

CHIROPRACTIC PARALLAX

CHIROPRACTIC HISTORY by Merwyn V. Zarbuck, D.C. PART 4

"Gentlemen--I have recommended your School of Chiropractic to some of our students. As you work in harmony with Nature Cure and your school is undoubtedly the original and genuine, I think you and your school should keep in touch with the naturopathic following."

D.D. responded to Benedict Lust in the following manner:

Dear Sir--You say, we "work in harmony with Nature Cure." Chiropractors find, when they adjust that which is the cause of diseased conditions, that such is nature cure. You think and teach that we should practice certain rules in regard to sleep, rest, diet, drink, sun, air and water. In our infirmary we give no such directions. We find many more healthy persons who do not conform to these rules, than those who do. In other words, we will say, that paying attention to "Nature Cure" regulations have but little to do with health. Instead of "working in harmony with Nature Cure," adapting certain regulations to suit the peculiarities, caprices or exigencies of the abnormal conditions, we adjust the cause of those derangements." 28

The Chiropractor had this to say about Langworthy's BACKBONE:

An exchange name "Backbone" says on the front cover: "A Book About Body and Brain Building." From the amount of our literature copied by them one might judge that they were short of brains, or they found it better to use the brains of others. Their booklet, "Chiropractic Facts," contains twelve feet running column measurement copied from our literature. Better improve upon the quality of brain material than to build more." 29

The "mind cure" also was known as "suggestive therapeutics." Willard Carver, while still a practicing attorney, and not yet attending Charles Ray Parker's School of Chiropractic at Ottumwa, Iowa, wrote D.D. Palmer a letter (2-15-05) requesting D.D. to incorporate "suggestive therapeutics" into chiropractic.³⁰ Charles Ray Parker graduated from the Palmer School in June, 1905, being valedictorian of his class, in which Mabel (Mrs. B.J.) Palmer was salutatorian. Willard Carver and his wife (Ida M.) graduated from the Parker School

on 6-12-05.³¹ Mary V. Parker (Mrs. Dr. Charles) graduated at the same time.³² Dr. Parker had been a practicing "magnetic healer" for four years before his chiropractic education and had met D.D. in earlier years.³³ Mrs. Parker had been employed at the Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics (Mind Cure) at Nevada, Missouri for five years.³⁴ This was probably the source of Carver's interest in the "mind cure," and his attempt to amalgamate the "mind cure" into D.D. Palmer's chiropractic principles, which Carver thought were incomplete.

D.D. answered Carver:

When I explain the cause of disease I use bones to show material joints which impinge nerves, that are thereby materially injured and their functions deranged: the results we name disease. When I go into the realms of ethereal and superficial, which cannot be demonstrated, but must be accepted on belief, than I am not in the field of chiropractic.³⁵

D.D. clearly isolated chiropractic from the spiritual and psychological, and further stated:

Chiropractors have no more need of suggestion when replacing a luxated joint, than the mechanic when entering a tenon into a mortice.³⁶

The 1903 American School Announcement listed two faculty members, Robert Joseph Brown (Instructor in Anatomy, Psychology, Physiology, Kinesiology) and Carroll Whitney Burch (Instructor in Special Anatomy, Physical Development, Hygiene, Symptomatology, Dietetics).³⁷ At that time, Kinesiology was defined as the science of movements of the body; employed for therapeutical or hygienic results.³⁸ Dietetics was defined as the branch of medicine comprising the rules to be followed for preventing, relieving or CURING disease by diet.³⁹

THE NOVEMBER BACKBONE

The October Backbone did not convince people of Langworthy's implication of being the originator or founder of chiropractic; but left a distinct impression that he was seeking an unearned position in chiropractic. The editor of the "Journal of Osteopathy" had these comments on Langworthy's quest for eminence:

The Journal is in receipt of a copy of the newly launched magazine, "Backbone," published monthly in the interest of Chiropractic and Common Sense, by Backbone Publishers, 603-605 First Avenue, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is devoted to the exploitation of the Chiropractic method of cure, and the advertising of Dr. S.M. Langworthy, who seems to be its chief advocate.

We have a faint recollection of seeing a few years ago a similar exploitation of the same method by its founder, a Doctor Palmer, of a neighboring Iowa City.

Doctor Palmer should wake up, or his laurels as founder of a system "suggestive of the physical culture and osteopathy, but far in advance of either," will be ruthlessly snatched from his brow.

We are of the opinion that the magazine would have been more appropriately termed "Gall" rather than the anatomical cognomen with which it has been blessed.⁴⁰

Later Langworthy stated:

Believing that Dr. Palmer was the discoverer of direct spinal adjustment, I made mention in the first issue of "Backbone"--October 1903--of the fact that it was an Iowa idea. This issue was printed, bound and billed 9-30-03. However, before the next number (Nov.) went to press evidence came to hand that indicated that it was a Bohemian idea and not an Iowa idea and so it was stated in that issue of "Backbone," November, 1903. Mr. J.A. Dvorsky called upon for treatment 10-2-03.⁴¹

This was supposed to convince people of his intention of giving D.D. Palmer credit for the origination and development of Chiropractic. At no time, did he mention his graduation from Palmer School under D.D. in 1903, nor D.D.'s discovery of Chiropractic in his October issue.

