

A. O. H. S. BULLETIN

American Osteopathic Historical Society



Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Still

December, 1961

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REMINISCENCES

OF "DR. CHARLIE"

R. C. McCaughan, D.O.

The following are notes written by Dr. R. C. McCaughan, executive secretary of the American Osteopathic Association 1931-56, covering an interview he had with Dr. Charles E. Still in 1950. "Dr. Charlie" died in July, 1955, and Dr. McCaughan died in March 1957.

On June 12, 1950, I had a little conversation with Dr. Charles Still in Kirksville. He was 85 years old, seemed clear and lucid, and he talked a little while about his father. He said that while living in Kirksville, Dr. Still used to make trips to the areas around and speak to such groups as would come to hear him. Most often he spoke in school houses. He spoke in many counties in Missouri and in all the school houses in the area of Kirksville. Many times he walked and nearly always Dr. Charles Still, his son, went with him.

The general topic which he used, as "Dr. Charlie" said, was "Man's Lost Center." Sometimes those coming to the lecture would bring him patients, suffering from one thing and another, and Dr. Still would examine them, make a diagnosis and treat them without charge.

On one of these trips, Dr. Charlie Still said that he, as a boy, became sick and, while he stuck it out through the lecture, had to go to bed immediately afterwards with the measles. He found that he and his father had walked into a hot-bed of measles which was pandemic in that area. One night near Mount Carmel, which, I take it, is near Kirksville, Dr. Still and Charles Still started walking back to Kirksville and about five miles away stayed at the home of one by the name of Frank Smith. During the night, while they were asleep, Federal Agents came to the home and arrested Frank Smith and certain of his other rela-

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HISTORIANS

Last March the American Osteopathic Historical Society sent out a letter to secretaries of Divisional Societies and Affiliated Organizations of the A.O.A., asking for the names of their associations' historians and, if they did not have one, requesting that one be appointed. The following is a listing of the historians who have been reported to the A.O.H.S. to date.

Divisional Societies

Arkansas:	H. E. Jones, D.O.
District of Columbia:	C. D. Swope, D.O.
Florida:	Executive Director (position open at present)
Illinois:	Harold W. Fitch, D.O.
Indiana:	Fred L. Swope, D.O.
Maine:	George R. Petty
Minnesota:	I. O. Allen, D.O.
New Jersey:	C. D. Losee, D.O.
New Mexico:	E. C. Bartlett, D.O.
Ohio:	Alma Webb, D.O.
Oklahoma:	W. E. Pool, D.O.
Ontario:	A. V. DeJardine, D.O.
Oregon:	David E. Reid, D.O.
Rhode Island:	T. E. Cobb, D.O.

South Dakota:	J. H. Cheney, D.O.
Tennessee:	H. P. Bynum, D.O.
Washington:	William Newland, D.O.
West Virginia:	J.B.C. Bartram, D.O.

Affiliated Organizations

American Ass'n of Osteopathic Examiners:	Wallace F. Kreighbaum, D.O.
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists:	Donald E. McBride, D.O.
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons:	Albert C. Johnson, D.O.
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics:	J. Paul Leonard, D.O.
American Osteopathic College of Radiology:	Paul T. Lloyd, D.O.
Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Ass'n:	Mrs. Marion E. Coy
Osteopathic Libraries Ass'n:	Josephine Seyl

CONTRIBUTES PHOTOGRAPHS
OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE

We are indebted to Dr. W. V. Cole, Kansas City, Mo., for his recent contribution to the archives of photographs of the A. T. Still Research Institute in Chicago, taken prior to 1932, and two pictures of Dr. Louisa Burns, showing her at work in the Institute's laboratory in California, around 1949.

The A. T. Atill Postgraduate College of Osteopathy was organized in 1907.

