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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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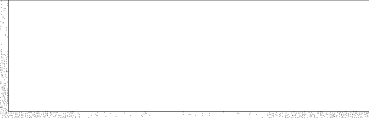
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1. The attached issue of Czechoslovak Life is forwarded to your office for retention.
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50X1-HUM

Czechoslovak Life



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SPRING
IN MY HEART



May 1952

*The Voice
of Our Readers*

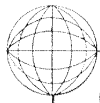
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Our Postbag

WARMING THE HEART

Beloved Comrades,—I have been receiving "Czechoslovak Life" regularly over the past twelve months, and I would like to congratulate you on the consistently high quality of both the articles and illustrations in your splendid magazine. It is far superior to any publication here in Britain and certainly better than the cheap and tawdry importations from the United States. And where, in the capitalist world, would one find a magazine whose entire theme and content is devoted to the life and work of the plain people?

"Czechoslovak Life" calls for peace and friendship between the peoples of the world. Over here we get articles on military strategy, describing how the next war is going to be fought—with Russia as the enemy of course—along with maps shamelessly pinpointing cities in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies as potential bombing targets.

Your magazine, which expresses the true thoughts and feelings of ordinary people everywhere, gives courage and inspiration to all those in Western countries who are disgusted—as I am—with the blatant warmongering and hatred campaigns of capitalist propaganda.

I like the items in "Czechoslovak Life" so much that it is difficult to say which I prefer, but I hope you will continue to give us plenty of your magnificent photographs showing the new and happy life of the Czechoslovak people, as these give the lie to propaganda tales about "slavery" and "oppression" in your country.

It warms the heart to see the happiness in the eyes of your working people who, far from being "slaves", have at last found the meaning of true freedom: freedom from poverty and want, from unemployment and exploitation—freedom the wor-

kers in all lands would like to have if only they were given the chance.

Let us have more photographs of the outstanding workers of your country like V. Svoboda whose merry smile seems to express the very spirit of life in the New Democracies.

I wish the people of Czechoslovakia the very best of luck in the building of their country and in the struggle for a lasting peace.

Love and best wishes to you all.

SHEILA MacKELLOW,

Windy Ridge, Beacon Gardens, Crowborough, England.

ALERT TO DANGER

Sir,—Your magazine improves each month. We enjoy the splendid pictures showing the great progress made by your young People's Government. With the Truman administration re-arming the Nazis in Germany, the mothers and fathers of the U. S. A. will some day be grateful that Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Russia are alert to the danger of a war to crush the People's Democracies—a terrible atomic war plotted by Adenauer, Churchill, Schuman, Gasperi and Franco, with the Pentagon masterminding this crime against humanity.

H. N.,

Sullivan, Indiana, U. S. A.

USE THE RIGHT WORD

Sir,—I have read the April issue of "Czechoslovak Life" and was very pleased with the article on "The Great Adventure" written by James Miller Robinson. But I have one criticism, regarding the use of the word "Native" in the caption under one of the photographs. This term is used by the bourgeois and capitalist press to depict Africans as being inferior to other races. Europeans are never referred to as "natives". Either they are English, French, Polish or Czech, etc. I would therefore be grateful if you would always use the term Africans as you did several times in this feature.

OLUSOJI SMITH,

Prague XI.

RENEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Renew your annual "sub" for "Czechoslovak Life": six shillings or 1 dollar. Subscriptions can be sent to any of the agencies listed below or direct to our editorial office.

Subscriptions may be paid in local currency at the following addresses:

Australia: c/o A. Keesing, G. P. O. Box 4886, Sydney, N. S. W.; or
c/o International Bookshop, 180, Exhibition Street, Melbourne, C. I.;

Austria: c/o Globus, Buchvertrieb, Vienna I, Fleischmarkt I;

Belgium: c/o Messageries de la Presse, 14, rue de Persil, Brussels;

Burma: c/o People's Literature House, No. 546, Merchant Street, P. O. Box No. 709, Rangoon; or
c/o The People Publishing House, 84th Street, Letsegan, Mandalay;

Canada: c/o Progress Publishing Co., 738 Bathurst St., Toronto 4, Ont; or
c/o People's Co-op. Book Store 337, W. Pender Street, Vancouver, B. C.;

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c/o Commercial Press Ltd., 211 Honan Road, Shanghai;

Czechoslovakia: c/o "Czechoslovak Life", Praha II, Opletalova 5-7;

Denmark: c/o Land og Folks Boghandel, Bredgade 37, Copenhagen K;

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Holland: c/o Uitgeverij en Boekhandel Pegasus Leidsestraat 25, Amsterdam-C;

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c/o New Century Book House, 199, Mount Road, Madras;

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Ireland: c/o New Books, 16, Pearse St., Dublin; or
c/o International Bookshop, 20, Church Lane, Belfast;

Israel: c/o A. B. C. Booksellers and Library, Tel-Aviv, Allenby Rd. 71;

New Zealand: c/o Co-op Bookshop, Regent Street, Christchurch;

Pakistan: c/o People's Publishing House, 3, Nisbet Road, Lahore;

Sweden: c/o Arbetarkulturforlag, Kungsgatan 84, Stockholm;

Turkey: c/o Librairie Hachette, Succursale de Turquie 469, Istiklal Caddesi, Beyoglu, Istanbul;

United Kingdom: c/o British-Czechoslovak Friendship League, 20, Pont Street, London, S. W. 1.; or

c/o Collet's Subscription Dept., 40, Great Russell Street, London, W. C. 1.; or
c/o Central Books Ltd., Subscription Dept., 4, Parton Street, London, W. C. 1.;

United States: c/o Imported Publications and Products, 22 East 17th Street, New York 3, N. Y.; or

c/o Progressive Bookshop, 1806 West 7th Street, Los Angeles 5, Calif.;

Vietnam: c/o Lien Viet, Viet-Bac;

West Africa: c/o Takar Publishing House, 12 Hughes Avenue, Yaba, Nigeria;

All other countries remit direct to "Czechoslovak Life", Praha II, Opletalova 5-7, Czechoslovakia.



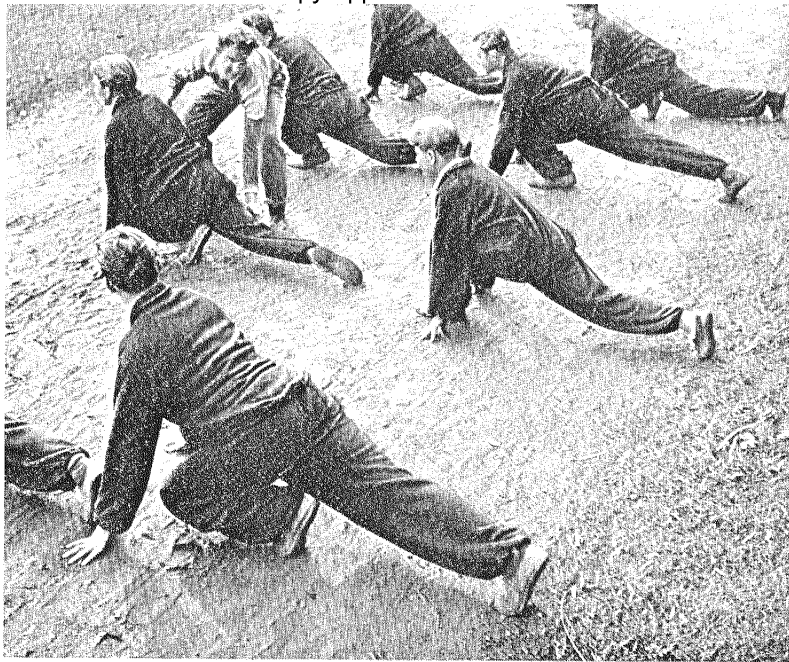
PREPARING FOR A PROFESSION

Each year since 1949 more than 10,000 boys have elected Czechoslovakia's proudest profession, mining. Students train in two-year schools, are then qualified miners and immediately earn an adult wage.

IF you don't study you'll go into the mines! This was the way many mothers admonished their sons in pre-war days. At that time every miner's ambition was to get out of the mines, or at least to see that his sons did not follow in his footsteps. Whether boys went into mining or into other jobs, they went as unskilled workers, with advancement depending on the slow process of picking up skill and bits of knowledge by watching older

Future miners now study at the Cervený Hrádek Castle, where Lord Runciman met Henlein in 1938.





The day starts with 15 minutes of exercises. Sports of all kinds, including soccer, basketball, swimming, canoeing, volley-ball and archery help to build up sound young bodies.

workers. What this meant can be seen from the fact that in 1934 more than 80 per cent of all workers under 18 earned only 180 crowns a month compared with the average wage of 800 crowns of an adult worker.

Perhaps nothing is so much worth celebrating this May Day as the change that has taken place in the lives of such young people. And unquestionably first place goes to the right of every young person to a job at an adult wage in the field of his choice, and to training to equip him for that job. Since 1948 each industry has given special care to the training of apprentices. Many have set up special schools, generally lasting two years, at which young people study, live, work and play together, and finally enter the industry with a good general knowledge of the industrial process as well as a specialised skill.

These schools, originally established by individual industries and run by the separate factories or mines,

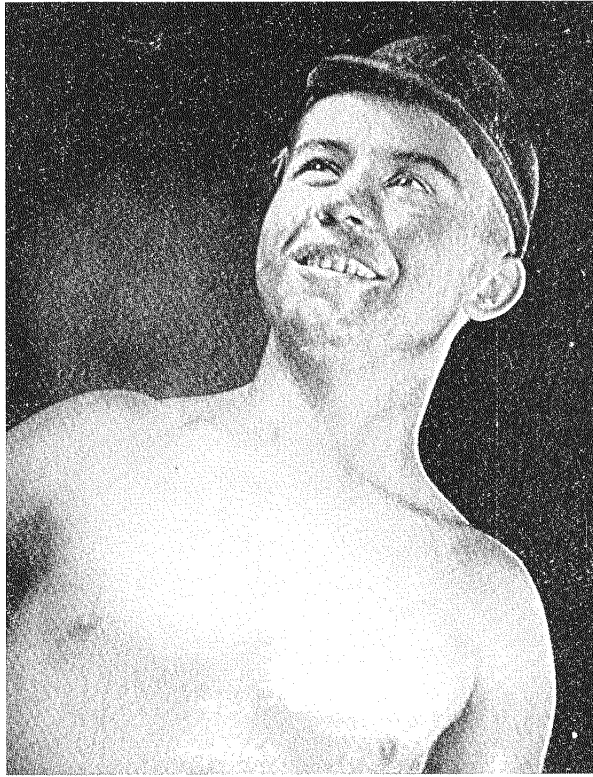


After studying surface work, the eagerly-awaited day comes when the youngsters go down into the pit to work for the first time.

And of course they don't go empty-handed. Here the instructor briefs them on the miner's lamp, age-old badge of underground workers.



Jiří Stolba, one of the school's best students, will take advanced study after this course to become a full-fledged mining engineer.



J. Samek, a would-be auto mechanic, finally chose mining as an outlet for mechanical interests. "Things turned out well," he says.

