

A. O. H. S. BULLETIN

American Osteopathic Historical Society



Students and faculty of the first session (1892-93)
of the American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo.

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As a new and relatively small group in the osteopathic profession, we shall all need to be alert in the interest of bringing more of our colleagues into the American Osteopathic Historical Society. I hope you will find opportunity to tell our story to your friends.

We need more people to help us make our profession--in its national, state, local and individual components--more conscious of the history of the healing arts and, particularly, our own profession's history. So often, current events take on quite different significance if the historical background is known and understood. This has particular relevance for us as a minority profession. We do not recognize our strength because we do not understand the context of our existence.

You have all been supplied with minutes of the meeting in July at Kansas City and you are acquainted with our current activities. Dr. Munish Feinberg is working on a program for the meeting in Miami Beach on January 24 and I do hope we can have a fine turnout to support him and to do honor to our society.

COVER PICTURE

Pictured on the cover, left to right, are:

1st row: William Smith, Andrew P. Davis

2nd row: Arthur A. Bird, Blanche Still, Fred Still, W. Porter, G. Gentry, Herman T. Still

3rd row: J. D. Hill, Arthur G. Hildreth, Je-
nette H. Bolles, Dr. Andrew T. Still,
Edward C. Still, J. Gentry, A. Peters

4th row: Charles E. Still, J. Porter, M. L.
Ward, J. O. Hatten, Fergus S. Davis,
M. Peters

5th row: Miller Machin, F. Polmateer, J. Stro-
thers

H I S T O R Y . . . A N I N T E G R A T I N G A G E N T I N M E D I C A L E D U C A T I O N

M. D. Warner, A.B., D.O., D.Sc.(Hon.)

Dean Emeritus, Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery

Medical education is in a process of transition and curricular change designed to teach "comprehensive medicine" and furnish the student an understanding of the "whole man." Integration is the watchword for the attainment of this NeoHippocratic ideal. Various experiments are undergoing trial at several colleges, attempting in varying degrees to teach, simultaneously, the basic sciences, clinical courses, social sciences and the humanities.

No one disputes the need for a degree of integration in medical education for purposes of orientation, incentive, vision and perspective. But complete decompartmentalization of the medical curriculum assumes that the student has an almost impossible ability to grasp at once the facts and concepts of normality and abnormality, structure, function and disfunction and methods of diagnosis and treatment--facts and concepts that are the culmination of two thousand years of observation, study, experiment and practice. Furthermore, it destroys the natural sequence of study based on a proper priority of subject matter as developed in the standard curriculum.

Already voices of protest are heard against, "too much tinkering with the curriculum" and serious questions are being raised as to the efficacy of certain radical curricular experiments. An example: "Evidence is lacking to date that student achievement and outlook are significantly enhanced by the integrative approach itself."⁽¹⁾ After all, the curriculum merely provides the framework for teaching and the end result rests largely with the teacher. However, good teaching can be facilitated by a proper sequence of courses which are tied together by some unifying and coordinating factor. Such a factor exists in teaching the history of medicine.

There can be no better orientation for the beginning student than a descriptive course in the history of the healing arts, for only by a knowledge of the past can he understand the present and catch a vision of the future. Through history the student travels, vicariously, the rugged road constructed by his predecessors in their search for truth and he thereby gains an appreciation for the high level of modern medical service which has been achieved by their dedication and devotion.

By tracing the progress of medicine from its instinctive and supernatural origin through empirical observation to scientific experimentation and discovery, the student learns to subjugate opinion to the rule and power of reason, exemplified in the scientific method. In the biographies of the great men and women of medicine, the student finds incentive and develops an understanding of the interrelationships of the various disciplines that constitute the science of medicine and he gains an appreciation for the perfection of the skills that frame the art.

The history of medicine is a denominator common to all courses in the medical curriculum and its teaching should be, not merely a few orientation lectures, but should be an integral part of every course. Thus it can become an integrating factor that will enrich instruction and facilitate comprehension.

History is especially important in osteopathic education, for only by knowledge of the origin and development of osteopathy can the student comprehend the function, position and influence of his own profession in the continuum that is medicine.

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PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR A.O.H.S. MEETING IN MIAMI BEACH

The annual meeting of the American Osteopathic Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 1961, at the Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach, during the annual convention of the American Osteopathic Association.

The meeting will begin with a coffee session at 3:45 P.M. The time has been selected so that it will not conflict with the A.O.A. sessions, which on that day close at 3:30. Following the "coffee" will be a program and business meeting.

Dr. Munish Feinberg, program chairman, has announced that Dr. Maxwell D. Warner, dean emeritus of the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery, is preparing a paper to be presented at the meeting.

Dr. Warner obtained his A.B. degree from the University of Michigan in 1917. In 1925 he was graduated from the American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo. He was a special student at the University of Oregon in 1932 and the University of Chicago in 1933. He took postgraduate work at the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1938 and was a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Michigan during the summer term of the same year.

