

## Apartment House In Soviet Russia

By William C. White, in Ufa, Berlin

Like all foreigners who settle in Moscow for some time, I went through the difficulties of securing lodgings. Eventually I found one in one of the large apartment houses, but had to share my room with a young bank clerk, who volunteered to inform me that meals could not be provided in the house, but that the neighbor Marfusha, an old woman from the country, would look after the cleaning. This Marfusha, who grey and drab as she was, looked more like forty than like thirty, turned out to be a young woman of twenty-six, prematurely aged with childbirth, abortive practices and malnutrition. She was willing and helpful, however, especially helped me to form an idea of what life in a Moscow apartment house really is. Marfusha's own history is that of thousands of other country and provincial folk who flock to Moscow, because the word holds a magic spell for them, because it is the capital in which there is always something "going on"; also because food rations are supposed to be bigger in Moscow than elsewhere. And so they sell houses, horses and cows and come to Moscow. In a very short time the population of the capital has increased from under a million to well over two millions, and the authorities were faced with a very thorny housing problem. In spite of ruthless measures the migration still goes on. This, coupled with the fact that many others were confiscated for government and office purposes, is responsible for the present appalling housing conditions in the Soviet capital.

My particular apartment house was no better and no worse than all other institutions of its kind. Designed before the war to house a hundred wealthy families in its hundred or so rooms, it now houses in every one of the apartments as many families as there are rooms. The lucky ones who can obtain two rooms for themselves are very, very few. People who are strangers, often even enemies, are compelled to live side by side, sometimes in close intimacy, and this state of affairs is a source of continuous fighting and gossip and trouble. In my apartment there are about 25 people in addition to three servants. It seems incongruous under the circumstances, but servants are still kept. Where husband and wife both work in government institutions, there must be somebody to look after the children and especially to stand in the "tails" before the government foodstores. Although war and militant revolution are things of the past, tails have survived. The latest wisecrack in Moscow is that while once upon a time the plural of the word "man" was "men," nowadays it is "tail."

The servants sleep in the corridor, which is entirely against the regulations. But Marfusha's husband, who is the representative of the house committee in our apartment and therefore more or less its ruler, has decreed that they are to sleep there in the overcrowded rooms of their masters. At four in the afternoon the kitchen begins to fill with seven housewives or respective maids, who prepare seven soups with seven different odors on seven pots. These soups—the "primuses," without which life in post-revolutionary Russia is unthinkable. The still available space is taken up by double the number of screaming children and this is given "the signal" for the daily fight over kitchen affairs. Every occurrence of daily life is a cause for a fight in such a beehive. Quarrels, fights and gossip provide the daily entertainment, without which life would be indeed monotonous.

Corridor and bathroom—which, be it said, is used only for laundry purposes, as the tenants prefer to go to the public baths for their personal ablutions—are supposed to be cleaned in turn by all the tenants. Another reason for fighting. The electric and telephone bills are paid in equal amounts by all tenants. Sometimes the bills soar ominously, and no sooner is it discovered that a more prosperous member of the household has acquired an electric iron or kettle than the row starts. The culprit is asked to install a separate meter, but as this costs 30 rubles, the rule is usually not complied with. The corridor, with its array of baskets, bags, trunks and spare mattresses, is the common battlefield and forum.

Apartment houses are administered by house committees. The committee consists of one representative for every apartment and a couple of paid clerks, whose duty it is to keep the books, look after repairs, heating, etc., and, last but not least, after the registration of personal documents. No one is allowed to spend a night in a house without reporting to the house committee and being registered with the police. The house committee also fixes the rents, which are low and are based on the class principle. A factory worker pays very little, a physician slightly more, where as a private merchant perhaps ten times as much as a worker, and he is lucky if he gets a room at that. An unemployed with a good reputation pays almost nothing.

