A Message from Dr. Still

(Reprinted from A. O. A. Journal Supplement.)

There is an alarm at the door of all osteopathic schools. The enemy has broken through the picket. Shall we permit the osteopathic profession to be enslaved to the medical trust? As the Father of osteopathy, I am making an international call for all Simon Pure D. O.'s who are willing to go on the fighting line without being drafted into service.

There will be no trenches in which to hide. This battle will not be a peek-a-boo game. I unfurled the osteopathic flag of freedom over forty years ago. For many years I had to fight the battle alone. For a time I received hearty support from my friends, which I appreciate; but in my declining years my boys and girls have been on the defense instead of the offense. My physical condition will not permit me to take the generalship, so I make this appeal to my children. Every line of the enemy's defense is full of dynamite, so we must have re-enforced support, and put ourselves on the offense. We need at least five thousand generals at the front with their guns loaded with osteopathic wisdom and philosophy, whose truth is stronger than the Rock of Gibraltar. We must weed out the chocolate spines, drones and misfits, as their support only gets back to us in the way of a boomerang.

Hold up the pure and unadulterated osteopathic flag. Do not allow it to be trampled in the mud by the feet of our enemy. By winning this battle we have established the greatest truth unfolded to suffering humanity. Millions of lives can be saved annually. Osteopathy is yet in its infancy. I have only brought forth the principles and truth, which I have turned over to the profession which has wisdom and enough moral backbone not to offer any compromise with the enemy.

Stand behind all legitimate research institutions. Give them your support. The treatment for insanity and results obtained at Macon the last year, seem to be nothing more than natural. I have always said that at least twenty-five per cent. of all insane cases could be cured by osteopathic treatment, and I am thankful to be able to see this truth demonstrated.

There are other fields of research. May my grand army march on. If we cannot have the pure osteopathic principles taught in our schools, I hope the faithful will rally around the flag and we will build an international school that will offer no compromise unless it is the golden truth.

D. O. means DIG ON.

(Signed) A. T. STILL.

Kirkville, Mo., August 1, 1915.
ORGAN OF THE A. T. STILL OSTEOPATHIC LEGION AND OF OSTEOPATHIC TRUTH

The letter from Dr. Still, printed on our first page as a part of today as it was when written a year ago. The insidious forces within the ranks, the chocolate-spinners and malcontents, who can deny their existence? Because of their menace, and in order to formulate plans for united action, a conference has been held, the outcome of which was a circular letter which we reproduce below. This letter was sent a few weeks ago to a number who were believed to be earnestly desirous of advancing real osteopathy.

The letter was accompanied by a pledge, a copy of which is appended for preservation, and another copy is endorsed as an issue in card form. You are cordially invited, if you can subscribe, to sign the card and send it to the business manager, Dr. George W. Goode, 687 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

The response to the letter was immediate and hearty, as shown by the list of sponsors which follows. Most of them inquiry what they could do, and showed in various ways their intense interest in osteopathic medicine.

These introductory remarks comprise the reason for Ostheopathic Truth. We offer no excuse for its appearance on the scene of osteopathic activities.

The executive board of the Legion is engaged in the publication of a periodical of general policy which will be published in cooperation with the Advisory Committee of the A. T. Still osteopathic college at Kirksville, Mo.

WE HEREBY REAFFIRM our adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Osteopathy as set forth by Dr. A. T. Still.

WE PLEDGE OUR MUTUAL CO-OPERATION for the purpose of insisting that the A. O. A. adhere to those Principles as its guiding policy, knowing that the basic cause of most of our professional dissatisfaction lies in the unnatural unfoldment of the osteopathic philosophy rather than the use of extraneous and unproven therapeutics being the sidetrack.

THE JOURNAL OF OSTEOPATHY is known and accepted for what it is—a complete system of healing.

NAME

ADDRESS

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Following is a list of those who responded thus far, together with names of the Editorial Staff of the Committee.

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W. M. Hamilton, Moscow, Idaho.


NURTURE THE OSTEO-PATHIC TREE.
J. A. VAN BRAKLE, D. O.
Dr. A. T. Still in 1874 gave to the world Osteopathy. He did not announce a platform demanding "Academic Freedom" in the treatment of disease. He did discard an ancient system of medicine identical in principle with that of today. And he set before us a new theory for the alleviation of mankind's diseases, separate and apart from anything which had gone before, deliberately antagonistic to much of what was "orthodox" then and now.

