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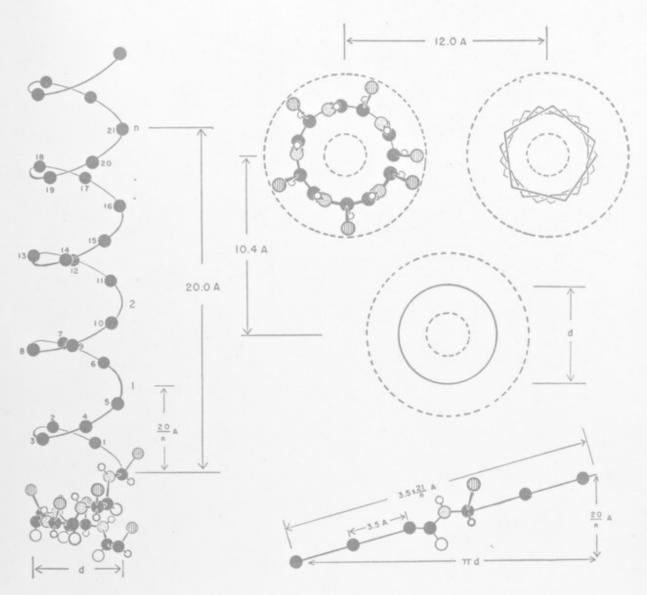


Fig. 31. Illustrating helical models for the collagen polypeptide chain (protofibril). On the left is the skeleton of the helix, with the location of atoms filled in for the bottom turn. The numbered carbon (solid black) atoms of the skeleton represent the 21 places (α carbon atoms) at which residue side chains are attached in one full period of the helix. The number of turns per period illustrated is 4, indicated in general as n. The diameter of the helix skeleton is d. The upper right part of the drawing indicates cross sectional plans for three helices and their mode of packing in the collagen fibril. In one helix the atoms of a single turn are shown; in another,