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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY OF SOVIET ZONE GERMANY

[Numbers refer to appended sources]

In 1948, pharmaceuticals worth 160 million marks were produced in Soviet Zone Germany. Under the plan for 1949 the output was to be increased to 208 million East marks, and reportedly this target has been met. As has been learned, investments for the expansion of the East German pharmaceutical industry in 1950 will be six times as high as in 1949. The penicillin output is said to exceed domestic requirements at present. Manufacture of tuberculosis remedies and high-grade vitamin preparations will be introduced during the current year.

Export of pharmaceuticals is assuming a vital role in East Germany's foreign trade program. Exports will be considerable in 1950. Cultivation of medical herbs has been carried on intensively since 1947, especially by the people-owned agricultural enterprises.

East Berlin has approximately 90 manufacturers of pharmaceuticals at present. The most significant of these, for example, the Schering Corporation, the Gruenau Chemical Factory, etc., belong to the zonal Association of People-Owned Enterprises. In accordance with a recent reorganization, the following people-owned plants (VEB) belong to the pharmaceutical group of VVB Berlin, Chemie (Association of People-Owned Chemical Enterprises, Berlin): Dr Remmler Pharmaceutical Works, Raspechemie Pharmaceutical Works, Novopin Factory Pharmaceutical Works, Dickin-Plant Pharmaceutical Works, Staaken Pharmacy (Dr Albert Bernard, successor). Together these six enterprises produce approximately 150 pharmaceutical articles, ten veterinary preparations, and a number of cosmetic products. The most important of these six factories is the Dr Remmler plant, whose yearly output amounts to approximately 1.5 - 2 million East marks. (1)

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As a result of scientific research conducted by the Jenapharm Institute for Microbiology, the Schott and Associates Glass Works in Jena were able to increase their output of penicillin in 1949 to 12 times that of the previous year. The joint penicillin outputs of Schott Associates and Madaus in Radebeul near Dresden now amounts to 100 times the 1947 output. The Jena plant, which at present produces 60 billion Oxford units per month, not only covers the requirements of the entire Soviet Zone but produces a certain surplus for export. It should also be noted that manufacturing costs have been decreased to an extent which has made possible reduction in the price of penicillin amounting to over 90 percent, compared with 1948.

Streptomycin, Vitamin C and D preparations, and vaccines used in the treatment of tuberculosis are also attaining significance as export articles.

Other pharmaceutical plants have introduced preparations for the treatment of pernicious anemia and improved prophylactics for nose and throat diseases. The Thuringen pharmaceutical industry has developed new preparations for the treatment of gall-bladder diseases. A plant in Erfurt has brought out a preparation for use in the treatment of coronary diseases, such as angina pectoris. This preparation also dissolves tubercular bacilli.

The Rosodolwerk, East Germany's largest soap and cosmetic factory, has developed a toothpaste which is effective in counteracting inflammation of the gums. (2)

SOURCES

1. Chemische Industrie, No 4, Apr 50
2. Export Echo, No 7 Jul 50

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