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ON THE PROSPECTIVE PUBLISHING PLAN

FOR SURGICAL LITERATURE

- USSR -

by G. Ye. Ostroverkhov and V. M. Sergeyev

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FOREWORD

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ON THE PROSPECTIVE PUBLISHING PLAN
FOR SURGICAL LITERATURE

- USSR -

Following is a translation of an article by G. Ye. Ostroverkhov and V. M. Sergeev (State Medical Publishing House for Medical Literature, V. I. Mayevskiy, director) in the Russian-language periodical Khirurgiya (Surgery), Moscow, Vol. XXXV, No. 9, September 1959, pages 133-138.

The historic decisions of the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union defined the new expansion in research as one of the most important conditions for further development in building a Communist society in our country. In this connection there has been an expansion of the role of Soviet medicine, called upon to preserve in every way the health of the multitudinous army of builders of the Communist society and to strive for their longevity.

The State Publishing House for Medical Literature is faced with corresponding objectives in currently publicizing achievements in the field of medicine and in bringing them into public health practice as soon as possible. These objectives can be realized only if there is real cooperation between the publishing house and research and practicing physicians in producing good books which are needed by a broad circle of those in the field of medicine.

The plan presented by the State Publishing House for Medical Literature (Medgiz) for 1959-1965 proposes a substantial increase in the volume of publication of medical literature in the different specialties; for instance, the publication of surgical and oncological literature should triple from 1958 to 1965 (1390 quires as against 416).

The Soviet Union has successfully solved a number of cardinal problems in modern surgery: control of shock; treatment of terminal states; transfusion of blood and blood substitutes; surgical treatment of bone fractures, diseases of the stomach, biliary tract, esophagus, lungs and heart; plastic surgery in different areas of the human body, etc. The works of Soviet scientists on these problems enjoy general recognition and popularity.

The positive experience of Russian surgical schools, and recent achievements in special diagnosis and medical technics have made it possible to considerably expand the range of surgical operations.

Modern surgery has taken into its orbit a very extensive range of problems, whose solution has the participation not only of surgeons but representatives of other specialties - therapists, physiologists,

biologists, physicists, engineers, etc. For this reason surgical literature must reflect borderline problems which are being worked on by various specialists.

Medgiz in its work has given special attention to the quality of the books published, every year planning to publish manuscripts on the most current problems in surgery. Nevertheless a number of topics have not yet been sufficiently elucidated in print and for this reason we need broader and more active participation of authors in the work of the publishing house.

In the period 1959-1965 Medgiz is publishing 133 books on various problems in surgery, orthopedics and traumatology. The editorial office of surgical literature at Medgiz has up to 60 manuscripts in different stages of processing at one time, manuscripts submitted as personal proposals or ordered by the publishing house. In addition, in response to proposals and orders of the publishing house, the editorial office expects to have soon more than 70 works on various problems in surgery and related fields, a part of which will be accepted for publication. Approximately 20 of these 70 monographs will come from distant medical institutions.

In passing through the filter of review and editing, some of these submitted works are rejected as unacceptable for publication. For instance, from 1957 through May 1958 approximately 100 works were rejected for unsatisfactory treatment of the topic. Many monographs are given constructive revision in the editorial office and considerably reduced or expanded, and a large part of the well-prepared works appear almost without editorial correction (monographs by Ye. N. Meshalkin and V. P. Smol'nikova, A. Ya. Pytel', A. Ya. Samoylov and L. I. Dunayevskiy, G. I. Gol'din, and others).

Within the limits of the present article it is impossible to analyze in detail all surgical literature published during this time [See note]; however, we believe it necessary to indicate the most noteworthy books published during the past 2 years. If we consider the greatly increasing authority of surgical methods in treating certain diseases of the cardiovascular system, we find very valuable the publication, in 1958, of the first Russian manual written by a group of authors under the editorship of A. N. Bakulev, which deals with the surgical treatment of mitral stenosis from all angles. Of obvious theoretical and practical interest are monographs by A. I. Savitskiy (1957), N. M. Amosov (1957), F. G. Uglov (1958) and V. I. Struchkov (1958), which gave a detailed analysis of problems in the diagnosis, clinical aspects and surgical treatment of various pulmonary diseases (cancer, tuberculosis, chronic suppuration). The following studies are worthy of positive evaluation: Ye. L. Berezov, Rasshirennyye i kombinirovannyye rezektsii zheludka pri rake [Extended and combined gastric resections in cancer] (1957); A. T. Lidskiy Vazhneyshiy zabolevaniye perifericheskikh sosudov [More important diseases of the peripheral vessels], I. M. Raykhman Kostnyye sarkomy konechnostey [Osteosarcomas of the extremities] (1959); N. N. Petrov Rukovodstvo po obshchey onkologii [Handbook of general oncology] (1958), and others. We are certain that the manuals first

