

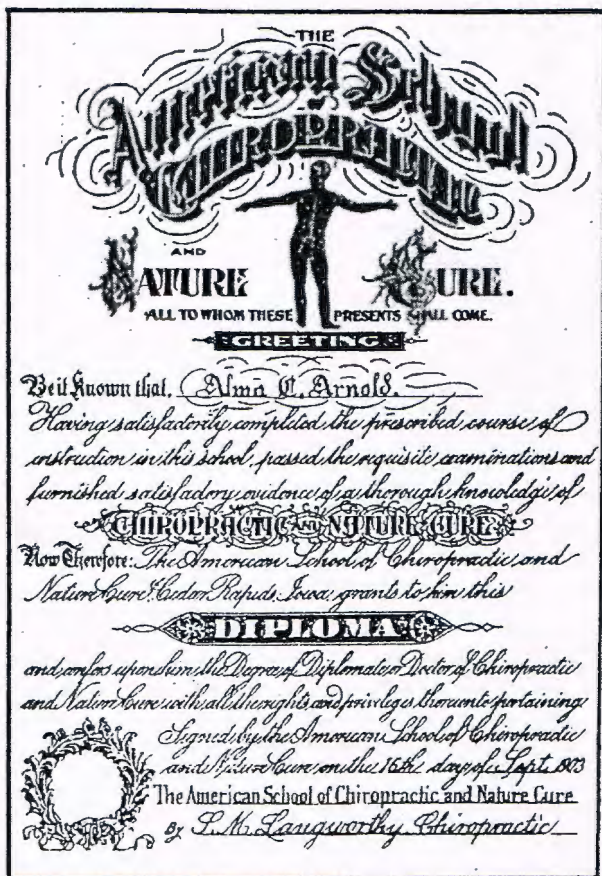
CHIROPRACTIC PARALLAX

by Merwyn V. Zarbuck, D.C.

PART 6

S.M. LANGWORTHY (continued)

Langworthy, Smith, and Paxson continued to develop "Modernized Chiropractic" at the then American School of Chiropractic. Chiropractic was less than ten years old and already the principles established by the founder were declared to be outdated. The defamation of the Palmers had to be publicized to eliminate them as the founders of the principles of Chiropractic Science.



Langworthy was a good publicist and advertised in national publications, who patronized him with editorial space in their journals. Langworthy's 1904 "Backbone" journals in many cases retitled many of D.D.'s earlier 1903 articles; for example "Innate Intelligence" was retitled "Innate Intellect"⁹⁶ and "The Body is Heat by Nerves" retitled "The Nerves Maintain Animal Heat."⁹⁷ This was a primary reason why B.J. Palmer began copyrighting D.D.'s numerous articles beginning in early 1904.

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The American School brought forth the concept of pinched nerves in the intervertebral foramina and the term sub-luxation. The February 1904 "Backbone" states:

As the nerves of the body emanate from the spinal cord encased in the spinal column or backbone, it is here we first seek the trouble, for it has been found by actual experience, that while nerve derangements are the result of undue pressure, at least 95 percent of this obstruction comes from subluxations or disarrangements of the bones of the joints, and with almost never an exception, these sub-luxations are found in the spinal column.

The nerves pass out through openings or windows between the vertebrae, and if one of these vertebrae is by a wrench or otherwise thrown out of its natural position, the nerve above or below the displaced vertebra is pinched, and thus unable to perform its function.

In closing, he [Langworthy] pointed to the vertebrae of an articulated spinal column which he uses to demonstrate his [chiropractic] method to his visitors and said, "These are the keys upon which I play, and the results are wonderful."⁹⁸

Langworthy also affected chiropractic literature by labeling the intervertebral foramina as "windows," and the vertebrae of the spinal column as "keys" upon which he played.

The April 1904 "Backbone"⁹⁹ reprinted an earlier "Chicago Sunday American" article titled "The Cause and Cure of Old Age," by Dr. S.M. Langworthy. Langworthy postulated that old age was a disease caused by thinning spinal discs in the aging process. These thinning discs allowed the "spinal windows" [intervertebral foramina] to be narrowed which compressed the spinal nerves. This compression reduced the flow of life power in the nerves resulting in debilitation and decrepitude.

The cure of the old age disease was the use of a traction table to stretch out the spinal column, to decompress the discs and to relieve the pressure from the spinal nerves thus increasing the nerve life power. Langworthy patented this orthopedic apparatus as the "Langworthy Traction Table" in early 1904. Later in 1904, the "Langworthy Treating Table" with mechanical "anatomical adjusters" and "physiological adjusters" was invented and

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patented. The father of traction and mechanical chiropractic by the use of medical orthopedic devices said:

In many cases I felt positive of what should be done, but with my hands I could not do it.

There are cases in which the hands alone are inadequate. Some complications of osseous and fibrous ankyloses could not be overcome by the hands alone, unless they were Herculean hands, and of one possessed such to use them would be criminal ignorance. In such cases, and many more which space forbids me to mention, the traction table and the anatomical and physiological adjusters are necessary. One of the illustrations shows the method of adjusting a seventh cervical vertebra. This bone is too close to the sixth cervical and as a natural consequence too far away from the first dorsal vertebra. By this displacement, nerves which supply the mucous membrane of the throat and nose are irritated by abnormal pressure, causing catarrh in these parts. In making the correction, the applicator of the anatomical adjuster is applied at the proper angle to the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra the head is engaged in the extension device, and by slow, even, painless traction the seventh cervical is caused to resume its normal position.

