

Clinical Osteopathy

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Clinical Osteopathy

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Preface

The present period of medical history is characterized by definite development of the medical sciences. There is probably not a field that has not contributed distinct and exact data toward the evolvement of the practice of the healing art. The prosecution of sanitary knowledge has been noteworthy. The far better understanding of infective processes and the significance of immunology has fairly revolutionized certain practices. The appreciation of the importance of the endocrine organs in their relationship to the entire bodily economy has changed the viewpoint of many disorders. The far better understanding of the functions of the digestive tract due to more definite diagnostic methods has been of great value. These are a few of the present landmarks that have virtually changed the conception of certain physiological processes and contributed precise methods to the treatment of many disorders.

Medical history shows that it is vouchsafed to but very few individuals to discover and contribute such far-reaching discoveries as Dr. Still has made. As time reveals the many brilliant workers in the scientific field the importance of Dr. Still's great work is enhanced. A clearer understanding of anatomical completeness and intactness, and the consequent significance of adjustment in order that physiological unity may be asserted through the inherent properties of the organism, is apparently foreshadowed by the many converging lines of medical development.

It is fitting that at this time these coworkers, in Clinical Osteopathy, should compile, evaluate and rewrite the present understanding of the medical sciences as they apply to therapeutics. The osteopathic profession is very much in need of such a work; it fills a distinct requirement.

We believe that the profession will take sufficient interest in this work so that it will be constructively criticised and much valuable data supplied by both teachers and practitioners of osteopathy in order that future editions will still better reflect the combined experience of the profession. Unquestionably every practitioner of experience can aid most substantially and definitely

in adding to the value of Clinical Osteopathy, and for this reason we bespeak the earnest coöperation of every member of the profession.

Possibly some time in the future a new nosology will be evolved, for many disorders, based upon the innervation, vascular supply, and chemical coördination of a region, as suggested in the writings of Dr. Still. In many ways this would harmonize with the osteopathic concept of anatomical completeness and physiological unification, and thus would simplify and render more effective etiologic diagnosis and the fundamentals of pathology.

Far too frequently the relative importance of history taking, anatomical findings, and laboratory data are not sufficiently emphasized in the individual case. Each one of these is an important and indispensable link to the solution of a diseased condition. Neglect one part and the practitioner is distinctly handicapped in securing a clear understanding of the condition presented to him. The written word can assist him comparatively little in the individual case. Almost beyond everything else in practice rests the individuation of a diseased condition. Ability and efficiency in practice, to a marked extent, depends upon the evaluation of the various factors presented, based of course upon definite fundamentals, but nevertheless interpreted in accordance with a distinct appreciation of the individual vital organism.

Probably in no other practice than the osteopathic does personal therapeutic ability count for so much. Osteopathy exemplifies a distinct advance of the knowledge of the healing art, based primarily upon the etiologic diagnosis of many disorders, and as a consequence technical efficiency is dependent upon a high degree of skill and extended experience. This is something that cannot possibly be learned from text-books but demands the careful and painstaking instruction of sympathetic teachers, over a considerable period of time.

CARL P. McCONNELL.

Publisher's Announcement

This book is the first of a series being prepared under the auspices of the Education Department of the A. T. Still Research Institute, by the coöperation of osteopathic practitioners and teachers in osteopathic colleges. The material for this volume was gathered from many sources, including osteopathic publications, reports of lectures and clinics from national, state and local associations, several thousands of case reports from the Pacific College clinics and laboratories and correspondence and consultation with several hundred osteopathic physicians. The writings of Dr. A. T. Still were constantly consulted. Other books frequently quoted include "Practice of Osteopathy," by McConnell and Teall; "Practice of Osteopathy," by Chas. Hazzard; "Principles of Osteopathy," by Guy D. Hulett; "Principles of Osteopathy," by D. L. Tasker; and "Public Sanitation and Other Papers," by Clement A. Whiting.

The names of those whose contributions and criticisms have made this work possible are given. While the greatest care has been taken to include all who have helped in this work, it may be possible that some have been inadvertently omitted. In a general way, everyone who has ever written upon osteopathic subjects, or who has given lectures, has helped to some extent in this work.

Other books are being prepared in about the same way, upon other subjects and with other editors. It is urgently desired that with the advancement of osteopathic thought, there may be advancement of osteopathic literature.

Publication Bureau,
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