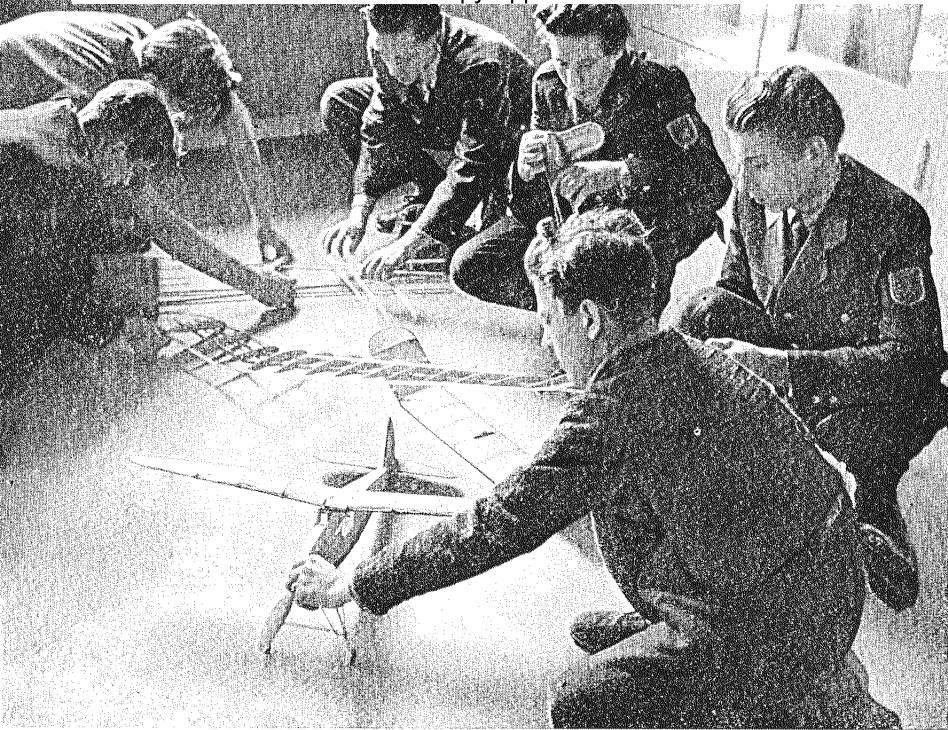
are now gradually being taken over by the Ministry of Manpower, and new ones will be established in industries where they do not exist. This centralised direction will ensure uniform practices and high educational standards in all industries.

First training centres to be affected by the new plan were in mining and foundry work, as the need for a permanent manpower supply in these industries is essential to the success of Czechoslovakia's industrialisation programme. Two important government decisions last year embodied specific measures to step up production in these vital branches. They included in mining, among other things, a definite schedule for the mechanisation and electrification of the mines, the introduction of new working methods and the securing of 20,500 additional permanent workers. Therefore the training of young miners has assumed a new importance.

The new era for miners really began in 1949 at Lány, the President's summer home, when President Gottwald launched the famous annual Lány campaign to recruit secondary school graduates for the mining profession. It was not an easy task at that time to overcome the prejudices against mining inherited from the old days, to convince young



Mechanisation is rapidly replacing heavy labour and the mines today need specialists, so the student must master many skills. Here the instructor guides a class in welding.



Boys at this school in the Bohemian brown coal basin can follow many hobbies in their free time. Model airplane building is popular. At some schools students fly real planes.



Other special interest groups include chess, singing, sports, dramatics, literature, and photography. Students also visit the theatre and go on skiing trips and excursions together.

men and their parents that mining is now not only an honourable and well-paid occupation but a safe and interesting profession with a future before it. Yet in 1949—50 more than 11,600 boys volunteered for training; in 1951 the number rose to 12,263, and in 1952 again more than 10,000 youngsters between 15 and 18 will begin their mining education.

Training schools for miners are established in connection with the chief mining centres of Czechoslovakia. These centres combine three aspects of education: a home where the boys create their own community life; a school where they receive technical training and continue their general education, and a pit where they actually apply their training under the guidance of expert instructors.

In most cases these homes are newly-built, with all the comforts of a modern apartment house (central heating, showers, ample wardrobe space), spotless kitchen and dining room, and complete facilities for sport and recreation. The Julius Fučík home in Ostrava, for example, has its own cinema, special rooms for individual interest groups, a library, complete gym, a smoking room, buffet and barber's shop.

When a student enters one of these schools (in recognition of their new status these trainees are no longer called apprentices but simply students) he is issued a free, complete outfit worth 11,000 crowns. This includes a dress uniform, four shirts, work clothes, overalls, overcoat, work coat, gloves, cap, gym outfit, dress shoes, work shoes, gym shoes, tennis shoes, rubber boots, socks, handkerchiefs, a pair of pyjamas and a tie. Cost of training each apprentice is 100,000 crowns. In 1950—51 the State paid over 2,000 million crowns for the establishment and equipment of these training centres and for clothing for trainees. One 800,000 crowns item was for ice hockey equipment for Ostrava centres.

Boys spend approximately 24 hours a week in classroom study and 24 hours in practical work. Subjects in the classroom curriculum include Czech, Russian, social sciences, mathematics, chemistry, engineering, technical drawing, specialised technology and geology. Metal-working, bricklaying, practical electricity, study of soil composition, how to defeat gas, discussion of new working methods, are all part of the course.

Below ground three or four students work as a team with one instructor. This is productive work, not just practice, and the work of the pit is planned so that each team has a job to do. Gradually they learn the whole coal face job including propp-

Youth and Song! In Czechoslovakia these two words are inseparable. Every training centre has its own chorus and instrumental group.

ing, packing, rail-laying, installing coal chutes and conveyor belts and the operation and servicing of modern machinery: pneumatic hammers, coal-cutters and combines which cut and load the coal mechanically.

Emphasis is placed on work according to what is described as "graph of work cycles", which are being instituted in all mines as part of the government decision on coal production mentioned previously. This may sound complicated but it simply means that all work on a given coal face—mining, propping, packing and turning-over rails—is completed in one day. There are no odds and ends left over for the next shift to finish before it starts cutting.

With the growing mechanisation of mining, the miner's job is less and less one of exhausting physical labour and more one of brain work. The industry needs new workers who can cope with the new techniques, and the training of future miners tends towards specialisation. Graduates are experts in operating certain types of machines and may qualify for still more advanced schools. Students are paid for their work in the mines at the regular rate for the type of work they do. This money usually goes into a savings account against a future motorcycle, for the youngsters have no expenses at school and receive pocket-money into the bargain.

Graduates are guaranteed work at an adult wage and agree to remain in the industry for at least three years. While the new manpower is allocated by the Ministry of Manpower, the trade unions are charged with responsibility for these young miners when they go to work and for seeing that they are assigned to the jobs for which they were trained and not to less-skilled positions. They must also ensure that their education continues, that they are suitably billeted and that if they marry, flats are found for them.

The best advertisement for the mining profession are the satisfied parents of boys who have elected to go into the mines. Not many mothers can boast, like Mrs. Zdenka Kumhalová of Nová Ves, that their fourth son has just followed his brothers into training for the mines. But tens of thousands of parents have watched skimpy fifteen-year-olds grow into healthy, muscular 18-years-olds, fully-qualified, proud of their work and sure of their future, and mothers today warn their sons: 'You'll have to study if you want to go into the mines.'

Photos by K. O. Hrubý

Hilda Lass



When their son chose mining, the Kmochas objected, but after seeing him proud in his uniform, surrounded by all the best, they say: "We never could have given him all this."

Editorial

GOOD SENSE AND GOOD TRADE

CHILDREN

Over three hundred thousand children killed in Korea; half the world's population still undernourished; millions dead from famine: these were only a few of the startling facts presented to the International Conference in Defence of Children held recently in Vienna.

Millions of children in the capitalist world are still hungry, homeless and illiterate. Orphans from the last war—1,300,000 in France and eight million in Germany—are still without care in lands where preparations for another war are already far advanced. Almost every delegate, excepting those from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, reported a shortage of schools, teachers, materials and books. And the 537 health experts, teachers, and scientists from the 61 countries who attended the conference were convinced that these things can be remedied—but only if the money now spent on war preparations is devoted to the welfare of the little ones. Western delegates in particular were shocked to note the disparity between even the limited services for the health and protection of children in the major capitalist countries compared with the virtual absence of such facilities for millions of children in colonial and dependent countries.

Most optimistic and constructive reports came from the Soviet Union, China and the People's Democracies. They were able to record increasing allocations for the health and protection of their children accompanied by rising health standards. Conference condemned child labour, urged better educational and health facilities for all children with improved opportunities for employment for youth under proper conditions. All forms of bacterial warfare were also condemned, delegates having earlier listened with horror and condemnation to eye-witness reports from Korea where the American forces and their allies have practised this cruel form of war.

GIVEN A RESUMPTION of normal international trade relations Czechoslovakia could, within the next two or three years, have a trade turnover with private enterprise countries valued at 40,000 to 60,000 million crowns per annum while maintaining and expanding our trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. Czechoslovakia is both ready and willing to renew her trade contacts on the former scale with a whole range of countries and to promote these contacts for the benefit of both sides. This is possible because the whole of our production and economy is developing rapidly according to plan, is free from crises and because we can conclude long-term agreements regarding specific categories of goods thus ensuring steady supplies for the contracting party.

These were a few of the hard facts which emerged at the recent International Economic Conference in Moscow attended by 471 delegates from 49 countries, including Czechoslovakia. The object of the conference was to seek possibilities of restoring and developing normal economic relations between countries irrespective of their differing economic or political systems. Political problems, as such, were not discussed. Conference discussions proved that the object of the conference was both desirable and capable of realisation, given goodwill from the West and trading relations on the basis of absolute equality and of mutual advantage. The abnormal state of international relations arising from the economic discrimination, exercised by certain countries against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, was universally recognised—especially the harm done to the economies of those countries which had resorted to this discrimination. This had resulted in a considerable fall in international trade despite the earnest and continuous desire of Czechoslovakia, among other countries, to maintain and increase such trade.

Provided we receive in exchange the goods in which we also are interested we could, within the next two or three years, export goods to private enterprise countries valued at 25,000 million crowns per annum. These could include: engines, industrial plant and equipment, building and agricultural machinery, instruments and automobiles, rolled material and castings, coke, brown and black coal, chemical raw materials and products, textiles and footwear, technical and flat glass, paper, timber, plywood, cellulose, matches, hops, malt, sugar, agricultural produce and food. This list is far from being exhaustive. 1952-53 could see a 10 million pound trade agreement with Britain provided Britain is prepared to play ball. Only a few of the things we could export in return to Britain include food, glass, wood pulp, timber for housing, furniture and a wide range of industrial ceramics.