published in 1959 by V. S. Levit and others Diagnostika khirurgicheskikh zabolevaniy /Diagnosis of surgical diseases/, and by V. I. Kolesov and others Ostryy appenditsit /Acute appendicitis/, will arouse great interest and gain recognition among a wide circle of practicing surgeons; these publications, giving a general analysis of the extensive personal experience of the authors, will fill a gap in surgical literature on these problems. (Note: This analysis has been partially given by N. A. Vinogradov and V. M. Sergeyev in an article "Courses of development of surgical literature", Khirurgiya, 1957, No. 9.)

In accordance with the general plan for the development of anesthesiological service in the Soviet Union we find most appropos for the needs of public health practice the manuals published in 1959, Sovremennyy ingalyatsionnyy narkoz /Modern inhalation anesthesia/ by Ye. N. Meshalkin and V. P. Smol'nikov, and Obshcheye obsebolivaniye v khirurgii /General anesthesia in surgery/ by I. S. Zhorov (publication delayed for technical reasons), in which the practical physician will be able to draw on modern data on various aspects of this problem.

Publications of recent years have also elucidated problems in the special surgical branches (urology, orthopedics and traumatology, neurosurgery, etc.). Among them we must mention especially: the two-volume manual by P. G. Kornev Klinika i lecheniye kostno-sustavnogo tuberkuleza /Clinical aspects and treatment of osteoarticular tuberculosis/ (1955-1959); Ortopediya /Orthopedics/ (1957) by V. D. Chaklin; Operativnaya nevrokhirurgiya /Operative neurosurgery/ (1959) by V. M. Ugryumov and others, Khirurgiya povrezhdeniy i raneniy nervnoy sistemy /Surgery in wounds and injuries of the nervous system/ (1959) edited by V. N. Shamov, Oftalmologicheskiye simptomy opukholey mozga /Ophthalmological symptoms of brain tumors/ (1959) edited by A. Ya. Samoylov; as well as the monographs Zlokachestvennyye opukholi nosa, okolonosnykh pazukh i glotki /Malignant tumors of the nose, paranasal sinuses and pharynx/ (1957) by D. I. Zinont; Adenoma predstatel'noy zhelezy /Adenoma of the prostate gland/ (1959) by L. I. Dunayevskiy, Khirurgicheskoye lecheniye obturatsionnoy zheltukhi /Surgery for obstructive jaundice/ (1959) by Ye V. Smirnov and others.

Along with Moscow and Leningrad specialists, the editorial office for surgical literature brings in as authors research and practicing personnel from outlying areas. For instance, of the 49 authors whose books will appear in 1959, 11 are on the staff of research or therapeutic institutions of Sverdlovsk, Kiev, Vilnius, Kazan, Ryazan, Chelyabinsk, Ordzhonikidze and other cities; of the 36 authors whose books will be published in 1960, 11 are also employed in outlying areas (Archangel, Tomsk, Khabarovsk, Dnepropetrovsk and other cities). However we must point out, unfortunately, that the major specialists working in outlying areas rarely present their works for publication.

Among the authors of books being published in 1959 and marked for publication in 1960, 12 are active members and corresponding members of the Soviet Academy of Medicine, 44 are professors or hold doctoral degrees, 38 are docents and candidates of medicine.

Until recently, because of limited printing facilities, the time during which books were in process was comparatively long (more than a year) and for this reason the material presented by the authors had in some cases become obsolete and required sometimes substantial corrections during proof reading. To accelerate the publication of current books, the editorial office has decided for a number of manuscripts to dispense with a secondary proofreading and assign them for printing after only the first reading. Of course this is possible only when there has been a completely finished job on the manuscript on the part of the author and the editor, and the rejection of any substantial changes or additions in proof reading. For instance, the following books were sent to the print shop directly from the first reading: Disgormonal'nyye zabolevaniya i rak molochnoy zhelezy /Dyshormonal diseases and cancer of the breast/ by M. M. Averbakh, Khirurgicheskoye lecheniye mitralnykh stenozov /Surgical treatment of mitral stenosis/ by A. N. Bakulev; Rasshirennyye i kombinirovannyye rezektski zheludka pri rake /Extended and combined resections of the stomach in cancer/ by Ye. L. Berezov, Lecheniye ushchemlennykh gryzh /Treatment of strangulated hernias/ by S. V. Lobachev and O. I. Vinogradov; Sbornik instruktsiy po zagotovke i perelivaniye krovi /Compendium of instructions on blood collection and transfusion/ edited by A. A. Bagdasarov, Rak legkovo /Lung cancer/ by A. I. Savitskiy and others.

