

L. W. Dickinson  
2/3/25

## CHIROPRACTIC AND ITS RELATION TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

In treating this subject the writer will not attempt to stress all the minor faults and shortcomings of the Chiropractic because 1st, they are so many in number that the length of this paper will not permit of any long drawn out discussion and, 2nd, because it will not be necessary to go into minor details as any open-minded reader will be forced to admit these faults. They are so obvious that if I would attempt to explain them the reader would think I was offering an open insult to his intelligence.

So I will merely make the statement that they are injurious to Public Health and prove the fact by using only one or two examples.

The first question that immediately comes to the mind is, "How is Chiropractic a menace to the Public at large."

The answer is very simple:

1st: Because it ignores bacteriology and leaves the door wide open to the spread of contagion and pestilence. B. J. Palmer, founder and advocator of the famous, or rather, infamous "Palmer Method" made the following statement in an address: "The Chiropractor does not believe in bacteria, and bacteriology is one of the greatest of all gigantic farces ever invented for ignorance and incompetency, and as to analysis of blood and urine, I have never considered it of any value whatsoever."

2nd: The chiropractic method is a menace, because its insidious propoganda leads a lot of credulous people to throw their money away on false promises of health and thus in some cases to delay proper treatment until too late.

Before going any further into the discussion of this subject I will define and give a brief history of this particular art of healing.

The name Chiropractic is taken from two Greek words - Cheiro (hand) and Practos (practice). Its disciples who are called Chiropractors, - assert that by feeling with their fingers along the spinal column of the patient they can locate the cause of all disease and with thrusts of the arm effect a cure. In other words, Chiropractic is science, or rather, a pseudoscience that holds that all disease is caused by a subluxation of either a vertebra or vertebrae, as the case may be and that this abnormal position of the vertebra causes the particular spinal nerve to become impinged and consequently it cannot function properly, resulting soon in loss of nervous energy to some organ or the area supplied by the nerve fibres and due to decreased vitality the disease process sets in. They hold that by manual manipulation this abnormal position of vertebra is corrected and thereby relieving pressure on the nerve thus allowing it to return to its normal function and thus the disease is overcome. It is a very pretty explanation but unfortunately it does not always hold. This is to say, they do not always readjust the vertebra that allows passage of the nerve which supplies the diseased area in question.

For example, in the court case of the State of Wisconsin versus S. R. Jansheski, the defendant in the case, who was a "Chiropractor", and a graduate of the "Palmer School", was placed on trial Dec. 22, 1910, in the district court of Milwaukee County, and on trial on oath made the following statements in answer to questions put forth by the prosecuting attorney:

1. I adjust the 2nd thoracic for Pneumonia.
2. I would adjust the 5th dorsal for typhoid
3. I would adjust the 2nd lumbar for Gonorrhoea.
4. I would adjust the 5th dorsal for blindness.
5. I would adjust the 1st. cervical for insanity.

He admitted that he knew nothing about a number of very common diseases and yet stated that he would search until he found some vertebra out

of line. In other words, the whole game seems to be a "hide and go seek" affair and the biggest bluffer and liar wins.

The discoverer of the Chiropractic idea and founder of the fundamentals in its philosophy, science and art, was Canadian born and of Scotch-Irish, German-English descent. Rather a bad combination, to say the least. His name was D. D. Palmer, a mesmeric healer of Davenport, Iowa.

The first chiropractic adjustment was given in 1895 to a man of impaired hearing. An analysis of his spine was supposed to have shown a pronounced subluxation of his spine in the upper portion. Palmer manipulated the region and as a coincidence the hearing returned.

Soon Palmer became more or less unsuccessful in his "magnetic" treatments and gradually paid more and more attention to the spines of his patients and as a result soon treated them all by adjustments.

He devoted little of his time to study, but being old and tired and pretty well satisfied with his results and himself, he thought of transmitting the discovery to his son and keeping it a "family secret".

The son, however, did not keep chiropractic a secret, To 2,000 pupils of his school he sells the chiropractic idea at from \$350.00 to \$400.00 a head.

As his own literature shows, the younger Palmer has developed chiropractic not only as a "philosophy, science and art," but also as a money making industry, established on thoroughly commercial lines.

In the course of time other schools have sprung up throughout the United States and Canada until at the present time, according to the figures of the chiropractic Association there are now about 10,000 practitioners with nearly 1,000,000 patients who contribute to their coffers between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000 annually.

Twenty or more schools are pouring out a constantly growing flood of chiropractors. One school alone - "The Fountain Head", at Daven-

port, Iowa, has an enrollment of nearly 2,000 and seems to be the most dangerous one of the group. The announcement of this school states that in its "Scientific Course" the student is required to "attend" (Note the exact figures) a total of 4,103 $\frac{1}{2}$  class hours. This would be 53 hours a week for eighteen months, or 80 hours a week, or 12 hours a day, for a calendar year.

Education does not depend on the number of hours of instruction, however, so much as on the subject matter taught and the ability of the instructor to impart knowledge. As a matter of fact, the requirement of actual class-room work in our highest grade medical schools in four years of college work from eight to nine months each is only about 4,000 hours. Each class hour, however, presupposes from one to three hours of outside preparation, so that, if measured by the claims of the chiropractic college the total hours required by the medical school would be from 8,000 to 12,000 hours.

