

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE SOVIET UNION

A WIRELESS to *The New York Times* by Harold Denny, Moscow correspondent, states that preparations for the elections to the enlarged and "popularized" Academy of Sciences will take place at the end of January. It is said that there is every indication that membership will depend more than ever upon the candidate's practical value to Soviet economy and politics and upon his or her conformity to the Marxist ideology, as interpreted in Russia.

Mr. Denny writes in part as follows:

It is likely, indeed, that this august body, the outgrowth of the academy founded by Peter the Great and which even in the beginning barred scientists who were politically or ideologically undesirable, will now include Alexey Stakhanoff, coal miner credited with initiating the speed-up system that is named for him, and other new heroes of Soviet life. . . .

Stakhanoff and all four of the members of Ivan Papanin's North Pole ice floe expedition are among 800 nominees for the 150 vacancies among active and corresponding members to be elected. The Academy of Sciences now has eighty active and 230 corresponding members. By a recent decision of the government the number will be increased to 130 active and 330 corresponding members.

For several days the Soviet press has been publishing nominations, together with articles praising or blaming the aspirants. Among the nominees praised to-day in *Pravda*, Communist party organ, are Alexey Tolstoy, famous author; T. D. Lysenko, known now as the "Soviet Burbank" for his development of new species of useful plants, who has often been in conflict with classical geneticists, and Andrey Y. Vishinsky, Commissar of Justice of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Vishinsky is best known to the outside world as a prosecutor in treason cases, but he is the foremost authority on Soviet law, and his voluminous writings on that subject entitle him to consideration as a social scientist.

Other candidates advanced to-day include Evgeni Chudakoff, proposed by the Stalin Military Academy of Motorization and Mechanization of the Red Army. He is credited in *Izvestia*, government organ, with creating harmonious scientific discipline upon which automobile building and engineering are based. Another is Valentin Kovalenkoff, who is acclaimed for his researches and inventions for improving telegraphic and wireless communication.

Another is N. V. Tsitsin, one-time political commissar in the Red Guard during the civil war. He is now developing improved types of agricultural plants. According to *Pravda*, he is approved by Mr. Stalin, who told him: "Bold experimenter, we shall support you."

On the other hand, *Pravda* has lent its authoritative columns to a long article signed by ten scientists, headed by Academician A. N. Back, biologist, opposing two candi-

dates as "pseudo-scientists" who have no place in the academy. They are Professors L. S. Berg and N. K. Koltsoff, both biologists. They are accused of promulgating views more in keeping with Fascism than Marxism.

Professor Berg, according to *Pravda*, published a book in 1922 entitled, "Monogenesis, or Evolution on the Basis of Conformity to Established Law," which evoked no praise here but was hailed by bourgeois biologists and translated into English. It is stigmatized to-day as an anti-Darwin treatise.

Professor Koltsoff is denounced as a eugenicist. Eugenics as a scheme for improving the human race is, in Soviet eyes, a reactionary and imperialist teaching directed against the toilers but adopted by Fascists as a basis for racial theories.

JEWISH PHYSICIANS IN GERMANY

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that supplementary data can now be added to the recent reports appearing on the purge of Jewish physicians. On September 24 Professor Dr. Klare, "commissioner of the specialized medical press," issued the following statement:

In view of the fact that the German medical profession is now freed of all members of an alien race, the writings of Jewish authors ought not to appear in our German medical journals. At the same time I trust that our German doctors will subscribe only to those foreign journals which are published by Aryan organizations and edited by Aryan physicians. In this connection I should like to call attention to the emigration of the journal *Ars Medici*, together with its Jewish editor and publisher, Dr. Max Ostermann, from Vienna to Switzerland. From its new home this publication continues to solicit the subscriptions of German doctors, but I feel sure that our men will refuse to have anything to do with the Jewish publisher of *Ars Medici*.

This periodical had circulated widely among practitioners within the German Reich. The correspondent continues:

With respect to Jews in the insurance panel practice, it has been newly decreed that those Jews who have been allowed to continue in medical practice (under the restrictions described in previous letters) may now take part in panel practice among insured Jews and their families; a special permit is needed for panel practice.

That, actually, a definite lack of physicians has resulted from the suppression, since October 1, of Jewish doctors is evidenced by the recent establishment of "policlinic treatment centers" at seventeen municipal clinics of Berlin. These centers are designed for the exclusive use of members of sickness insurance clubs and patients referred by the social service agencies; in other words, just those groups which are usually treated by the panel practitioners. It was expressly stated that these auxiliary centers were designed to lighten the load of the panel doc-