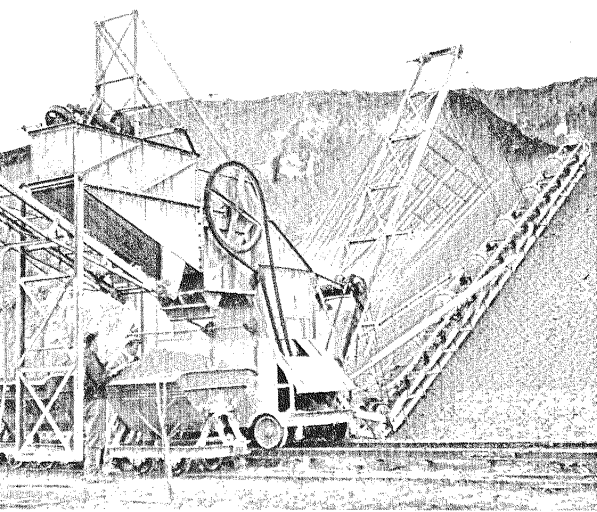
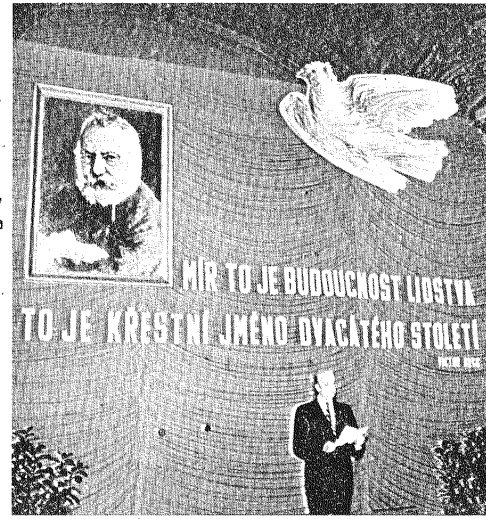
Our experience with the countries of South and South-East Asia, Africa and Latin America in particular show that it is possible to co-operate with satisfaction to both sides. Prior, and since the war, we delivered to India, for instance, complete installations for sugar factories, mills, motors, Diesel engines and various consumer goods and obtained jute, raw cotton, hides, coffee etc. in return. Similar experiences could be quoted following our trading relations with Argentine, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, and other countries, showing how Czechoslovak industries have contributed materially to the economic expansion of these countries. For this we stress: we fully recognize the right of these countries—as we do of our own—to develop their own industries, to utilise the resources of their lands and to dispose of them as they will without interference from anyone. In this development we are prepared to assist by supplying the necessary machinery and installations. Our aim is not capital exploitation. We wish only to contribute on a basis of equality without political or other conditions apart from the normal ones of trade. And we emphasize that this is no new venture for us. We have a wealth of valuable experience in such trading and production. For instance, we are now building in Argentina the world's largest distillery. Czechoslovakia therefore is ready to contribute in the widest measure to the development of peaceful economic trading with all countries of the world. This is not only good business but good sense. But we feel bound to add that should the recent economic discrimination exercised against us by certain countries continue we shall proceed triumphantly to surmount it in the future as we have done up to the present. Necessity has indeed been the mother of successful invention with us these last few years and the newly-awakening continents, freed from economic inhibitions and alien political controls, today beckon a welcoming finger to the commercial representatives of our people and our land. And no one can be surprised if we heed them.



Newsreel

One of our May Day posters, expressive of the new, happy and confident life being lived by our people.

"Peace ... the baptismal name of the 20th century," said V. Hugo, whose 150th birthday was celebrated in Prague.



This modern machine, operating near Brno, is a boon to the brick-making industry. It loads clay from the pit straight into waggons.



Aid-to-Korea-drive resulted in this surgical instrument factory promising to produce in free time, 20,000 hypodermic needles from saved working materials.



Prof. V. Lesný, second, front left, one of our experts on Indian culture, with many respected colleagues at a celebration of his 70th birthday in the Oriental Institute in Prague.



Two members, left, of International Democratic Lawyers Assn. in Prague, after Korean germ warfare probe.



"Your articles aren't too idealised," writes Mrs. Cook, of London.

FIVE SIMPLE QUESTIONS posed on our readers' questionnaire brought hundreds of replies from all parts of the world. We asked our readers what best and what least they liked in "Czechoslovak Life" and why; were they able to use the magazine to promote peace; how many people saw their copies and what subjects, in their opinion, ought we to cover in the ensuing numbers. The replies received were astonishing in their variety and scope, in the detailed suggestions they embodied and in the wealth of goodwill demonstrated towards the Czechoslovak people who are now building Socialism.

It is significant that our readers, scattered all over the world, are profoundly interested in our way of life and wish to learn precisely how we in Czechoslovakia are realising in practice the creation of a new social order in which poverty, ignorance and war shall be eliminated forever through the efforts of the common



A. J. Palmer, right, says "Write about anything but the weather."

THE VOICE OF OUR READERS

Replies to our December questionnaire still filter through to us from various parts of the world. Printed postcards and lengthy letters reveal the sustained interest and affection which link our readers to ourselves in lands of varying clime. Though "Czechoslovak Life" is published in English, our readers are to be found in many countries outside Great Britain. From Iowa to Indonesia, Auckland to Amsterdam, Stockholm to Stockton, Calcutta to Copenhagen, Seattle to Singapore, Kalamazoo to Kidderminster, and Paddington to Peking countless people are linked in a chain of friendship for Czechoslovakia which, as the replies reveal, now virtually encircles the globe. These clearly express the peaceful desires of our readers, how "Czechoslovak Life" assists the preservation of peace and interprets the role played by People's Czechoslovakia in helping to maintain it while, at the same time, building a new and prosperous life for her people.

people. "Tell us how you do this, how you control that, what changes ensue and what effect it has on those who achieve it?" These are the dominant themes expressed in almost every communication we receive.

Positive suggestions are included with almost every reply, aiding and encouraging us to improve our work on this magazine in order to better our presentation of the manifold facets of our developing democracy. Sport, fashion and articles describing religious observances appear to be the only controversial subjects which spur our well-intentioned readers to splash the invigorating ink of criticism over their otherwise agreeable pages. "I should like another couple of pages of fashions," writes Miss Rothery of Wallasey, England. But Mr. E. Turner, Chadwell Heath, England, expressed his distaste in terms so succinct and definitive as to permit little further discussion on the subject. "I am a male," he said, laying us low with a single blow.

Mr. Murphy, Birmingham, England, thinks the space devoted to religious subjects could be much better used while Mr. Sharp, Harrow, England—a minister of religion—likes them. "I realise the necessity of knowing how my neighbour lives," he writes. Support comes from a correspondent in Vancouver, Canada, who says such articles "expose the untruth that churches are outlawed and Christianity prohibited" in Czechoslovakia. Mr. M. Young of California, U. S. A. wants more articles like "Priests' World Peace Appeal," published last December.

The newsreel could be longer, suggests Mr. J. Mawson, Denholme, England. Articles on places of historical interest are desired by J. F. Macfarlane, Glasgow, Scotland, while short biographies of leading personalities are favoured by W. J. Hughes, Bebington, England. From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, U. S. A., Joseph Buresh, a printer, compliments us on a "neat piece of (printer's) art" and Eleanor Percival, Melford, England, thinks the magazine is "well-balanced, beautifully illustrated and attractive to simple and sophisticated alike."

The absence of "sensations and militarism" is approved by P. Varenus of Stockholm, while a magazine "cleansed of eroticism and decadence" is also liked by E. C. Chancellor, Sevenoaks, England and by J. Johnson, Bishop Auckland, England, who says that "Czechoslovak Life" is like a "breath of fresh air after the foul air of the contemporaries" on sale in his country. "A breath of sanity" is the verdict of E. Hopkins, London, E. 6., while

J. Hope, a reader from Bristol, England, likes us because we write about the "life of ordinary people, people who really matter and not about a lot of insipid dummies and unfortunate freaks."

Regrettably this opinion is not shared by Miss B. Thornton, 29, Lees Rd., Hillingdon, Middx., England. She reluctantly concedes that "there is some basis of truth in the articles but those working people's flats seem to be a put-up job; all the women look dowdy and very colourless . . . Don't your young boys ever wear ties, scruffy little urchins . . ." Miss Thornton also assures us that the articles she likes least include ". . . anything purporting to be a peace-loving organisation." A different appraisal of the magazine however comes from E. Slezak, Berwyn, Illinois, U. S. A. who thinks the magazine should be "three times larger" and who says he "could use around 50 copies" of it.

Mr. Thos. Bisset, Glasgow, Scotland, says "Czechoslovak Life" helps promote peace. He distributes it among the shop stewards "so that they can put the real facts before their meetings". Others, including M. R. C. Smith, Auckland, New Zealand, (a Zatopek fan) says it helps enormously to "expose the lies about your country which are fed to us daily in the capitalist press and over the radio". Mr. D. A. Lamb, jnr., Canton, Cardiff finds it provides useful facts for him when debating on life in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Murray Doord, Golders Green, London, England, says it helps him also in his struggle for world peace. Nor can we remain unmoved before the poignant cry from the warden of a Youth Hostel in Yorkshire, England, who tells us he has not "the freedom to propagate peace openly within the movement. In spite of that, I do much work and your magazine helps greatly". Perhaps even more moving is the reply, enclosing two dollars to renew his subscription, from a man in Vernon, Pa., U. S. A. who requests that we do not use his name in connection with his heartwarming message because this "may lead to my persecution".

Such messages make us ever more conscious of our duty—and privilege—to help every sincere man and woman to strengthen the fraternal desires which unite us despite a physical separation of perhaps thousands of miles. By getting to know each other better, even intimately, we jointly recognise how little separates us and how much unites us. Never before have we felt so closely united to our readers as now. From all parts of the world their letters come to sustain us, to inspire and encourage us to continue in what we believe to be a useful service for our readers: the propagation of the truth about our people, our country and about peace. Armed with that we are all better accoutred to withstand the shafts of malice and distortion unloosed by the enemies of peaceful mankind in order to disarm us both mentally and morally before plunging us all into bloody conflict for purposes which none of us will ever support: the aims of capitalism.

That is why we welcome the practical suggestions advanced by our readers to improve our work on their behalf. For instance, Mr. A. Wollin, Tel-Aviv, Israel, wants more articles on "living standards and your upward trend for all and on the personal freedom enjoyed by all law-abiding citizens compared with the "free Western world". Mr. Wollin also uses "Czechoslovak Life" pictures as a wall-gazette "for home-use and clubs". Dr. A. Blumer, Amsterdam, Holland, wants to hear more about Czechoslovak science, the struggle against cancer, infantile paralysis, plastic surgery for the masses and rheumatism. Rubicund Mrs. R. Aubrey, Galfalfa, Cardiff, Wales, a former nurse who suffers from rheumatism, also wants to let her Women's Co-operative Guild know how Czechoslovakia deals with this, with the use of physio-therapy, the provision of clinics and the cost of treatment. We can answer the latter question immediately. Treatment costs no patient a single penny over the amount deducted monthly for National Insu-



"My choice? Health Services," writes Miss T. Edwards, of London.

rance which covers practically everything of this nature.

Other suggestions for articles, covering almost every sphere of life in Czechoslovakia, include agriculture, building, education. Some readers want to hear more about the youth and their camps, others about health. One asks to know more about our waiters, another about our bakers, about our cookery and our views regarding capital punishment. Conscious of the unique relationship existing between us, without which our work would be infinitely less fruitful, we shall, as in the past, strive our utmost to satisfy our readers' desires. We also thank our readers for the care they have displayed in sending to us their detailed criticisms and suggestions. We gladly assure them that their trust in us is not misplaced. We remain their executors as well as their friends.



As a draughtsman Mr. Cockell, Eltham, thinks Cz. Life a solid job.

ANOTHER FORWARD STEP IN SCIENCE

Polarography is an analytical method used to detect and determine substances in solutions. Professor J. Heyrovský, its modest and genial inventor who is pictured on the right, first discovered it in 1922. This method is now used in virtually every industry and chemical laboratory in the world. But Heyrovský—with the fine modesty of genius—is convinced that without his pupils there would have been no polarography.

