

## Russia's Medical Care Compared to That in U.S.

The overall quality of Russian medicine is "well below" that of the United States, according to Today's Health magazine.

An article in a recent issue of the American Medical Assn. magazine said "the kind of medical care the Russian people receive varies widely from one location to another."

"RUSSIA IS a vast and sprawling land and most of its people live away from the

cities. The kind of public health, sanitation and medical care they enjoy, therefore, is by our standards poor.

The article, based on the opinions of American physicians who have visited Russia, said the Soviet doctor labors under many handicaps.

"The State insists on medical services to all citizens, but it gives the physician a limited budget, insufficient laboratory personnel and equipment, and saddles him with a patient and

administrative load far in excess of that which any physician can handle and still practice a high quality of medicine," it said.

"THE SOVIET Union has been able to achieve widespread medical care by speeding up the training of its physicians and by employing, on a wide scale, subprofessional personnel . . . and others with even less training."

The article also mentions a

scarcity of drugs and other medical supplies and points out that most medical visitors to Russia are struck by the fact that medical equipment ranges from modern to archaic.

Another weakness, it said, was the separation of basic experiment work from clinical research, i.e., research that applies to human beings.

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, a distinguished American surgeon who visited Russia in

1958, was quoted as saying that "this lack of integration tends to make some of the studies pointless and to provide information that has no clinical significance . . . and no fundamental value."

IN THE SAME issue of Today's Health, Dr. William W. Bolton maintains that machines purporting to measure blood pressure that are placed in grocery stores for the use of shoppers are useless.

"We know nothing about the reliability of such a machine," Dr. Bolton said, "but would doubt its usefulness."

Blood pressure changes many times a day, and an isolated reading is therefore not of much real value," he said.

"IT WOULD, of course, be useless to you unless you checked it with your physician. And it might even be misleading, depending on what range of pressure happened to be shown at the time you used the machine."

"Blood pressure in itself is informative to the physician only in relation to other findings in his examinations of the patient."



MR. AND MRS. CECIL THOMAS  
Memories Span Earliest, Latest Autos

## Background Counts in the Auto Business, Area Pioneer Claims

Behind the Cecil Thomas Cadillac-Oldsmobile agency at 339 So. Pacific Ave., in San Pedro, is the story that goes back to the early years of motordom, years before 1910, when motoring was the sport of kings.

It was 50 years ago this year that Cecil L. Thomas, founder of the business, became an established automobile man. He can prove it, too — for a photographer happened by one day in 1910 in Plattsmouth, Nebr., and took a picture of the Patterson and Thomas Garage, with the then young Mr. Thomas posing in the center of things.

SIGNS PAINTED on the windows of the establishment declared it to be the type of garage familiar in small towns in those days, offering repair services and selling automobiles as well. Represented were the Halladay car, the Marmon, F.A.L. Car, Empire, and Economy. In fact, a Haladay touring car occupied much of the picture foreground.

That is the reason the Company is observing the founder's "Golden Anniversary" in the automobile business this year. Cecil Thomas has retired now, after spending half a century with motor cars, including establishment of the present company in San Pedro in 1932.

TODAY, THOMAS' sons run the business, with LaRue Thomas as general manager, and Ken Thomas as his assistant. LaRue is also president of the VIP Car Leasing company in Los Angeles. With an organization of trained personnel, the business has established some high records for car sales in years past, only to break

them in succeeding years. This year, a budget of 650 cars was set, following a record total of 600 cars sold last year.

Sales today are headed by Gene Estep, sales manager, while salesmen under his direction include Orvel Brown, Andy Vaseleno, Gabriel Frickin, "Pete" Clarke, K. W. Trombley, Sandy Neill and Jim Tippet. Parts manager is Sig Erickson, his assistant, A. J. Lazenby. Lloyd Coats heads up the Service department with a staff of 22 men. E. W. Dearborn heads up the used car sales of the Company.

IN THE OFFICE are Rosie Castagnola, Pat Chasco, Barbara Fornero, and Julia Edwards, office manager. Occasionally there is Peg Weller, comptroller, who has been with Mr. Thomas since 1942, when the Company had only five employees and she was the only girl. She is also comptroller for VIP.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas make their home these days literally "where they hang their hats," leaving the worries of the business to the younger generation. Though they have the family home as a base of operations, they travel about. Recently they left for Palm Springs, to catch the remaining days of outing weather on the desert before the warm summer rolls in.

### Cafe Diners

Enjoying the south seas atmosphere, exotic cuisine and island entertainment at The Polynesian Restaurant recently were Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Stack of Torrance.



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