The text books used in this particular school are very interesting. In anatomy, the text used is said to be that prepared by Mabel H. Palmer D.C., Ph. C. (1905), the wife of B. J. Palmer, the president of the institution. Court reports in 1910 show that the latter had only a common school education and had never matriculated in any school, college or university other than a chiropractic college.

For those who never had a training in the scientific methods of treating the sick, an attempt to teach others how to do so is equal to "the blind leading the blind."

Text books of their own writing are also used by the teachers of Gynecology, Symptomatology, etc., who likewise have no degrees in medicine. Incidentally, the sale of these textbooks adds considerably to the revenue obtained from students.

The fee is \$300.00 cash or \$350.00 if payed in part payments. If, however, a husband and wife take the course together, the combined tuition is \$375.00 spot cash or \$450.00 if in deferred payments.

The low ideals of the leaders of this cult are shown in the following sections taken from the constitution and by-laws of the "Universal Chiropractors Association". This is printed in a pamphlet of twenty-four pages, including two pages of printed instructions as to "what to do if trouble starts." Among the fifteen items in these instructions the following are very interesting:

#11. Be conservative in your claims and be careful that the enemy does not send any patient to you that they think will die in your hands or otherwise complicate matters. Do not, unless in a state or province where you are licensed, undertake to handle any so-called "Contagious diseases."

#13. "Have as many friends as possible present at your trial. Do not make any newspaper announcements without consulting your local attorney."

#15. "If any trouble has not started, but there are signs of it, let us hear about it by letter."

The graduates of this school, ("Davenport, Palmer Institute") are said to be practicing in Iowa, the institution's home state - in direct violation of the medical practice act, and according to the above, they are being encouraged to violate the law in other states.

In the following tabulation I will show the courses given in three of the leading schools of Chiropractic in the U.S.

CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES OF IOWA

	Davenport College,	Universal College	Palmer School
Buildings	One old church	One	4 crowded
Access to Hosp.	none	none	none
Dispensary facil.	none	few	none
Admission req.	none	com. sch.	com. sch.
Anatomy dissecting	not taught	few dogs	few dogs.
Histology	no equip.	didactic	incomplete.
Embryology	not taught	none	none
Surg. Anatomy	" "	"	"

## CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGES OF IOWA (cont'd)

	Davenport College	Universal College	Palmer School.
Physiology	Didactic only	Lectures only	Lect. only.
Bacteriology	Not taught	Not taught	Not taught
Biochem.	" "	Lectures	No equip.
Pathology	-- --	-- --	-- --
Pharmacology	Not taught	Not taught	Not taught
Microsc. Diag.	" "	" "	" "
Medicine	" "	" "	" "
Surgery	" "	" "	" "
Anaesthesia	" "	" "	* "
Gynecology	" "	* "	* "
Pediatrics	" "	* "	* "
Nervous Ment. Dis.	*	*	*
Ear, Nose, Throat	Not taught	*	*
Eye			*
Dermatology	*	*	*

\* From chiropractic standpoint only, as caused by lesions in the cord.

Class rooms	One	Two	Two
Clin. Amphith.	One large	----	two
Medical Library	None	small	none
Microscopes	"	two	twelve
" Oil Imm.	"	one	one
Reflectoscopes	"	yes	yes
Stereopticians	"	"	"
Obs. Manikin	Part of one	"	"
Maturity work	Not taught	Not taught	Lectures
Charts	A few	many	many
Models	None seen	yes	yes

From the foregoing statements it will be seen that the teaching conducted in schools of chiropractic is a menace to education and to public morals as well as to the science of medicine and to rational rules of Public Health. The conclusion justified by the evidence is as follows:

a) Leading chiropractors deride or disbelieve such well known and proved sciences as chemistry, bacteriology, and pathology. Their teachings are not based on fact and are refuted by the accomplishments of the great minds in education, research

research, science and medicine.

b) Their attitude toward these sciences shows their lack of sympathy for the first essentials in the prevention of epidemics and the regulation of public health.

c) They declare that education and the ability to make a diagnosis are not essential for the intelligent treatment of human diseases and injuries.

d) Their schools at most require only a common school education, a training insufficient to permit the student to intelligently undertake any but the most elementary course of study.

e) Their course of professional (????) instruction is too short to enable the student to obtain a training in the sciences necessary for the intelligent or safe practice of the healing art by any method.

f) The school teaches and encourages its students to advertise - which they are doing and using the same flagrant methods which have been employed by quacks since the beginning of medicine.

g) Finally, the leaders of this cult openly urge their graduates to practice Chiropractic in violation of the law, and have arranged through the "Universal Chiropractic Association," to aid and abet them in such outlawry.

And as Mr. Justice Frank E. Hodgins states in his report in regard to Chiropractic:

"I cannot bring myself to the point of accepting, as a part of our legalized medical provision for the sick, a system which denies the need of diagnosis, refers 95% of disease to one and the same cause, and turns its back resolutely on all modern medical scientific methods as being founded on nothing and unworthy even to be discussed."

Their repudiation of all modern scientific knowledge and methods is such that it would be impossible to recommend any way in which they could be allowed to practice by which the public could be safeguarded. They see no necessity for preparatory qualifications, ridicule and repudiate diagnosis, bacteriology and chemistry; and the ones that have been questioned admitted that a chiropractor acts in all cases on his cardinal principle, without examination, and hold that history of the

case is absolutely unnecessary.

In the face of all these facts we can only arrive at one conclusion: The chiropractor is a definite menace to Public Health, and that the entire cult should be prohibited to practice their art.

DICKINSON, L. W.