

Scientific Meetings

Physical Anthropologists

The 24th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists was held in Philadelphia, 4-6 Apr. 1955, at the Jefferson Medical College, immediately before the meetings of the American Association of Anatomists. Two sessions were held jointly with the anatomists on 6 Apr. On 5 Apr, a symposium on human genetics and race (Spuhler, chairman) was held at the Wistar Institute, and a symposium on anthropology and medical education (Lasker, chairman) was held at the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. As a discussion preparatory to the section on anthropology in the forthcoming 1955 Teaching Institute of the Association of American Medical Colleges, this symposium showed the growth of physical anthropology stimulated by the relative vacuum between the fields of anatomy, genetics, physiology, medicine, and the social sciences. This theme was spelled out by retiring president William L. Straus, Jr., in his address at the annual dinner on "The training of the physical anthropologist." Straus asked for a swing away from the tradition of training first as "the complete anthropologist" toward a primary training in the full depth and breadth of biology (from genetics to pathology) with the eventual aim of analyzing the forces that underlie the morphology which now provides most of our measurable data.

W. M. Krogman and his staff at the Philadelphia Center for Research in Child Growth staged an informative and well-attended demonstration of their techniques and results. At the University Museum the American Institute of Human Paleontology exhibited (Eiseley) the collection of casts of remains of fossil man which the museum offers at cost to interested institutions or individuals. This service was made possible by purchase of the Barlow collection of molds through the generosity of the Wenner-Gren Foundation [*Science* 120, 7A (1954)].

Out of 48 papers and demonstrations at least 20 were primarily anatomical, dealing in some cases with soft tissue form (Hertzberg and Saul, R. Newman, Baker), growth (Noback), or pathology

(Michels, Papez). But more papers dealt with bone, again in relation to form and function (Dempster, Miles and Sullivan, Hutchinson, Howell, Evans), growth processes and aging (Stewart, Cobb, Angel, Moss, Hurme) including such aspects of bone physiology as ash-weight (Trotter), and pathology (Angel, Stewart, Thieme, Goff). Further aspects of growth were discussed by Sarnas and Asling (skull in men and in rats, respectively), Krogman, Swindler, and Gerald (child growth), Schulman (Israel), Garn (tissue-mass radiography related to age and hormones), and Gavan and van Wagenen (macaques).

Hertzberg and Saul's applied study of face form and R. Newman's and Baker's discussions of fat deposition and body composition related to climate fitted in with less adaptively specific papers on race and evolution (Gusinde, Neumann, M. Newman, Eiseley, Howell, Straus). It is significant that this central stronghold of physical anthropology was no more stressed than the area of human genetics with a pedigree paper (DePena) and discussion of blood-group distributions (Hulse, Fry) in addition to papers of Hunt, Dunn, Ceppellini, and Spuhler that made population genetics the main issue of the first symposium. Sutton entered into this creatively with work on tissue-fluid differences among populations (paper chromatography). This biochemical approach was carried in a non-genetic direction by Thieme with work on detection of syphilis in bone.

Much of the second symposium, on medical education, stressed the value of the statistical approach in the areas of growth, variation, and population studies (Garn, Greulich, Angel, Krogman, Lasker). But Paul's contribution, on the interrelationship between the cultural dimension, biology, and the psychological dimension in any disease or syndrome brought in the personal element in the socialization of a future doctor and, hence, led to a broader discussion.

Churchill's and Spuhler's expositions of statistical applications to body variation and to human genetics carried this approach further than could a symposium. Primary dependence on statistical interpretation also marked the two papers in pure social biology (Aginsky on mating patterns and Goldstein on cri-

tique of survival of the unfit). These, plus the papers of Paul, Dunn, and Hulse, stressed the substantial nature of the root that physical anthropology has in the behavioral sciences. Furthermore, in attendance were representatives of social anthropology, of medical specialties such as orthopedics, gynecology, and radiology, of the orthodontic field, and of the biological fields ranging from genetics to neurophysiology.