In 1909 the name was changed to the A. T. Still Research Institute. In February, 1913, a building was secured for the Institute at 122 S. Ashland Blvd., Chicago, and Dr. John Deason was named Director. In 1916 Dr. Deason resigned as Director and was succeeded by Dr. Louisa Burns. In 1917 a branch of the Institute was opened in South Pasadena, Calif. Later the Chicago property was sold and from that time on all of the laboratory work was done in California under the direction of Dr. Burns until her death in 1958.

EARLY HISTORY OF OSTEOPATHYIN MINNESOTA

Clifford F. Dartt, D.O.
Red Wing, Minn.

In writing of osteopathy in Minnesota, one would start at Red Wing, Minn. Here it was that the first osteopathic physician's office was opened by Drs. Harry and Charlie Still in the year 1894. This was the first formal venture in osteopathy outside of Kirksville, Mo.

Why did they pick Red Wing? In 1893 Dr. A. T. Still and his sons came to the upper Mississippi River to fish at Diamond Bluff, Wis., which is a small hamlet a few miles up the river from Red Wing. They fished and, as usual, the Old Doctor treated several of the residents with considerable success. On the way home, to Kirksville, Mo., they stopped at Red Wing and "Dr. Charlie" decided that here would be a good place to start a practice. During the next few months, after Dr. Still and Dr. Charlie returned to Kirksville, many letters were written to the Still family urging them to return to the Red Wing area. The following spring Drs. C. E. and Harry Still, and a student by the name of C. W. Hartupee, opened an office at 601 Sixth Street in Red Wing. The very first osteopathic treatment was given in the Fireplace Room of the St. James Hotel, a room which is still in existence with little change in sixty-seven years.

The year 1894 was a sad one for Red Wing and vicinity. This was the time of the black diphtheria epidemic which caused many deaths. The medical men were helpless. So, many of the stricken families called on the new

doctors for treatment. From dawn to dawn, with very little rest, the Stills traveled from home to home, caring for the desperately ill children. Many, given up as beyond hope by the M. D. 's, were pulled through by osteopathic physicians. The medical doctors of the town were very upset by the turn of events and caused the Drs. Still to be arrested for practicing without a license. They were placed in the county jail, but not for long. A large crowd of townspeople gathered at the jail, demanding the doctors' release, so the sheriff acceded to the wishes of the crowd rather than have a riot on his hands. From that day forward, Dr. Charlie and Dr. Harry were escorted on their calls by two stalwart men, "Big Ole" and "Little Ole" Olson whose children had been saved by the Stills.

It was at this time that the effectiveness of osteopathic manipulative therapy in the treatment of the acute infectious disease was demonstrated, as it was again in the great flu epidemic of 1918.

In July, 1894, Dr. Harry Still moved to St. Paul to practice be-
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Pictured on the cover are Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Still. "Dr. Charlie," the son of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, was the first to practice osteopathy in the state of Minnesota, as referred to in Dr. Clifford E. Dartt's article.

A. O. H. S. B R E A K F A S T M E E T I N G

Speaker: C. Robert Starks, D.O.

Topic: "Episodes in Osteopathic History"

Wednesday, January 17

Conference Room No. 3

8:00 A. M.

Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas

BE SURE TO ATTEND!

Early History...
(continued from page 3)

cause so many people had been coming to Red Wing from the Twin Cities for osteopathic care. He interested several people in becoming students at Kirksville. In the fall of 1894, he returned to Kirksville to teach.

In August 1894, Dr. A. G. Hildreth came to Red Wing to take over for Dr. Charlie while he was on vacation. During this period Dr. Carl P. McConnell of Vasa, Minn., became a patient of Dr. Hildreth and "Dr. Charlie." He was partially blind due to having been struck in the neck by a batted baseball. After osteopathic treatment for a few weeks he had recovered his sight sufficiently to enroll in the next class at A.S.O.