Out of the rents, repairs and heating are paid. The latter is turned on and off with the calendar, regardless of the temperature. The repairs are of course entirely insufficient and most of the once magnificent apartment houses are in a deplorable state of decay. Elevators that work are things of the long-forgotten past.

The Government is making attempts to solve the housing problem but is lacking the necessary means and also the time. Several new apartment houses have been built during the last few years. In these new houses all apartments have three rooms and modern conveniences. They are very comfortable and up to date, but their number is insufficient. Usually the employees of a concern or corporation get together and constitute a building fund to which they contribute monthly. After some time the Government steps in and advances the money, upon which building begins. The idea is ex-

cellent but unfortunately there are not many people in Moscow nowadays who are in a position to contribute regularly to a building fund.

The greatest difficulty, however, is still the food supply. Foodstuffs can be purchased from the government stores at reasonable prices, but there never seems to be enough to satisfy the demand. Of course food can be bought in any quantity at the private shops, but prices there are prohibitive for the overwhelming majority of the population. Thus, while the monthly butter ration for one person can be obtained at the government store for 50 cents, a pound of butter costs three dollars and more in a private shop.

Still life goes on—apparently human beings get used to these conditions. Although the revolution has changed a lot in Russia, the psychology of the Russian has remained essentially the same. My conversations with Marfusha are an endless source of information in this respect. In spite of hardships, malnutrition, etc., neither she nor her husband or mother would dream of returning to the village. Her only reply is: "I cannot explain—not being Russian you would not understand. This is Moscow—something is always going on here. And then we are no longer peasants. It is better so. Also the law is better for us now."

Neither has the revolution wrought any parting change in the mind of the average Russian woman, to whom silk stockings are still the highest ideal. That there are countries in which all women always wear silk stockings is utterly inconceivable to Marfusha and her sisters. And bidding me good-bye when I was leaving for a short trip abroad, she added significantly: "You won't forget to bring me a pair of silk stockings—please!"

## What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON  
Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern



2808

Here's a dainty idea, all feminine, with slim straight lines, as Paris would have it.

Of course you will have spotted the smartly shaped collar that is given a military air, buttoned at the left shoulder.

A printed crepe silk in yellow and white made the original. The white crepe collar was edged with lace.

Another sportive scheme is white crinkle silk crepe with light navy blue crinkle crepe collar edged with vivid red bias binds. Choose a red leather belt.

Lacy cottons, wide wale pique, striped linen and many rayon novelties are delightful materials to use for this chic model.

Style No. 2808 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.

Size 16 requires 3 1/2 yards 39-inch with 3/4 yard 35-inch contrasting.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS. Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap it carefully for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