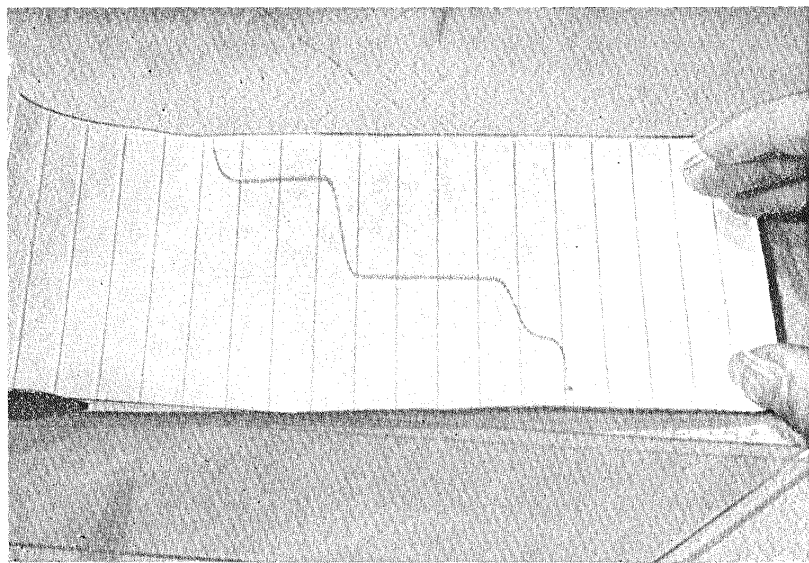


THE NATURAL SCIENCES, especially mathematics and physics, were the favourite subjects of youthful Jaroslav Heyrovský who, today, is known throughout the world as the inventor of polarography. Perhaps in no other field of science do the names of Czechoslovak scientists appear so often as in this one. Several years of investigation of the surface tension of mercury by Professor Heyrovský were crowned by his final success, the invention of polarography, for which he became a State Prize Winner. During these investigations a dropping mercury electrode, first applied by his

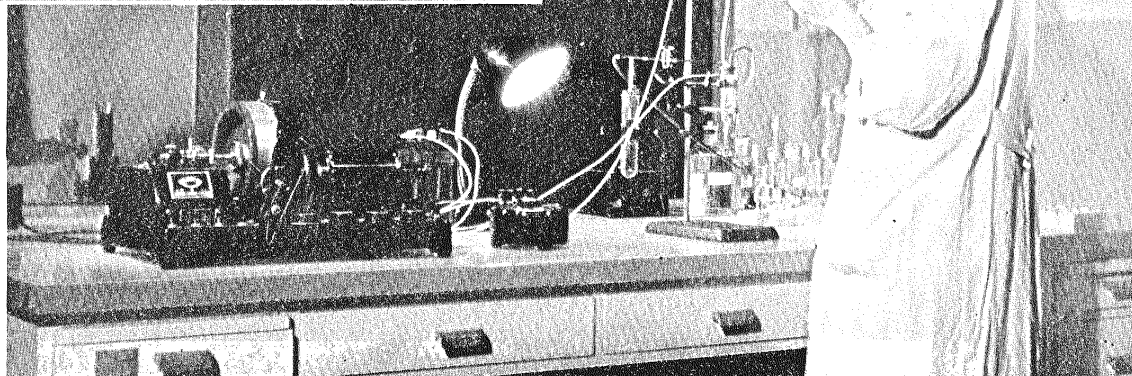
teacher, Bohumil Kučera, Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Prague, was used. This electrode, consisting of a capillary glass tubing out of which mercury drops fall in intervals of two to three seconds, has the advantage of its surface being renewed repeatedly. Heyrovský found that when a solution of salt, acid or base is electrolysed—using a dropping mercury electrode to investigate the dependence of current on applied voltage—the resulting characteristic curves can be recorded graphically. The genius of Heyrovský may be seen particularly in his immediate realisation of the

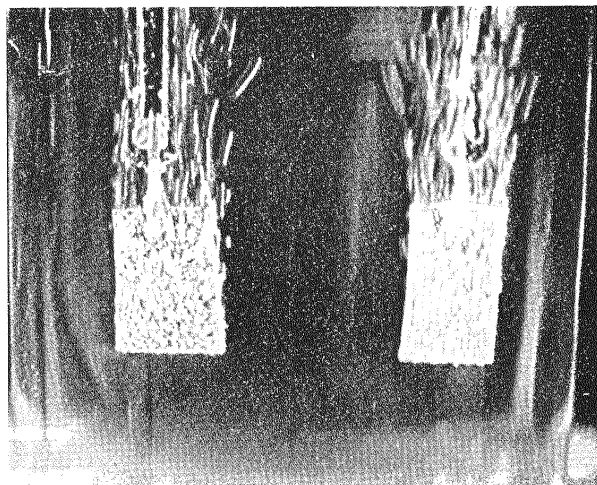
great importance of these curves for scientific research as well as for their practical application. Since then he has devoted his utmost attention particularly to these curves.

To comprehend the principles of polarography more easily, let us first consider the decomposition of a solution by means of electric current, known as electrolysis. The necessary device is quite simple, consisting of

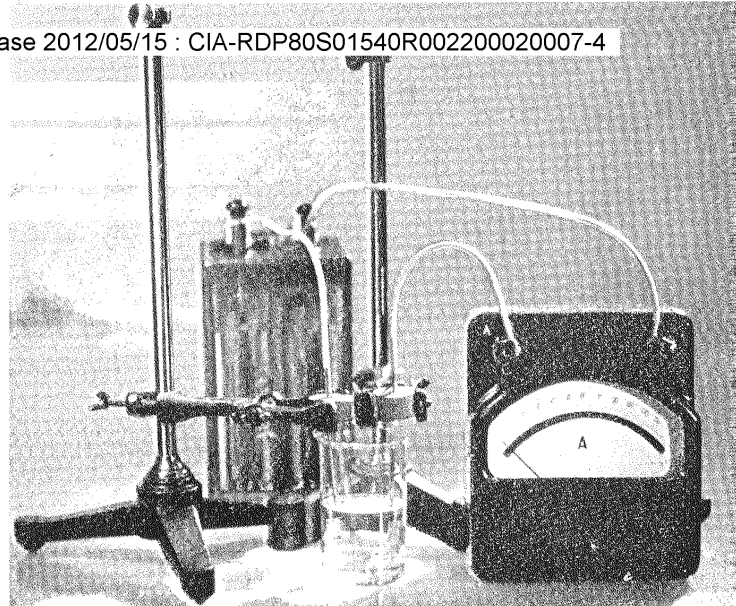


It is not so difficult as it may seem. The beginning and the end of polarographic analysis is this. The solution to be analysed enters the polarographic vessel above a mercury layer used as one of the electrodes. The dropping mercury electrode is then submerged into the solution whereupon the process begins. A curve from which the quantity and quality of substances contained in the solution may easily be determined, is automatically recorded by the instrument. The discovery meant a complete revolution in analytical chemistry, opening new possibilities for physio-chemical research. It is now keenly studied throughout the world.





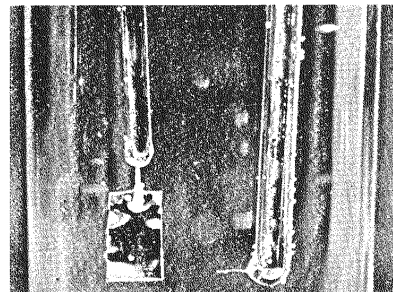
Development of oxygen and hydrogen observable on submerged electrodes when electrolysing a weak solution of sulphuric acid.



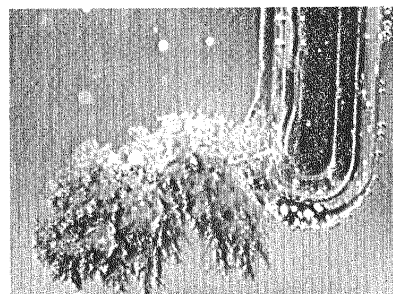
A vessel with two electrodes and an accumulator represent the simplest device for electrolysing. The ammeter shows current.

two electrodes made of small platinum sheets connected to an accumulator and submerged into a solution containing salt, acid or base. When, for example, the electrodes are submerged into a weak solution of sulphuric acid, a vigorous development of oxygen and hydrogen may be seen in the form of bubbles rising to the surface of the solution immediately after the accumulator has been connected to the electrodes. The experiment can be repeated, using a negative electrode in the form of platinum wire and submerging both electrodes into a solution of zinc salt. It will be seen that when the voltage is small, no current flows through the solution and both electrodes remain intact. When the voltage is increased to approximately 1.3 V, the ammeter records a current and metallic zinc

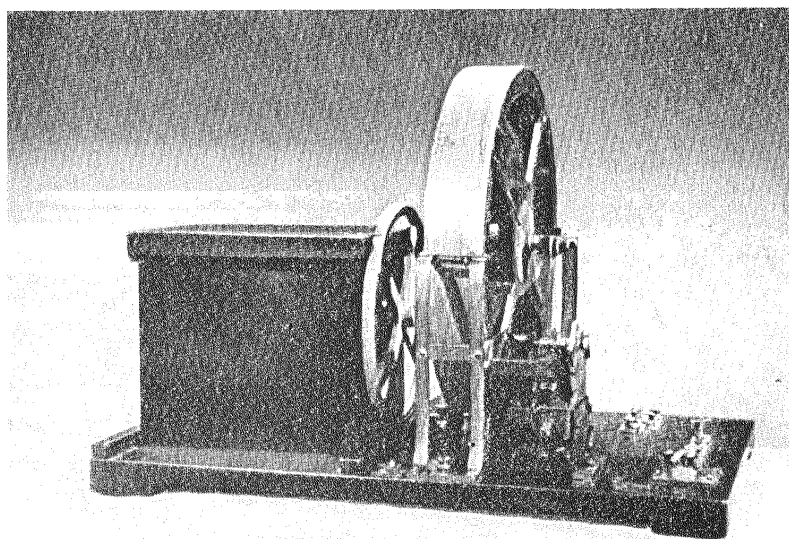
is being deposited on the surface of the electrode. These experiments have shown that the electrolytical process is accompanied by an electric current flowing through the solution between the electrodes only when a certain voltage has been reached. That no current can be measured at a lower voltage is explained by the existence of an opposing voltage called polarisation on the small electrode which acts in the opposite direction to that of the accumulator battery. Should the experiment be repeated, using the same electrode now with a deposition of zinc, the electrolytical process would repeat itself but with the application of a different voltage than the one used before, because the surface of the electrode has been changed by the deposition of metal. To obtain



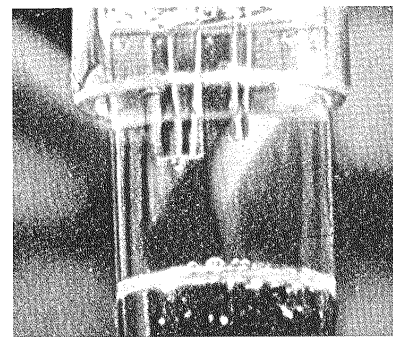
When a solution of zinc salt is electrolysed, using negative electrode in form of . . .



