

Minutes of the National Chiropractic Association, Council on Education, Chicago, January 5-7, 1949

Minutes of the mid-year meetings held in Chicago at the Sherman Hotel, January 5, 6, and 7; Dr. Thure C. Peterson presiding over all the meetings. Those present at the meetings were:

(A) Members of the Committee on Educational Standards:

Dr. John J. Nugent, Director of Education of the N.C.A., 92 Norton Street, New Haven, Connecticut

Dr. Edward H. Gardner, Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, 920 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Dr. Walter B. Wolf, Eureka, South Dakota

Dr. Norman E. Osborne, Hagerstown, Maryland

(B) Members of the Committee on Educational Institutions:

Dr. James F. Firth, Lincoln Chiropractic College, 633 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana

Dr. Thure C. Peterson, Chiropractic Institute of New York, 152 W. 42nd Street, New York 18, New York

Dr. Ralph J. Martin, Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, 920 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, California

Dr. Paul O. Parr, Carver College of Chiropractic, 522 N.W. 9th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dr. John B. Wolfe, Northwestern College of Chiropractic, 608 Nicolette Avenue, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

Dr. A.C. Hendricks, Lincoln College of Chiropractic, 633 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana

Dr. Homer C. Beatty, Denver University of Natural Therapeutics, 1075 Logan Street, Denver, Colorado

Dr. H.C. Haring, Missouri Chiropractic Institute, 3117 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

Dr. Theodore Schreiber, Kansas State Chiropractic College, 629 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas

Dr. Carl Cleveland, Jr., Cleveland College of Chiropractic, 3724 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri

Dr. James Drain, Texas Chiropractic College, San Antonio, Texas

Dr. J. Janse, National College of Chiropractic, 20 N. Ashland Blvd., Chicago, 7, Illinois

(C) Special guest:

Dr. William C. Jacobs, Executive Secretary, Wisconsin Chiropractic Association, 161 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin

Open Meeting beginning 4:15 P.M., January 5, 1949, Dr. Thure C. Peterson presiding.

As special guests of this meeting there were in attendance Dr. Wm. C. Jacobs, the Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Chiropractic Association; Dr. James Drain, of the Texas Chiropractic College, and Dr. Carl S. Cleveland, Jr., of the Cleveland College of Chiropractic. These gentlemen were welcomed with hearty approval by all members of the Council, and certainly the Council wishes to express its appreciation for the presence, contributions, and confidence of these people.

Dr. Nugent then asked the members of the Council, as well as the visitors, to deliberate over the proposition and program by Dr. C.O. Watkins, of Sydney, Montana. The Secretary of the Council, as well as all of the other schoolmen and Dr. Nugent, at various occasions have received rather extensive literature and communications from Dr. Watkins expressing the opinion that it is imperative that in the fundamental courses of what is ordinarily called chiropractic philosophy and principles a more exacting scientific approach should be made.

Dr. Watkins insisted that that which is ordinarily called chiropractic philosophy and taught as chiropractic concept and principles is somewhat pseudo in scientific aspect and tainted with a semi-religious approach. It is Dr. Watkins opinion that every freshman student in the recognized chiropractic colleges

should receive a basic course in what is known as orientation in relation to science, what it is, what its procedures are, what it attempts to realize, and what it propounds to accomplish, and that only after this fundamental course has been taken should the chiropractic student be allowed to take a course in chiropractic principles and concept. Furthermore, that this course in chiropractic principles should be based upon fully accepted and recognized scientific data - based upon the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the standard authorities.

A great deal of comment was made with reference to Dr. Watkins' proposition. Every schoolman of the Council recognized the merit of his program. Dr. Nugent especially emphasized the need for a more exacting clarification of chiropractic concept because according to him, so many students refuse to accept the dogma so commonly existent, and they are left befuddled and confused. The other schoolmen, including Drs. Peterson, Firth, and Schreiber, expressed the opinion that probably Dr. Watkins was not fully aware of what type of work is being taught in the courses of chiropractic principles, expressing the opinion that at least in part his program and suggestions had already found realization in some of the chiropractic colleges. They all agreed that the word "philosophy" could well be replaced by the terms concept, principles, or premise. Dr. James Drain then asked for the opportunity of expressing himself in relation to Dr. Watkins program. He frankly stated that he was very much against the idea of doing away with the chiropractic philosophy as basically and fundamentally taught by the early pioneers of chiropractic. He asserted that it was his conviction that the chiropractic profession was deviating too much from the original premise of those who pioneered its progress. Consequently he wanted to go on record in voicing a vigorous opposition to any attempt to alter or modify the original tenets of the profession. Dr. Peterson then voiced the opinion that Dr. Weiant's reply to Dr. Watkins' work should be multigraphed and sent out along with the minutes of the Council meeting. In answer to Dr. Drain, Dr. Nugent said, in substance, that he hoped that Dr. Drain will not go away with the idea that anyone is trying to destroy the chiropractic concept. All that is being done is an attempt to add to the original premise and to prove it by means of scientific investigation and deliberation.

The evening session, January 5, 1949. Dr. Thure C. Peterson presiding.

Dr. Nugent again presented the question as to what should be done with reference to the proposed program of Dr. Watkins, and after rather extensive deliberation it was concluded that Dr. Watkins should be advised that his sincerity and intent of purpose is admired, respected and acknowledged. Furthermore, that his suggested change in the manner of teaching chiropractic concepts, at least in part, already has been adopted; however, that full recommendations will be made to all schoolmen to recognize the necessity of bringing these orientation and fundamental courses in chiropractic up to standard and up to present day scientific versions.

Dr. Nugent then advised the assembled schoolmen that he honestly felt that in all of our chiropractic colleges added emphasis could be placed upon the necessity of teaching applied physics, a better training in the biological sciences, and the directing of all students to do a lot of research reading not only in college libraries but also in some of the technical and medical libraries existent in such cities as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, etc.

Dr. Nugent advised the Council that it is becoming progressively more important for chiropractic students to be well oriented in all of the cultural and scientific subjects. He emphasized the fact that our profession no longer dares practice academic isolation and insisted that teaching in chiropractic colleges must be broad and liberal and should not be stereotyped or prejudiced.