

ing, microbiological synthesis and the production of physiologically active substances. The creation of yet another major sector of the national economy—biotechnology—is on the agenda. Microbiological synthetic factories today turn out 1.2 million tonnes of fodder protein. It is grown on the so called alkanes of oil and, partly, pulp hydrolysates. But fodder protein can also be obtained from microscopic seaweed and protozoa.

Genetic engineering, which is just a little over ten years old, has produced interferon and insulin, a number of hormones and valuable physiologically active substances. Soviet biotechnologists have learnt to produce the semi-synthetic antibiotics, most of amino acids, and many ferments. All these provide a solid groundwork for the continued advance in medicine.

Chemists are focussing on the problems of integrated mineral processing and producing new types of material with prescribed properties, metal alloys, silicates and other inorganic substances, various plastics and polymers. More research is under way on fine organic synthesis, basic for the production of medicines, pesticides and household chemicals.

Environmental Protection. The Soviet Union is also interested in the protection and rational exploitation of natural resources. Advanced sewageless systems of

water management are also being developed. The construction of installations to trap industrial gas and render it harmless will make it possible to trap up to 78% of harmful substances in 1985.

Integrated Target Programmes. The drafting and implementation of integrated target-oriented programmes is a feature of technological advance in the Soviet Union. This is going on parallel with a search for effective economic expedients and method of organisation to ensure that research findings are put into practice within the shortest possible time.

Social Aspects. National economic growth and effective fusion of the advances of the scientific and technological revolution with the advantages of the socialist organisation of society have led to the Soviet national wealth expanding 2.3-fold in the last 15 years. The average wages and salaries have increased by half as much again and the social fund has more than doubled during this period.

The school system in the USSR is being reshaped. In a matter of years, it will become as common for a school child to use the computer as read and write. The Academy of Sciences of the USSR has established an Informatics, Computer Technology and Automation Division and has also set up a number of research institutes for fundamental research in this field.

NEWS

SHOULD SCIENTISTS' REPRINTS BE ARCHIVED?

... "The question centers not on whether or not scientific literature should be saved. Everyone agrees that it should be. The question is instead in what form should it be saved, who should save it, and where should it be stored? Scientists have specifically recommended that subject reprint collections be accessioned by archivists [keepers of historical records and documents]. There are three main options for dealing with printed matter in collections. They may be discarded, separated, or retained. If a series of reprints is not unique; has little research value, does not reflect the work, research interests, or access to knowledge of its creator; or does not significantly document a discipline, the archivist may decide to discard the entire

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[(Deborah Cozort Day (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA) in *American Archivist* 48(1):56-63, Winter 85 [pd 2601j]. Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 26, July 1, 1985, p. 9. (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA)]
