

OSTEOPATHY AND ITS
ASPECT TO PUBLIC HEALTH

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Regarding the allopath's outlook upon osteopathy, the osteopath points to the decision of the Supreme Court of Missouri that "one school of practice is incompetent to testify against another". This decision covers the point of allopathic testimony vs. osteopathic, (Goldie Granger vs Dr. C. E. Still).

Even though this seems to be regarded by the osteopathic profession as a "victory", by no means can it justly be considered as such. No court will admit what is legally termed "prejudiced testimony", no matter what may be the subject under consideration. Such a decision merely emphasizes the fact that prejudice exists between the allopath and osteopath.

In an effort to free my remarks as far as possible from any such / prejudice, I am taking for my references in making this survey of osteopathy, "The New International Encyclopaedia" and "History of Osteopathy and Twentieth Century Medical Practice", by E.R. Booth, Ph.D., D.O. I shall let their own authorities speak for them.

"The New International Encyclopaedia" conveys the following information. Osteopathy is a system of prevention and cure of disease without the use of drugs, but by the control of nature's remedial agents (blood, lymph, and nerve force) which are already in the body. By this system the free and unobstructed distribution and application of these agents (which are necessary for health) are accomplished mainly by scientific surgeries. The principles were first discovered and formulated

in 1874 by Dr. Andrew T. Still, an old-school physician at Baldwin, Kans. The first college was opened at Kirksville, Mo., in 1892. The first charter for the school was taken out May 10th, 1892, and a new charter was issued October 30th, 1894.

The powers and purposes of this charter we find set forth in "History of Osteopathy and Twentieth Century Medical Practices", as follows: "The object of this corporation is to establish a College of Osteopathy, the design of which is to improve our present system of surgery, obstetrics and treatment of diseases generally, and place the same on a more rational and scientific basis, and to impart information to the medical profession, and to grant and confer such honors and degrees as are usually granted and conferred by reputable medical colleges; to issue diplomas in testimony of the same to all students graduating from said school under the seal of the corporation, with the signature of each member of the faculty and of the president of the college". Dr. Still would not consent to the degree Medical Doctor (M.D.) being conferred upon graduates, as many wanted done. He maintained that osteopathy is such a radical departure from the practice of all schools of M.D.'s that it should not be designated by the same degree. The first building used for school purposes was a small frame structure about fourteen by twenty-eight feet. It stood where the present three story brick building, with its sixty-eight recitation and treating rooms, now stands. The course of study at that time was very incomplete compared with what it is now. Anatomy was then and always has been the basis of

Osteopathy. Anatomy first, last and all the time, with its practical applications, was the slogan of the school.

The first class graduated in 1893, and as we proceed to read the comments upon the early history of the school, they are very enlightening as to why the medical profession as a whole, with more than a hundred years already behind it in establishing precedent in scientific education/ ^{in the United States,} would be likely to evolve "prejudice" against the precedent Dr. Still wished to establish as recognized scientific education. The following history by C.P. McConnel, D.O., speaks most plainly and emphatically for itself.

"A decade ago the American School was the only osteopathic school in existence. I well remember my first lessons in the little cottage The work was unsystematized and distinctly in embryo. Anatomy and less physiology comprised the didactic part of the curriculum. Class room practice of Osteopathy and principles of Osteopathy did not appear until later. what was lost in systematic class room instruction was compensated for by the personal and clinical instruction of Dr. Still and the staff of infirmary physicians. the school work at this time was almost incidental to practice, the student was kept busy assisting the physicians and his studies were carried on the best he could. One thing is certain: we received the pure unadulterated Osteopathy". They must have for the didn't receive much else according to their own recounting. The history continues, "Several schools of

osteopathy have arisen and passed into oblivion since then
..... A decade has certainly been a short time for so much
school history; but then we are living in a rapid age". I have
no contention at all with C.P. McConnell, D.O., that osteopathy
is a very rapid affair, up and at 'em, and let it go at that.
He further comments, "The only thing lacking at present in our
colleges is more time to complete the various branches, a longer
period for clinical advantages, and greater opportunity for
surgical diagnosis". I do not know that I have any bone of
contention to crack with Dr. McConnell on that point either. He
undoubtedly is correct. We are further informed that, "At the
time the first bill was introduced into the Missouri legislature
early in 1895, to legalize the practice of Osteopathy, there
really was no school in existence for the teaching of all the
branches pertaining to the science". We learn that in 1897,
"a faithful and reasonably successful attempt was made to carry
into effect at once a course of instruction which extended
over two years", and a survey of the studies outlined shows them
to be Descriptive Anatomy including Histology, Neurology, etc.,
Discriptive Anatomy of the Viscera, Regional Anatomy and
Pathological Anatomy.