After having served as an instructor in biology and histology and assistant in anatomy and chemistry laboratories at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, he joined the faculty of the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in September, 1938, as professor of chemistry and associate director of the public clinic. In July, 1940, he became Dean of KCOS. He maintained this position until 1957, when because of ill health, he retired and is now living in Woodland Park, Colo.

Since his retirement, Dr. Warner has been making a study of the early

history of osteopathy, particularly as gleaned from the pages of early issues of The Journal of Osteopathy, the profession's oldest periodical. He is writing a series of historical articles for The Journal, two of which have already been published, and he has contributed an article for this issue of the A.O.H.S. Bulletin. Those who are following Dr. Warner's articles will know that he has much to tell us of historical interest and the paper he is preparing for the meeting in January promises to be one which all A.O.H.S. members will want to hear.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the July, 1960, meeting of the American Osteopathic Historical Society, Dr. Irvin M. Korr was directed by the Chair to draft an amendment to the Constitution of the Society, providing for honorary memberships to recognized scholars in the history of medicine.

Dr. Korr has submitted the following proposed amendment, which will be given consideration at the meeting of the A.O.H.S. in January, 1961:

Article III - Membership

Add the following paragraph at the end of the article:

"Honorary memberships shall be offered to recognized scholars in the history of medicine who are not affiliated with the osteopathic profession or its institutions or who have retired therefrom. Nominations, each including a description of the candidate's qualifications and achievements, may be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer by any member. Approval by a majority of members attending the next annual meeting shall constitute election to honorary membership."

HOW THE FIRST SCHOOL BEGAN

As told by William ("Bill") Smith, M.D., D.O.

Reprinted from:
The Osteopathic Physician, January, 1903



"But, damn it--he cures them!"

These were the words that first interested me in osteopathy, that led me to meet Dr. Still and that laid the foundation for ten years of hard work in the interests of the science.

I was in Kirksville, Mo., in the month of June, 1892. In an office on the south side of the square I met Dr. McCarthy, who was bitterly expressing his feelings at the decline of medical practice in the town, stating that "an old quack had killed business." I remarked that nothing would please me more, were I in practice, than the presence of a quack; he would make business. To that, McCarthy replied in the words with which I begin this article. I told him that, in that case, if he cured the people, he was, in my opinion, no quack, but simply a man of greater experience. I backed up my opinion by going over to see the so-called quack.

I found an office in an old log cottage, which was simply filled with persons reciting to one another wonders, which they had either experienced themselves or seen others experience. I remained, made an appointment for half an hour of the doctor's time that evening at the Pool Hotel, and waited impatiently from that moment for the evening to come. At that office I had heard enough to interest me.

At the appointed hour the Old Doctor entered my room. Our conversation lasted--not half an hour, but four hours. I sat entranced. The theories he intro-

duced were so novel, so contrary to all I had ever read or heard, that I failed to follow his reasoning. Arguments as to their impossibility were simply met with the one statement, "But it IS so! There are no ifs and ands about it. I do what I tell you and the people get well."

At length I asked for proof, and until two o'clock the next morning I was going from boarding house to boarding house seeing patients and getting confirmation. I was satisfied that cures were made; of that there could be no doubt. But let me interrupt myself. Before I ever saw Dr. Still, I knew that McCarthy's statement that he DID cure was true, for McCarthy told me at that time that Dr. Still had cured him eight months before of asthma of long standing.

To make a long story short, we sat and talked on the stoop of Dr. Still's house till four o'clock and when I went back to the hotel it was with the understanding that in July I would come to Kirksville to teach anatomy to a small class and I was to learn osteopathy. What an example we have here! As Dr. Henry Marks said to me at the City Hospital in October of that year: "Still is a philanthropist, but a fool; he could keep that knowledge to himself and his family--make himself and them all rich, but he gives it to the world. We need more men like that."

Our little class opened in September. I can shut my eyes now and see that gathering in a small back room of the tumble-down cottage. Eighteen

students were there (the class subsequently had twenty-three members), and each and every one there was there not for the money there was in it but because he had either been a sufferer and was cured by osteopathy or a close friend had been cured. Mamie Harter, Hatten, Ward (who afterwards claimed that he had been the true discoverer), and others had been cured; Mrs. Gentry and Mrs. Peters had seen children raised from cripple-dom to health; Bird and Hill had seen parents' lives saved; and so with all. The class was conducted in a very primitive manner. No bodies could be procured, so the skeleton and mannikin only were used. Enthusiasm reigned. Harmony was perfect.