The next year, 1895, "Dr. Charlie" and family returned to Kirksville leaving two children buried in Red Wing. He was replaced in the same year by Dr. E. C. Pickler, who practiced there for a year and then moved to Minneapolis, where with Dr. Frank Dewitte Parker he opened the Northern Institute of Osteopathy. Dr. Parker had been located in Red

Wing for a few months before joining Dr. Pickler in Minneapolis.

In the next few years several osteopathic physicians came to Red Wing and Minnesota. Dr. Charles Hartupee, who had come as a student with Dr. Charlie Still, returned in 1897 and opened an office in the Gladstone Building.

He made it his permanent location, conducting an osteopathic practice in that building for forty-five years. He had the first X-ray in Minnesota. It was made by Victor X-ray Corporation and had Serial No. 3. It was operated by static electricity produced by hand turning of a crank. The bulky machine was larger than an old fashioned piano, constructed of wood and glass, and weighed about 800 pounds. When I moved into Dr. Hartupee's office, at his retirement in 1937, the machine was still there and operable. We experimented with it and were able to obtain some fairly clear pictures. It is interesting to note that Dr. Hartupee first practiced with three medical doctors and continued to do so until the first osteopathic practice law was passed. He was a very

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OSTEOPATHY . . .AN ART AND SCIENCE

Wallace M. Pearson, D.O.
Kirksville, Mo:

The reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws of the American Medical Association recommended that their House of Delegates adopt certain statements as A.M.A. policy. Paragraph 2 of the policy statement, unanimously adopted June 28, 1961, is as follows:

"There can never be a majority and a minority party in any science. There cannot be two distinct sciences of medicine or two different, yet equally valid, systems of medical practice."

Dr. Otterbein Dressler, reporting for the Conference Committee of the American Osteopathic Association before the Association's House of Delegates, commented in July, 1961:

"Much of today's scientific medicine will be unscientific tomorrow and matters yet unproven scientifically can be proven valid tomorrow.

"It may be true that there cannot be two sciences of medicine, but there can be two, or more, procedures employed in the practical application of scientific principles. It is unrealistic to hold that the practice of medicine is pure science. It is equally unrealistic to insist that only one system of practice is valid. While there are no acceptable statistics which establish the superiority of either system, both systems believe their own of greater value."

History Repeats Itself

Each generation of organizational determination, be it religion, poli-

tics, sociology or therapeutics, have their particular viewpoints in the solution of basic influences.

1897-98

From the catalogue of the American School of Osteopathy, dated 1897-98, page 6, I quote:

Less than a quarter of a century ago, Dr. A. T. Still was first led to believe that there might be a basis for the recognition and treatment of disease, different in some respects from that usually accepted. He had observed, and obtained results, in the curing of disease by manipulation, that indicated something more than coincidence. Experience confirmed the first observations, and suggested new applications of the same principles. The cures effected called attention to the new system, and the knowledge of it was spread abroad by those who had realized, in their own experience, its benefits; and whatever name or standing osteopathy has at this time is by reason of these actual results secured in the treatment of disease.

"In fact it is true of osteopathy, as of many other lines of human endeavor, that the art has preceded the science. The number of suffering patients seeking relief has always been so great as to leave no leisure in which to trace the underlying principles and forces, the operation of which would explain the results secured. But the accumulating evidence that osteopathy was rational and rested on a scientific basis, caused a demand for some

means of acquiring a knowledge of the system on the part of many who believed that it offered a desirable field of effort, and the first student of osteopathy was installed simply as Dr. Still's assistant, and learned what he could while acting in that capacity.

"At this time there was no thought of a college growing from this nucleus, and no systematic attempt was made toward providing a regular course of fundamental instruction. But soon others came desiring to learn, and Dr. William Smith was put in charge of the first class of five or six, in anatomy. From this small beginning has grown the present institution as a regularly organized college, fully equipped, and with the various departments in charge of instructors who, by previous training and experience, are specially qualified for their several fields of labor."