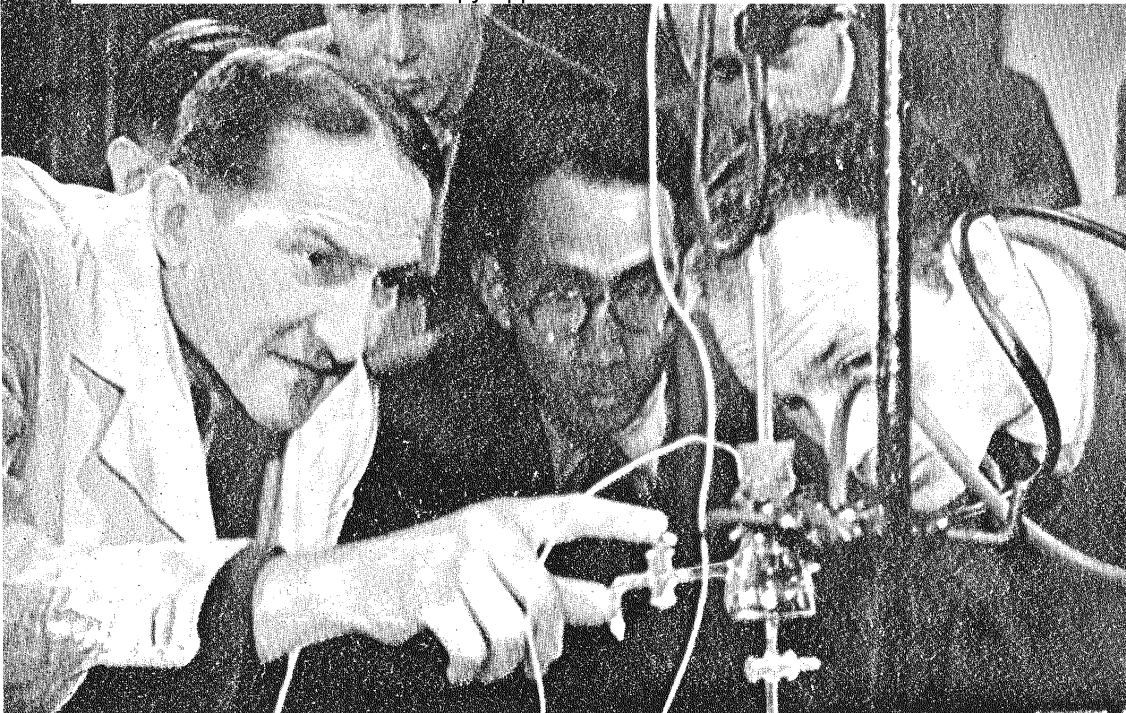
. . . platinum wire, the deposition of zinc may be observed when the voltage reaches 1.3 V.



The world's first polarograph reduced the time necessary for the completion of a polarographic curve from five hours down to five minutes—a great saving for industry.



Instead of the second electrode, a mercury layer at the bottom of the cell is now used.

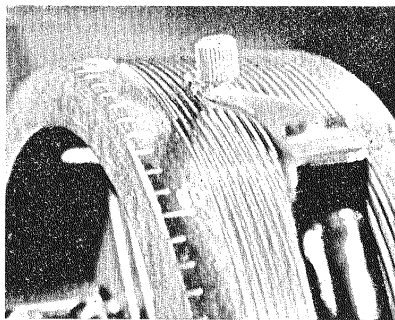


Foreign scientists, studied Prof. Heyrovský's methods in Prague, and made them known in their countries.

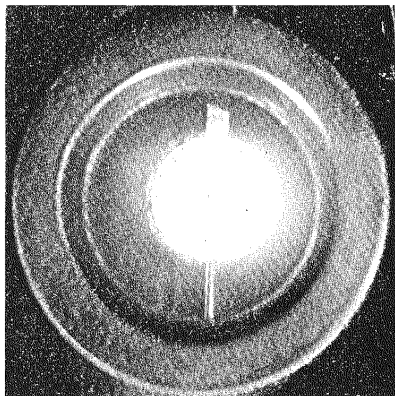
the same results it would therefore be necessary carefully to clean the small electrode before every experiment. Consequently, Professor Heyrovský has used the dropping mercury electrode, the surface of which remains the same, being renewed with every drop of mercury. As a

second (non polarisable) electrode, a layer of mercury at the bottom of the electrolysis cell was used. When electrolysing various substances with the use of this electrode, Prof. Heyrovský discovered that the dependence of current on applied voltage forms a curve, the so-called polarographic wave, by means of which both the nature and quantity of the substance contained in the solution can be determined. Thus the polarographic method was born. This ingenious method of chemical analysis was, however, not suitable for practical application immediately because it was a very tedious method. It was

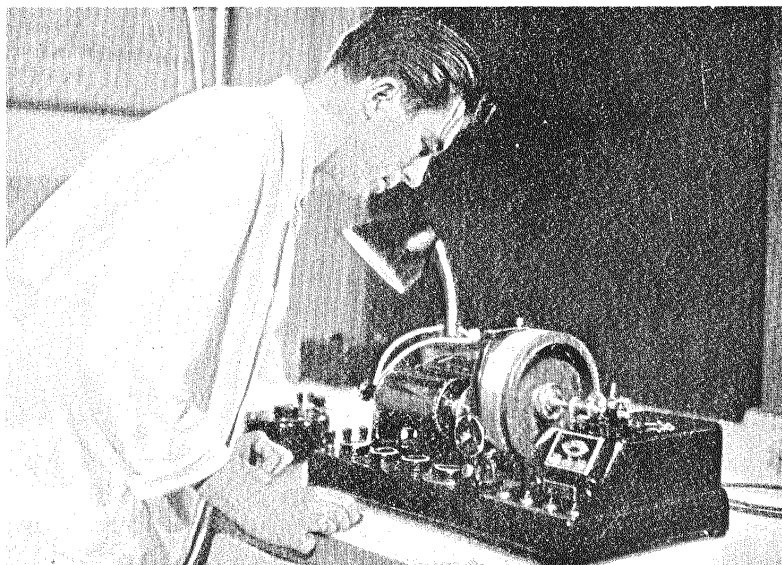
necessary to apply the various voltages to the cell manually and to measure every current separately to obtain the current-voltage curve. Despite these difficulties Professor Heyrovský continued his research to find a method which would make it possible to record the electrolytical process quickly and thus invented the first polarograph in 1924. By mechanisation and by automatic recording on photographic paper, the time necessary for the completion of such a curve was reduced from five hours to five minutes. By rotating a drum with resistance wire the voltage is slowly increased and, simulta-



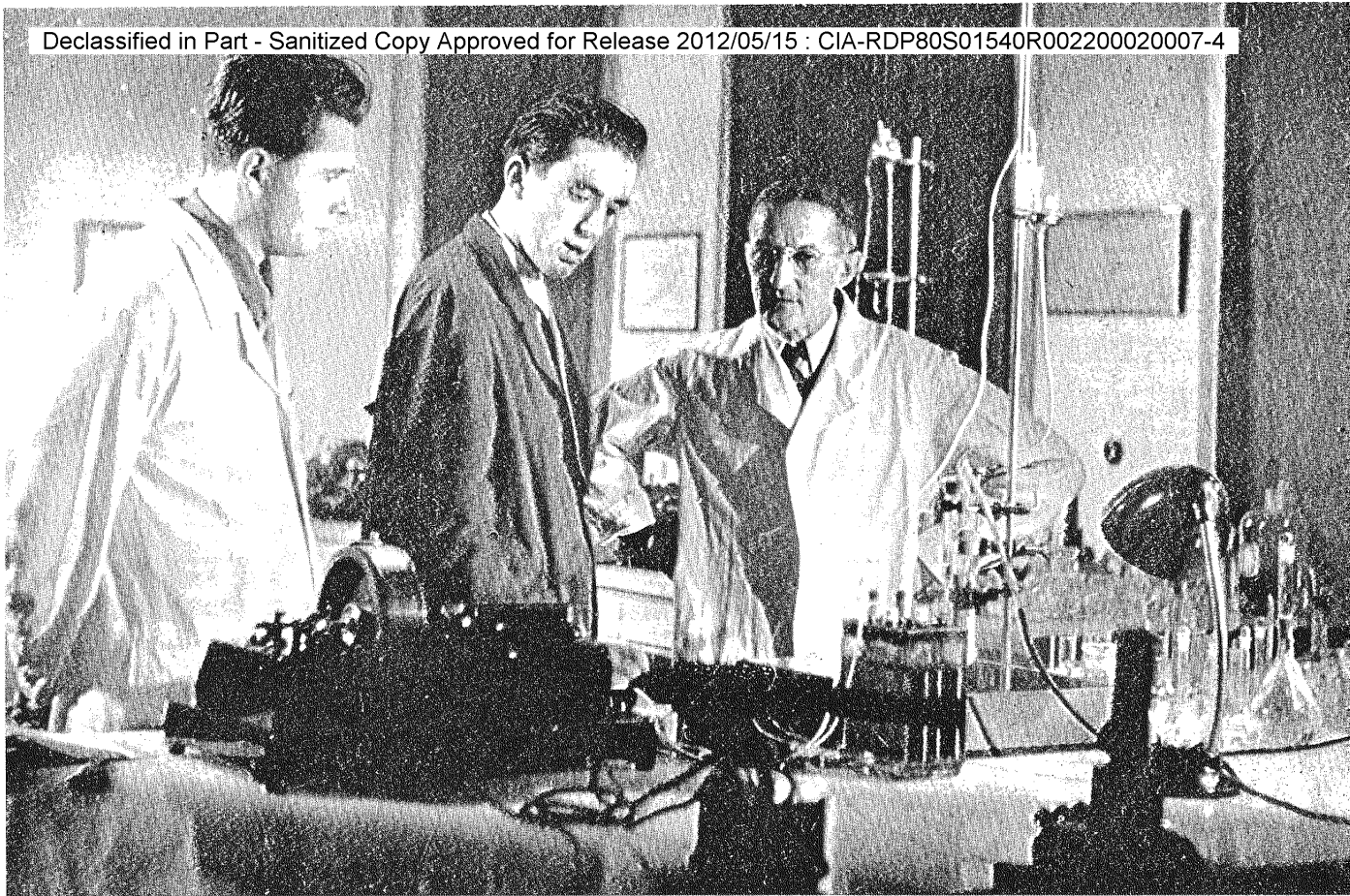
Rotating drum with resistance wire, voltage applied on electrodes slowly increases.



Beam reflected by mirror of the galvanometer records the curve photographically.



New improvements are made annually. Polarographs are now manufactured in series. Type shown is a product of TOS-Vršovice National Corporation, exported all over the world.



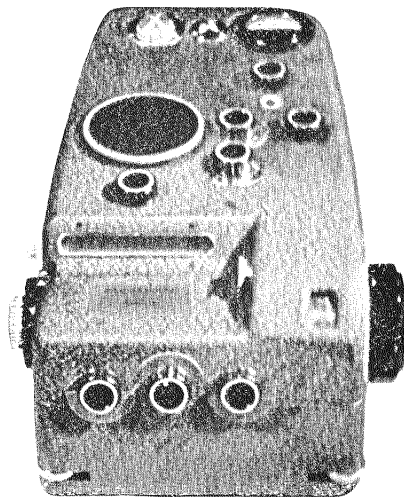
Professor Heyrovský, director, Central Polarographic Institute, where together with his co-workers, he continues his scientific research.

neously, a cylinder, carrying a roll of photographic paper, is being rotated in a light tight housing. A very thin beam of light is being projected on to the mirror of the galvanometer, by means of which the current is measured, from whence it is reflected to the moving photographic paper, the result of which is a photographic record called a polarogram.

