Chuckchee food industry are operating with obsolete equipment (half of the products that they turn out are contaminated with bacteria), then we can imagine just how complex is the epidemiologic situation in this region.