We intend in the future to continue this practice and achieve a still more rapid passage of books through the editorial offices and the printing shops. For instance, of the books now in process, the following will be approved and assigned in part for printing directly from the first reading: Khirurgiya sredosteniya /Surgery of the mediastinum/ by B. V. Petrovskiy, Dizontogeneticheskiye ogranicheniya sredosteniya i legkikh /Dysontogenetic formations of the mediastinum and lungs/, by V. R. Braytsev; Topograficheskaya i klinicheskaya anatomiya /Topographic and clinical anatomy/ by B. V. Ognev and V. Kh. Frauchi; Lokhanochno-pochechnyye refluksy i ikh klinicheskoye znacheniye /Renopelvic refluxes and their clinical importance/ by A. Ya. Pytel' and others.

In the near future the publishing house thinks it necessary to shift to making dummy copies of manuscripts prepared for composing, i.e. to give the printing house original dummy copies of books which will make it possible in a number of cases to eliminate publishing proofreading entirely and greatly reduce (by 2-3 months) the time a book is in processing. Some more carefully prepared monographs on surgery planned for publication in 1960-1961 will come out in this way. But this is possible only with very careful working over of the manuscript by the authors.

A great role in increasing the quality of literature published and in active publicity for scientific works will be assigned to the special journals and the newspaper Meditinskiy rabotnik /Medical worker/. However their sections on "Reviews and bibliography" do not yet pay enough attention to these important problems in publishing.

Of the 117 surgical works published in 1956-1958 and the first half of 1959, the periodical press carried reviews on only 37 (50 reviews). We should point out that in the majority of cases the reviews of the published books were quite late and did not always give a profound analysis. Of the 50 published reviews only 6 contain the elements of a real critique. In this connection attention is drawn to a useful type of initiative on the part of the Meditsinskiy rabotnik [Cf. No. 24 (7726), March 24, 1959] which responded promptly and responsibly to the appearance of Kratkoye prakticheskoye rukovodstvo po obezbolivaniyu [Brief practical manual on anesthesia] by Yu. V. Beringer and A. A. Zykov (Lenmedgiz, 1959).

We consider valuable the review practice of the Vestnik [Herald] Reports of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (No. 4, 1959) based on material in the Great Medical Encyclopedia. The concrete analysis of the numerical errors permitted by individual authors and precise suggestion for their elimination will undoubtedly have a positive effect on further work.

The editorial office of surgical literature has drawn up a publishing plan for 1960 and a prospective plan for editing and publishing up to 1965. In this work the editorial office was guided by the prospective plan of the Academy of Science of the USSR on the development of medicine in the period 1959-1965 based on recommendations of research and therapeutic institutions in accordance with our demands on them as well as on the proposals submitted by authors on their own initiative. In drawing up the plan particular attention was given to:

- a) the publication of books on the most prominent but still insufficiently treated problems in modern surgery in which the topics will meet the current requirements of practicing surgeons;
- b) the creation for surgeons of comprehensive manuals compiled primarily by groups of authors and giving an all-round elucidation of special problems in surgery;
- c) the publication of monographs publicizing modern practices and recent achievements in theoretical and practical solutions of modern problems in surgery and allied areas. To reach these established objectives the editorial office maintains constant contact with the administrations of surgical societies (All-Union and the Moscow Society), anesthesiological and urological societies, and regularly has recourse to certain research and therapeutic institutions and individual authorities with requests to write monographs and manuals on the current topic plan which we have recommended. For instance, as a result of positive responses the editorial office has found it possible to sign contracts for writing basic manuals with: Professor V. I. Struchkov and personnel in his department on suppurative surgery; Professor A. P. Frumkin on clinical operative urology; D. A. Arapov, corresponding member of the Academy of Medicine, and K. S. Simonian, Candidate of Medicine on emergency surgery. Contracts have also been signed for original monographs: on surgery of the esophagus and cardia by A. G. Savin, corresponding member of the Academy of Medicine; on surgery in profuse gastric hemorrhage by Professor B. S. Romanov; on renopelvic reflexes by Professor A. Ya Pytel and others. In

addition, the editorial office has on file a number of valuable proposals from certain institutes of the Academy of Medicine of the USSR and individual authors. Of particular interest are the following Russian manuals slated for publication: Topograficheskaya i klinicheskaya anatomiya /Topographic and clinical anatomy/ by E. V. Ognev and V. Kh. Frauchi (for 1960), and Chastnaya khirurgiya /Special surgery/ in three volumes, edited by V. S. Levit and A. A. Vishnevskiy (for 1961-1962).

