

Successes of the pharmaceutical industry

Prior to the liberation of the country, there was not even one simple factory producing pharmaceutical products in Albania, whereas today about 900 pharmaceutical and cosmetic products are produced, and within these three decades production has increased five-fold. In each five-year period, about 100 new items have been produced.

The objective of the growth of pharmaceutical production has been and is the constant increase of the supply of products to meet the needs of human and veterinary therapy with medicaments of high quality and at the lowest possible cost.

The wide range of pharmaceutical products today responds to all the stan-

dards of advanced modern therapy. Scientific research work has been extending from year to year.

Experimental work and industrial processing of medical drugs in the Profarma enterprise has gone through three phases, which reflect the improved quality of the products on the basis of the scientific exploitation of plants and animal organs. In the first two stages, such simple forms as tinctures, extracts, syrups, and so on, were produced and these were extended to more complicated pharmaceutical

products. As well as this, several active substances, such as digitals etc., were isolated in pure form. In the third phase, from 1966 onwards, studies have been going on for the further extension of production from plants, and the first results have been achieved in producing active substances in a pure state from medicinal herbs. From medicinal plants and animal organs the Profarma enterprise has prepared more than 20 tinctures and extracts, 8 specific substances and over 30 special products, and production is increasing.

Pharmaceutical analysis today are characterized by the wide extension of physical-chemical method. During last year, 4,225 chemical and physico-chemical analyses were carried out, worthy of mention is the extensive use made of chromatography in the phar-

maceutical analysis, using diffusion in solutions on filter paper and in thin films. Similarly, the methods of computer processing of mathematical data have found broad application. Along with the ordinary tests for sterility and patient reaction, analyses to determine the microbiological effectiveness of antibiotic preparations and to check their toxicity and sterility have been perfected. The first steps have been taken in the purification of certain chemical substances, especially those used in production, such as alcohol, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide, glycerine, etc.

Fighting to implement the decisions of the 7th Congress of the PLA, the collective of the Profarma industrial enterprise is working hard to advance beyond these achievements on the basis of the rich experience gained so far.