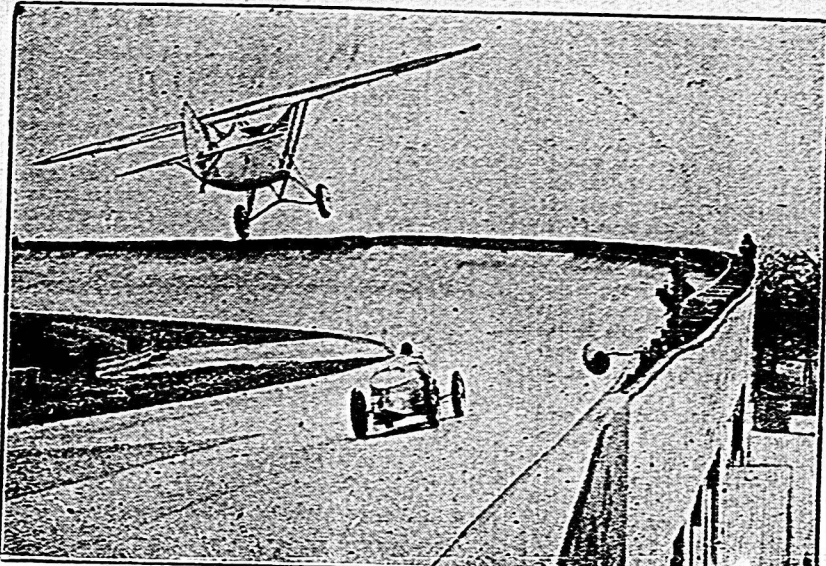
## Oak Tree 1,200 Years Old

Douen—An unusual oak tree, containing two chapels within its huge trunk, will celebrate its 1,200th year of existence on July 2, at the village of Allouville-Belefosse, near here. Nine men with their axes extended are barely able to encircle the base of the tree. Of course, its exact age is lost in the mists of history, but experts declare it must be approximately 1,200 years old.

In the first chapel is a statue of the Virgin presented by the Empress Eugenie during the Second French Empire. An elegant wooden stairway surrounds the oak and leads to the second chapel which is known as La Chapelle du Calvaire. It is related that the tree was visited by Charles II of England, and also by Louis XV.

It is better by a noble boldness to run the risk of being subject to half the evils which we anticipate, than to remain in cowardly listlessness for fear of what may happen.—Herodotus.

## A Close Race



Marcel Doret, famous pilot, matches his speed with that of Albert Divo, auto racer, at Monthlery, France. By a scant margin, Doret won, having gone 216.36 kilometers an hour.

## Venetian Lace of China Is Important in Exports

Venetian lace, an important item of China's export trade, says United States Commerce Reports, originally was made in the village of Burano, near Venice, but the Syrians, who began to copy Burano lace, brought the patterns from Venice to China in 1919. The so-called Burano lace, frequently known as Sard or Sardo, from the original Sardinian work of Italy, formerly was an important export but during the last few months demand is reported to have ceased almost entirely, owing to competition and low prices.

This cotton fillet is made with a darning stitch on a comparatively coarse cotton net of 5 or 6 holes to the inch. It was introduced to the Pootung district of Shanghai about 1925, where it was manufactured for about one-third of the price it cost in Italy. The net, or mesh foundation, for this type of lace is made at Ningpo and vicinity because the fisher folk at that port understood the manufacture of nets when the work first started.

In an attempt to build up the Sard market, a certain Shanghai manufacturer has begun the production of linen Sard, or Tuscan lace, which is somewhat similar to the so-called Russian fillet, with a darning stitch on a 5 or 6 hole net. It differs from the cheaper article in that it is made entirely of pure linen thread and the method of working the design is more difficult.

## Treat Sheep and Lambs To Control Worms

More than half the sheep in Ontario are now being treated for worms control. All the others should be. The advantage in regular worm control treatment is shown in the experience of the farmers of the Bruce Peninsula. In the winter of 1929, the sheep flocks were in bad shape and many flock owners experienced heavy losses, due to parasitism having developed to a serious degree in their flocks. Some post mortem demonstrations were held in the district, and explanations made regarding the life and control of parasites infesting sheep. Following this field work, the people most interested undertook the treating of the 4000 head of sheep in the Bruce Peninsula. As the result of this work, the sheep stopped dying, the lambs grew to market size by September and were sold for good prices. Treatment has been continued spring and autumn, resulting in healthy flocks and good strong lambs. The bluestone-mustard treatment has proven effective in all flocks where it has been given a trial, as recommended in Ontario Department of Agriculture bulletin 337. Protection and treatment of a preventive character is the best insurance for a healthy and profitable flock of sheep.

"The flower of American manhood does not go into politics, but chooses industry instead. In England just the reverse is true."—Winston Churchill.

## Political Greatness

Nor happiness, nor majesty, nor fame, Nor peace, nor strength, nor skill in arms or arts, Shepherd those herds whom tyranny makes tame; Verse echoes not one beating of their hearts. History is but the shadow of their shame.

What are numbers knit By force or custom? Man who man would be Must rule the empire of himself; in it Must be supreme, establishing his throne On vanquished will, quelling the anarchy Of hopes and fears, being himself alone.

