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"I am writing to let you know there is yet another grateful user of this wonderful D.D.D." writes Miss M. A. Knight, of Livorna Hospital, 34 Bassett Road, Auckland. "It is the best I've used and I've spent a fortune on lotions to ease a long-suffered skin trouble springing from an arthritic condition over a long period of years. This D.D.D. not only eases, but it also is healing".

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D.D.D. PRESCRIPTION
for a Clear Complexion

"TRUTH ABOUT RUSSIA IS HARD TO COME BY" Scientist's Talks on U.S.S.R.

WHEN he was in Auckland recently, Professor Eric Ashby, who served for a term as scientific attaché at the Australian Legation in Moscow, recorded three talks for the NZBS on science and education in the Soviet Union. The first of these scripts appears below.

AT the outset we must spend a couple of minutes clearing up prejudices: for the trouble about reports on Russia is that you feel you've got to take sides straight away, and to compare the Soviet régime with our own. If I were to talk to you about Chinese science you wouldn't immediately bristle up and say: "To the devil with Chinese science—we do it better here." Nor would you say: "If only we introduced Chinese methods here, how much better off we'd be." But with Russia it's different. All the time there is the temptation to measure Russia with a British measuring rod, and we are apt to forget that the Russians don't measure their accomplishments that way. So I'm going to ask you to co-operate with me by approaching this question of science in Russia objectively, not taking sides. If you merely want to know whether my visit has made me pro-Russian or anti-Russian, switch off straight away. All that matters about a report on Russia is that it should be accurate; and I believe that there is no hope that the Soviet Union and the British Commonwealth will live amicably alongside each other unless the truth is told on both sides.

The truth is hard to come by. It's no joke to learn the Russian language, and you can't understand Russia unless you do. It's not easy to get inside the Soviet Union, and the picture you have of it depends on how you get inside. Broadly speaking, there are two ways of visiting the Soviet Union. Either you go on a brief and hectic visit as a guest of the government, or you live for a long time there as a member of the diplomatic corps. These two ways of seeing the Soviet Union give you two very divergent impressions. I have seen it both ways; and I'll tell you to-night about my experience as a guest of the Russian government at the celebration of the 220th anniversary of the Academy of Sciences.

Immense Organisation

The Academy of Sciences has no parallel in this country. It was founded 55 years before Captain Cook came to the South Seas. It controls research not only in science as we understand the word, but also in literature, law, history, philosophy, and economics. Its president has the status and salary of a minister. Its budget exceeds £10,000,000 a year. It has dozens of institutes, laboratories, museums, libraries, commissions, and field stations. It has a scientific staff of over 4,000. It has a press and a bookshop, and it publishes 28 journals. The policy of this immense organisation is controlled by 139 academicians, the scientific élite of Soviet Russia. The honour of being elected to the Academy

generally comes late in life (the average age of academicians is nearly 65). To be an academician is much more than an honour. You get a salary of 5,000 roubles a month, over and above your salary as professor or director of an institute. More important, you have a special ration book, with much higher rations than ordinary people—higher even than a heavy worker in industry gets; and you can shop at a special store which stocks all sorts of coveted goods. And by 1947 it is planned to give every academician a flat, a country cottage, and a car.

This is the body which celebrated its 220th birthday in June 1945. For two weeks the iron curtain was lifted. Over 1,000 delegates enjoyed the hospitality of the Soviet Government. The guests included 122 foreign scientists from 18 countries: and it was my peculiarity to be the only guest from the southern hemisphere.

Russian Hospitality

Most of the foreign guests were brought to Moscow by Soviet planes, which picked them up in their own countries. On June 14 they arrived: the Canadians over Siberia; the Americans from Teheran; the British over Hamburg; the French, Swedes, Hungarians, Poles, Chinese—all brought by air, still bewildered at the suddenness of their invitations. The celebrations opened in the great Bolshoi theatre. At the back of the stage sat the Council of the Academy. The audience included the President of Poland and the cream of the diplomatic corps. For three hours we heard messages of greeting to and from the Academy; and an address from the 77-year-old President, Komarov. In the evening the celebrations warmed up. All the thousand guests were entertained at a monstrous dinner of some 20 courses: caviare, sturgeon, salmon, chickens, hams, crab, with vodka, wine, and champagne. We had a wonderful time. I told one Soviet scientist that I had never seen such a meal before in my life. "No," he said meaningfully, "nor have I."

There was no doubt about the sincerity of the scientists' welcome and their delight at having foreign scientists with them. This sincerity and delight were sustained throughout the celebrations. Provided a Soviet citizen has his Government's permission to meet a foreigner, he is charmingly frank and friendly. For two weeks after this party the laboratories of the Academy were open to us. I was shown the technique of experiments, the results of research, and unpublished data, as freely as though I were with my colleagues in Auckland or London. We were hurried in cars from one institute to another. As we arrived at a new institute interpreters met us to take us round. The walls of every laboratory were covered with diagrams

(continued on next page)