Almost every year new improvements were made and these instruments are now manufactured in series. The speed of the process no less than the accuracy of the analysis has made the inventor of polarography famous throughout the world. This method enables the detection and determination of various substances even in cases where usual methods fail completely, and the analysis can be completed and even several curves be recorded within 30 minutes instead of the hours and sometimes days necessary when using the old methods. Everyone realises the value of time in industry; that is why the polarograph is valued so highly wherever it is used.

Polarography has today become a separate field in science in which there are more than three thousand papers in eighteen languages and 13 books published in all world languages which deal with it. Special lectures are also devoted to it in various universities. It is to Professor

Heyrovský, together with his pupils—mainly Professors Brdička and Ilkovič—to whom we are indebted for the fundamental development of the theoretical principles of polarography. After Professor Heyrovský became Ordinarius Professor of Physical Chemistry at Charles University in Prague, scientists from many countries visited him to study his new methods. Some years ago, Professors Shikata, Semerano and Kolt-hoff visited Professor Heyrovský's



Latest type micropolarograph, features up-to-date equipment suitable for quick analysis.

Institute in Prague and, as a result, important polarographic centres have been founded in Japan, Italy and North America. Following the completion of her studies in Prague, a Soviet student, Varasova, returned to Leningrad and, by translating Professor Heyrovský's book on polarography in 1937, made known his methods in the U. S. S. R. Professor Heyrovský's lectures in the U. S. during 1933, as well as those delivered in U. S. S. R. at the 1934 centenary celebrations of the great Soviet scientist, Mendeleyev, followed by lectures in Great Britain, Sweden and Denmark after 1945, represent a considerable contribution to the development of the polarographic method. Professor Heyrovský is fortunate in having devoted pupils and co-workers to whom he, in turn, is devoted. He follows their problems as eagerly as his own. It is also reputed that when their work is published, his name rarely appears on the papers but when it does appear considerably more than fifty per cent of the work has been carried out by the professor himself. This close attachment between Prof. Heyrovský and his pupils has proved to be most fruitful for polarography because his numerous and enthusiastic students have spread a knowledge of it throughout the world.

Photos by courtesy of Czechoslovak State T. I. n



Gaiety and action characterise all their dances and songs. Here a split second from the dance "Don't cry, little girl, don't cry".

YOUNGSTERS D

P

This folk-song and dance group of Slovak Pioneers was created in 1949 by the director of the elementary school in Liptovské Sliache to help keep alive some of the most vivid folk art in the country. In 1950 it won the district, regional, Slovak, and finally the national youth competition.

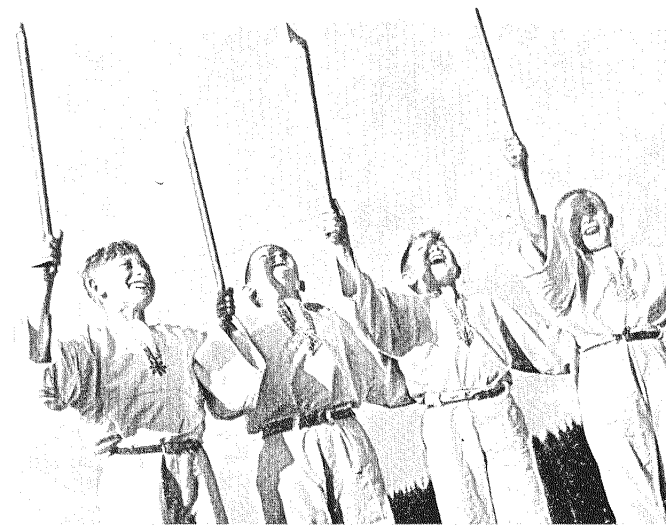




10-year-old Marta Ondrejková (right) and friend still enjoy watching the boys rehearse though they've seen it often. It's training that helps create poise and self-confidence.

Liptovské Štiáče is typical of the many Slovak villages which are rich in natural artistic talent, and today folk-art groups are springing up everywhere which draw from these wells of creativeness to preserve the best in Czechoslovak national traditions and build on their foundations. These groups meet with a ready response from the working people. The Štiáče Pioneers have found patrons in the factory club of a cotton mill, and the factory recently published a three-page article about the youngsters' activities, suggesting that the workers might put in a few extra hours at the machines to help the group financially. The hand-embroidered costumes they use are worth 160,000 crowns.





"Three days they chased me, but they didn't catch me." Famous old dance about outlaws who robbed from the rich to help the poor.

CE INTO SPRING

ndelár



3-year-old Blažena Fričová is on hand to show off her costume, typical of the imaginative colourful creativeness of central Slovakia. The 50-member group took part last year in the Strážnice folk festival and performed for nearly a week to delighted audiences in the Prague Army Theatre.



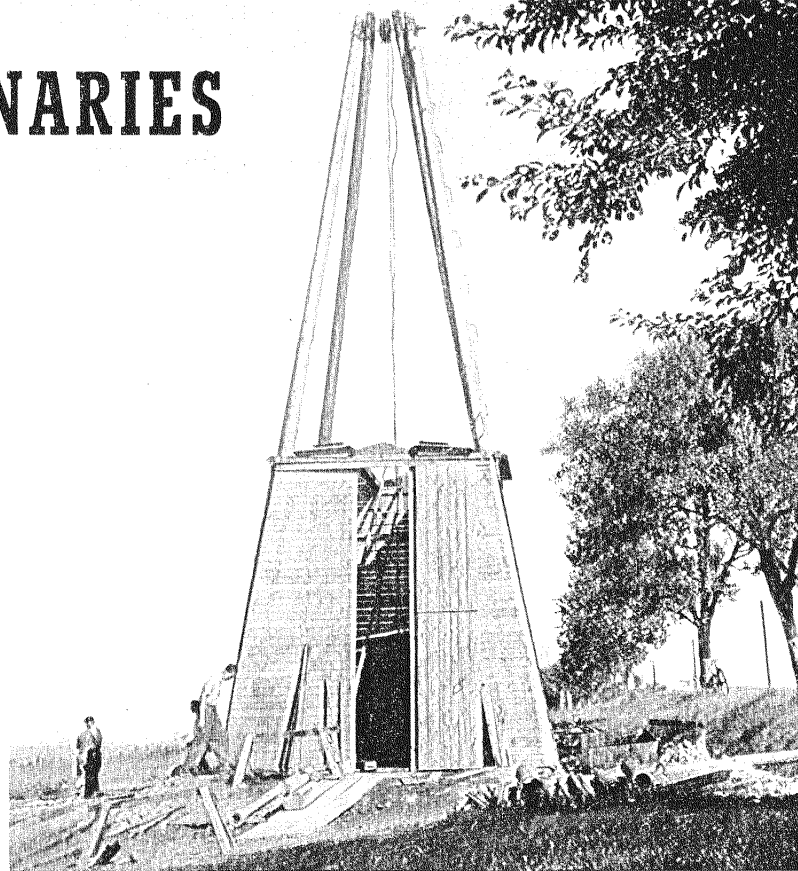
EARTH'S GRANARIES ARE OPENED

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S industrial production is soaring. Iron and steel, chemicals, machine-tools and power equipment, tractors and harvesting machines, textiles and footwear, books and gramophones; these and an infinite number of other products have been pouring from our factories in ever greater quantities. Having exceeded pre-war output by about two thirds last year, Czechoslovakia's industry is scheduled to raise production by another 21 per cent in 1952 and to double its 1948 output by the end of next year.

Such a rapid rate of development naturally poses a crucial problem: how to secure the necessary raw materials to cover not only the current plan of production but also further increases of industrial output in future years. The basic answer to this problem lies of course in a rapid development of indigenous raw-material resources. In the past it had been usually assumed that Czechoslovakia, apart from coal, timber and china-clay, had no substantial raw-material resources of her own.

In particular it was held that the development of the heavy industries, the very industries whose output is to increase most under the Five-Year Plan, was hampered by a dearth of basic minerals and ores produced from domestic resources. In retrospect it seems surprising that this view should ever have gained currency not only abroad but also, it must be admitted, within Czechoslovakia. It is surprising because even a slight knowledge of the economic history of this country reveals that the mining of ores and minerals was one of the most important of all economic activities in the past.

From the Middle Ages onwards, Bohemia and Slovakia gained fame for their wealth of precious and other metals. They were, in fact, among the earliest important centres of the mining industry. For centuries the iron ore mines supplied the Czech and Slovak foundries which were known throughout Europe. With the later development of capitalism this mining industry declined. The cause of this decline was, however, not to be found, as was usually assumed, in the exhaustion of natural deposits but rather in the fact that, at a given



We are finding new raw materials for our industry. This portable boring installation is used by our geologists who also research on mineral ores and dam construction.



Rock borings obtained by the boring installations are carefully packed for minute laboratory inspection by research geologists.



Chipping a rock in a shaft for later study of the graining which will be compared with others to establish layer formation.



Detailed tests disclose the exact composition of the substances thereby often revealing possibilities of new raw materials.

stage of technical knowledge, the extraction of ores and minerals had become unprofitable according to conceptions held by capitalists. As far as iron ores were concerned a lot of mischief was also caused by the idea that Czechoslovak ores were too "poor" to be used in our foundries. This, regardless of the fact that the experience of the Soviet Union and, for that matter also of some capitalist countries, has shown that such "poor" ores can be used very successfully if subjected to modern processing methods.

The revised Five-Year Plan of Czechoslovakia has dealt a death blow to these and similar antiquated views and considerations. It provides for a striking increase in the output of iron ore. Six disused mines will resume production, sixteen others will be expanded and four new mines will be constructed. By 1955 seventeen new processing plants will be in operation and Czechoslovakia will take its place among the foremost producers of iron ore in Europe.

The case of iron ore is only one example. Pyrites, one of the most important raw-materials for the chemical industries, provides another. Until recently Czechoslovakia's requirements of pyrites were covered almost exclusively by imports. A geological survey carried out not long ago showed however that indigenous deposits are sufficient to supply Czechoslovakia's rapidly

growing chemical industry with all the pyrites—highgrade pyrites—it needs.

In this and in other cases the People's Democracy of Czechoslovakia is already reaping the rewards for the tremendous care it bestows on the development of science and scientific research. The State Geological Institute, for instance, today employs more than ten times as many geologists as were employed in Czechoslovakia under capitalism.

Another important element in the present development of our domestic raw material resources can be found in the fact that it is no longer hampered by foreign monopoly interests. Monopoly groups like the "Société Minière de Cinabre" which, before the war, controlled our mercury mines, or the "Antimony Smelting Co." or the Swiss groups who had a firm grip both on the copper-ore mines and on the copper refineries of Czechoslovakia, were often not at all interested in developing production but, on the contrary, in its restriction and even discontinuation. The most striking instance of this is probably that of the Vacuum Oil Company. This oil trust, having gained concessions, made successful borings in our country. It then proceeded promptly to have the borings filled with concrete—this being the beginning and the end of its "production activity" in Czechoslovakia. "Influences" of this kind no longer

operating in our country, it is hardly surprising that the production of mineral oil has made considerable strides. Output in 1953 is planned at three times the level of 1950.