The association's newly elected president, Mildred Trotter, is an anatomist and is also the first woman to serve as president in the quarter-century of the association's existence. W. W. Howells, retiring editor of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, was elected to the executive committee. Howells, who succeeded the late E. A. Hooton as professor of anthropology at Harvard a year ago, is the 1954 winner of the Viking Fund Medal and Award in Physical Anthropology given annually by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. S. L. Washburn of the University of Chicago follows Howells as editor of the journal, which is published by the Wistar Institute. Appreciation was expressed to E. J. Farris for his skill and foresight in directing the Wistar Institute and its scientific press.

An important step taken at the business meeting was the decision to support Section H of the AAAS in its decision to withdraw from the 1955 meetings of the AAAS scheduled to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, a city where racial segregation is still in force. The membership of the AAPA voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, proposed by W. W. Howells as the association's representative to the AAAS.

"Whereas the American Association of Physical Anthropologists cannot by principle hold meetings or participate in meetings in places where racial segregation is practiced, be it resolved that the Association hereby associate itself with the action of the committee members of Section H in declining to participate in the meetings of the AAAS in Atlanta in 1955."

This action followed a careful and full review of the situation regarding the Atlanta meetings by W. M. Cobb, chairman of Section H and vice president of the AAPA, and a searching and sympathetic discussion of Cobb's data. It was clear from this discussion that the members of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists are fully alive to the need for a drive to end all types of segregative practices if scientific endeavor is to flourish.

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■ An invitational conference on Recent Advances in the Physiology of the Invertebrates, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Tektronix Foundation, and the University of Oregon, will be held at Eugene, Ore., 12–16 Sept. The conference was initiated by A. W. Martin of the University of Washington and has been organized by a committee composed of Martin, L. H. Kleinholz of Reed College, B. T. Scheer of the University of Oregon, and T. H. Bullock of the University of California.

The conference will consist of a series of reviews, which are to be published, followed by informal discussions. A visit to the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at Charleston is planned. Among those who have already agreed to participate, besides the committee, are F. A. Brown, Jr., J. S. Pringle, J. D. Robertson, T. H. Waterman, C. A. G. Wiersma, and K. M. Wilbur. Interested persons should write to Scheer.

■ The annual meeting of the Society of General Physiologists will be held 9–10 Sept. at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass. A feature of the meeting will be a symposium on *Physiological Triggers*, organized by T. H. Bullock of the University of California at Los Angeles. For information write to the secretary-treasurer of the society, John Buck, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.

■ The five congress lectures that head the extensive program for the 14th International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry that is to take place in Zurich, Switzerland, 21–27 July are as follows: V. du Vigneaud, Cornell University, New York, "Oxytocin, the principal oxytocic of the posterior pituitary gland: isolation, structure, and synthesis"; C. Dufraisse, Collège de France, Paris, "La photooxydation"; N. A. Nesmejanow, Académie des Sciences, Moscou, "Zweifache Reaktionsfähigkeit und Tautomerie"; C. K. Ingold, University College of London, "Developments in the theory of steric hindrance"; K. Alder, Universität Köln, "Neuere Entwicklung der Dien-Synthese."

■ The 10th annual Calorimetry Conference is scheduled to meet at the University of Minnesota, 16–17 Sept. As in the past, this meeting will bring together various scientists—chemists, metallurgists, physicists, and others—who utilize the various methods and techniques of calorimetry. The conference will be devoted in part to such topics as very low temperature calorimetry, liquid-helium calorimetry, high- and low-temperature adiabatic calorimetry, measurements of stored energy in solids and related topics, high-precision bomb calorimetry, meas-

urements of heats of solutions and heats of precipitation, both for liquid-solid and solid-solid temperatures, and so forth.

In addition, the conference concerns itself with standard calorimetric samples, symbols and terminology, and the promotion of better instrumentation and publication policies pertinent to thermodynamics data. The various topics may be presented as individual reports as round-table discussions, or as committee reports. The chairman of the 1955 meeting is Warren DeSorbo of the General Electric Co., and the program chairman is Edgar F. Westrum, Jr., of the University of Michigan.

Society Elections

■ American Board of Clinical Chemistry, Inc.: pres., Marschelle H. Power; v. pres., Clarence W. Muehlberger; sec.-treas., Oliver H. Gaebler, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit 2, Mich.