Because of the insistence and determined stand of the
medical profession that those who would undertake the healing
arts and would be trusted with human life, must be properly
qualified insofar as it is possible to qualify them through
scientific education and training, gradually the osteopathic

profession has been forced to raise its standards of education.

At the present time catalogues of osteopathic college will be found to contain outlines of what can be termed a scientific education with at least a reasonable length of time devoted to such requirements. But when one stops to consider the fact that it is firmly announced that all such requirements are made inferior to and subject to the principles of osteopathy, it is only reasonable to suppose that such/are not receiving at the hands of osteopathy a fair and proper amount of attention and importance.

"The New International Encyclopaedia" informs us further, that at present, "All subjects taught in regular medical colleges are taught in osteopathic colleges, but from a different viewpoint, except materia medica, for which is substituted osteopathic theory and practice. The course of study covers a period of four years of nine months each. The practice of osteopathy has been legalized in the United States and its dependencies. There are some 7,000 practitioners in the United States and Canada. Osteopathy holds that the body has been endowed by nature with all the remedial agents necessary for the preservation of health and recovery from disease, providing the mechanism which distributes these agents is in perfect mechanical adjustment. It reasons that a normal flow of blood is health, for the life is the blood, and that any obstruction to such flow is possible disease; that the removal of such obstruction constitutes scientific cure. Osteopathy holds that all tissues of the body will act according to their design when free from obstructions, but that any interference with the forces or fluids of the body constitutes the

the lesion that produces disease. These lesions may be osseous, ligamentous, muscular, or nervous, as a result of concussions, contusions, etc., improper diet, exposure and unhygienic environment or abnormal mental states. Search is made for the structural abnormality, and mechanical readjustment restores harmonious activity to the mechanism, when the curative powers resident in the body itself, left free to act are sufficient to rebuild and restore health. While osteopathy, strictly speaking, is anatomical corrective work, yet it employs such other agencies as dieting, nursing and hygiene. Osteopathy recognizes various specific microorganisms as exciting agents of many acute diseases, but it also asserts that in many of these diseases there are predisposing lesions that weaken certain areas of the body and permit the entrance and growth of these exciting organisms. Osteopathy recognizes that surgical treatment is at times necessary and in well-selected cases should be employed".

Personally I consider such treatment might be of limited value in certain cases to a certain extent, but deny that any such treatment can possibly be called scientific or can be applied to all diseases. It is simply outside the limit of reasonable possibility.

Propaganda for this method of treatment of diseases, is carried on by some twenty periodicals and as an example of the subjects treated the following titles are chosen at random from several such publications, especially the "Osteopathic Health": "Most Diseases Are of Spinal Origin", "How Bad Mechanism in Our

"Joints Makes Sicknes", "The Body's Four Gland System of Elimination", "The Osteopathic Primer", "Osteopathy In The Infectious Diseases", "Osteopathy Helps Rejected Risks Get Life Insurance", "The Human Body Runs Like An Automobile", etc.

Public health, speaking in its broadest application, is, of course, a matter of the greatest amount of good to the greatest number, and this phase is most observable in the sweep and check of epidemics, etc., and in public sanitation. Osteopathic text books and reference books are quite emphatic in their disaproval of the use of vaccines and serums. Their bombastic onslaughts at the use of these protecting and life-saving agencies of modern scientific preventive medicine, are, in some cases ridiculous. And in all the literature at my disposal I am unable to fine one line in which they offer anything to supliment or improve the present accepted methods of vaccine and serum treatment.

In 1922 the United States Government spent twenty millions for public health. Every citizen of the United States is now not only vitally but is also financially interested in the prevention of disease. Every agency connected with the health of the nation should be lending a hand to the protection of the coming generations whose immunity to communicable diseases is yet unformed. Osteopathy, in this respect if in no other, is then most certainly a stumbling block to successful accomplishment of this aim. Its propaganda excites in the uninformed minds of those prone to read it that present day preventive medicine is wrong in its contentions and objectives, and that

parents should not allow children to be immunized. If the allopath will advance with the times, as they have in the past, we need not worry about osteopathic propaganda. In time the public is bound to learn the truth. It always has, it always eventually will. By granting this twenty millions to public health, and by further appropriations, the Government has placed the faith, hope and lives of its people in the hands of the allopath inasmuch as all Government health officials must be of the medical profession. This speaks for itself, and the trust must be well placed.