

Why is it, then, that the health of the indigenous northerners, who should have been the first to experience the beneficial influence of the changes, still leaves much to be desired?

Describing the present state of affairs in the area of "northern" public health care, N.T. Trubilin, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR⁴, noted:

"The economic and social development of the autonomous districts and other areas of residence of Northern peoples displays a lack of coordination and unity in the actions of many Ministries. Frequently, the specific character of natural and social conditions is not taken into account."

One can but agree with this statement. We were able to meet and talk with many people in the line-up to see the surgeon, a line-up whose giant proportions were also noticed by N.T. Trubilin, who visited the clinic on that same day. Many different reasons made these people come to the doctor. But generally it was their shaken health that led them to see the surgeon: pains in the small of the back, in the legs, constantly feeling unwell....

"People quite often come to us with such ailments," surgeon V. Bityukov told us. "As a rule, there is only one "diagnosis": physical over-exertion, over-cooling of the body."

The patients say the same thing.

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