

Chiropractors And The Cult Of Chiropractic

by *T. J. Murray*

Chiropractic means "therapeutic science of body anatomics—an engineering approach to the problems of disease". This is the definition in New York. In Alabama, it is "mechanical therapy"; in Maryland, it is "a drugless health system"; in Montana, it is "the science that teaches health in anatomic relations"; in Ontario, chiropractic means "drugless practitioner"; in Indiana, Washington, D.C., Vermont and Wisconsin, it is not defined—one has to guess.

Chiropractic was started in Iowa in 1895 by a grocer and fish peddler named Palmer. He is alleged to have cured a case of deafness by twisting a spine, despite the fact that the eighth nerve, the nerve of hearing does not enter the spine at all. Since then, a school has grown up with the belief that all diseases can be cured by manipulation of the spine. There are, however, the "straights" and the "mixers", as they refer to themselves. The "straights" use only Palmer's method of spine manipulation but the "mixers" are acquiring some medical paraphernalia, such as X-rays, in treatment which is however, still centered in the spine.

Chiropractors are not legal in Nova Scotia. Last year, they entered a bill in the Legislature in their third attempt to become legalized and it failed. There was a good deal of opposition at the time by the medical profession, the public and the press. The medical profession opposed the bill on the basis that their philosophy is unscientific and certainly unproven, their education and training unstandardized and poor in quality, and that their use of X-rays and their attempts to make diagnoses despite no medical training in a great hazard to the public.

Best Wishes To

The
Dalhousie Medical Society

**National-Canadian Drugs
Limited**

14 Sackville Street

Telephone 423-9291

Sydney, N.S. Halifax, N.S. Saint John, N.B.

Compliments of

Henry Birks & Sons (Mar.) Ltd.

QUALITY JEWELLERS



493 Barrington St. - Halifax, N.S.

relieve
nasal congestion
 with a soft
 yet firm touch

"FLAVEDRIN"
BRAND
 MILD

POTENT VASOCONSTRICTOR

Rapidly shrinks swollen mucous membranes, reduces secretion, improves ventilation and drainage of accessory sinuses without rebound congestion.

WIDE-RANGE ANTISEPTIC

Eradicates or prevents growth of both gram-negative and gram-positive pathogens — without mucosal irritation.

Contains no antibiotic

FORMULA: Ephedrine hydrochloride, 0.3% and aminacrine hydrochloride, 0.1%, in an aqueous isotonic solution.

ADMINISTRATION: To relieve nasal congestion in allergic, inflammatory or infectious disorders, instil 3 or 4 drops into each nostril every 3 or 4 hours.

In ½ oz. bottles with dropper.

ALSO AVAILABLE... "FLAVEDRIN"

Ephedrine hydrochloride 1.0% and aminacrine hydrochloride 0.1%.

In 1 oz. bottles with dropper.

Charles E. Frosst & Co.
 MONTREAL CANADA



Because chiropractors recognize only one cause of disease, the pinching of nerves as they leave the spinal column, they do not believe that bacteria and viruses cause disease. Thus, pneumonia, diphtheria, ingrown toenails, constipation, diabetes, tuberculosis, and cancer are all caused by pinching of nerves in the spine to the chiropractor's way of thinking. Many cases of serious harm done to patients with life-threatening disease have been documented in which chiropractors have attempted to cure by means of spinal manipulation. Some of these cases were presented in a brief in opposition to the bill to legalize chiropractors in 1960.

The following is one of the cases presented by Doctor Norman H. Gosse, M.D., C.M., F.R.C.S., LL.D., Director of the Nova Scotia Tumor Clinic.

"It was while I was doing my bit in the realm of cancer education, both as a citizen and as a teacher, that a woman came to me complaining of a lump in her breast. The lump was quite large and hard, suggesting to me that it had been neglected. I asked the patient how long she had known that she had that lump, to which she replied, "more than six months". I informed the patient that she seemed to be a sensible woman and must know how important lumps in the breast can be and the possible danger in such delay. The patient informed me that she had been having treatment to it almost ever since it started but that it hadn't been getting any better—in fact, it had been getting bigger all the time. When I asked what kind of treatment she had been having, she informed me that she had been having electrical treatment and massage. I informed her that that was the worst possible thing to do to any such lump and ascertained from her that she had received such treatments from a Mr.——, a chiropractor residing on—— Street. I informed the patient that, with all the knowledge that is available on the subject today, the person who is guilty of treating a lump in the breast by massage, with its resultant dissemination of the disease, is guilty of a criminal act for which he ought to be shot."

A similar experience was presented by Dr. Rayfield G. A. Wood, M.D., C.M., of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

"I first examined this patient, Mrs. T. K., age 34 years in January, 1956. She had symptoms which suggested to me a spinal cord lesion and I advised further investigation and treatments at the Victoria General Neurological Centre in Halifax.

"However, unknown to me at this time, she sought the advice of a chiropractor and was told she could be helped. She was treated for approximately six months and was then told to return to her former Doctor as nothing more could be done. At the time I last saw her in January, 1956, until I saw her again in August, 1956, her condition had deteriorated a great deal and she could not walk without the support of two persons.

"Again, I impressed on her the necessity of neurological treatment and this time my advice was taken and patient was admitted to Victoria General Hospital on September 5th, 1956 and discharged on November 17th, 1956. A spinal cord tumor was removed. Patient is a paraplegic with paresis of bladder. If this case had been recognized by the chiropractor and honestly informed that chiropractic help was of no avail, when she was first seen, it is felt that the cord tumor could have been removed and patient not left to live as a paraplegic the rest of her life. Too, the monetary loss of six months treatment was a great handicap to her husband."

Dr. Chester Stewart, B.Sc., M.D., C.M., M.P.H., F.A.P.H.A., Dr.P.H., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University has made the following suggestion as a means to eliminate the dangers of chiropractors and to utilize them in the best interests of the public:

A person wishing to practice chiropractic can, in Nova Scotia, become qualified medically under Subsection 3 of Section 9 of the Medical Act.