The prime objectives of the Soviet public health system in the current Seven-Year Plan are problems in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, malignant neoplasms, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, control of sequelae of injuries, etc. The April, 1959 session of the General Assembly of the Academy of Medicine of the USSR defined a number of concrete objectives in the field of medicine, both in the field of theoretical research and in the field of public health practice, which derive from the decisions of the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regarding the rapid development of all branches of science for the benefit of the Soviet people. In the light of these decisions of the session of the Soviet Academy of Medicine on the concentration of the efforts of scientists on working out new trends in modern medicine and the objectives of the public health system, we will take the liberty to draw our readers' attention to the more current problems in modern surgery which must be treated from all angles and given an up-to-date elucidation in the publications of Medgiz under the current Seven-Year Plan.

Along with the manifest importance of studying various problems in the prevention of cardiovascular diseases and its thorough and timely diagnosis, the problem of a further clinical study and of finding the most effective methods for treating diseases of the heart and blood vessels is still urgent. Positive results in the surgical treatment of a number of acquired and congenital defects of the heart and major vessels has greatly extended the limits of experimental and clinical research in this direction by presenting surgeons and other specialists with a number of acute new problems, both in the realm of the pathophysiology of the diseases and in their early diagnosis, clinical treatment and therapy. At present immediate solution is required for the most important problems in this line: surgical treatment of coronary insufficiency, the development of a universal classification of acquired valvular defects of the heart, production of precise indications for surgery, and the development of improved methods for surgical treatment in this area of pathology. In this connection considerable practical interest attaches to the production of individual monographs and solid manuals on the clinical and functional diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases, clinical research devoted to studying the various nosological forms, and practical manuals on the surgical treatment of these diseases and on the use of modern diagnostic and therapeutic apparatus, including apparatus for artificial extracorporeal blood circulation. In this

plan we find valuable the suggestion of the Institute of Thoracic Surgery of the Soviet Academy of Medicine on the compilation in 1961 of a basic Soviet manual on operative surgery of the organs of the chest by a group of authors under the editorship of A. N. Bakulev and A. A. Busalov, and the publication of the monograph Rentgenologich-eskiye issledovaniya pri vrozhdennykh porokakh /X-ray examination of congenital defects/ by M. A. Ivanitskaya and V. S. Savel'ev.

Despite a recent increase in the number of publications on pulmonary surgery, all urgent special problems in this field have not yet been treated. For instance, there is now no question of the necessity for publishing a practical manual for surgeons containing a systematic treatment of all practices in the modern diagnosis of diseases of the lungs and surgical therapeutic technics employed; a manual, well-illustrated with original diagrams and photographs, on Rezektsiya legkikh /Pulmonary resection/ by I. S. Kolesnikov is slated for 1960 publication. At present we have particularly acute problems in radical surgery in diseases of the pleura and early and conservative operations on the lungs (particularly in suppurative processes and certain forms of tuberculosis), aiming at sparing the unaffected pulmonary tissue as much as possible.

In the light of reaching national objectives in the prevention and control of tuberculosis, Soviet phthisic surgeons are faced with the job of further developing new and in improving current methods for the surgical treatment of cavitary forms of tuberculosis. Positive achievements of the Institute of Tuberculosis of the Soviet Academy of Medicine (Professor L. K. Bogush) point up the very real promise of these methods as related to the total cure of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. In this connection, there is no disputing the necessity for publishing a basic manual and monographs on special aspects of this problem; from 1957 to the present, however, the editorial office has received only suggestions from leading phthisic surgeons but has not yet received any corresponding manuscripts.

Recently surgical literature has been enriched by a number of solid manuals and serious studies on the surgery of the thoracic organs; nevertheless, problems in the timely diagnosis and surgical treatment of mediastinal tumors have not yet been sufficiently clarified. In 1959 the editorial office prepared for publication a monograph by V. R. Braytsev O dizontogeneticheskikh obrazovaniyakh sredosteniya i legkikh /Dysontogenetic formations of the mediastinum and lungs/, and a manual by B. V. Petrovskiy on Khirurgiya sredosteniya /Surgery of the mediastinum/ in which we have conclusions from the wide experience of the authors up to the level of current knowledge.