The development of synthetic raw-materials is another important means of solving the problem of raw materials. For instance, the Five-Year Plan provides for the production of plastics on such a scale that as much as 8,000 tons of non-ferrous metals, 15,000 tons of iron and about 2,000 tons of hides and rubber will be saved by 1953.

The expansion of domestic raw-material production does not, of course, mean that Czechoslovakia can or, for that matter desires, to achieve "autarchy". Foreign trade will in the future, remain an important element in satisfying the country's growing requirements for raw materials. Under the five-year trade pact concluded between Czechoslovakia and the U. S. S. R. in 1950, Czechoslovakia imports vast quantities of such raw materials as iron ore, non-ferrous metals, oil and oil derivatives, raw materials for the chemical industries, as well as textile fibres and many other commodities. Under the recently concluded agreement for the current year the import of raw materials from the Soviet Union exceeds considerably the volume imported last year. Similarly, Czechoslovakia imports many important raw materials in great

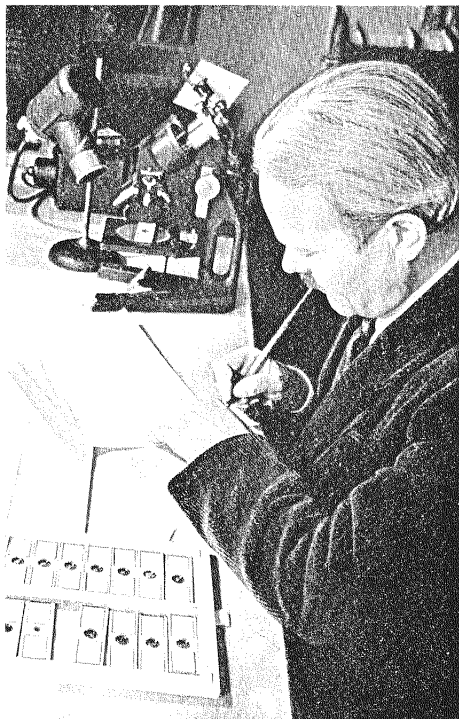
quantities under the long-term trade agreements with the People's Democracies and the Chinese People's Republic.

As far as capitalist countries are concerned, the volume of Czechoslovakia's raw-material imports has, in recent years, remained below the level of what is possible and desirable. But this fact stems from no willingness of Czechoslovakia to exclude those countries from her foreign trade but stems rather from the abnormal state of world trade, caused by the American policy of economic discrimination. Czechoslovakia's desire to expand her trade with all countries and to participate in genuine international economic co-operation has frequently been manifest. In particular it has been expressed in the most specific terms at the recent International Economic Conference in Moscow. Raw materials are one of the many items which Czechoslovakia offered to import from any country willing to enter into mutually advantageous commercial relationships. Thus the expanding raw-material requirements of Czechoslovakia are not only a basis for the growth of her own wealth and well-being but also an element in the development of peaceful economic relations between the nations.

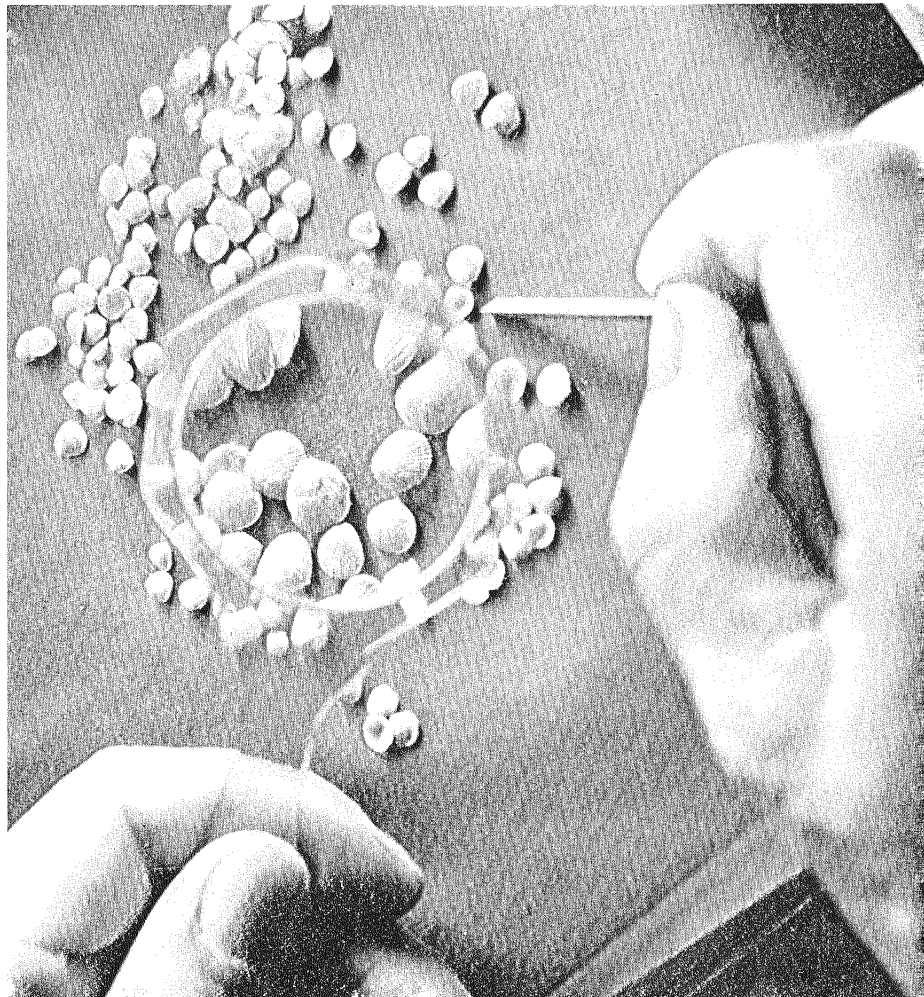
Photos by ČTK — J. Jiro



Careful work of incision by a paleontologist on an exhumed piece of rock to determine the degree of petrification and the particular age and strata from which it comes.



Right: Some sea shells, formerly embedded in rock, under a magnifying glass. Above: These rock samples coded to specification and place of discovery, reveal their layer groups.



CATHOLIC DIGNITARIES INSTALLED

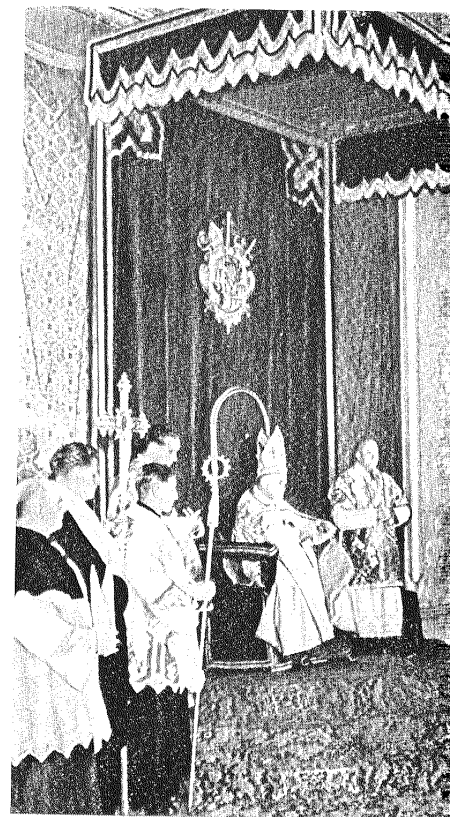
SYMPTOMATIC of the good relations existing between the Roman Catholic Church and the State in Czechoslovakia were the statements made during the recent installation of five new prelates in the See of Olomouc. Seated on his Pontifical Throne, Monsignor J. Matocha, Archbishop of Olomouc, urged prelates and people to be shining examples in the fulfilment of their duties to Church and State. The newly-installed Vicar-General of the Archdiocese, J. Glogar, declared their motto to be *Unitas Fratrum* (Unity With The Brethren). "We came from the people and are always going with the people, particularly today when, through selfless work, they are creating for themselves and their families a new happy life entirely in concord with the moral principles of Christianity... We pray earnestly



Clergy in solemn procession into the 800-year-old St. Wenceslas Cathedral, Olomouc, Moravia for the installation of five prelates by Archbishop J. Matocha, Archbishop of Olomouc.



Third from left is Canon J. Glogar, who was formerly five years in a Nazi concentration camp, now Vicar General of Olomouc and Chairman, Diocesan Peace Committee of Clergy.



The Archbishop abjured both clergy and laity to fulfill Church and State duties.



Catholicism, closely linked to the people, is our largest religious denomination.

for peace in our time, Oh! Lord. We pray that the demand for the preservation of peace made by peace-loving mankind be blessed and that un-Christian intentions for the destruction of mankind be prevented. We shall strive even more to help the laity and the nation to fulfil this glorious task which God has given to us." Ing. J. Plihal, Deputy Minister for Church Affairs, said the Czechoslovak Government had proved that no one will suffer because of his religious belief but "we shall not allow reaction to misuse religious sentiment for irreligious aims hostile to our People's Democratic State".



The brocade of the copes gleames as their wearers are blessed by the Archbishop from the High Altar following the Te Deum which concluded this ancient cathedral ceremony.



Dr. Glogar, Vicar-General kissing the Archbishop's ring. "We rose from the people and we will stay with the people," he said later.



"This is further proof of our desire to create good relations with the Church," said Ing. J. Plihal, Deputy Minister, Church Affairs.



A GREAT SEAT OF LEARNING



The Faculty Council in session, headed by the Dean. Here academic problems are settled, with student representatives taking part.



Quiet and comfort for study in one of the reading rooms of the University Library housed in the former Clementinum College.



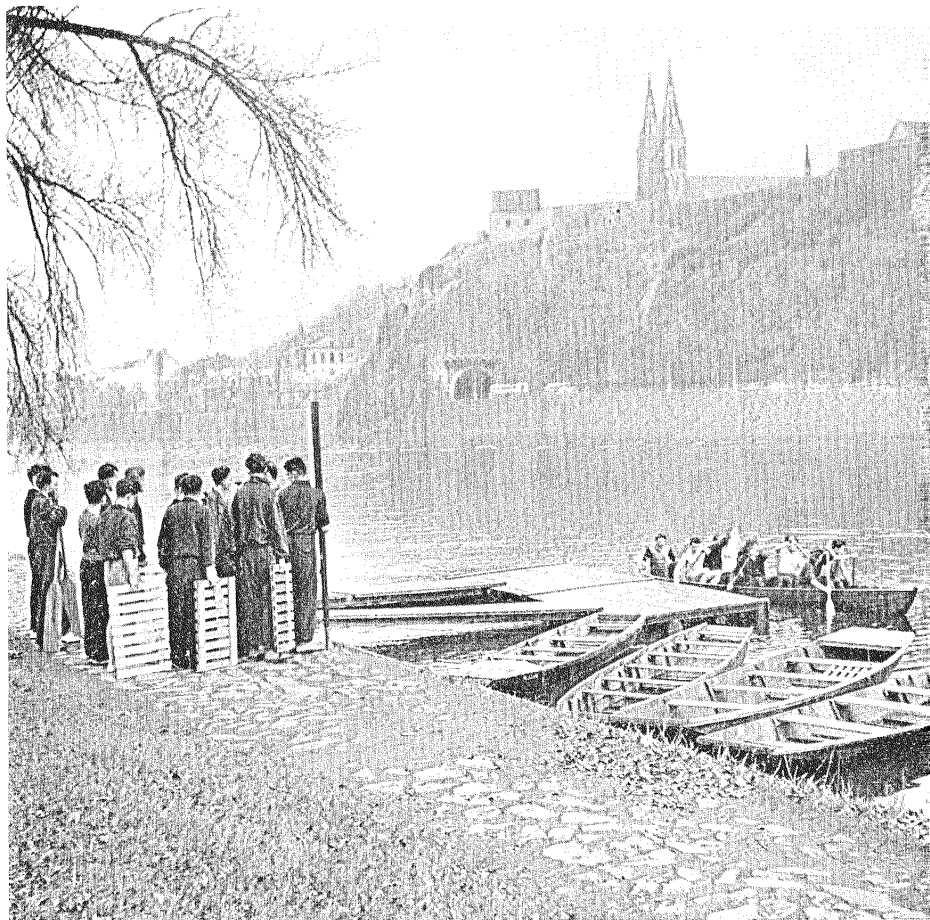
Celebrations of International Youth Day in the Faculty Club. Second-year students of English are discussing racial discrimination.