If he was no fool, then that is also the Osteopathy of today.

Now, every osteopathic physician is of necessity a disciple of Andrew Taylor Still.
The one function of those discip!es is to carry on the science of Osteopathy from stage to stage.

It is emphatically not to make it academically free by seeking to wrap "about the kernel of Osteopathy the husk of empirical medicine."

The prop that supports a tree through a passing storm, after all adds nothing to the life and vitality of that tree. But, rather, the sap that flows through its own roots from the soil to the topmost branches that gives the strength for the passing years.

What shall it be with the science of today? Shall we take the watch-wood of the Academic Freedom Platform for props and obviously rest in this tailed security? Shall we put on these props of pank and bravely thrust against the storms the true inherent strength of Osteopathy as it has been given us?

A FEW EXCERPTS.
If Osteopathy is but the lengthened "watchful waiting" policy on the part of the A. O. A. in regard to osteopathic colleges, we are sore need of a man to take up his cloak before the sun sets and the shadow is no more than we stand.

J. A. VAN BRAKLE

I am more than glad to know that some osteopaths have the "guts" to advocate Osteopathy as a complete system. Long live "Osteopathic Truth", and may it help us to get back to first Principles. It is necessary to know that we have our own roots and a medium in which to express the real truths of Osteopathy.

J. A. DE TRINEX.

I am with you on this move, and believe it to be the only way to maintain the standing of Osteopathy, and in osteopathic principle and practice tie will have little time left to become a mixer. That has never lived who could attain success by following the two masters.

—GRANT E. PHILLIPS.

Osteopathy shall be the same thing as it was when growing, and whatever we do not see; but whatever we see, we must set ourselves at the work of solving them; that we may build upon our organization, which while it has grown to some proportions, is still structurally weak and subject to variable action. We are not measuring up to our opportunity, for we cannot close our eyes to these facts. We have been so absorbed in our own interests that we have failed to prop up the bottom by educating the public and teaching them of the need of Osteopathy as an Institution.

The paramount business of Osteopathic Truth shall be the discussion of the great basic truths of Osteopathy as conceived and re-constituted by Dr. A. T. Still, of which the institutions of Osteopathy is imperiled. We attempt to support eight or ten colleges with activities and emendement. The number of medical colleges of the dominant order has in six years been reduced from 160 to less than 100, which are heavily entwined through Osteopathy and is not.

The fund of knowledge is affected only themselves; but they have so persistently urged their opinions as to influence not a profession, and to so fiercely impede the normal growth and development of Osteopathy and its institutions. This publication will attempt, with all the means at its command, to aid the profession to overcoming this division; to awaken it to a realization that certain definite conditions confront it—conditions which cannot be lightly brushed aside, or swept under the carpet; and to assist it to open a new era for itself, by preaching with the vigor of the doctrines of Osteopathy, and thus make its institution and development a reality. The art of Osteopathy must be maintained and preserved. The paramount business of Osteopathic Truth shall be the discussion of the great basic truths of Osteopathy as conceived and re-constituted by Dr. A. T. Still, of which the institutions of Osteopathy is imperiled. We attempt to support eight or ten colleges with activities and emendment. The number of medical colleges of the dominant order has in six years been reduced from 160 to less than 100, which are heavily entwined through Osteopathy and is not.

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There are several problems that we see and probably many that we do not see; but whatever we see, we must set ourselves at the work of solving them; that we may build upon our organization, which while it has grown to some proportions, is still structurally weak and subject to variable action. We are not measuring up to our opportunity, for we cannot close our eyes to these facts. We have been so absorbed in our own interests that we have failed to prop up the bottom by educating the public and teaching them of the need of Osteopathy as an Institution.

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Osteopathic Truth

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
OSTEOPATHIC PRINCIPLES
EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY
OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS
FOR THE OSTEOPATHIC PROFESSION

JULY, 1916

SALUTATORY.