—Percy Bysshe Shelly, "Poems."



"What's all that cheering in the next room for?" "That's the sign that somebody has just finished his after dinner speech."

## A Call to Germany

By Paul Von Hindenburg, President, German Reich, in a Speech at Berlin Accepting His Re-election. With gratitude for the confidence again manifested in me by the German people and with a pledge to serve them and the Fatherland as heretofore with all my strength, I accept re-election to the Presidency.

Faithful to my oath, I shall continue to conduct my office in a spirit of equity above partisanship, with a firm resolve to help our Fatherland to attain liberty and equality of rights without and unity and progress within. Those who voted for me and those who did not—I address this admonition: Bury your quarrels. Close up your ranks. As on taking office seven years ago, I again call on the German people to work together. The union of all our forces is needful to overcome the confusion and distress of our times. Only when we stand together are we strong enough to master our fate.

Forward, then, unitedly, with God's aid! A match is about the only thing that becomes useful when it flares up. And even a match goes out soon after.

## Main Traffic Artery To Be Beautified in Paris

Paris—Twelve straight roads may be counted from the top of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, radiating in all directions. One of these stretches far beyond the one-time gates of Courbevoie, a distance of four kilometers—about 2 1/2 miles. The authorities have for a long time wanted to reconstruct and beautify this road, as it is one of the main entrances into the city. A competition was opened and architects submitted numerous plans. The winning design converts the Place de la Defense into a Place de la Victoire with a monumental statue of Victory in the center, enlarges the Pont des Marechaux. In the center of the proposed bridge, where it would rest on the island of Puteaux, which would be converted into public gardens, there would be on one side a statue of Marshal Joffre with a French "poilu" of 1914 and on the other a statue of Marshal Foch with a "poilu" of 1918; each corner of the bridge would also be decorated by the statue of a prominent French marshal. The avenue leading from the bridge to the Etoile would be widened and lined with blocks of modern flats. This project is the work of the architect M. Bisot and the sculptors Landowski and Bouchard.

## Swiss Cut Deposit Rate

Geneva—"We have the honor to inform you that because of the persistent abundance of money and difficulties for banks to find a use for it, the banks of Geneva are forced to reduce as from present date their interest rate to one-half of 1 per cent per annum."

This notice recently greeted Geneva depositors with their breakfast mail. It is another proof of Switzerland's prosperity and its plethora of cash, while the inconveniences of too much money are revealed. Owing to difficulty of finding safe ways of placing their funds, Swiss capitalists are falling into many financial pitfalls, but banks are marking time, eagerly awaiting opportunities for useful investment.

## Chinese War Lord Turns To Raising of Cattle

Nanking—Defeated Chinese war lords, ordinarily go abroad or retire. But Gen. Yen Hsi-shan, "model Governor" of Shansi Province and one of these defeated war lords, has broken away from that old tradition. After Gen. Chiang Kai-shek defeated him a year and a half ago, he returned to his province as a common citizen and started a company for the development of China's northwestern resources. He has raised \$5,000,000 (Mexican) and plans to develop the cattle raising industry, coal mines, forests and rivers in Shansi, Shensi and Kansu Provinces.

## Women of To-day Successfully Fight Cancer of Breast Menace

There is no better sign of the average high intelligence of the women of this country and no better evidence of the value of publicity of correct information in the daily press than the change that has taken place in the status of cancer of the breast today as compared with thirty years before in the decade between 1800 and 1900.

Before 1900 and since 1890 the operative treatment for cancer of the breast was perfected. Yet, during that decade, in the best clinics of civilized countries throughout the world the actual incidence of cancer among every hundred women entering the clinic complaining of some trouble in the breast was eighty. Today in a number of clinics in this country, in localities where there has been publicity through the daily press for seventeen years, the incidence of cancer has fallen from eighty to seventeen, the hopeless cases of cancer from more than fifty to less than five per cent, and the actual five year cures have risen from less than ten to more than sixty per cent. This tremendous change for the better has nothing to do with the improvement in surgery or the advent of radiation (x-ray or radium). But it cannot be accomplished unless the diagnosis, the surgery and the irradiation are of the best that can be obtained anywhere.