In the Globe-Democrat one Sunday in October appeared the first newspaper notice of osteopathy. A page article headed "A Missouri Mecca" gave a fair statement of the condition of matters at Kirksville. The reporter who came was a sensible and thinking man. He saw there only a beginning, but he was sharp enough to see that much. He could have gone away and made a funny story out of it, for there was much which would tickle the risible faculties of the unthinking. But he saw below the surface. He saw men and women in earnest. He conversed with those who had been benefited. I look upon that pioneer article as one of the greatest tributes ever paid to a great truth.

In March, 1893, I left Kirksville, and shortly afterwards went to Kansas City. The school did not meet regularly for some time, and when it did was conducted on lines somewhat similar, but slightly in advance of the elementary form which existed in the first class.

In 1896 I returned to Kirksville at the request of Dr. Still, and then began the true work, by all, of building up a truly scientific institution, which should be able to withstand all criticism. Bodies were, with great difficulty, procured for dissection; and the teaching of anatomy, to my

delight, became earnest and thorough. With all branches the same thoroughness was carried out. All was not done in a day, but as each new branch was added to the curriculum, it was
(continued on page 7)

WILLIAM SMITH, M.D., D.O.
1863-1912

Born in Jamaica in 1863, the son of a civil engineer, who constructed the first railway in Jamaica. Moved to Scotland, where he received diploma and certificate in Midwifery from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Elected Ordinary Fellow, Edinburgh Obstetrical Society 1890. Moved to the United States, where he practiced in New York. Appointed honorary member of the New York Medical Society. When in the United States, he took a keen interest in questions of prison reform, and many of the senators and leading politicians were in regular communication with him concerning cases and phases on which he was fully informed. Became interested in osteopathy and with the opening of the first college--the American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo.--in 1892, conducted the first anatomy class in the school, as well as taught other subjects. Received the first diploma in osteopathy--issued by Dr. Andrew T. Still in 1893. In March, 1893, left Kirksville and went to Kansas City; returned to the college at Kirksville in 1896; left the college around 1900 but returned again in 1907, where he remained until he returned to Scotland to practice in Dundee around 1910 or 1911. Died of pneumonia February 15, 1912. He was survived by a wife and two sons.

ARMY PUBLISHES HISTORY OF
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, WORLD WAR II

Fifteen volumes, of forty-eight that are programmed by the Historical Unit of the United States Army Medical Services, of the "History of the Medical Department, U. S. Army in World War II" are now available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Following is a list of titles and prices:

- Surgery in World War II, Physiologic Effects of Wounds - \$3.50
- Surgery in World War II, Neurosurgery, Vol. I - \$5.00
- Surgery in World War II - Neurosurgery, Vol. II - \$7.00
- Surgery in World War II, Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology - \$5.00
- Surgery in World War II, Hand Surgery - \$3.75
- Orthopedic Surgery in the European Theater of Operations - \$4.00
- Surgery in World War II, General Surgery - \$4.25
- Surgery in World War II, Vascular Surgery - \$4.25
- Orthopedic Surgery in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations - \$4.00
- Dental Service in World War II - \$3.35
- Hospitalization and Evacuation, Zone of Interior - \$4.00
- Preventive Medicine in World War II, Vol. IV., Communicable Diseases Transmitted Chiefly Through Respiratory and Alimentary Tracts - \$5.50
- Preventive Medicine in World War II, Personal Health Measures and Immunization - \$3.25

Preventive Medicine in World War II, Environmental Hygiene - \$3.50

Cold Injury, Ground Type - \$6.25

DR. COLE CONTRIBUTES SYLLABUS

We are indebted to Dr. Wilbur V. Cole for a copy of his syllabus entitled, "An Introduction to Osteopathic Medicine," which is used in the first two years of osteopathic training at the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery. Two chapters of particular interest to historians are the ones on "Review of the History of Medicine" and "The Development of Osteopathic Medicine."

OSTEO- QUOTE

By Ben C. Scharf, D.O.

Below is an outstanding quotation from some leader, spokesman or writer in osteopathy. Do you know who made this statement? Select one of the three possible choices. For the correct answer, see page 8.

"The time is ripe for all of us, of all schools of medicine, to reassay our purposes. What are the objectives of medicine? To cause man to live forever? Most certainly not. The objectives of medicine cannot and must not be just 'cutting and sewing,' opening and closing bellies, prescribing pills and unctions, or manipulating spines. Our objective must be to try to cause man to live his natural life span, whatever that may prove to be, in health, in comfort, in happiness--at peace with himself, at peace with his neighbor, and at peace with his God."

- (1) Dr. George W. Northup
- (2) Dr. Otterbein Dressler
- (3) Dr. Galen S. Young



A. O. H. S. MEMBERS

I N T H E N E W S

Dr. Eva W. Magoon Somerville, St. Johnsbury, Vt., has been elected secretary of the newly formed St. Johnsbury Historical Society. Dr. Somerville, also, was named "Career Woman of the Year" by the St. Johnsbury Business and Professional Women's Club at a meeting held in October.

