Kabašnikaŭ, K. (ed.) *Dziciaŭy falktor*. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1972. 736 pages. Musical illustrations.

Fiadosik, A. (ed.) *Zahadki*. 'Navuka i technika', Minsk, 1972. 448 pages.

Continuing the comprehensive collection of Byelorussian folklore and literature initiated by the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore, the Byelorussian Academy of Sciences has brought out two further works, bringing the total number of volumes published to five (for reviews of earlier publications in the series see *JBS*, II, 4, pp. 400-1).

In *Dziciaŭy falktor* the editors have drawn on original material as well as on collections by earlier writers and ethnographers in compiling their volume devoted to the folklore of childhood, in particular those of Čačot, Rypiński, Šejn, Ramanaŭ, Fedaroŭski and Dabravolski. For the Soviet period the collections of Seržputoŭski, Šlubski, Citovič and Hrynbiat are cited. The volume comprises two introductory essays by F. Bartaševič on childrens' folklore (pp. 5-33) and by V. Jalataŭ on childrens' songs (pp. 34-58). The material is divided into three sections, the first of which deals with lullabies and entertainment songs (pp. 61-228), the second with calls, forfeits and teasing-songs (231-390), and the third with counting-songs and games (pp. 390-550). There is an extensive commentary with footnotes (pp. 553-703) as well as an index.

The volume *Zahadki* is devoted to riddles, which are also drawn from a variety of sources past and present, beginning with the earliest collection of folk-riddles published in *Mogilev-*

skie gubernskije vedomosti (1849, No. 9), and continuing with the collections of I. Nosovič, Ramanaŭ, Dyboŭski, Šejn and others. A. Hurski provides an introductory treatise on the folk-riddle, and discusses its place in Byelorussian literature and folksong. (pp. 5-18). There follows a corpus of some 3,479 riddles, some of which are little but local variants of others. The editors have sought to classify them according to the subject matter to which they relate: Nature and Man (pp. 21-187), work and material conditions (pp. 189-338), Community and family life (pp. 341-78), joke- and puzzle-riddles (pp. 381-96), and riddles of the Soviet period (pp. 399-416). There is the usual commentary (pp. 417-38) and index. The riddles of the Soviet period tax the ingenuity but little ('Who is that genius of the twentieth century who made a man out of a slave? — Lenin'). Most of the genuine folk items however, are less predictable, though more entertaining ('Two daughters, two mothers and a grandmother with her granddaughter; how many are there together? — Three [grandmother, mother and daughter]').

Both these collections bear an impressive witness to the wealth and variety of the culture of the Byelorussian people, and the compiled collection will be something of a landmark, even in the international field.

H. Pichura

Lubachko I. S., *Belorussia under Soviet Rule, 1917-1957*. The University Press Kentucky, 1972. 219 pages. Bibliography. Index. Maps.

The history of Byelorussia, early or modern, has to this day remained *terra incognita* for Western scholars. Apart from N. Vakar's rather unsatisfactory *Belorussia: the Making of the Nation* (Harvard U. P., 1956) there has not been until recently any single book on the subject in the English language. Prof. I. Lubachko's book, *Belorussia under Soviet Rule*, is the first serious attempt to fill the gap. As its title indicates, it is concerned with the modern period of Byelorussian history. The reader will find in

it sections on historical background, the beginnings of the Byelorussian national movement and attempts to establish an independent Byelorussian Republic after 1917, the fate of Polish-occupied Western Byelorussia during the years 1921-39 and the German occupation of the country during the Second World War. The main part of the book, however, is devoted to the formation and development of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. While not neglecting the peculiar traits of the development of Soviet