Not being able to replace D.D. as the discoverer, he sought to replace D.D. as the discoverer with one Frank Dvorsky, a Czechoslovakian (Bohemian) immigrant who could speak no English. In one month or less, Frank Dvorsky had introduced Chiropractic as a Bohemian idea and denied that D.D., Iowa, or any other part of the United States had anything to do with the formulation of Chiropractic. It was further intimated that D.D.

learned the chiropractic adjustment and its principle from some Bohemian in Davenport. Therefore, Langworthy renamed chiropractic—"Bohemian Chiropractic," of which he claimed to be the developer. By doing so, he could claim the first seat of chiropractic eminence.

The following article appeared in the November "Backbone." This was an early attempt to retitle chiropractic as "Bohemian Chiropractic," remove and eliminate D.D. Palmer as the originator of chiropractic, and demean D.D.'s intellectual formation of the principles of chiropractic. Carroll Burtch had now become Doctor Burtch, a graduate of the American School, and a "Lecturer on Theory and Practice of Chiropractic," and authored the following article.

HOW OLD IS CHIROPRACTIC?

By Dr. Carroll Whitney Burtch, Lecturer on Theory and Practice of Chiropractic in the American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure.

That there is any question about the date of the origin of Chiropractic will come as a surprise to most Chiropractitioners, as well as to many others who have become interested in this most interesting of healing arts, but facts have come to light showing that, instead of being of recent origin, Chiropractic methods of spinal adjustment have been in use for at least seventy-five years. The members of this profession who have prided themselves in the belief that at last there was something new under the sun must relinquish this satisfying thought for it seems that what has been known as an invention born of necessity, an idea springing from the brain of a man as Minerva sprang from the head of Jove, in full panoply, is really the finished product of a long period of evolution. Beginning, probably, as a simple means of allaying pains along the spine, it has grown to be the most exact of the many methods for the removal of the cause of disease. Knowing that a large number of people will welcome every new bit of information concerning Chiropractic, I give the facts here just as they have reached me from various sources.

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Forty Years Ago.

The first use of Chiropractic in this country that we have any knowledge of was in New York City nearly half a century ago. A Mr. Bradford, who in 1902 investigated Chiropractic, after spinal examination and adjustment, remarked that he had been cured of a disease of the kidneys by a similar method more than forty years before in New York City. He said that the doctor--whose name he had forgotten--made some remarkable cures in that place and afterwards went to Baltimore, but he was unable to give further information concerning the man or his methods.

The first school for the teaching of spinal adjustment by this system was founded in Davenport, Iowa, by D.D. Palmer, six years ago. He conducted this school until about a year ago and then moved from Iowa to one of the western states. Dr. Palmer gave the method the peculiar and appropriate name by which it is known today.

The next report comes from a patient named Dvorsky and shows that this system of spinal adjustment was in use some time before it was practiced in the United States. Mr. Dvorsky states that his family have practiced a method of replacing displaced vertebrae for three generations, and from his explanation of method it is evident that, though crude and unscientific, it is unmistakably Chiropractic in idea.

The first Dvorsky to practice such replacement learned the work from a doctor in Prague, Bohemia, about seventy-five years ago, and was associated with him in his practice there, employing spinal adjustments in the treatment of various diseases. This Dvorsky taught each of his children the method as he had learned it and they in turn instructed their children, and thus it became a family remedy which they used with themselves and with such of their neighbors as had faith in its merits. My informant tells me that the Dvorskys all had weak spines that required attention very often, and the reason for this seems very plain to me. The adjustment was made by applying pressure along the spine with the intention of moving the

vertebrae into place, being apprised of success by the clicking sound made by the articular facets as they came together. But they overlooked the fact that vertebrae can be displaced as easily as they can be adjusted, and that there is no audible indication of their having moved when they are displaced. Haphazard pressure along the spine puts as many vertebrae out of joint as it replaces, and if continued day after day the strength of the joint will surely be lessened. Anyone would have a weak spine if their vertebrae were shoved in and out of place from childhood to old age.⁴²

At least D.D. Palmer was given credit for naming chiropractic appropriately and founding the first school.

The ploy of proclaiming some person other than D.D. Palmer as the progenitor and originator of chiropractic pervades the profession's history until the present time. This allows pseudo-originators to formulate different theories and doctrines to establish themselves as authorities, leaders, or luminaries of the chiropractic profession.

Langworthy's attempt to replace D.D. as the originator of chiropractic pertained to the chiropractic adjustic art--the singular spontaneous manual movement rendered by the adjustor to the displaced bony segment of a patient to restore structural integrity and correct the associated nerve impingement.

