

It is impossible to omit the specific, broad, scientific hinterland which anthropology provides. It allows for a special complex view of man as part of a certain population. In this content it is also necessary to mention the big task with the solution of which the sports anthropologist is still faced. It is the treatment of the question relating to the complex conditions pertaining to members of various human races as to the individual sports performances.

In order to give a concrete example of how anthropology and sports medicine cooperate, we shall have a look on this cooperation at the Institute of Sports Medicine at the Medical Faculty in Prague, which at the same time is a training place for this branch, attached to the Institute for Postgraduate Education of Physicians.

The beginnings of anthropological work at this Institute date as much back as to the time of its foundation in 1947.

Anthropological problems form the introductory part of instruction in sports medicine for students at the Medical Faculty of General Medicine in the therapeutic and stomatologic branches, at the Faculty of Hygiene, and in postgraduate study courses for future physicists. With this pedagogical aspect is also associated the authors' share in textbooks on sports medicine. Thus students of medicine get to know, in special chapters, the fundamentals of physical anthropology, first of all the problems of sports anthropology and functional ability tests.

The significance of anthropological program in scientific and research works is well obvious from its participation in almost all themes that are being dealt with by the Institute, be it research registered in a faculty, departmental, or state plan of research.

In the routine examination of every day, the results of anthropological laboratory tests to which more than a thousand sportsmen are subjected every year, contribute to a complete appreciation of the sportsman from the viewpoint of sports medicine.

Anthropological problems in sports medicine enjoy great interest also abroad. Proof of this is furnished by some exquisite works of Polish, Italian, German, American, Japanese, and other writers.

As is evident from our brief report, anthropology has always had an important place in physical culture and sports medicine. As today anthropology as well as sports medicine are interested in keeping a man healthy, and in raising the bodily ability of present and future populations, it is most probable that there will be more and more linking points between the two branches of science, and that anthropology will not only keep, but also increase its importance for sports medicine.

Prof. Dr. J. A. Král, Doc. Dr. V. Novotný,
institute of Sports Medicine, Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague 2, Salmovská 5.

SYMPOSIUM OF THE SECTION OF HUMAN ADAPTABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAMME "MAN IN AFRICA"

After previous successful regional meetings of members of the Section of Human Adaptability of the International Biological Programme (Warszawa, April 1965; New Delhi, September 1965; German Democratic Republic, November 1966) a Symposium of students of African population groups was held in Warszawa from June 24-27, 1968. The initiator of the meeting was Prof. Dr. J. S. Weiner, the organisational aspect was seen to be by the Polish Anthropological Society guided by its President, Prof. Dr. T. Dzierżykraj-Rogalski.

The programme of the Symposium comprised six parts, the content of which is to be gathered best from the quotations of the titles of the individual lectures:

1. Introductory session:
 - J. S. Weiner: African Studies within the HA Section of IBP.
 - K. Michałowski: Archaeology and Anthropology: Research and Cooperation in the Nile Valley.
 - R. Stopa: Africa as a Cradle of Human Culture.
2. Hunting-gathering peoples:
 - N. Barnicot: Studies on the Hadza of Tanzania.
 - L. L. Cavalli-Sforza: Research on African Pygmies.
 - R. Singer and J. S. Weiner: Investigations on the Biology of Hottentot and Bushman Populations in Southern Africa.
3. Savanna and West African peoples:
 - J. Huizinga: Human Biological observations on Some African Populations of the Thorn Savanna Belt.
 - J. Gomila: Studies in Senegal.
 - H. E. Boyo: Some Human Polymorphisms in Nigeria.
 - R. O. Ojikutu: The Longitudinal Study of Skin Colour Changes in Nigerian Children from Birth to 1 Year.
4. Egypt and neighbouring countries:
 - J. A. Valšík and others: Biology of Man in Egyptian Nubia.
 - E. Strouhal: Age Changes in Some Metrical Features in Nubian Men.
 - A. Wierciński: Time-spatial Regularities in the Distribution of Anthropological Structures in Egypt.
 - M. Olekiewicz: Some Statistical Aspects of Human Adaptability.
5. Biodemographic aspects of African Populations:
 - A. Rosset: Average Duration of Life in Africa.
 - T. Dzierżykraj-Rogalski: The Influence of Biological Rhythms on the Mortality of Contemporary Inhabitants of Alexandria.
 - E. Promińska: Mortality of the Old People in Alexandria in Relation to Social Environment.
6. Physiological and developmental adaptations:
 - J. L. A. Chesquierre: Standards for Working Capacity of Population Groups in Congo.
 - Z. Sprynar and others: La constitution, la composition du corps et la capacité fonctionnelle des étudiants d'éducation physique en Algérie.
 - E. J. Clegg and P. Dawson: Some Aspects of Child Growth in High-and-low Altitudes Populations in Ethiopia.
 - M. Prokopec: A Developmental Study of African Youth.
 - M. Gregorczyk: Bioclimates of Africa.

The majority of lectures had the character of a "progress report" on proceeding, not yet completed or unelaborated research themes. Yet it can be seen from them that Africa is given for good reasons an outstanding place in the research of human adaptability, because due to its geographical, climatic, cultural and socio-economic heterogeneity it promises a multitude of new findings. Neither can the fact be overlooked that it is populated by different races (Negroes, Whites, Hottentots and Bushmen, Pygmies) so that the question of adaptability can be studied also in relation to the race factor.

Some of the presented papers are the result of great, often complex expeditions, using up-to-date instruments and a rich expedition outfit, others came into being rather through the enthusiasm of smaller teams that could not afford higher financial costs or get hold of some important apparatus, and/or came across technical difficulties. In this case the coordinators of HA/IBP research should lend a helping hand to prevent unnecessary loss of information so important for science.

The papers read by the Czechoslovak participants of the Symposium met with a good response, especially the results of the United Czechoslovak-Arab Anthropological Expedition to New Nubia. Great attention was roused by the finding that in almost 60 per cent of all Nubian Men marriages between first cousins take place and that almost 90 per cent of all marriages are between relatives. This circumstance follows from the conservative traditions of life in Old Nubia. The growth and development of Nubian youth was found to be retarded and prolonged, so that young men between 19 and 22 years of age have not yet finished the growth of all body dimensions. Most Nubian girls menstruate for the first time around 15 years. This is undoubtedly connected with quantitatively and qualitatively poorer food and with the