The following are excerpts from an article entitled, "Osteopathy as a Therapeutic Science," which also appeared in the 1897-98 A.S.O. catalogue, beginning on page 12:

"What constitutes a science? The term 'science' is derived from the Latin word scientia, which means knowledge--knowledge that is real, exact and demonstrable. Knowledge becomes scientific when based upon observation, classification, reasoning and orderly arrangement. In every science, there are four elements--facts, ideas, unity, and order. There are facts, or the results of observation; there are ideas, or inferences, legitimately drawn from the

facts by the reason; there is unity, or the limitation of view to related facts and inferences; and there is order, or the arrangement in a logical and connected series of those facts and inferences. As one of the world's foremost thinkers has said, 'Begriff ohne Anschauungen sind leer, und Anschauungen ohne Begriffe sind blind.' ('Ideas without facts are empty, and facts without ideas are blind.')

"Science results from the application of a distinctive method of classification and reasoning to the facts of knowledge. To this position, so great a scientist as Mr. Huxley has assented. He says, 'By science I understand all knowledge which rests upon evidence and reasoning of a like character to that which claims our assent to ordinary scientific propositions.'

"This, then, is the definition and test to which any system of knowledge, claiming to be a science, must be impartially subjected. Osteopathy can claim no exemption from this crucial test, and it can have no reason for evading the most scientific and scholarly investigation, if it has, indeed, a sure foundation in fact. Facts are the mighty forces that rule supreme in the world of thought and of things; and fiction can no longer be foisted upon an intelligent public as fact. The minds of today are impatient with mere theories and speculation. They ask for results; and when results are given as evidence of any scheme or science, the searching inquiry is still further made for the reasons of such results, and when we are told that we must believe without reasons, we simply repudiate the suggestion. No dogma of science or philosophy will be long tolerated as practical or pertinent, unless it can be verified by the tests of truth and fact.

"It is plain, then, that osteopathy must vindicate itself before the bar of scientific scrutiny, and free its claims from every suspicion of incredulity,

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

President Sherwood R. Mercer has appointed Drs. Wilbur V. Cole, Kansas City, Mo., and R. McFarlane Tilley, Kirksville, Mo., to serve on the nominating committee for the A.O.H.S. biennial election to be held at the Association's meeting January 17 at Las Vegas.

HOW "OSTEOPATHY" WAS NAMED

The following is a copy of a letter in the archives of the American Osteopathic Association which tells how Dr. Andrew Taylor Still selected the name "osteopathy" for the healing art which he founded:

Pilger, Nebr.
May 25, 1933

Dr. Ray G. Hulburt
430 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Doctor:

While attending the Teachers College at Kirksville, Mo., I learned of Dr. Still, after receiving my LL.B.

I became School Superintendent of Holden Public Schools. Dr. Still came there as a traveling M.D. I learned he was from Kirksville and invited him to supper. He told me that he was working on a new treatment, giving me a good description of it, but said that he had not decided on a name. I said, "'Os' means bone doesn't it, and 'pathos' means sorrow, disease or pain? Then put the two together and you have it."

After several trials, we struck on "osteopathy" and he said, "That is what I will call it."

Yours truly,

W. D. Guttery, M.D.

DEATH

It is with regret that we report that A.O.H.S. member, Dr. E. R. Komarek, St. Cloud, Minn., died of a heart attack on October 17. Dr. Komarek served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Minnesota State Osteopathic Association from 1957 until his death. In 1958 he was named the outstanding D.O. in Minnesota by his Association.

Reminiscences...

(continued from page 1)

tives as counterfeiters. It appeared that they had been in the business for a long time. Frank Smith and his relatives told the United States officers that Dr. Still and Charles Still were just passing through and had no connection with the counterfeiting going on. Frank Smith's country home was near a bridge across the Sheraton River.

Dr. Charles Still was in the militia for a short time in his life and was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kans. He said that Buffalo Bill came there and he met him. He also said that he had some definite memories about the Indian, Sitting Bull, which I did not write down.