With no smug sense of superi­
eriority, we assume the thankless task of setting down and pre­
senting in tangible form the thoughts of many leaders of the osteopathic profession. Only a day or two ago we declared OSTEOPATHIC TRUTH as it is read, and we hope that you will want to keep OSTEOPATHIC TRUTH as you see it and a supreme desire to see that truth perpetuated could ani­
mate our colleges and it is a desire that we share with our colleagues. That certain radical and revolu­
tionary principles constitute the sole reason for the existence of Osteopathy as a separate and in­
dependent school none will deny. That these principles were ever, or are objected by other schools is history. The efficacy of these prin­
ciples and nothing else brought amazing success and enduring fame to Dr. Still. One who reads this well knows that the practice of osteopathy is history today as ever we have positive

knowledge. They may be infinitely amplified, we are absolutely sure. There are many who consider Osteopathy to be Dig O, as Dr. Still says, applying these prin­
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Osteopathic Truth

If they continued to believe then the better teaching of osteopathic principles. We found that the profession in general would see the advantage in this if we could prove what we see, to broader and more capable osteopaths. We do need more real osteopathic teachers, armed with osteopathic text-books, and as we write continues unabated in New York and contiguous terri­
ries in the several states and nation; in accordance with the personal

SHARPNED TO A POINT.
Some well-meaning osteopaths advocate a "broader" practise, a "less scientific" teaching, meaning by this an in­
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Declaration of Purpose and Policy

(Continued from Page 5)

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medical school to "almost" an­
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sickness, but has the scourge of infantile paralysis that
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medical school to "almost" an­
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treatment are the qualities demanded of

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

If the conditions of the profession
are largely empirical.

The actual announcement has always been postponed.

Now, in the face of the worst epidemic seen for years, it is claimed by some that the disease had been isolated, but nothing definite is known as to the mode of infection or the carriers, and no certain means of prevention has been found. Thus any hope of a medical man in helping to prevent the

2nd-Uniform legal regulation in the several states and nation; in accordance with the personal

1st-The purifying of Osteopathic

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a satisfactory and effective policy for the public.

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We must allow this. This is the therapeutic pearl of great price and that what is perhaps the most important matter, we are likely to forget or minimize the therapeutic principle that matter to form the proper estimate or relative value of any group of ideas or principles. The Great Master realized this when, after proposing the principles that should guide His followers, He admonished them to “seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” As the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness come first in the spiritual realm, so the Osteopathic foundation is the beginning of our therapeutic world. Thus, as Osteopathy is the beginning of our therapeutic world, so it is, in the beginning of the practice of osteopathy. Is one of the Osteopathic Schools, or is it not? This is true, but we may find sufficient not only to occupy our minds and to make up our minds, but we will find, in addition, unspeakable satisfaction, and find sufficient for all time to come.

Let the history of past Osteopathic attainments inspire us, as it surely will, to greater earnestness and effort in the work in which we are engaged. Let us not be undue in our criticism of others. What is true from our standpoint is also true from the standpoint of the therapeutic world. What we are allowed to allow others to do, will in turn be allowed to ourselves. Teach us to love the truth, and we will love the therapeutic truth. As we are to our profession, let it be so also, in the world of science.

We are now at the parting of the ways. Either we must make a retrace our footsteps to that solid foundation of truth laid upon the teachings of the past. Two years ago, or we will continue to found in the quagmire of our own errors. More likely the latter, or, at least the partial. We will then be led to the better. Osteopathic education must be prepared by the collaboration of representative members of the profession and of the students.

Are we to be up and doing; write; and talk; then “we will see what we will do.”

“Honest work in the preparation of honest books for HONEST OSTEOPATHIC EDUCATION, and not the Osteopathic Truth, which does not want to be counted for, but wants to count, in accord with the special line of work for which Osteopathic Truth is to be taught.” We feel that the time has come for us to express our paternal interest in the conference. We hope that Dr. Burns will find a way to extensively advertise the place of meeting.


E. Florence Gair, D. O.

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E. Florence Gair, D. O.
SEPARATE BOARDS, AND NO MIXING.

Osteopathic Truth

GEORGE W. GOOD, D. O.