Achievements in modern physics, chemistry (including plastics chemistry) and technical progress in medicine have opened new prospects for the development of reconstructive and plastic surgery. We need further research on processes in restoring lost functions and in seeking modern methods for stimulating the regenerative processes. We need to expand the exchange of information on the use of plastics in reconstructive surgery of the skeleton, the internal organs and

the major blood vessels, and on solving the problem of tissue preservation and plastic surgery with biological transplants. For this reason the publication of individual monographs and manuals reflecting theoretical and practical achievements in this field is very urgent. The editorial office has in its files a very limited number of proposals on these problems; A. D. Khristich's monograph on Peresadka sosudov konechnostey v eksperimente /Experimental transplantation of vessels of the extremities/ will be published in 1960.

The Soviet Academy of Medicine is directing considerable attention toward intensifying research on clinical and experimental oncology in the Seven-Year Plan. The editorial office, unfortunately, must state that in the previous years the publication of literature on this problem has been manifestly insufficient. Taking this deficit into consideration, the editorial office plans in 1959-1960 to publish 17 titles on various problems in experimental and clinical oncology (A. P. Shanin, V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Mel'nikov, A. A. Shelagurov, A. D. Timofeyevskiy and others). In accordance with the requests of Medgiz, the editorial office has now received approximately 40 proposals from research institutes and individual authors on 1961-1962 publishing, in monographs and manuals on various problems in theoretical and clinical oncology. Among them particular attention is drawn to the proposed Khimioterapiya opukholevykh zabolevaniy /Chemical therapy in neoplastic diseases/ by L. F. Larionov; to proposals by G. A. Zhdanov, A. P. Belikov and others on an analysis of the pharmacological and biological effect of ankylosing preparations; Protivopukholevyye antibiotiki /Antitumor antibiotics/ by M. M. Mayevskiy and others, the proposal of N. N. Blokhin, M. V. Volkov, A. I. Rakov and others on the surgical treatment of tumor patients with varying localizations of tumors; and L. M. Shabad, A. I. Serebrov and V. V. Gorodilova on original research in the field of experimental oncology, etc.

We also need the publication of monographs on the early diagnosis of malignant neoplasms, basic manuals on radiation therapy, etc. which the editorial office now lacks.

Particular attention is currently given to extensive publicity for recent achievements in and the publication of manuals on the surgical treatment of various pediatric diseases. The editorial office has with satisfaction included in the 1960 publishing plan the following solid manuals: Operativnaya khirurgiya detskogo vozrasta /Pediatric surgery/ by Ye. M. Margorin and others, the monograph Vrozhdennyy pilorostenoz u grudnykh detey /Congenital pyloric stenosis in infants/ by N. A. Rozanova; Invaginatsiya kishok v detskom vozraste /Intestinal invagination in children/ by Kh. I. Fel'dman; Diafragmal'nyye gryzhi u detey /Diaphragmatic hernias in children/ by S. Ya. Doletskiy and others. However, these books meet the obligations of pediatric surgeons only partially.

In connection with the extensive adoption of modern apparatus, instruments and equipment in the therapeutic and diagnostic practice

of surgical institutions, the necessity has arisen to publish special manuals and monographs for physicians and subprofessional medical personnel on new medical apparatus and instruments. Guided by the corresponding decree of the Soviet Ministry of Health, Medgiz plans to publish in 1960 P. O. Androsov's monograph Mekhanicheskii shov v sosudistoy khirurgii /Mechanical suturing in vascular surgery/ and V. A. Mastryukov and R. I. Savachenko's Rukovodstvo po apparature dlya ingalyatsionnogo narkoza /Manual on apparatus for inhalation anesthesia/.

