

A HISTORY OF SPECIFIC DISEASES IN THE CZECH LANDS

Katerina Vymazalova^a, Vargova L^a and Horackova L^a

^aMasaryk University, Czech Republic

In recent years, the sharp increase in scientific knowledge has significantly reduced the incidence of specific infectious diseases. However, even more perfect diagnostics and the use of more effective drugs have not been able to eradicate these diseases. At present, attention is being paid to these specific diseases, including their historical development. The presented report summarises the available information on leprosy, tuberculosis and syphilis, obtained from literary sources, and in particular from the study of direct evidence in skeletal remains from archaeological sites. Leprosy was extensive, especially in the Middle Ages. However, osteoarchaeological evidence of leprosy from the territory of the Czech Lands was only found in three cases. Therefore, in many leprosaria, patients were isolated with skin diseases, later with dermal manifestations of syphilis. Traces of this sexually transmitted disease are observed in every large modern skeletal collection. Syphilis has enforced new legislation at this

time, which is of fundamental importance in the advance of healthcare. However, the mortality of the modern population has been affected even more by tuberculosis. In skeletons, it is possible to record its bone forms, which occurred in 5-7% of tuberculous patients. Doctors currently do not ordinarily meet with a detailed characteristics of the morphological manifestations of untreated specific infectious diseases in the bones. However, it is clear that, as a result of the increasing resistance of pathogenic organisms to antibiotics and the impact of the migration of unvaccinated populations, this issue is again becoming highly relevant.

Biography

Katerina Vymazalova at Faculty of Science of Masaryk University in Brno (MA in Physical Anthropology) and at the Faculty of Medicine of the same University (PhD in Anatomy, Histology and Embryology). Currently, she works as assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy of Faculty of Medicine in Masaryk University in Brno. She teaching seminars and dissection courses in anatomy for students of General Medicine. She lectures and teaches seminars in Anatomy of the locomotor system for Czech and foreign students of Physiotherapy. In the professional work, she deals with physical and historical anthropology focusing on paleopathology of medieval and modern populations. She is a member of Czech Anatomical Society and Czech Anthropological Society

vymazalova@med.muni.cz

 Notes: