

SCIENTIST IN RUSSIA

(continued from previous page)

You must not misunderstand me. The vodka had worn off. It wasn't that. It was books, given to us by the Leningrad scientists. I, for instance, had about 30 large volumes and some hundred pamphlets; but no string. Fortunately scores of people came to see us off, and carried our parcels for us.

We returned to Moscow to find the climax awaiting us: a banquet in the Kremlin for the academicians and their foreign guests. Stalin and his colleagues in the *politburo* were our hosts. It was traditional Russian hospitality; stupendous; lavish; dignified. There were long speeches in which the Government thanked the Academy for its contribution to victory, and the Academy thanked the Government for its generosity to science.

Early next morning Soviet planes swept away the foreign visitors to their own countries. The academicians retired to their rest-home for a long holiday. And the iron curtain descended again.

Science is Lavishly Endowed

Well, I've given you a glimpse of Soviet science as the official guest sees it; but I haven't told you about the quality of scientific work in Russia. Science is endowed very generously in the Soviet Union. The government

attaches immense importance to the application of science to national needs. There are tempting rewards for the man who introduces a new variety of wheat, or a new chemical method in industry; so tempting that some scientists make exaggerated claims about their own work and aim at flashy results; and these, too often, are the results we hear about. But the genuine quality of scientific work as a whole in Russia can be summed up quite simply. There is in the Soviet Union the same percentage of first-class men as in any other country. These men have every encouragement and facility to work, and their work is important, as it would be wherever they lived. But in Russia science is so lavishly endowed—there are so many jobs to be filled—that these first-class scientists have to be diluted with men who are not first-class by any means. This, of course, reduces the average quality of scientific work to a mediocre level. It is one of the embarrassments which face the planners of science in Russia, that their enthusiasm sometimes outruns the human material available. The Russians recognise this well enough. They are working hard to cure it. There is only one cure—more and better education in science. When I tell you that only six academicians were born in the present century, you will realise that Soviet science has been run largely on intellectual capital from the Czarist regime. The present educational programme aims to change that.

CORWIN'S TWELVE POINTS

THE shape of Norman Corwin's forthcoming shows, resulting from his world trip, became apparent recently when he made his formal report to the sponsoring organisations which had selected him as first winner of the Wendell Willkie Memorial "One World" award. Out of this report, summarised in 12 conclusions, came almost naturally the outline of a series of shows.

Here is a summary of Corwin's 12 points:

1. We seem to be farther from Willkie's One World to-day than we were when his thesis became the best-selling book in America. . . . None of us will get far in any direction if the leading powers of the world fail to set an example.

2. The reservoir of good will toward the United States about which Willkie spoke enthusiastically in 1942 has drained to a dangerously low level.

(continued on next page)

EVERY DAY SOME ARE LUCKY

Rainsters are still scarce, but every day someone's patience is rewarded. It may be your turn next. So do keep trying, and one happy day you, too, will be flaunting your smart Rainster.

There are two different kinds of Rainster-proofing: make sure you get the one you want . . . waterproof or showerproof. If you want something more than showerproof say Rainster waterproof very clearly, and if necessary wait for it. Of English water-tested fabric, there never was a rainproof coat more utterly dependable—nor so smartly cut.