That Osteopathy will sink into oblivion is the most evident that unless those practicing it hew more to the line and live specific treatments. Mixing seems to be the curse of the profession. Its adherents use adjuncts the better for the pseudo-osteopaths. Their leaders have watched our mistakes in bucking to be all-around physicians and mixers without the alertness, and the utilization of board. It by the same rules of decadence osteopathic Legion, we fight not men or what it could do. We should never condemn Osteopathy for its failures. The principle is not infallible as Nature's laws, so let us strive to reveal what Nature has concealed from those who are not seeking Osteopathic Truth. By our ambition to carry the M. D. title, to use any and all adjuncts, such as the vibrators, violet ray, electricity and too frequent use of serum, the hypocrisy for any severe pain, we have proven that we are short on Osteopathic knowledge. Herein lies the real danger. If we can not keep our house in order, there is nothing to fear from without; our danger is in within. Osteopathy has withstood years of persecution from the M. D., and it has been counterfeited by imitators, all of which have but strengthened it. Hardships and persecution drew men together. Yet all of us who are true Osteopaths be united for one common good. This can be done only by driving the enemies out, then guarding, yes, doubly guarding the doors that they may never again enter. Then and only then can we be rightly called an Associate of Osteopathy. As soon as I learned the purposes of the A. T. Still Osteopathic Legion I wanted to sign the pledge, and almost signed it twice in giving my two addressed.

A Few Excerpts.

Alfred W. Young, D. O.

As far as I am concerned, the regulation of those avowedly hostile to and prejudiced against the Osteopathic profession has been raising objection if they further raise privileges. What shall it profit an osteopath if he can gather no advantage or gain to Dr. A. T. Still a conception of the basic principles of a great profession, by devoting his whole thought to the development of those principles, which would be very shortly dwindle to nothing, all to the end that his discovery be the greatest possible blessing to humanity. And then he man placed upon us the responsibility of further developing in their purity the great principles, and of making it understood by the public that through the development and practice of these principles the greatest possible good might come to mankind in the least possible time. We are not worthy of the trust if we are not willing to make any sacrifices to so great an end. We must have a theory, and must go to unforego incidental privileges rather than place osteopathy under restrictions with the regulation of those avowedly hostile to and prejudiced against it. Yet some of our people during the past year have actually advocated that we abandon our stand for independent boards of examination, and regulation through which we have practically put our unendowed osteopathic colleges out of existence, and we must make our practice such as will cause the pupil to look upon us as distinctive, if we would make the greatest possible professional development; if we would make osteopathy the great profession it is destined to be, and destroy our vitality. If in the end there are none to the end of humanity in the least possible time.

SACRIFICING FUNDAMENTALS FOR INCIDENTALS.

Ara Willard, D. O.

Along in 1874, after years of investigation, I went to Dr. A. T. Still a conception of the basic principles of a great profession, and a regulation—a requirement which their heavily endowed colleges can still live and go on, and we practically put our unendowed osteopathic colleges out of existence. Our osteopathic colleges would very shortly dwindle to nothing, all to the end that his discovery be the greatest possible blessing to humanity. And then he man placed upon us the responsibility of further developing in their purity the great principles, and of making it understood by the public that through the development and practice of these principles the greatest possible good might come to mankind in the least possible time. We are not worthy of the trust if we are not willing to make any sacrifices to so great an end. We must have a theory, and must go to unforego incidental privileges rather than place osteopathy under restrictions with the regulation of those avowedly hostile to and prejudiced against it. Yet some of our people during the past year have actually advocated that we abandon our stand for independent boards of examination, and regulation through which we have practically put our unendowed osteopathic colleges out of existence, and we must make our practice such as will cause the pupil to look upon us as distinctive, if we would make the greatest possible professional development; if we would make osteopathy the great profession it is destined to be, and destroy our vitality. If in the end there are none to the end of humanity in the least possible time.

Back to the Spirit of the Triple A. O.

In our new A. T. Still Osteopathic Legion, we fight not men but the wrong method that they are following. Those of us who were associated with the American Osteopathic Association when it was first organized, realize that the purpose for which it was organized was explained in its very name (American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy). The same old principles under which its progress may be inter-acted that we abandon our stand for independent boards of examination, and regulation through which we have practically put our unendowed osteopathic colleges out of existence, and we must make our practice such as will cause the pupil to look upon us as distinctive, if we would make the greatest possible professional development; if we would make osteopathy the great profession it is destined to be, and destroy our vitality. If in the end there are none to the end of humanity in the least possible time.

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In our new A. T. Still Osteopathic Legion, we fight not men but the wrong method that they are following. Those of us who were associated with the American Osteopathic Association when it was first organized, realize that the purpose for which it was organized was explained in its very name (American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy). The same old principles under which its progress may be inter-acted that we abandon our stand for independent boards of examination, and regulation through which we have practically put our unendowed osteopathic colleges out of existence, and we must make our practice such as will cause the pupil to look upon us as distinctive, if we would make the greatest possible professional development; if we would make osteopathy the great profession it is destined to be, and destroy our vitality. If in the end there are none to the end of humanity in the least possible time.
faction under the unrestrained commercialism of our colleges has led our profession away from the hitching-post philosophy of our faith, and instead of applying accurate physiological functioning, we are floundering in the quagmires of uncertainty or else reposing peacefully in the labyrinthine shades of empiricism.