An eighteenth century geographical clock, one of the many scientific treasures of the Clementinum, accessible to the whole nation.

CHARLES UNIVERSITY in Prague, founded in 1348 by Charles the Fourth as a seat of learning for Czech scholars, is the oldest and greatest university in Central Europe. The sixth centenary of her founding was attended by scholars from all over the world: a tribute not only to past glory but to present renown. Not the least of her claims to respect today is the success of the reforms in university life introduced in the new Czechoslovak Republic.

As early as 1945, fees were completely abolished, enabling thousands of students, robbed by the German occupation of the opportunity to enter the University, to finish their studies, regardless of economic considerations. This reform has been carried even further, and study at a university in Czechoslovakia today is solely the privilege of the gifted, regardless of origin. A stipendium eases financial difficulties, and since planned employment ensures jobs for all, the years spent in studying are no longer a gamble. The number of students admitted to the various faculties varies according to the number of graduates likely to be required in the different professions. Workers denied a secondary school education by the social inequalities of a pre-war Czechoslovakia now have the chance to catch up at spe-



Physical fitness is a pleasure on the playing-field, on the river—and even in the air. Here are canoe enthusiasts setting out on a trip. Gliding is another popular sport.



Hostels for students from the provinces are comfortable and practical and student-run.



Prof. Trnka discusses some problems of Old English with fourth year students. In his weekly "consultation time" each professor puts his knowledge at the disposal of students.



Graduate of the English department, Alena Bernásková, rising young novelist and winner of a State Prize for Literature, tells students of her experiences in the Soviet Union.

cial boarding schools in order to enter the University later on.

Their families are cared for too, so that the years spent in studying impose no extra burden on the family purse. These worker-students bring a new element of wisdom and practical experience into University life. Incidentally, there is a special hostel in Prague for students who marry at the University, with a nursery which takes care of baby while mother and father attend lectures. It is the first of its kind, and places are eagerly sought after.

Everybody studying at a Czech or Slovak university today has a clear aim in view and is studying with a purpose. Gone is the wealthy idler "student". Gone the "eternal student" too, for success in intermediate examinations is now a condition for further study and there is a limit to the time spent in covering any part of the course. On the other hand, examinations need no longer be a bugbear for the conscientious student. His fellows are there not to "do him down" but to help him out. One of the most effective reforms in methods of study are the study groups of students, united by choice of subject and year, where collective discussion helps the weaker over problems which turn up in the course of private study and opens up new aspects of the subject.



The University Music Group brings together amateur performers from all faculties.



The University Music Group performing national songs and dances in costume at the Second IUS Congress. Here they can hold their own with the best ensembles in the country.



Conductor Jan Taussinger here goes through a new number with singers and orchestra.



A collective approach to problems met with in individual study—a study-group of second-year students of English in action.



Time out for a quick one at the local buffet. Like students everywhere, they believe a whipped cream cocktail is good brain-food.



An anxious moment in this test of a student's ability to interpret the life of their country in good English—but with a fellow-student to see fair play, while others wait.



The Faculty Club takes care of those leisure hours—an informal hop to the gramophone.

Planning is an essential part of educational as of economic life, and university studies are planned too. It is no longer possible to pick your courses at random and attend lectures at will. Courses in each subject are planned over the whole four years of university life, and a minimum attendance is specified. The courses within each department are co-ordinated to provide a complete survey of the subject matter, and combinations of subjects open to students are carefully planned as well.

Most striking effect of the reforms is to be seen in the democratic spirit of university life. Not only do all members of the staff in our universities hold regular "consultations", when students bring their problems for discussion and advice, but students play a considerable part in the running of the departments, apart from the work of the students' own self-government organs. The leader of the study group is present when his or her fellows are examined, sitting as a member of the Board of Examiners. Criticism and suggestions as to matter and method are welcomed from students and discussed at the regular meetings of the department staff. The running of a department as a whole, and the life of its students, is the care of the departmental committees of students, uniting in the Faculty Committee. Student representation in the Faculty Council ensures that student opinion on academic matters is heard at the highest as at every other stage.

Not that life is all study and committee meetings. Quite the contrary. A stranger wandering into the Faculty of Arts and coming face to face with invitations to sing, dance, recite, join crowd scenes for a film in



The Mace-Bearer leads in the graduation ceremonies on Degree Day in the fourteenth century hall built by Charles the Fourth and now restored to Charles' own University.



Degree Day for Vlastislava Zihlová, Ph. D., is a proud moment for Mother too. Great opportunities await the new graduates in Czechoslovakia.

the streets of Prague, go up the river in a steamer, join in every kind of sport from ski-ing to pingpong, practice for the Tyrš Fitness Badge or the Fučík Badge of all-round Socialist education, listen to talks, watch films and hear concerts—such a stranger might be forgiven for wondering where all the energy comes from. But the sight of students setting off at a lively pace for

the hill above the river where finishing touches are being put on a waste land which last year was transformed into a park and parade ground, and where each of the faculties of the Charles University has its week of voluntary pledged work, or coming back from a week's voluntary work among the heroic builders of the steel heart of the new Czechoslovakia at Ostrava, strengthened in

muscle and in determination—this would be sufficient to convince him that the energy is there. This energy has been freed by an education for life in a Socialist society, where every man and woman has the right and the opportunity to develop his personality and his talents to the full, for the pleasure and the benefit of his fellows.

Photos by ČTK — Fr. Kocián

Iris Urwin

PLAYERS OF PROMISE



Chief coach and Czechoslovak international centre-forward Jaroslav Cejp, presently on the injured list as a player, listens to a teaser of a question being put by one of his pupils.

IMAGINE A FACTORY with 19 football teams. It sounds fantastic. But we have plenty of factories in Czechoslovakia in that happy position, all running their own leagues with the plant and taking part in outside competitions as well. A recent report by the football section of the central committee of the Sokol sports and physical training organisation showed that there are 160,000 registered players and their numbers grow daily.

As a typical example of a factory running a considerable number of football teams we can instance the ČKD Sokolovo factory in Prague, the factory we have mentioned as having 19 teams. Four of these are men's teams, three are for players of 17 to 18 years, a dozen for youths of 15 to 16 years of age.

On top of that they have a couple of teams in the Libeň secondary school, to which the ČKD Sokolovo Works act as patrons; these last two being for schoolboys of from 12 to 15 years.

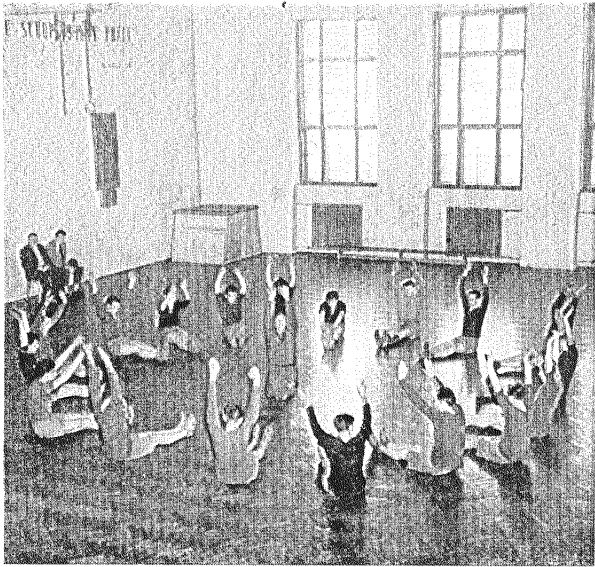
Inside the factory nearly every workshop or department has its own football team. Some of the best of the works' teams play in Prague district competitions, and the works' number one side, the Sparta ČKD



Soccer kit these apprentices wear is paid for by Sokol club organisation, the ČKD Sokolovo Works and the apprentices' school.



You can't go up for a ball if you don't train how to do it. Doing special jumping exercises which will help them to get up and head a ball.



In apprentices' school gymnasium one of the football teams puts in an hour of training that will stand them in good stead later.



Koubek explains the principle of getting well over the ball before kicking it. It's a kind of training that all the youngsters like.

Sokolovo is, of course, one of the best senior sides in the whole of the People's Democratic Republic.

But the interesting thing about this factory with 19 football teams is not merely its wealth of talent but the fact that it is an example of how the Sokol directive for developing fresh football talent is being carried out in practice.

The deputy mayor of the Sokol organisation, Oldřich Beran, some time ago outlined the tasks of Czechoslovak football, one of which was that of developing youth to the full. This is being done in most of the great national enterprises, of which ČKD Sokolovo is a fine example.

The football training of the ČKD Sokolovo apprentices is just as well organised as is their work in school and in the workshops. First of all, all the apprentices, whether they are footballers or not, must do a couple of hours physical training weekly.

This is done in the gymnasium of the apprentices' school. In addition, young footballers do two periods of two hours each training for football in each week, two teams working out together in practice games.

Chief coach is Jaroslav Cejp, a Czechoslovak international centre-forward, who played for Sparta against Derby County, Birmingham City, the Arsenal, Edinburgh Hibernians and Glasgow Rangers in 1946.

Cejp, who has an engineering degree, has a number of assistants, the majority of them amateur coaches working on a voluntary basis, most of them being active first-team players.

All the senior players, like the others, are workers in the factory; for professional football is a thing of

the past in Czechoslovakia. The footballers are particularly proud of the fact that many of their best players are also among the best of the workers.

In fact, the champion workers of the apprentices' school and the factory as well is a 17-year-old boy named Erben, who both Jaroslav Cejp and the school chief instructor, Jaroslav Franěk, insist is going to be the best footballer ever turned out by Sparta ČKD Sokolovo.

Here you see football as a recreation and not as a blind-alley occupation as it is in the capitalist countries, where the footballer does no work and finds himself, with his football days over, without a job and with no training to fit him for one. Here in People's Democratic Czechoslovakia football has truly adapted itself to the Socialist conception of sport as a recreation, not a form of public entertainment.

Photos by ČTK — J. Skalický

Armour Milne



Blažejovský, Sparta's right-half, is just too late in rising to the ball. Senior players guide youngsters in their training, showing them the right and wrong way of every move.



The football pitches never get a rest. Even the most junior of teams use the senior ground for practice and matches to perfect skill.