Jankoŭski's valuable *Dyjalektny stoŭnik* appeared over ten years ago (in 1959 and 1960) and whilst the appearance of the latest volume is to be as warmly welcomed as were its predecessors it is hard to understand why such a lapse of time should have ensued, in view of the fact that the majority of the material was collected as long ago as 1944-5. In addition to nearly 1,000 words from the Hłusk district of the Mahiloŭ region there is a section consisting of about 200

phrases, tags and proverbs. The author acknowledges the assistance of Mikoła Jankoŭski of Homiel University who contributed some 40 of the dictionary's entries.

Thus, whilst before 1966 and the appearance of Jurčanka's dictionary the eastern region of Byelorussia was linguistically the least well documented, the situation is now, happily, reversed.

Arnold B. McMillin

Varłyha, Adam. *Krajoŭy stoŭnik Łahojščyny*. 'Zaranka', New York, 1970. 172 pages.

Ściacko, P. U. *Narodnaja leksika*. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1970. 176 pages. Index. Short bibliography.

Ściacko, P. *Dyjalektny stoŭnik (Z havorak Zelviensčyny)*. BDU, Minsk, 1970. 184 pages.

Apart from Šaternik's important *Krajoŭy stoŭnik Červienščyny* (Minsk 1929) the Minsk region has been rather neglected by dialectal lexicographers, possibly due to the relatively great affinity between the dialects of this region and the modern literary language. Adam Varłyha's defining dictionary of the area around Łahojsk, some twenty-five miles to the north of Minsk, lists in Latin orthography about 7,000 dialectal words, emphasising the local rather than the literary meaning where the latter exists. The dictionary, apart from its intrinsic merits as a reference work, also represents a remarkable feat of memory since Varłyha, a former teacher of the Łahojsk region, left Byelorussia as long ago as 1945.

Mickiewicz described the dialect of the Hrodna region as 'the richest and purest of all Slavonic dialects' and it is to this region of western Byelorussia, and in particular the area around Zelva, that P. U. Ściacko has devoted two valuable pieces of lexicographical work. *Narodnaja leksika* is a semantically arranged study of the dialectal vocabulary of this region. In

it the author confines himself to the material (*bytavy*) vocabulary, analysing in turn the (literary as well as dialectal) words used in the Zelva region under the following semantic headings: food, drink, clothes, footwear, home-woven cloths, bed linen, table linen and table decorations. Based on material collected between 1950 and 1960 from natives of the Zelva region (in 1962 the author defended in Minsk his Candidate's thesis, *Pradmietna-bytavaje leksika zelvienskich havorak*), the work is very welcome now in a relatively accessible form (the edition is of 1,400).

The same author's *Dyjalektny stoŭnik* offers 2,500 dialectal words or words whose meaning in the Zelva region differs from that found in literary Byelorussian. Both books will provide valuable material for scholars, particularly for those concerned with the linguistic relations between Polish and Byelorussian, and with the penetration of Polish, German and other loan words into the Byelorussian literary language.

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Camiarycki, V. A. *Bielaruskija letapisy jak pomniki litaratury. Uźniknieńnie i litaraturnaja historyja pieršych zvodaŭ* (Byelorussian Chronicles as Works of Literature. The Origin and Literary History of the First Chronicles). 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1969. 192 pages.

The Byelorussian chronicles of the 15-16th centuries have been for over one and a half centuries the subject

of extensive studies by Polish, Russian and Ukrainian scholars, such as Daniłowicz, Szaraniewicz, Jakubowski,