■ Society for Investigative Dermatology, Inc.: pres., J. Lamar Callaway, Duke University; v. pres., Sture A. M. Johnson, 313 New Castle Way, Madison, Wis.; sec.-treas., Herman Beerman.

■ Illinois State Academy of Science: pres., Leland Shanor, University of Illinois; 1st v. pres., Joan Hunter, Edwardsville High School; 2nd v. pres., Glen S. Winterringer, State Museum; sec., Lyle E. Bamber, University of Illinois; treas. (pro-tem), James W. Neckers, Southern Illinois University. Representative to the AAAS council is Percival Robertson, The Principia.

■ American Psychosomatic Society: pres., Stanley Cobb; pres.-elect, I. Arthur Mirsky; sec.-treas., Theodore Lidz, APS, 551 Madison Ave., New York 22.

■ American Academy of Dental Medicine: pres., S. Leonard Rosenthal, Temple University; pres.-elect, William M. Greenhut, Mount Vernon, N.Y.; v. pres., Marcel B. Archambault, Montreal, Canada; sec., G. J. Witkin, Yonkers, N.Y.; treas., George G. Stewart, Philadelphia, Pa.

■ The Meteoritical Society: pres., D. Moreau Barringer, Barringer Crater Co., 1526 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.; sec., John A. Russell, University of Southern California, 3518 University Ave., Los Angeles 7; treas., Paul W. Healy, Department of Mathematics, University of New Mexico. The vice presidents are Carl W. Beck, Department of Geology, Indiana University; Dorrit Hoffleit, Harvard College Observatory; and Stuart H. Perry, Adrian, Mich. Beck is representative to the AAAS council.

■ West Virginia Academy of Science: pres., A. C. Blackwell, Morris Harvey College; past pres., A. R. Collett, West Virginia University; pres.-elect, James T. Handlan, Jr., Potomac State College; sec., Max Ward, Glenville State College; treas., H. D. Bennett, West Virginia University.

■ Kansas Academy of Science: pres., D. J. Amel, Kansas State College; pres.-elect, H. S. Choguill, Fort Hays Kansas State College; v. pres., W. H. Horr, University of Kansas; sec. and representative to the AAAS Council, C. T. Rogers, Kansas State College; treas., Standlee Dalton, Fort Hays Kansas State College.

■ North Carolina Academy of Science: pres., E. C. Cocke, Wake Forest College; v. pres., H. W. Jensen, Warren Wilson College; sec.-treas. and representative to the AAAS Council, John A. Yarbrough, Meredith College.

■ Louisiana Academy of Sciences: pres., E. C. Greco, United Gas Corp., Shreveport; past pres., W. G. Erwin, Northwestern State College; pres.-elect, H. E. Wheeler, Louisiana State University; sec.-treas., Roland Abegg, Southeastern Louisiana College; permanent sec., H. B. Boudreaux, Louisiana State University. Representative to the AAAS Council is Ellinor H. Behre, Louisiana State University.

■ National Speleological Society: pres., William E. Davies, 125 W. Greenway Blvd., Falls Church, Va. The vice presidents are Burton S. Faust, Joseph D. Lawrence, Jr., Jerome M. Ludlow, Albert C. Mueller, Jr., Brother G. Nicholas.

■ National Association of Boards of Pharmacy: pres., Wilbur E. Powers, Rockefeller Center, 610 Fifth Ave., New York 20; v. pres., Howell R. Jordan; sec., P. H. Costello, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago 2; treas., Robert L. Swain.

■ National Association for Research in Science Teaching: pres., William C. Van Deventer, Western Michigan College of Education; v. pres., Waldo W. E. Blanchet, Fort Valley State College; sec.-treas., Clarence M. Pruitt, University of Tampa. Representative to the AAAS Council is George G. Mallinson.

■ American College of Apothecaries, Inc.: pres., Mearl D. Pritchard, Buffalo, N.Y.; pres.-elect and representative to the AAAS Council, Leroy Weidle, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.; v. pres., Calvin Berger, New York; sec., Robert E. Abrams, 39th and Chestnut St., Philadelphia 4, Pa.; treas., Charles V. Selby, Clarksburg, W. Va.