Dr. Charles Still remembered that he himself borrowed money to start the A. T. Still Surgical Sanatorium, a fourteen-bed institution. I failed to take down the date of that, but I believe that Dr. Still reported it as happening in 1896. He also recalled the hurricane which seriously damaged Kirksville, in which he said 38 people were killed immediately and 38 others later died.

Osteopathy...

(continued from page 6)

before it can inscribe its name and fame upon the bright scroll of the sciences. It does not decline the ordeal of the most searching and scholarly investigation. It distinctly recognizes that this is the penalty of its conspicuous success, and it is not afraid of all reasonable tests, for it stands strictly on its merits. Its principles and philosophy are as capable of illustration in disease, as are the rules of mathematics in numbers, or of forces in mechanics....

We, therefore, desire to substantiate such claims as we make, and to respond

to such inquiries as are increasingly coming to us from every quarter, by incorporating into the body of this catalogue such a statement of osteopathy as a science, and an art, and a philosophy, as shall elicit the thoughtful consideration and respectful attention of an already deeply interested and intelligent public. This statement will be made as concisely and compendiously as the limitations of a catalogue afford. The three basic ideas of osteopathy in its most comprehensive form, are embodied in the terms of Matter, Motion, Mind. These constitute the great trinity of its working elements. These indicate the comprehensive sweep of its radicals and its relations. These three terms suggest its logical unity and its chronological development, its analytic insight and its synthetic foresight. These reveal the organizing potencies of its initial premises and the completed summary of its concluding propositions...."

One thing is certain, those that have received osteopathic physicians' services for the past sixty years have given testimony that there are two distinct sciences of medicine and two systems of medical practice. To these people we have a responsibility and a public trust. Those that were involved in the earliest osteopathic education visualized a future in which the art and the science of practice were progressive; distinctiveness can be as remarkable in 1961 as in 1892.

Early History...
(continued from page 4)

successful practitioner and helped greatly in increasing the status of osteopathy in the community. It has been my privilege to care for many of his patients as well as some who once came to Dr. Charlie Still.

William Garner Sutherland, A.S.O. 1900, spent a short time in Red Wing before locating at St. Peter, Minn., where he lived while carrying on a

practice in Mankato a few miles distant. Dr. Sutherland is called "the Father of Cranial Technique." He was an astute student very willing to discuss and demonstrate his theory of cranial movement. He used two half coconut shells and a skull to illustrate his lectures. Dr. Arthur Dow Becker, Dr. S. S. Still College of Osteopathy, 1903, came to Red Wing first and then moved into Minneapolis. He was instrumental in getting the first Minnesota osteopathic practice law passed on May 8, 1903. At that time, it was considered a model law, giving osteopathic physicians every right that they desired.

In the early days, Minnesota sent many students to the osteopathic colleges. Between 1897 and 1903 the state was a center for osteopathic education. During those years there were six osteopathic colleges located here: the Northern Institute of Osteopathy, Minneapolis Institute of Osteopathy, St. Paul College of Osteopathy, Minneapolis College of Osteopathy, Northern College of Osteopathy and Surgery, Minnesota School of Osteopathy. Many native and adopted Minnesotans have contributed to the history and stature of osteopathy. It is interesting to note that seven A.O.A. past presidents have practiced in this state.

References

- The Lengthening Shadow of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, by A. G. Hildreth, D.O.
Practical Visions, by F. P. Millard, D.O.
The Red Wing Daily Republican Directory of Red Wing - 1894
History of Osteopathy and Twentieth-Century Medical Practice by E. R. Booth, D.O.
 Historical records of the Minnesota State Osteopathic Association
 Personal recollections and interviews with: Dr. and Mrs. Charles Still, Dr. E. C. Pickler, Dr. C. W. Hartuppee, Dr. W. G. Sutherland and Dr. A. D. Becker