In a case of lateral curvature of the spine, slow, steady traction is exerted by engaging the shoulders and feet; the anatomical adjuster brings pressure on the angles of the ribs, and at the same time the physiological adjuster is doing its part to increase nutrition.¹⁰⁰

Langworthy also began a movement to remove the term "adjustment" from the chiropractic paradigm and to inject the term "manipulation" to broaden the chiropractic scope to include his traction and mechanical manipulation devices.

It was necessary to improve the methods of manipulation, thereby making it possible, in a greater number of cases, to put theory into successful practice - in other words to modernize the practice of chiropractic.¹⁰¹

Modernized Chiropractic was the inclusion of traction and mechanical manipulation devices for those practitioners like Langworthy that were incapable of adjusting osseous displacements or subluxations by hand.

The phrase "physiological adjustment" was also placed into chiropractic education and practice by the Langworthy American School. The "physiological adjustment" used an electric vibrator. The "physiological adjustment" was the stimulation or inhibition of nerves or blood vessels; this medicalized chiropractic was probably learned of the M.D., A.P. Davis, who denied that any osseous displacements occurred. The stimulation or inhibition of nerves to affect the circulation of the blood to remove pressure on capillaries was of medical or osteopathic theory and was loudly proclaimed by Davis to be the value of chiropractic. It was a very natural thing for Davis, M.D., Langworthy, Paxson, and Oakley Smith to join forces to demean and slander D.D. Palmer and deny him the credit of originating chiropractic.

The Howard System of Physiological Adjustment

John F. Alan Howard graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic in August 1906. After correspondence with A.P. Davis, M.D., Langworthy's American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure, and the Palmers, John Howard selected the Palmer's School and entered the nine month course in late 1905.¹⁰² After his graduation, Dr. Howard associated with the Dr. J.W. Benadom Sanitarium, 622 Main Street, Davenport, Iowa.¹⁰³

The National School of Chiropractic and Institute of Adjustment was established in

LANGWORTHY BEGAN TO REMOVE THE TERM "ADJUSTMENT"

late 1906 or early 1907 at South Putnam Building, Suite 305, where the first chiropractic adjustment was given to Harvey Willard by D.D. Palmer. The officers of the National School of Chiropractic were John F.A. Howard, D.C., president, C.J. Jordan, O.D., D.C., Secretary, and Frew A. Tucker, M.D., D.O., Treasurer. One of the special features of the National School was:

Our method is highly recommended as it embraces not only all that has been developed by the founder of the science, but the accumulated knowledge of his graduates in practice.

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Dr. Howard was in Palmer School when D.D. Palmer was incarcerated in the Scott County (Iowa) jail in April 1906 and D.D.'s departure from Davenport on May 1, 1906. The advice of Attorney Willard Carver to associate with an M.D. to prevent chiropractor prosecution was evidently well known. A.P. Davis, M.D.'s denial of any boney displacements and his theory of nerve stimulation by the adjustment was also common knowledge. The Davis book "Neurology" had been in print over a year. Langworthy's "physiological adjustment" to stimulate nerves was broadcast in national publications all across the U.S.

Therefore the required coursework in Ophthalmology and Diagnosis as heralded by the allopathically trained A.P. Davis was required at National. Obstetrics was taught at the American School, and "physiological adjustment" for nerve stimulation a la Davis was a natural addition to the curriculum.

No course length was mentioned, but, "students will be entitled to a diploma as soon as they are proficient in the theory and competent in its application, and have mastered the requirements of the prescribed course."¹⁰⁴ In late 1907 National School was located at 618 E. Congress Street, Chicago, Illinois.

A farewell dinner was held for Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Howard who were soon to leave Davenport for Chicago.¹⁰⁵

A 1908 National statement claimed chiropractic as:

A scientific system of physiological adjustment of the spinal column based on natural laws, by which displaced or subluxated vertebrae are placed in realignment thereby permitting normal function of the parts by the nerves involved or compressed by the displaced vertebrae.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT

*The chiropractor, by means of the peculiar "chiropractic thrust," brings the vertebrae back to normal position and thus relieves the nerve tension. This at the same time awakens cell life in the surrounding tissues, ligaments, cartilages, etc. and permits a normal transmission of nerve vibrations to the affected organ or part at the end of the nerve.*¹⁰⁶

This was a unique combination of the Palmer subluxation adjustment model and the Davis-Langworthy model of nerve stimulation by the physiological adjustment.

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INSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR IPSCA JOURNAL SEPTEMBER, 1989

FROM: James P. Fallon, D.C.,
chairman

PUBLIC AID/MEDICAID: Doctors of chiropractic participating in the Illinois Public Aid health care reimbursement program have recently received a minimal (30 cent) increase in payment per patient visit. While the increase can certainly be viewed as nominal in terms of the total IPA health care budget, it may be considered as an initial attempt by the Department to improve the Public Aid reimbursement structure to encourage better quality and more accessible care for recipients as part of their proposal to completely overhaul the Medicaid system in Illinois.

IPSCA insurance committee chairman Dr. James Fallon and Dr. Daniel Luban, chairman of the Public Aid subcommittee, have initiated communication with the Department to seek a more equitable reimbursement for chiropractic care, including X-ray and examination procedures as covered services. Another meeting with the Department is planned. Watch for details in future IPSCA communications.

MEDICARE—A REMINDER: Chiropractic claims for Medicare reimbursement MUST carry specific procedure modifiers which conform to the listed diagnosis on each claim form submitted. Failure to use the modifiers may result in non-payment and penalties. Refer to the latest Medicare handbook or the last IPSCA Journal for the list of designated modifiers.

QUESTIONS regarding insurance relations may be addressed to the IPSCA insurance committee, P.O. Box 4174, Rock Island, IL 61204.