Comrades! Hear ye the bugle call! Let the great osteopathic profession, unified in its national body, the American Osteopathic Association, have a definite and established osteopathic policy to pursue! Let our colleges furnish practitioners worthy the name of our belief! Let the zeal and enthusiasm of our membership abetted by the experimentation and demonstration of our Research Institute fairly make our journals and periodicals hum with new life! And, finally, let the basis be established for an era of Literature and Law which will signalize our profession with dignified honor, elevate the public to a higher plane of gratitude and immortalize the name of our great Philosopher-Founder.

“BROADER” OSTEOPATHY NOT EVEN A FAIR IMITATION.

Louise A. Griffin, D. O.

Why all this clamor for a “broader osteopathy” that will include anything that may give relief?

There are practitioners who, having found their own limitations in osteopathy because of their want of success in the brand of osteopathy that they practice, reason that the A. T. Still osteopathy has its limitations and want it officially diluted with the “truths” of the other systems of medicine, deluding themselves with the idea that such a proceeding would broaden osteopathy, in that it would give them another chance at their patient.

They are unwilling to give up the name Osteopathy and call themselves Eclectics because they know only too well that osteopathy stands for success, in the minds of the public, in the treatment of disease. They know the success that the “Old Doctor” and his early followers made for it and they wish to reap the benefits of the reputation that osteopathy has acquired from the successes of these early practitioners, and so cling to the name.

That these osteopaths do not meet with the success of the early practitioners is not the fault of the system, but of the brand of osteopathy that they are so unfortunate as to have acquired.

Osteopathy, typifying as it does the principle of the mechanical cause of disease—the lesion—cannot embrace these “truths” of drugs and serums and the like and still be osteopathy.

Mixing up with it these “truths” of the other systems, which today are and tomorrow are not, will not tend to advance osteopathy along osteopathic lines. But striving will obscure the real lesion so that no attempt at adjustment will be made. Then, without the lesion and its adjustment, where will osteopathy be?

If our schools are not teaching the lesion and its adjustment (and judging by the cry for a “broader osteopathy” it would seem they are not), so as to make everything else they teach subservient to that, how can we expect that they will graduate A. T. Still—osteopathic-lesion osteopaths?

These graduates will have a brand of Osteopathy that will not only not bring success, but will cast a shadow on the fair name of Osteopathy. “Broader” Osteopathy, the ambition of the mixers, is not osteopathy.

NOW IS THE TIME

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WE WELCOME CRITICISM.

In this initial issue of Osteopathic Truth we have presented some serious thoughts of serious-minded osteopaths on some phases of the current trend of a certain element of the profession.

Not all of us are accomplished writers, and these pages may not shine with rhetorical brilliancy. We trust that notwithstanding any faults of diction we have succeeded in making plain our belief in the adequacy of osteopathic principles to fully engage the osteopathic student and practitioner.

If in homely phrasing we have thus succeeded, and if our platform meets the approval of a very large majority of the profession, as we confidently believe it will, we shall be gratified.

If we have failed in our estimate of the number of the kind of osteopaths who believe in and practice and get results through the methods employed by Dr. Still, we shall be only the more anxious to raise our voices to oppose those who would emasculate osteopathy.

Gentle words and felicity in expression are all right in their proper place, but sometimes many words and phrases have to be employed in order to get a hearing. We hope to at least have no misunderstanding as to what we mean to convey.

We are far from satisfied with this first issue. We do not expect to be satisfied with future numbers. But we shall make each one count, so far as our powers permit, for the truths to which we have dedicated our service.

It will give us pleasure to hear from our friends, whether with approval or criticism. Indeed, we shall especially welcome criticism that will show us how and where to improve. For always sincere criticism of constructive character is helpful.

In fact it is through this very medium that we hope to make Osteopathic Truth a help to the profession.

We shall not criticize measures or institutions unless we can point a way to improve them. Only by so doing can we make good our purpose to unselfishly strive for the real advancement of the osteopathic school.