Dvorsky's Bohemian ancestors in Czechoslovakia employed a peasant practice called "Napravit" or "Napravovani,"⁴³ to straighten the bent back by walking on it, and other methods.⁴⁴ The peasants had no intention of replacing a displaced vertebra to remove nerve impingement, but merely cracked the back to feel better. Therefore, Napravit was not a science or method composed of principles and stated objectives. Later, aspiring chiropractic "luminaries" were to cite the "Bohemian Napravit Birth" of chiropractic and added others, such as some M.D., osteopath, peasant, football player (really) or some personage as the originator of chiropractic. D.D., in a humorous manner, mentioned a few more that his detractors could investigate, such as the Japanese peasant practice

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Give back to the college that made you a success.

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KUATSU,⁴⁵ MEXICAN back treatment,⁴⁶ American Indian back treatment,⁴⁷ Japanese ten Shin system,⁴⁸ the SWEET bone setters,⁴⁹ the SIAM Siamene,⁵⁰ and others. Responding to a naturopathic chiropractor's advertising pamphlet which declared: "It is likely that the Bohemians obtained their knowledge of this method of cure (Naprait) from some roving bank of Egyptians." D.D. replied: "Why not say that the Creator practiced Chiropractic when taking the rib from Eve, and that Dr. Palmer, being a Bible student learned the science of chiropractic there."⁵¹

The observation of the rib being taken from Eve, instead of Adam, was probably intentional. D.D. Palmer was a radical thinker, to say the least!

The Principles of Chiropractic

D.D. Palmer established the principles (facts in evidence) of chiropractic by deductive reasoning (from the general to the specific), and also was an accurate observer and student of anatomy, biology, and natural philosophy (physics). Fulfilling the requirements of a school teacher of that period, he had a reading knowledge of Latin and Greek, evidence of a rigorous undergraduate education, which enabled him in his search and presentment.

Intrigued by the cause of disease, D.D. commenced a study and investigation of the principles and laws that regulate the living organism—a philosophy. Investigation into the regulatory processes almost immediately led to the nervous system, its anatomy and regulatory functions—structure and function.

Logic, an intrinsic process of philosophy is defined as a system of principles underlying an art and/or science. Logic is also a necessary connection or outcome of the working of cause and effect. The workings of cause and effect in the living organism is difficult; the effect, produced by a preceding cause, becomes the cause of one or more successive effects in the living organism—a biological (life) progression. Investigation of the normal (health) had to precede that of the abnormal.

"(Chiropractic) philosophy deals with the knowledge of biological phenomena, that state of a body, or any of its organs or parts, in which the animal and organic functions are performed with normal vigor."⁵²

The succession of biological progressions—an infinite series of cause and effect progressions in the living organism was contemplated.

*Biological philosophy deals with the origin, development, structure, functions and occurring phenomena accompanying life, growth in reproduction. The one who reduces these principles to practice, gives philosophical reasons for their cause, energy, and the laws governing vital action (life function) and those of the intellectual of the human economy, is a philosopher.*⁵³

In D.D.'s time, human economy meant regulation of the parts of the organic whole; the aggregate of the laws governing the organism.⁵⁴

The laws governing life functions, and particularly as to energies, powers, and forces were explored in Natural Philosophy, today, known as Physics. Physics was defined as the science of the nature and forces of inorganic matter, and Iatrophysics to explain the vital phenomena and the preservation of the individual.⁵⁵ Co-existence of structure and function was repeatedly expressed,⁵⁶ as well as normal structure and normal function being inseparable.⁵⁷

25. *Backbone*, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 21.

26. *Ibid*, p. 29

27. *Ibid*, pp. 6-10.

28. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 6, May 1905, p. 11

29. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 2, Jan. 1905, p. 2

30. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 9, August 1905, p. 18

31. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 7, June 1905, p. 15

32. Parker School Announcement

33. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 7, June 1905, p. 15

34. Parker School Announcement

35. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 9, August 1905, p. 18

36. *The Chiropractor*, Vol. 1, No. 10, September 1905, p. 2

37. *American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure, 1903-1904* Announcement

38. *Dunglison's Medical Dictionary*, 1903, p. 606

39. *Ibid*, p. 343

40. Lerner Report, Vol. 5, p. 364

41. *Backbone*, Feb-June 1905, p. 70

42. *Backbone*, Nov. 1903, p. 43

43. *Backbone*, Feb-June 1905, p. 59

44. *Chiropractor*, July 1905, p. 3

45. *Chiropractor*, July 1905, p. 8

46. *Chiropractor*, Sept. 1905, p. 3

47. *Ibid*,

48. *Chiropractor*, Oct. 1905, p. 4

49. *Chiropractor*, Nov. 1905, p. 16

50. *Ibid*, p. 19

51. *The Chiropractor*, Aug. 1905, p. 14

52. Palmer, D.C., *The Adjustor* (text), p. 404

53. *Ibid*, p. 404

54. *Dunglison's Medical Dictionary*, 1903

55. *Ibid*

56. *The Adjustor*, (text), p. 165

57. *Ibid*, p. 296

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