

Excerpts from the Preface to
B.J. Palmer's
The Philosophy and Principles of
Chiropractic Adjustments

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Palmer makes clear that the intention of this book is to put forth his thoughts on chiropractic practice from a philosophical perspective. In his view, chiropractic is accomplishing an empirical and verifiable fact, one that religions have only pointed to; the expression of God in matter. He even compares the healings associated with chiropractic to “miracles” from the bible. The expression of the divine is the same. Palmer claims to have the first modern approach to this expression of God. He even goes so far as to tell the reader their premodern mythical beliefs *may* be grounded in some truth such as the laws of God, but they are not applicable to this fully modern philosophy, science, and art.

Palmer describes what we are referring to as the 2nd wave of chiropractic's philosophy as that which developed since 1906. This book sets the tone for the coming third wave of chiropractic philosophers. It starts to describe the idea of cycles and it attempts to show how the spiritual and material are unified through the chiropractic adjustment. Palmer describes the fact that no books on biology venture into the creative force that underlies all biological organization or life itself. He criticizes this as “wild and lawless empiricism.” This challenge would be taken up by his faculty in the 3rd wave, with textbooks on physiology, anatomy, chemistry, etc...

PREFACE.

“The public have been bored with therapeutical books for centuries, yet previous attempts have never given complete satisfaction... The masses are groaning with the miscarriages of injustice that they have been forced to accept thru allowing others to think for them. Some books are of great pretensions, others offer plausible intentions, endeavoring to use compulsion to make you believe something against which your judgment, if faced with the deception, would revolt.

Nothing is farther from my intention than to disparage their several aims. Honesty exists in all ranks, in that they *try* to reach perfection thru superstitious and mythical means. Therapeutics is wrongly based. It needs one vast revolution. This is the mission of Chiropractic—the first *non-therapeutical* theological philosophy. Christianity made a reconstitution and “revelations” and “miracles” of those days are being accomplished today along lines which utilize the same powers with identical intents.

The mission of ministerial work is to draw mental man nearer to God. The work of a Chiropractor is to allow God full expression *in* the physical *and* mental man. Does the present day “preaching the gospel,” performing operations, or dosing with drugs accomplish the aim? If not, *then something is radically wrong*. You must be teaching, believing or pinning your faith to prescriptions and the knife, none of which are consistent or in accord with simple facts.

Instead of building mysterious ideas in atmosphere and thru that ultimately hope to reach the root of mental and physical evils—if possible; reverse it, let your first question be “What is life— death—and the intermediate, disease”? Answer these theologically and philosophically and you will have reached a fundamental— providing—you can bridge the gap between the ethereal and the physical, if so, you are a candidate for further wisdom, but not until.

... No man leaves the fallible of yesterday for a truth of today without a mental tussle with self or the fellow-mortal that presents it, but in truth and justice it must be confessed that as far as other works relate to or copy from what is taught at *The P. S. C.* in the philosophy, science, and art of Chiropractic, their authors have not escaped the common error of superficial reasoning along materialistic lines. They overlook the fact that the average reader is not grounded in the simple, true principles of what, where and how innate intelligence thru your brain reaches you and me and thus the lack of knowledge of the complete circuit maker or breaker has allowed ... *How or why* were questions looked for in things entirely corporeal or wholly spiritualistic; neither one tried nor dared to unite the forces of the one with the other. It has remained for Chiropractic to prove that they can and do work with each other...

The intellectual reasoning that guides your or my bodies, supplies them continually with power, keeps bodies warm, sees that we get nutrition, repairs our bones if fractured, "cures" us if sick, etc., from birth to death, has been overlooked; its values and what can be accomplished by allowing *that force to work in unison with the physical* has been too deep for any past mind to link with the material. Many an individual has assumed either the spiritual issue as "all in all" or the materialist has said "physical is ruled absolutely by corporeal elements," but it remained for the last five years to issue Chiropractic philosophical work to fully and unquestionably prove the bridging of this chasm.

I am not acquainted with any book, in any of the sciences, that is calculated to furnish such teachings as will enable the philosopher to accomplish that specific assistance, or one which professes to drill the student into the groundwork of simplified, correlated facts, regarding the source of all power (Innate Intelligence), its mannerisms, means and ways of showing itself, how it supplies the physical body with its daily wants ("Give us this day our *daily* bread"), or has even made of that theosophy a science, art, and philosophy which can be and is practiced by manual means, in daily execution *and positively links one with its counterpart....*

The P. S. C. library, as well as others, have books, good, bad or indifferent, but none ventured to discuss the laws of forces, powers, or the study of biology and then make a union with its mediums. Where your creation received its intelligence, or by what means it is personified, has long been considered unnecessary, nor have they attempted to explain the essential parts which each is supposed to perform in the general scheme of the expressed likeness of God; they cannot therefore lead to any generalization or localization of focalized ideas. With such unstable premises, Chiropractic had a Herculean task before it; tho it has met handshakes from friends and rebuffs from strangers, yet it is steadily gaining new adherents who are sincere and wish a higher enlighten meet. Too often the young or new practitioner is apt to take things for granted because "it always has been so" or "it is printed in Gray's Anatomy" (and many times contradicted in Dunglison's Dictionary), without reasoning along original lines or doing independent thinking. What he needs is the beacon of Innate intelligence as the first rock, then bring into action latent forces, and let those conclusions lead him into ascertained and proven facts regardless of whether books say it is or is not so; the product of his ambitions will be original. His ship will not be abandoned upon the shoals of despair by one of two evils—a feeble and servile routine of mumbled words, or a wild and lawless empiricism.

