INNSBRUCK AS A HOTSPOT

On the occasion of the 88th Assembly of German Natural Scientists and Physicians In 1924, numerous meeting of Nobel Prize winners, famous physicians, well-known scientists and future top researchers in Tyrol.

When he arrived in Innsbruck in 1924, the *88th Assembly of German Natural Scientists and Physicians* already in full swing. The city has been bursting at the seams for days. Around 6,000 congress participants - including more than 20 Nobel Prize winners at the time or later - are occupying all the guest beds in the city and its surrounding communities, and private individuals are also making rooms available. The week-long event was organized by Innsbruck university professors under the direction of the physicist Egon Schweidler, but the main work was probably done by the meteorologist Albert Defant. The decision of the *Society of German Natural Scientists and Physicians* to hold the 88th meeting in Innsbruck - for the second time after 1889 - was a political one, and the "divided Tyrol" was also the focus of several speeches at the opening on September 21, 1924.

Current research questions

The following days, however, are dominated by lectures by hundreds of researchers (and a handful of female researchers). The general sessions in particular, held in front of over a thousand listeners in the Alhambra, the large event hall on the exhibition grounds, attract a great deal of media interest. The *Innsbrucker Nachrichten* wrote that the Alhambra "has probably rarely experienced such a storm of applause" as after the lecture by the well-known Berlin Quaternary researcher Albrecht Penck on *The Face of the Alps.* The zoologist Karl Frisch also knows how to inspire. The Viennese native and Nobel Prize winner in 1972 talks about *sensory physiology and the language of bees.* As visual support, he has "a skilled cinema operator" make a film of dancing bees.

produce – probably one of the first uses of the new medium for the presentation dissemination of research results.

The discussions in the department meetings go into more detail, for example those and future questions in physics. In particular, Einstein's conversations with Pauli and Schrödinger were to have a significant influence on their future work on quantum mechanics.

ALBERT EINSTEIN is not the only top physicist who takes part in the 88th meeting of German natural scientists and physicians (21-27 September 1924): Max Planck, Wolfgang Pauli, James Franck, Erwin Schrödinger, Hermann Weyl, Arnold Sommerfeld, Victor Franz Hess, Otto Stern, Max Born, Hendrik A. Kramers, Stefan Meyer, Alfred Landé, Friedrich Hund and many others discuss current issues in Innsbruck.

The photo of Albert Einstein comes by Abraham Dubin and was photographed at the Innsbruck train station at noon on September 25, 1924. The two had met the day before, in a sleeping car coming from Vienna. Dubin had visited his brother Leibe in Cÿlÿraÿi, in what is now the Republic of Moldova, and was on his way back to Argentina, where he had emigrated in 1905.

with the later Nobel Prize winner Julius Wagner-Jauregg (1927) on his proposal for a therapy of progressive Paralysis – a neurological sequela of syphilis: Malaria pathogens are supposed to create an artificial paralysis in the patient. fever, which is used to treat the disease. Numerous Doctors, including Carl Mayer from the Innsbruck Psychiatric Clinic, report successful treatments and explain that this “vaccine malaria” is not transmissible.

In another session, Alfred Wegener, founder of the theory of continental drift, presented his work *Climates of Geological Prehistory* for the first time , in which he systematized the new branch of science of paleoclimatology. The mathematician Milutin Milankoviÿ traveled there especially for the presentation. Wegener devoted a chapter to his method of the solar radiation curve (Milankoviÿ cycles), thereby instantly making the Serb famous in specialist circles. Milankoviÿ celebrated this at length in Innsbruck's pubs and, as he later wrote, "slept through the following morning, as if on his laurels, in the train that took me to Salzburg."

For Albert Defant, the congress was a springboard to Germany, as he met Friedrich Schmidt-Ott, the president of the Emergency Association of German Science, during these days. In 1925, after the unexpected death of the previous head of the association, he entrusted him with the scientific Leading the *German Atlantic Expedition* on the research vessel *Meteor.* In 1926, Defant was appointed Professor of Oceanography at the University of Berlin and also became Director of the Museum of Oceanography there. From 1929 to 1935 he led further research trips, and the scientific results he published from all these expeditions became a standard work of oceanography.

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