

ly been more or less neglected from a medical and public health standpoint and where certain diseases and unhealthful conditions have flourished unchecked except by occasional emergency visits when some serious illness or epidemic has forced an overworked medical man or nurse to make a journey to these out of the way places.

Each of these two clinics will consist of motor trucks, motor ambulances and touring cars carrying medical specialists, dentists, a certain number of especially trained nurses and Red Cross representatives.

Continued from page 6.

the strings. At an early stage in the Bolshevik regime Lenin thought out the system of Commissars, and as soon as his power was sufficiently established these officials were appointed at breakneck speed by the hundred. Roughly speaking, the Commissars are the executive of the Soviets. From the Supreme Council at Moscow to the most insignificant local Soviet, each has its staff of Commissars, whose business it is to see that the dictates of the Soviets to which they are accredited are carried out. Commissars have become the most ubiquitous persons in Russia. If the Tsarist police flogged the people with whips, the Commissars employed scorpions. Probably the Commissars, more than any other Bolshevik instrument, are responsible for the terror, corruption and cruelty which from the beginning has characterised Bolshevik rule. It was at a congress of "People's Commissars," representing a number of government departments, that the people were divided into the four famous categories for food rationing. These categories were as follows: First, all manual workers and peasants; secondly, those engaged in clerical work and those who had not more than one employee; thirdly, employees who had more than one employee; fourthly, those who lived upon rent or interest. Outside the categories, for obvious reasons, were the men of the army and navy, the railway servants, and of course the Commissars themselves and their friends.

The Bolsheviks came into actual power in November, 1917. It might be mentioned here that their name means "members of the majority." According to M. Litvinoff the word was coined after the first split of the Russian Democratic Party in 1903, when the more moderate wing (Mensheviks—"minority") was left in a minority, and the revolutionary wing secured a majority of votes. Lenin proceeded actively with the formation of his Soviets in all parts of the country. The village was linked up with the district, the district with the province the province with the Supreme Authority in Moscow. When Lenin assumed power the election to the Constituent Assembly arranged by the earlier Provisional Government was in progress, and took place during the fortnight following the coup which placed the Bolsheviks in power. Under various pretexts Lenin refused to allow the Constituent Assembly to meet. The delegates, elected by universal adult suffrage, were ordered home, and authority transferred to the Soviet buttressed by the bayonets of the Red army. The Mensheviks, a

body somewhat similar in its views to our Independent Labour Party, the Social Revolutionaries, and the Co-operative Societies were hostile to the Soviets, mainly on the ground that these Councils were absolutely devoid of representative character. The trade unions as a whole do not incline to Bolshevism and Soviet government. Their chief complaint is that the elections for the various offices in a union are absolute unrealities. The workman has no voice in the selection of candidates for office. He is simply told that he is to vote for So-and-so. In this way all the union officials have become the creatures of the Bolsheviks, while the rank and file dare not call their souls their own. Any insubordination towards their tyrants incurs the risk of starvation. It is an easy matter to arrange that a recalcitrant workman be placed in a lower rationing category. To call the Soviet Government a dictatorship of the proletariat is, therefore, a perversion of facts. The dictators are not the proletariat, but a small minority who have managed to gather political authority into their own hands. It is thus in the trade unions, it is thus in every Soviet in the country. Menshevik newspapers protesting against this state of affairs were ruthlessly suppressed. The Red Guards are adept at suppression. Their methods are thorough.

It is essential that the worker of this country should know all this. The proletariat of Russia is ruled by a system more tyrannical than any known to history. Soviet Russia has quickly resorted to the conscription of labour, the bogey which was used to terrify British working classes during the period of compulsory military service. Lenin and Trotsky are insistent upon the need of "an iron military discipline on the Labour Front." At a recent congress of water transport men Lenin used these words: "Only a great struggle, a military discipline of iron, can conquer for us." Mr. Will Thorne, in *The New Age* reminds us that compulsion is inferior to inducement as a motive of production, and it was a high Soviet official, with an intimate knowledge of economic affairs in Russia, who declared that the process of destruction in his country cannot but continue in all branches of industry and labour, and for these reasons: "All stimulus to industrial work has been removed; no wage cover the cost of living; chronic underfeeding and disease; absence of personal safety; the appointment of unqualified persons to responsible administrative posts. This witness declares that industrial workers have been reduced to the position of serfs, have no voice in their concerns, and are subject to what is tantamount to prison discipline in the factories, to leave without permission is punishable as military desertion is punishable. It is this which extreme Socialists in this country either do not understand or blindly ignore. They do not tell those whom they would influence that Bolsheviks contemplate the increased stringency of their iron rule, the substitution of real personal dictatorship for the simulacrum of 'dictatorship by the proletariat.'" In Russia Lenin would be the dictator, the man whose bloodstained hands Mr. Lloyd George would not