This issue aims to supply this deficiency, by proving, step by step, how your physical machine can be adjusted to a philosophical one, making a unity between the hobbies of spiritual life *and* physical demonstrations, and portrays how this is accomplished— it leads you from supposed knowledge to facts.

That the design of the present work may not be mistaken, it is essential to remark that we take it for granted that you have studied the *philosophy* contained in *THE SCIENCE OF CHIROPRACTIC*, Vols. I and II, and are therefore ready to accept what is contained in Vol. III. Without its predecessors this is Greek; one must go with the others. Many practitioners enter this study thinking to add Chiropractic to what they previously had— *this is impossible*. This philosophy, rightly understood, is so based that the fundamental of one will not—*cannot*—mix with mythical theories propounded for centuries. It is too modern for that, and yet we are but deciphering and placing into intelligible words that which has always existed, the laws of God, and that is why the cruder (?) and lower (?) order of intelligences, in natives of

various countries, *all have some form of manual treatment applied to the spine*, for they are closer in communion with their Creator and His ways of doing. They work *towards* and the present day scientist *from* inevitable laws.

The aim thruout this book has been to explain subluxations and their adjustments around *six* words, viz., superior, inferior, left, right, anterior and posterior. With these any combination can be elaborated upon. Like the mariner's compass, the four directions, viz., North, South, East and West, tells every direction he wants to go or has come from...

Chiropractic existed as an art for the first 3 years; as a science for 7 years and as a philosophy for the last 5 years. Its principles were not worked out; it remained for minds other than the discoverer's to ferret them out and then use their ability to present them to the lay or trained mind.

In the history of the usual philosophies, sciences and arts, philosophy comes first, then science, and art last—a peculiar change in the revolution of ideas is ours —during the first three years of Chiropractic the first man only knew how to crudely push bones; later his followers began to reason how to do these things better; gradually, of course, and proportionally as the pupils paced the teacher the teacher followed the pupil, but it is only in the last three years that the *why* of Chiropractic has been worked out and made a practical foundation....

...*this* book has the distinction of being *the first* to exclusively confine itself to the vertebral column, conveying the knowledge that each and every vertebra is the physical representative of the cause of many abnormalities existing in, near or distant portions of the body. It teaches you to rely upon the forces *within* man to correct its subluxations; it proves the capability of one man to adjust another even if lost in the woods with Mother Innate's tools—mind and hands. No adjuncts need knock. Should disease *exist* adjust the cause, then look internally for the power that heals....

This book teaches one man to help another at any time, in any place—in a wilderness or a forest. It is not necessary to have a drug store, a hospital or any special apparatus—not even an adjusting table. You can lay your man across two logs, two piles of leaves, or stretch him across a little stream (if you can find one small enough)—any way so that the shoulders and thighs are higher than the trunk or the abdomen; then you give your adjustment....

It is with the hope of further establishing the individuality of Chiropractic that we publish this book, acknowledging that it will fill a niche that has never been approached before, and that no one is more capable of presenting this philosophy distinctly upon an independent footing than the one who has spent years in deducing a reasonable, simple, scientific manner of always knowing just how and where these philosophical connections can be made, where exists all the switches that turn on or off the Innate currents to depleted, atrophic or hypertrophic tissues. Other minds have come and gone, performed their share, be it great or small, of these labors, and several times have been forced to drop the burden that became too heavy, for it requires more than mental or physical strength—it needs steadfastness of purpose, *righteous* principle and superior observation to, succeed in advancing a theosophical philosophy and convincing the masses that it can be and is, for the first time, adjusted to a practical art and science....

Hasn't Chiropractic already created a great unrest in therapeutics, the greatest the world has so far seen, The world is a battlefield—there will be thousands of generals and every man a soldier. The therapeutical ranks have been restricted to certain districts and localities, but they will be trying to protect their strongholds and every man will take sides until the battle is won.

The progress during 1906—'11 has been nothing short of the energies spent in endeavoring to set a pace that is now creating a furor in superstitious ranks. If this volume will but help to continue that movement, then it will have fulfilled its mission.

It is with the hope that I may be able to propagate our already acquired knowledge so that its usefulness may be more widely extended; and, by offering this collective arrangement of the vertebrae,

and how each may be subjected to concussions and subluxations consequently, and diseases subsequently, and how that acts as a circuit breaker between currents, mental and physical; and then how to again make a philosophical cycle of life creation and health expression in contradistinction to life creation but lack of expression—disease—and to establish this philosophy of Chiropractic upon a more simplified, scientific basis, and thereby render its future career one of improvement, and progressive with that of other branches that *The P. S. C.* has brought forward, or to follow up the figurative illustration, already introduced, to furnish the pilot of the boat with the knowledge of how its course is wrong, how to read the compass and then give instruction how to steer the steamer in harmony with Innate intelligence so that your craft will land at the welcome port of Health and Satisfaction. Chiropractic conveys you, as a disciple, *to* the ship, and at the same time teaches its intricate workings and guides you thru all the shallow and treacherous channels that offer themselves at every turn of the course.” p.5-12

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