



INTER OFFICE MEMO



Date: November 25, 1997
 To: Tom Doss, M.D.
 From: Joe Keating, Ph.D.
 cc: Reed Phillips, D.C., Ph.D.
 Re: D.D. Palmer's attitudes towards toxins and pharmaceuticals

Below are some quotes. I've given you a bit more than you asked for, but thought you might be amused. :-)

"Our healing is done entirely by the hands; there are no drugs used; you can eat or drink what you please within reason. We use no electrical batteries, no instruments. Any one can step into our treating rooms. There you will see in each a table, two stools, and the magnetic manipulator...By having a knowledge of the anatomy of the human machine we can locate the exact spot where the wrong is which causes the trouble. Disease is only a result of inharmony, something wrong" (Palmer, 1897a, p. 3),

At right, advertisement from the first issue of Palmer's advertising sheet, *The Chiropractic*, January, 1897:

THE CHIROPRACTIC.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
 PALMER'S

School of Magnetic Cure

(Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Iowa)

FOR THE PURPOSE OF
 Teaching How to Get Well and Keep Well
 Without Taking Poisonous Drugs

Office, School and Place of Publication:
 Fourth Floor, Ryan Block, Corner Second
 and Brady Streets
 DAVENPORT, IOWA

"I have taken lessons and studied Christian Science, Faith Cure, Mind Cure, Metaphysics, Magnetic and Osteopathy, therefore I am acquainted with each and know their differences. Any of them are better than drugging..." (Palmer, 1899, p. 1).

"...We don't look for an imaginary something and then try experimental specifics. We find displacements which obstruct natural functions. The medic doesn't look for obstructions but uses his damnable drugs to deaden and stupefy the action of the whole system of secretion and excretion and thereby obstructs action of all the vital channels..." (Palmer, 1902, p. 2).

"The Allopath and the Osteopath agree in that diphtheria is highly contagious, readily communicable from one person to another, that Klebs-Loeffler bacillus is the cause. This theory is founded on fermenting spores being transmitted from one person to another as in yeast. In treatment they differ; the Osteopath aiming to do with his hands what the medical man tries to do with his drugs. The Osteopath gives a general treatment which takes five pages to describe, and over an hour of hard work to perform the 200 movements explained. This treatment is to be repeated every six to eight hours.

"The Chiropractor replaces the displaced vertebra by one move, which takes but a moment. Wherein does the Chiropractor resemble the Osteopath or the Allopath?" (Palmer, 1904, p. 12)

"What can Chiropractors do for poisoning?"

"A few years ago I was called to the infirmary to attend one of the students who was suddenly ill with stomach and throat trouble. One adjustment at S.P. gave immediate relief. The next day I was called to the same man with the same ailment and the same result.

“The following day was Sunday. I was absent from home until sundown. Upon my return I found him in convulsions. I then saw that he had taken poison. An examination of his room disclosed the fact that he had sought to take his life by corrosive sublimate.

“November 7th last, we had link veal sausage for dinner. I ate one, Mrs. Palmer one and a half. About five hours after, she became suddenly very ill. I saw that I had a case of ptomain poisoning. I could not leave her to call help. I gave her an adjustment with immediate benefit. She was relieved and went to sleep. During that day and the next, she felt as tho she had been sick. Ptomain poison is caused by decomposition without putrefaction. There are no characteristic post-mortem lesions (molecular) except that of gastro-intestinal inflammation.

“These are the only cases of accidental poisoning I can cite the reader to, where Chiropractic has been used with success. Without further experience I would advise the Chiropractor to adjust immediately and send for a physician. If the patient is relieved by the time the M.D. has arrived, well and good; if not, then you have complied with public educated demands. Until we have had more experience, I would not advise relying upon adjusting alone if a physician can be called.

“Vaccine poisoning is readily relieved, as experience has proven by a number of cases adjusted by the originator” (Palmer, 1909, p. 30).

“SEASICKNESS

“I said to Dr. Lavalley, my partner, that Chiropractic was good for smallpox, typhoid, corrosive sublimate and ptomaine poison, why not an antidote for seasickness? He said, "Go to sea and see, I will bear half the expense." I made no reply. When I arrived home I found that he had phoned: "Mother, prepare for a trip to sea."