Dr. H. V. Glenn, Stuttgart, Ark., is vice president of the Arkansas Historical Association. He also has been appointed chairman of the Civil War Centennial Committee for Arkansas County.

Dr. Wilbur V. Cole, Kansas City, Mo., was presented a plaque by the American College of Neuropsychiatrists, for his contribution to the advancement of osteopathic neurology at the College's banquet last July.

Dr. W. E. Waldo, Seattle, Wash., was honored in July on completion of fifty years of practice in Seattle and his seventy-fifth birthday. He was guest of honor at a meeting of the Seattle Rotary Club, at which time he was presented with a personal telegram of congratulations from President Eisenhower, a Distinguished Citizens Citation from Washington's Governor Rosellini, a letter of commendation from Seattle's Mayor, a certificate of achievement from Seattle's Chamber of Commerce, and appointment as Royal Osteopath by Greater Seattle.

Dr. Chester D. Swope, Washington, D. C., resigned as chairman of the A.O.A. Council on Federal Health Pro-

grams (formerly the Department of Public Relations) in September, after 31 years of service in this position.

Dr. Clifford F. Dartt, Red Wing, Minn., was recently appointed a member and elected secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota State Board of Osteopathic Examiners.

Dr. Stephen M. Pugh, Everett, Wash., assumed the presidency of the Academy of Applied Osteopathy at the academy's meeting in July in Kansas City. He also was awarded a distinguished service certificate by the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association recently.

William F. Hewitt, Ph.D., Des Moines, Ia., returned to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in July to become professor of pharmacology, after an absence of three years from the college.

How the First School Began (continued from page 5)

taught properly from the beginning. It is a curious fact that, with the single exception of chemistry, I taught every subject taught in the school. I only held the subject long enough to get it into capable hands, then turned it over. This paper may seem as though it were all "I," but the truth is that I am proud of my work for osteopathy and the American School of Osteopathy.

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How the First School Began
(continued from page 7)

Then there were forty-six students, all eager for further information than on the subjects of anatomy and osteopathy. In 1898 there were over seven hundred; instead of two teachers, the faculty had a membership of eighteen; every subject taught in a medical school, save materia medica, was taught. Surely a marvelous record. But it was no marvel. In 1892 I had foreseen that as soon as the growth which would come should begin, it would be rapid. At the first lecture which I delivered (the first lecture ever delivered in an osteopathic school), I had prophesied that ten years would see that frame cottage replaced by a handsome brick building; that the class of eighteen would swell to a school attendance of over five hundred, and that there would be five hundred practitioners in the field. All laughed. That prophecy was fulfilled in less than five years.

What has made the success of osteopathy? Honesty and loyal work, self-sacrifice and devotion to a great principle; loyalty to the truth, to man and to woman. And, let me add, that the essential source of the success of Dr. Still and osteopathy comes from the very truth of that remark of Dr. McCarthy: "Damn it, he cures them!"

I cannot go farther back than 1892 of my own knowledge--back to the days in 1865, when Dr. Still and Major Abbott, hiding from the bushwhackers out in a corn field in Kansas, meditated and thought on these lines; to the day in 1874, when Dr. Still stumbled on his first truth; to the time in 1890, when Ward was carried to him on a stretcher at Eldorado Springs, to find out if he could be cured of his asthma. Those were before my time. But my experience in osteopathy, my knowledge of it, leads me to look for a great future for it.

The seed has been sown; the soil has been tilled and tilled; the growth, so far, has been vigorous. The future

lies in the hands of the men and women who are now practicing it. If they are faithful to their trust, all will be well. It is my confidence in their faith, their loyalty and their devotion, which leads me to augur a great future for the science to which the best years of my life have been devoted.

History
(continued from page 2)

The organization of the American Osteopathic Historical Society was most opportune, for the profession has long needed an agency dedicated to the encouragement of historical teaching and study and to collecting and collating historical material. The Society can very well serve an important function in professional development which has been so ably described by Sigerist,⁽²⁾ "The historian's work is comparable to that of the psychiatrist--the historian, by analyzing historical developments, often tries to reveal and clarify unconscious trends, so that by facing and discussing them openly we may improve conditions through intelligent action."

- (1) Paul J. Sanazaro, associate professor of medicine, University of California School of Medicine; Journal of Medical Education, Vol. 35, No. 5, May, 1960.
- (2) Henry E. Sigerist, William H. Welch professor of history of medicine, Johns Hopkins University; Medicine and Human Welfare, Yale University Press.

ANSWER TO OSTEOQUOTE (Page 6)

Dr. Otterbein Dressler in his remarks, as the Andrew Taylor Still Memorial Lecturer, to the A.O.A. annual convention, Chicago, July 14, 1959. Published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association, November, 1959.