

## OPENING ADDRESS

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends!*

*It is my honourable task to welcome all of you to Bozsok. I have a feeling that we, Hungarian human biologists, have a role in the international scientific life: to catalyze colleagues, teams. This role may be due to our geographical situation as well as to our choice of research subjects.*

*Several friends can remember our first and second Symposium. The Balaton-Symposium at Balatonfüred in 1976 was our first step in this common way: we made an "inventory" of some international research activities, and at the end of the summing up phase of the International Biological Programme we over-viewed the different problems in human growth and development, as well as in physique. — The Danube-Symposium at Visegrád in 1979 joined to the International Year of Children, and tried to summarize our recent knowledge on functional biotypology.*

*Looking back to these meetings, I can establish that we played our catalyzer-role successfully: many of us have become close friends, new teams have come into being. The proceedings volume of the Balatonfüred Symposium contains 50 papers, and was published 13 months after the Symposium. That of the Visegrád Symposium contains 36 papers, and it was published one and a half year after the Symposium as a volume of the Hungarian journal "Anthropologiai Közlemények". — Both volumes present many new ideas and very recent data, and in this way good overviews on their subjects.*

*Now, during this Bozsok Symposium, we will be investigating different aspects of our main topic: Variations in Human Growth and Physique.*

*Our special interests are due to the genetic aspects of these themes. What are the most important recent findings in genetics of growth process and determining human physique? What are the special findings in prenatal development? How can we recognize the early and late maturers? What kind of relationship exists between anthropometry and densitometry? How can we compare different groups of populations by somatovariants? What does psychiatry establish on genetics of patients suffering from endogenous psychoses? How do genetic and socio-economic factors influence the body development of students?*

*We would like to discuss the clinical aspects of our main theme. What is the attitude, what are the work methods of social pediatrics? What kind of connections can be found between different illnesses and growth process: What about tubular disorders, obesity, minor abnormalities, etc.? How do we see today the medical*

*distances and their application in anthropological studies? What is the relationship between testicular volume and sexual activity of Down-patients? What about their physique? Have we new data on the dental age of children?*

*We will investigate carefully the ecological aspects of our problems. What kind of relationships can we discover today between climate and human physique? Is there any connection between nutrient reserves and sexual dimorphism? How about the growth and maturation process of children living in different socio-economic strata? Is there any difference in growth between such a special group of children like caravan-camp ones and national average? What about the gain and loss of weight during growth process in early childhood? Are there any differences in the components of physique according to socio-economic factors? How do social and natural factors influence the maturation of girls? What about the so-called "acceleration" of growth? How do children living at high altitudes grow up?*

*We will also touch the kinanthropometric aspects of our problem-circle. What do we know today about biological age, related to physical fitness? What kind of new experiences have we on body composition, especially on body fat? What kind of new assessment have we in somatotyping? What about the recent findings on physique of the top athletes, like paddlers and rowers?*

*Finally, taking into consideration both the genetic and ecologic factors influencing growth and maturation, we would like to see, what the secular changes in Hungary are like on the basis of recalled cross-sectional growth investigations carried out in a small Western Hungarian town, Körmend.*

*For each aspect of our main topic we have one session with three key lectures which are followed by 3—6 short papers, then we organize a general discussion on all the presentations belonging to the session.*

*I should like to express my grateful thanks to the Presidium of the Council of County Vas: They have been kind enough to place this marvellous small county-seat at our disposal. I hope that our three-days' conference in this beautiful environment, as well as our excursion to Körmend and to Órség will be suitable for discussing our recent problems, and bringing all those experts who feel responsibility for our branch of sciences, the human biology, close together.*

*I declare our Symposium open, and wish success to all of you!*

Otót G. Eiben