Of continuing importance in the plan for effectively providing traumatological service for the public is the publication of monographic literature on problems in modern diagnosis and new methods for treating various injuries. Up to now, the press has not adequately reflected progressive practices of many groups in organizing the prevention and treatment of work-connected accidents in industry and agriculture, problems in pediatric traumatism, the use of alloplastic materials in traumatology, orthopedics, etc. Considering the limited amount of material on these problems, Medgiz has included in plans for 1959-1961 the publication of the following: a practical manual edited by V. N. Shamov on Khirurgiya povrezhdeniy i raneniy nervnoy sistemy /Surgery in wounds and injuries of the nervous system/ (1959); G. V. Golovin's monograph Sposoby uskoreniya zashivleniya perelomov kostey /Means for accelerating the healing of bone fractures/ (1959); T. S. Grigor'yeva's Lecheniye proizvodstvennykh povrezhdeniy konechnostey /Treatment of industrial injuries of the extremities/ (1960); A. G. Pugachev's O lechenii povrezhdeniy sukhozhiy kisti u detey /Treating injuries of the tendons of the hand in children/ (1960); D. K. Yazykov's Differentsial'naya diagnostika v klinike travmatologii i ortopedii /Differential diagnosis in the traumatological and orthopedic clinic/ (1961); Ya. G. Dubrov's Rukovodstvo po lecheniyu perelomov trubchatykh kostey metodom vnutrikosnoy fiksatsii /Manual on treating fractures of the long bones by intramedullar fixation/ (1961); Ya. L. Tsiv'yan's Vnutrisustavnoye protezirovaniye tazobedrennogo sustava /Intra-articular prosthesis of the hip joint/ (1961), and others.

In the literature on special surgical branches we must mention the wholly inadequate number of publications on neurosurgery. Medgiz is interested in obtaining suggestions as to the publication of books on problems in modern methods of special diagnosis and the surgical treatment of wounds and other diseases of the nervous system, and in seeking effective means to restore functions in these patients. The special attention of neurosurgeons and orthopedics, as well as specialists in infectious diseases and others, must be attracted to the most rapid publicity for research connected with treating problems in reconstructive operations in persons recovering from poliomyelitis and with problems of their occupational rehabilitation.

No less sharply felt is the necessity for literature on practical urology. The publication of G. I. Gol'din's Tsistity /Cystitis/ and others is projected for 1960. At present, however, ever-increasing importance is being attached to the problem of pyeloneuritis from the surgical point of view, problems in reconstructive urology, "artificial kidneys", etc.

Soviet anesthesiologists are faced with serious problems in research on the physiological mechanism of anesthesia, problems in hypothermia, the creation of new anesthetics, modern apparatus, etc., as well as practical manuals, handbooks and monographs on special problems in anesthesiology.

Along with the preparation of manuals and monographs on various current problems in surgery the editorial office thinks it practical and timely to renew the publication of clinical lectures on surgery. The positive results of such publications in the past (clinical lectures by S. P. Fedorov, V. A. Oppel' and other major pediatric surgeons) give reason to believe that this form of transmitting a lot of information to a wide circle of readers is completely justified. In 1960 we will publish lectures on thoracic surgery by S. L. Libov.

A particular spot in the work of Medgiz is occupied by the publication of multivolume reference books on a number of clinical and theoretical disciplines, each of which is considered as an original basic Soviet manual for practicing physicians in the respective specialties. For instance, in the 12-volume reference work on surgery made up of 600 quires (editor in chief, B. V. Petrovskiy, active member of the Soviet Academy of Medicine) there will be a systematic and more complete analysis of problems in modern surgery which should satisfy the requirements of research and teaching in a given specialty and serve as an exhaustive source for teachers, researchers and practicing surgeons.

In the period 1959-1962 Medgiz aims at publishing 12 volumes of a reference work on surgery, including 4 volumes of a total of 200 quires in 1960.

In the immediate future there will also be an expansion of the publication of leading surgical literature which reveals positive results and new achievements in foreign surgery in various realms of modern surgery. For instance in 1959-1960 the plan calls for the publication of the following: G. Popov's monograph K vyboru obezvolivaniya pri rezektsii legkikh /Choice of anesthesia in pulmonary resection/ (translated from the Bulgarian), and S. Veshin's Rentgenologicheskaya simptomatika kostnykh proyavleniy opukholey kostnogo mozga /Radiographic symptomatology of osseous manifestations of tumors of the marrow/ (translated from the Czech), containing considerable experience of the authors in the problems treated; a collection of papers edited by J. G. Allen on problems in extracorporeal blood circulation (translated from the English) reflecting the current status of this problem, and G. Natov and M. Saydov's monograph Serdechno-sosudisty kollaps v operatsionnoy /Cardiovascular collapse in the operating room/ which gives a general analysis of clinical observations and theoretical studies by the authors in this area.

By writing in the pages of Khirurgiya, we count on attracting the attention of readers to the work of the Medical Publishing House for purposes of improving the output of surgical literature. Any possible discussion of the problems treated and new proposals will render a real service to the publishing house in improving extensive and timely publicity for recent achievements in medicine and public health practice in the field of surgery.