

1985 Budapest Meeting Report

64

Visit of the Oral Surgery Club to Professor György Szabo,
Semmelweis University of Medicine, Budapest, 13th & 14th June 1985

The President, Mr. H.M. Alty and Messrs Banks, Bradley, Cheney, Clarke, Cook, Downton, Emerson, Gibson, Jones, Prof. McGowan, Messrs Manning, Mason, Professor Herbert, Messrs B. Morgan, Prof. O'Neil, Penney, Ray, Selwyn, Smith and Whitlock attended.

The Club travelled as a group from London on 12th June and were met at Ferihegy Airport by Professor Szabo and three of his staff.

In Hungary there are four medical universities which are quite separate from the other academic institutions which form the other universities. There is a dental school in each of the four medical universities but only the Semmelweis University of Medicine in Budapest, which was founded in 1951, has a Dental Faculty. It has the largest number of students in the country.

Dentistry was not taught as a subject until 1952 and there are now some 2,500 practising dentists in Hungary and 110 in the Oral Surgical Specialty Association.

The university department of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery is quite separate from the Hospital Service.

At the moment the department is situated in an old building pending the construction of a new university hospital. Teaching of undergraduates (120 p.a.) and post-graduates (10 p.a.) occurs with some 450 medical students spending a period in the department each year.

In the specialisation into Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery there are two pathways, either via dentistry leading to a D.D. degree taking eleven years or via medicine leading to an M.D. degree taking twelve years. Double degrees are not permitted and the status of the degrees are the same. The Hungarian M.D. is still recognised in Austria and Germany.

Professor Szabo's unit consists of 24 doctors (D.D. and M.D.) apart from himself. The Periodontology Department has six, Oral Pathology two, Radiology three, Anaesthetics three, Outpatients six and In-patients four. Oral Medicine was practised in the Periodontology Department. Everyone was working on a full-time basis but some private practice was allowed in their spare-time. Some 4,000 patients pass through the outpatient department per year, 950 through thirty beds per annum with 600 major operations dealing with a full range of maxillo-facial and oral surgery. The academic output was some 30 papers in a year.

Professor Szabo first welcomed the Club in the Department

library which contained one of the best collections of reference works in maxillo-facial surgery in Hungary and Austria. The first lecture, given by Professor Szabo covered salivary gland disease, radiography, scintigraphy and treatment. Regional chemotherapy was used to control progressive malignant disease before operation. He had had two cases of Sjögren's disease which required superficial parotidectomy because of massive swelling which progressed to lymphosarcoma some 2 to 3 years later. Professor J. Zoltan, senior plastic surgeon in Hungary then gave a lecture on the surgical revision of scars and the closure of facial defects with local flaps. Dr. I. Bögi, head of the Maxillo-facial Unit in the Hospital Service in Budapest then described the state of the art of orthognathic surgery in Hungary. He repaired orbital floor defects with lyodura. Dr. J. Karasz, a member of the University Staff then spoke of his two-year experience of microvascular surgery in Japan. He also described the techniques of bone grafting. The following day was taken up with a lecture from Professor Szabo on his experience with miniplates. He had designed a more robust version of the long Champy plate which was useful in the repair of discontinuities of the mandible with blocks

one paper. Professor Banoczy, the Dean of the Dental Faculty spoke on leucoplakia dealing with the aetiology and relationship of candida infection in ulcerative or erosive leucoplakia and carcinoma. Dr T. Divinyi, Head of the Outpatient Department then spoke of his experience with ceramic implants over the last 2½ years. These early results were promising but he was cautious as to the long term results. He emphasised the importance of copious irrigation whilst preparing the beds for the implants. Members were then shown round the department which was a compact unit of wards, operating theatres, outpatient department, X-ray department and pathology department. This enabled the closest co-operation of all those concerned. Some patients were shown, a few of whom were undergoing cytotoxic drug therapy prior to surgery. Radiotherapy was used when other modalities had failed.

In the evening the Club entertained Professor Szabo and eight other guests at Gundel's Restaurant famous for its Hungarian cuisine. The President, on behalf of the Club, presented to Professor Szabo a copy of "Maxillo-facial Surgery" by N.H. Rowe and J.H. Williams. He in turn, presented to the Club the Medal of the Samuelweis University of Medicine, a rare honour. Members returned to London on June 16th.