

The second round table discussed recent experience with treponemas as clues for the past. No microbiological or immunological method can distinguish between their forms causing clinically different pictures. They cannot be considered as three distinct kinds. Modern immunological reactions are satisfactory for the diagnostic of treponematoses in living subjects. It is however not certain if an extract from a bone can preserve the tridimensional protein yielding specific reaction for a treponematoses. A sound evidence can be gained only by fraction of DNA.

The third round table compared the epidemics of syphilis in 1493 with nowadays epidemics of AIDS. The recently occurring picture of quick and very severe "malign syphilis" in patients with combination of syphilis and AIDS recalls of the description of syphilis in 1493 which after some decenia changed to its "classic" chronic course. Was it also caused by some immunodepressor? Or was it due to the change of a non-venereal to a venereal form?

The fourth round table aimed at syntheses of new data to new theories. They were, however, not reached unanimously, and different speakers stucked to their opinions. Most of them seem to accept the unity of treponemas in contrast to their diversity. Several authors argued for the recognition of the existence of at least treponematoses in Europe prior to Columbus (if only its venereal form can penetrate the placental barrier, then also of syphilis). Proofs of the presence of treponematoses in the Americas prior to Columbus were accepted by the majority of the participants.

A few posters (e.g. on syphilis in Ancient Poland, on treponematoses in recent Africa, etc.) and a small exhibition of the Costabelle find complemented the program.

The meeting was closed by an excursion to the town of Hytes. An exhibition on the Russian ship from the time of Catherine the Great, wrecked against the nearby island's rock, and the site of the Ancient Greek emporium Olbia, on the edges of which in Roman time a villa with a cemetery was investigated (yielding the finding of Costabelle) were visited.

Very few scientific meetings can boast with such a perfect organization and excellent hospitality. Moreover, all papers, posters and discussions are intended to be published as Proceedings of the Congress in a year's term by the Archaeological Centre of Var.

Eugen Strouhal

WORKSHOP ON DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN WEIMAR, 1993

The Working group for palaeoanthropology and prehistorical anthropology of the German Gessellschaft für Anthropologie organized under the guidance of Maria Teschler-Nicola a Workshop on Dental Anthropology, its possibilities and limits, in the Thüringische Landesamt für Archäologische Denkmalpflege in Weimar from 25th – 30th October 1993. It was attended by about 50 participants from Germany, Austria and Switzerland together with two representatives from the Czech Republic and one from Norway. Together with physical anthropologists also stomatologists took an active part in communications and discussions aimed at mutual understanding of different terms and concepts.

The program was divided into 6 thematic sections. The first was devoted to the basics of the dental science, including anatomy and morphology (J. Türp), micromorphology of the enamel (R. J. Radlanski), and taxonomical analysis of the enamel prisms contour at the transition of hominoids to hominids (M. Bujati – Narbeshuber). The second section concerned developmental disorders (K. Alt). The third section offered a survey on palaeoanthropology of teeth (W. Henke). The fourth section comprised pathology and epidemiology, including dental caries as an interdisciplinary problem (N. Baum), sequelae of the caries (granuloma and cyst, K. Alt), paradontopathies (T. Strohm, read by K. Alt) and palaeopathologically proved tumours in the jaw region (E. Strouhal). The fifth section on nutrition, age and attrition included a survey on nutrition in praehistory from the archaeological point of view (Ch. Willms), trace element analyses of the enamel (G. Grupe) studies on attrition of permanent

(A. Czarnetski) and of deciduous teeth (T. Knoll and M. Kunter), an analysis of the temporomandibular joint from anatomical, functional and pathological aspects (J. Türp, K. Alt) and an account on artificial changes in human dentition (K. Alt). The sixth section discussed age and sex features. It included sexual diagnosis according to dental measurements (M. Teschler-Nicola), methods for sex determination of subadult individuals according to dental measurements (H. Prossinger), dental eruption order (M. Dokládál), age determination of adults according to dental features (F.-W. Rösing), degenerative changes in the dental substance (T. Solheim), degenerative changes in the dental fixing apparatus (T. Strohm, read by K. Alt), ethnic dental morphologic and metric differentiation (S. Schnutenhaus) and family analysis in prehistoric populations (K. Alt). Each presentation was followed by vivid discussions for which sufficient time was reserved. The proceedings will be published by the Quintessenz Verlag.

The last day of the meeting was devoted to an excursion to the Homo erectus site Bilzingsleben, where its excavator Dietrich Mania acquainted the participants with the site and the newest findings of skeletal remains, tools, and other cultural and natural features.

Eugen Strouhal

THE Vth SYMPOSIUM "GROWTH AND ONTOGENETICAL DEVELOPMENT IN MAN"

The Vth international symposium "Growth and Ontogenetical Development in Man" took place on September 2 – 3, 1993 in connection with the XIXth Congress of Czech and Slovak anthropologists. It was devoted to the topic of "Applied anthropometry in medicine" and dedicated to Dr Aleš Hrdlička as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of his death (September 5th, 1943). The symposium was organized by the Anthropological Institute of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University in Prague, and by the Czech Anthropological Society.

The first day of the symposium focused mainly on the problems of craniofacial anthropometry, with special concern for its use in plastic surgery. Besides a historical survey of the development of anthropometry, papers were presented on its past and present use in medicine, together with a prognosis of its ever increasing importance. Several contributions dealt with the application of cephalometry in treating patients with various types of facial palatal cleft, lesions, asymmetries, etc. In this context, the lecture of Dr. Ngimo from Singapore plastic surgery clinic was of particular interest. Also the paper presented by Professor Ward from Indianapolis was very interesting, dealing with the use of craniofacial anthropometry in medical genetics. The possibilities of distinction of various syndroms and diagnosing with the help of anthropometry, and consequently its use in preventive care, were also discussed.

Another interesting point is the cephalometric proof of hypertelorism and other morphometric anomalies in new-born children whose mothers make long-term use of antiepileptic drugs.

Besides the above mentioned contributions, the first day of the symposium included papers on the use of anthropometry in diagnosing and checking up post-operation condition of children's craniosynostoses, in estimating the degree of the patients' affection with cystic fibrosis, with various types of bone dysplasia, etc.

The second day of the symposium was marked by a prevalence of lectures dealing with the growth and development of healthy children and by changes in adult populations. The summarized results may be used as a growth – development norm, i.e. for the evaluation of the individual condition in relation to the average population.

In this context, M. Prokopec from Prague delivered one of the most interesting lectures, explaining, mainly to the foreign participants in the symposium, the principles of the monitoring of body height, weight, normal chest circumference and brachial circumference in Czech and Slovak children and youth, carried out regularly every ten years already for the fifth time. This contribution was followed by several reports of the first results from the latest, i.e. the fifth research in this series, dating of 1991.