

ANET JAGAN

# Workers Benefit Under Socialism

During my recent visit to the People's Republic of Rumania I had no difficulty in observing the very advanced position of workers as compared to those in the capitalist countries. Fear of unemployment does not exist and the right to work is guaranteed to all. Basic wages, which allow for a decent standard of living are provided for all workers. For those whose work is above average as regards quality and quantity, additional wages fill the pay envelope. Two weeks annual leave, subsidized holidays for workers and their families and the most advanced forms of social insurance have been won by the workers as they marched militantly from a decadent society to socialism.

I visited several housing schemes and I was welcomed into many homes. On July 7th I visited the Ferentari Housing Scheme in Bucharest which was built four years ago and consists of 16 blocks of apartments, each block containing 32 apartments. The apartments were modern and comfortable and charmingly decorated by the occupants. There were one, two, three and four room apartments distributed on the basis of the size of each family. The rent ranged 25 to 58 lei per month which is equivalent to about 7% of the wages, that is, if one member of the household is working. Since many women in the People's Democracies work, the percentage would actually be considerably lower where the wife is employed. Electricity works out to less than 2% of the monthly wages of the average worker.

## VISIT TO A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

The workers and farmers

have access, free of charge, to the best medical facilities, comparable to those in any part of the world. My visit to the Emilia Frza Children's Hospital left an indelible impression on my mind. There, a magnificent hospital, specialising in children's diseases, is fully equipped and staffed with some of the greatest doctors in Bucharest. There is accommodation for 210 children and 30 mothers. Eighty-two nurses are in attendance with 35 doctors daily visiting hospital cases, clinics, performing surgery and doing research. An atmosphere quite unlike that of a hospital is created so as not to frighten the children and to soften the normal rigid hospital appearance. Tutorial instruction is given to those hospitalised children of school age. By such care, the death rate for the children of the working people has been reduced to 4%.

Cultural opportunities and education are now within the reach of the workers. In fact, art in the people's Democracies is no longer far removed from the taste and accessibility of the people. This means in practice that all the beautiful creations of the great writers, poets, musicians, dancers, artists and sculptors of all countries of the world can now be enjoyed by the working people. It means also a new incentive to create works of beauty for the enjoyment of all the people, that young artists and workers in the field of culture are receiving every encouragement from the Governments of the People's Democracies. People therefore have before them fields of enjoyment without limit and acquire a new interest in life.

Education is provided for all and has been greatly extended

and improved since the period of transition from capitalism. Higher education, of both secondary and university level, available in a greater proportion than ever before. Those with ability and high aptitude are given opportunities of high education never before dreamed of. Illiteracy is being rapidly eradicated.

This is but a brief picture of what happens in practice when a real peoples government has the power to advance the state of the people.

## U.S. SUFFERS "MORAL DEFEAT" IN U.N.

New DELHI.—The "Times of India" says in an editorial on the 29th that the U.S. has suffered a "moral defeat" in the U.N. on obstructing India from participation in the political conference.

The editorial points out that apart from Greece, Pakistan and the Kuomintang, all those who vetoed with the U.S. against India's participation in the conference belong to Latin America. This shows that the U.S. is in "complete isolation from its European allies as well as Asian nations," the paper adds.

The U.S. approach has done "damage to the cause of peace." The U.S. "is in effect laid itself open to the charge that it is barring the way to a peaceful solution," the editorial concludes.