The enlightened woman should have no fear of cancer of the breast, if she reports for an examination the moment she observed anything unusual in the breast or nipple, or in the region of the armpit or axilla. It is safer to pay attention to anything unusual, no matter how insignificant—pain without a lump, a lump without pain, any change in the nipple, any irritation, any discharge from the nipple, pulling in of the nipple, anything that can be felt in the breast, like a cake, or something that could not be felt before; any lump under the armpit. Go at once to your family physician. If you are properly educated, you will have selected your medical adviser, your breast will have been examined at the last periodic examination and your personal physician will be familiar with the normal condition of your breast. In a large number of cases of this kind your selected family physician will be able to give that condition of the breast which has attracted your attention. In no relation to cancer, and, except for irritations of the nipple, no treatment is necessary. In a certain portion of the cases the general practitioner, after examining your breast will decide that it is safer for you to be studied by a specialist. In a group of one hundred women who seek an examination the moment they are warned and, after being examined by one or both doctors, the chances are that seventy-five per cent or more will require no operation or irradiation. From the standpoint of greatest safety and protection, a number will be requested to return for a second examination. Among this enlightened group of women properly examined, in about twenty-five per cent, there will be a definite lump and a simple operation in a hospital will become necessary. In lumps of this kind it is impossible to detect the presence of cancer by any method of examination previous to operation. Do not consent to any form of blood test for cancer or preliminary treatment with any serum, for protection against cancer. Your surgeon should tell you before the operation that there are just two kinds of lumps. In one you remove the lump only and save the breast. In the other you remove the breast by the complete operation as the best protection against a return and the best insurance of a permanent cure. In addition, in some instances it is a good plan after operation to have protective irradiation with x-rays or radium.

Women who have borne children should be best protected, because they will become familiar with the value of periodic examination; before and after the birth of their children. They will be instructed as to the absolute necessity for protection against cancer of the cervix to submit to periodic pelvic examinations, and at this time the physician should examine the breasts and give them the correct information that every woman should have about the care of her breast and nipples.

Publicity in regard to the breast, the skin and the mouth is giving evidence of its value in many of the clinics of this country today, and is the chief reason for these articles.

## Brevities

Gt. Britain imports 75,000,000 cigars from Havana every year. Among people over the age of ninety-nine there are nearly three women to every man.

The wireless industry in England had a turnover of nearly \$150,000,000 last year, and more than 1,250,000 wireless sets were sold.

Modern dairymen are now expected to be able to look after poultry, pigs, and sheep, and drive motor-trucks if necessary.

In London 109,000 persons are living in 20,000 basement dwellings, which are deemed by experts unfit for human habitation.

British cigars, which can be just as good as any imported article, have not yet proved popular; the output has decreased by sixty-six per cent since 1921.

Perfumes are now made from strange materials. For oil being the raw material for certain scents, and coal tar providing a vanilla perfume as sweet as the real article.

Portable telephone sets have been installed in eleven continuation schools in London, so that pupils may be instructed in the use of the instrument.

A smoking compartment and special accommodation for dogs are provided in a new three-decker motor-bus just put into use in Rome. The vehicle carries eighty-eight passengers.

In the body of the average human adult there is enough fat to make from 3 1/2 lb to 7 1/2 lb. of candles, nine and a half gallons of water, and sufficient carbon to make over 9,000 lead pencils.

Self-made "colonels" are so common in Kentucky, U.S.A., that it is proposed to make them pay \$125 a year for using the title. As it is estimated there are 10,000 of them, the yield will be considerable.

