

NEW TARGETS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE

The recently published decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, "Measures for the further improvement of the medical service and the care of the health of the population of the USSR" deals comprehensively with all the most important problems of the development of public health and medicine in the Soviet Union. The considerable increase in the funds assigned to the requirements of public health (over and above the control figures of the development of the national economy of the USSR in 1959-1965, a supplementary sum of 1800 million rubles has been allocated by decree for 1961-1965), provides the material basis for the rapid and general development of public health, including the further growth of medical science.

The decree of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR represents the concrete realization of the decision of the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to the effect that: "In the present stage of the formation of a communist society, science is becoming ever more important." The importance of science is concretely stated and repeatedly emphasized in the decree, especially with regard to the fulfillment of the enormous tasks confronting Soviet medicine. As the decree emphasizes, the perfect solution of practical problems necessitates that attention be concentrated on "the fundamental problems of the theory of medicine (physiology, biochemistry, cytology, virology, and immunology)." The attention paid by the party and the government to the theory of medicine is emphasized by a special instruction to the Councils of Ministers of the union republics on the

necessity for taking steps to strengthen the medico-biological divisions of the Academies of Sciences of the union republics.

In the light of the foregoing, great importance will be attached to the further increase of the activity of medical journals, among them the theoretical journals devoted to topical problems of modern medicine and biology. Our own journal, in particular, is confronted by new tasks, foremost among which is to ensure the speedy publication of original work in the different fields of experimental biology and medicine, which is up to the standard of present-day methods, and of theoretical and practical importance for medicine.

Under these circumstances, the journal is raising its requirements for work submitted from the point of view of its factual worth, and the accuracy of the documentation and presentation, and it will make its pages available first and foremost to the authors of articles in which problems of medical importance are boldly presented and solved in an original manner. The stricter selection of articles will permit the quicker publication of valuable and necessary work. Considerable attention will be paid to the popularization of modern and original methods of investigation, to the introduction of new experimental techniques, the use of various forms of apparatus borrowed from adjacent fields of science and the combination of experimental and clinical methods of investigation.

The carrying out of these and other measures will result in a further raising of the general and scientific standard of the journal in accordance with the new targets for Soviet medical and biological science at their present stage of development.