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Health and demography in late 19th century Kimberley : a palaeopathological assessment

Merwe, A.E. van der

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Stellingen

behorende bij het proefschrift getiteld

Health and Demography in Late 19th Century Kimberley **A palaeopathological assessment**

1. This study was the first to describe scurvy as observed in adult skeletal remains without the presence of preserved evidence of haematomas. Scurvy was recognized by the combined presence of widespread subperiosteal bone apposition and periodontal disease. (*This thesis*)
2. Three phases of ossified haematoma formation and remodelling could be identified with each stage showing gradual bone remodelling from loosely arranged radiating trabecular bone to more compact Haversian bone retaining a radiating bone structure. (*This thesis*)
3. The high prevalence of cranial fractures within the Gladstone skeletal sample is suggestive of high levels of interpersonal violence. Cultural differences among migrant workers, competition for resources, few females, regular overindulgence in alcohol and labour disputes were most likely some of the issues resulting in violent interactions. (*This thesis*)
4. Although it is possible that the supernumerary teeth observed in the Gladstone skeletal sample was just a random occurrence, or that syndromes responsible for the formation of supernumerary teeth could not be detected from skeletal remains alone, the possibility of a genetic relationship between some of the individuals presenting with these teeth should be considered. (*This thesis*)
5. The majority of labour at the Kimberley mine was done by migrant workers, while local communities (the Khoe-San) did not contribute much to the labour force. (*This thesis*)
6. Craniometric analysis is a valuable tool to determine the probability of ancestry of unknown individuals when viewed in the light of contextual historical information. (*This thesis*)

7. Histological investigations of archaeological bone alone can not aid in the diagnosis of specific diseases. (*This thesis*)
8. “The past of mankind, distant and immediate, is the only experimental situation we can study.” (J.L. Angel. 1981 The history of palaeopathology. *AJPA* 56:509-515.)
9. “An understanding of the presence and patterns of diseases in ancient human skeletons contributes significantly to our understanding of modern human diseases.” - A. Grauer (X.Bosch. 2000. Look to the bones for clues to human disease. *The Lancet* 355:1248)
10. “Human remains are not just another artefact, they have potency, they are charged with political, evidentiary and emotional meanings...” (V. Cassman *et al.*, 2006. Condition assessment of osteological collections. In: *Human Remains: Guide for Museums and Academic Institutions*. V. Cassman, N. Odegaard & J. Powell (eds) pp. 21-28.)
11. “The cloud on the horizon, which will probably not go away, is the reburial issue...” (D. Brothwell. 2000. Studies on skeletal and dental variation: a view across two centuries In: *Human Osteology in Archaeology and Forensic Science*. M.Cox & S.Mays (eds). London: Greensich Medical Media Ltd. pp.5.)
12. The ‘plateau WC’ can be regarded as symbolic of the true open mindedness and brutal honesty the Dutch are known for.
13. As Afrikaans speaking South African immigrant in the Netherlands you become emotionally torn. You fall in love with the country of your ancestors and the root of your mother tongue but stay unconditionally attached to your country of birth.

Alie Emily van der Merwe
Leiden, September 8, 2010