In the handbag of a woman thief who was caught recently the police found purses, handkerchiefs, scissors, fountain-pens, pencils, combs, mirrors, gloves, powder-boxes, fancy cigarette boxes, wristlet watches, and jewellery.

Among the supper dishes recommended for children in institutions under the British Ministry of Health are pomegranates, apples, oranges, bananas, stewed damsons and prunes, dates, and lemonade with biscuits.

Experiments are being made to protect smokers against nicotine by producing a tobacco plant containing very little of the poison, and by finding an absorbent which will remove nicotine while the tobacco is being smoked.

Women are stated to be more forgetful than men by lost property officials, who say that they find many more powder-boxes than cigarette cases. They add that women also do not trouble to claim their property so frequently as men.

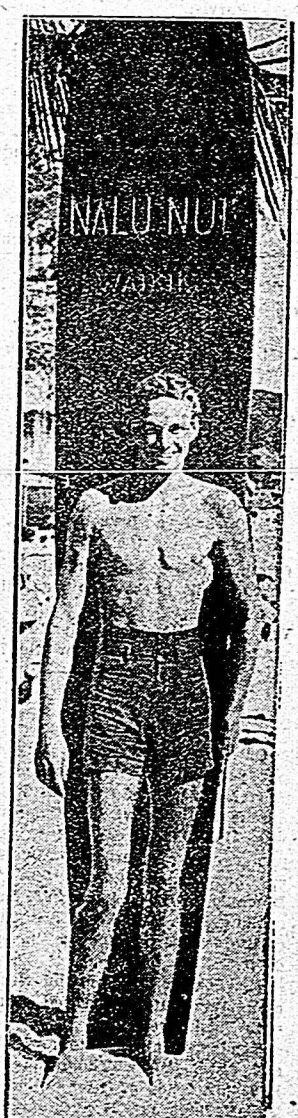
Britain's biggest clock-face belongs to the Singer clock at Clydebank, Scotland; it is twenty-six feet in diameter. The honour of second place is shared by the clock in the Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, and the new Shell-Mex clock in London, both twenty-five feet across.

Tomato plants are so sensitive to the presence of noxious gases that they are to replace canaries and white mice in submarines and coal mines. The faintest trace of lethal gas will, it is said, cause the tomato leaves to wither and die much more rapidly than it would affect either mouse or canary.

Jeweller (to nervous young man): "What can I do for you?" Nervous Young Man: "Eh—oh—oh. Eh—"

Jeweller (turning to assistant): "Show this gentleman the engagement rings!"

## Hawaii Entrant



Jack Mar, Honolulu youth, will likely be right up in front when the gun goes for the Olympic 1,500 meters swim. He is training at Waikiki Beach.

Oh, Pshaw!

Another of the legion of Shaw stories has it that he once missed his umbrella from the stand at his club. Subsequently he posted a notice in the hall requesting the nobleman who had removed his umbrella to replace it.

"Why do you say the nobleman?" asked a friend. "Isn't that ruler's sarcasm?" "Not at all" answered Shaw. "The constitution of this club states that it is composed of 'nobleman and gentlemen.' He couldn't be a gentleman and remove my umbrella, could he?" —New York Morning Telegraph.

Struggle Yet act thy part, heroic heart! For only by the strong Are great and ble deeds achieved; No truth was ever yet believed That had not struggled long.

—John T. Crowbridge. Virtues I think it must; nowhere be written that the virtues of mothers shall occasionally be visited on their children as well as the sins of the fathers. —Charles Dickens.

## THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



AFTER AN AFTERNOON OF TOIL YOU DISCOVER THAT THE PLAYFUL OCTOBER BREEZE HAS BEEN BLOWING YOUR NEIGHBOR'S LEAVES ONTO YOUR FRONT LAWN AS FAST AS YOU'VE RAKED YOUR OWN LEAVES OFF

GLUYAS WILLIAMS