“Eight P.M., November 23d, found us on board the Geo. W. Elder. We were assigned stateroom 14, where we slept till morning. Below Astoria we were given numbers 33 and 34 at the breakfast table. It will be observed that the amount of these figures is "13," the unlucky number, at least such it proved to be toward our eating capacity for the next four days. Inside of a half hour we had lost our first meal on board ship” (Palmer, 1910a, p. 6).

“Poisons affect nerves as irritants or narcotics...Those substances are poisons which, when introduced into the body from without, occasion pathological alterations of function and structure; these lesions are known as toxic in contradistinction to those which are traumatic. Poisons create nervous disturbances, modify functions and structure...Some poisons, as chloroform, chloral, alcohol, digitalis and quinin cause a reduction of temperature. This is because they induce in the nervous system a pathological effect of sense depression. These substances render the nervous system, with which they come in contact, more or less lax, therefore the nerves possess a less degree of molecular action, less carrying force. In anesthetics, the sensory nerves are so affected that they fail to vibrate, do not carry sensation...Other poisons, such as strychnine, nicotin, picrotoxin, veratrum, laudanum, cause an elevation of bodily temperature...” (Palmer, 1910b, p. 554).

“Materia medica treats of drugs, their preparation and respective doses; and the physiological phenomena produced by them in the human economy. As Chiropractors do not prescribe or use drugs, an education in this branch would be useless.

“Toxicology. To round out and complete a practical education of a Chiropractor, he should be acquainted with the action of drugs on the functions of the human body, so that he may know what nerves are affected by their introduction and what vertebrae to adjust to counteract their effects...Of what use is chemistry, histology, bacteriology and pharmacy could be to a Chiropractor, I am unable to say” (Palmer, 1910b, p. 789).

The following are the stated purposes of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, as listed in its Articles of Incorporation, October 1911:



Charles A. Cale, D.C., N.D.,
founder in 1911 of the LACC

“...the teaching of chiropractic, anatomy, histology, gynecology, pathology, obstetrics, bacteriology, chemistry and toxicology, physiology, general diagnosis, hygiene, and naturopathy, and the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Chiropractic upon those completing the course” (Articles, 1911).

The following is also not from D.D. Palmer, but suggests an interesting curriculum of a very early chiropractic school here in California:

Table 1-3a: Curriculum of the Pacific School of Chiro-Practic, Inc. of Oakland, from the College's *Announcement, Session of 1905*

COURSE OF STUDY

The course of study covers a period of one year, divided into two terms of five months each. Students may matriculate at the beginning of each term.

FIRST TERM

Anatomy. Urinalysis. Toxicology. Physiology. Pathology. Symptomatology. Lectures on the Principles and Practices of Chiro-Practic.

SECOND TERM

Anatomy. Physiology. Symptomatology. Pathology. Minor Surgery. Medical and Chiropractic diagnosis compared. Chiropractic Technique, Clinical Demonstrations, Diagnosis and Practic. Hygiene and dietetics.

Table 1-3b: early Board of Trustees and Faculty of the Pacific School of Chiro-Practic, Inc., from the College's *Announcement, Session of 1905* and from Gillespie (1925)

Board of Trustees

Harry D. Reynard, D.C., President
Rev. J.H. Marrall, Vice-President
William F. Booth, D.C., Secretary
Elza L. Lichty, D.C., Treasurer
I.W. Bridenbecker

Faculty

Harry D. Reynard, D.C.
Maude L. Reynard, D.C.
William F. Booth, D.C.
Elza L. Lichty, D.C.
Ruby A. Lichty, D.C.
W.E. Ledyard, M.D., D.C.

References:

Articles of incorporation of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. October 18, 1911, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento CA

Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1897a (Jan); Number 17 (Palmer College Archives)

Palmer DD. *The Chiropractic* 1899; Number 26 (Palmer College Archives)

Palmer DD (Ed.): *The Chiropractic* 1902; Number 29 (Palmer College Archives)

Palmer DD (Ed.) *The Chiropractor: a Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of Chiropractic* 1904 (Dec); 1(1):12

Palmer DD (Ed.) *The Chiropractor Adjuster* 1909 (Dec); 1(7): 30

Palmer DD, editor. *The Chiropractor Adjuster* 1910a (Feb); Volume 1, Number 8 (Palmer College Archives, Davenport, Iowa)

Palmer DD. *The Chiropractor's Adjuster: the Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic*. Portland OR: Portland Printing House, 1910b

Join the *Association for the History of Chiropractic!*

Glenda Wiese, M.A., Executive Director, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport IA 52803 USA
\$50/year regular membership; \$20/year for students