

A. O. H. S. BULLETIN

American Osteopathic Historical Society



DR. ANDREW TAYLOR STILL

July, 1962
No. 5

A.O.H.S. BULLETIN

Published by the
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An affiliated organization
of the American Osteopathic
Association

Bulletin No. 5
July, 1962

Editor

Wallace M. Pearson, D.O.
Box 722
Kirksville, Missouri

Officers

President

J. R. Forbes, D.O.
120 West Osborn Road
Phoenix 13, Arizona

Vice President

R. McFarlane Tilley, D.O.
1402 East Patterson Ave.
Kirksville, Missouri

Secretary-Treasurer

Wallace M. Pearson, D.O.
Box 722
Kirksville, Missouri

EDITORIAL by A. G. Hildreth, D.O.
(Taken from the June, 1913 issue of The Journal
of the American Osteopathic Association)

THE OLD DOCTOR SENDS A MESSAGE
TO THE PROFESSION

Recently, when in Kirksville, I asked the Old Doctor what there was the profession, or the A.O.A. could bring to him which would please him most. I said to him that it was every one's desire to bring something that he would appreciate - that we did not want to come with some useless thing, while it might cost a considerable sum, yet if he could not utilize it or enjoy it, it would be of no value to him. This conversation occurred early in May, and I said to him, "Now, you think this over, and I shall be here again in a few weeks, and then you must tell me what you would prize most - what would be of greatest comfort to you;" and this is the message he wished me to deliver to the profession.

He said: "Arthur, tell those boys and girls for me that if they wish to raise a sum of money with which to make me a present, that I want them to give every dollar of it to the Research Institute to help in carrying on the work I have begun. Tell them that my life's efforts have been one continual battle for American freedom - Freedom from the shackles of a medical monopoly - The right for every free-born American citizen to be independent in all things, and that I want them to use their money to help to carry on that great work. Tell them for me that we want American brains at the head of that institution, because American brains are the greatest advancement of this great age. Tell them that I named the first school The American School of Osteopathy, because osteopathy was an American product, and that my one desire is to keep it strictly American throughout all time, believing that this means most in going deeper into the science that has been given to the world through me."

THE SPIRITUALITY OF ANDREW TAYLOR STILL

by

L. van Straten, D.O., BSO'31
(Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)

The Osteopathic school of medicine as is generally known, was discovered and developed by Andrew Taylor Still (1828-1917) and propounded in 1874. Still's early life was that of a Methodist preacher. In this he followed his father, Dr. Abram Still who was likewise a preacher, and also a physician, and as was customary in that day, became apprenticed to his father. Subsequently he took a further course of instruction at the Kansas City School of Physicians. The Legislature of Missouri granted him his license of Physician and Surgeon. From then on Dr. A. T. Still engaged solely in the profession of medicine.

Dr. E. R. Booth, osteopathic historian, quoting Dr. T. Still, a brother of Dr. A. T. Still, in reminiscing about his father said: "He would often have to stop in the fall season to attend the sick. His universal practice was to keep close by his Bible in his saddlebags, a well filled wallet of medicines in sections of canes as bottles were likely to break. Thus arrived, his main aim was for the comfort of both soul and body."

It is interesting speculation that the dichotomy of the Stills' profession possibly emanated from the influence of John Wesley (1703-1791) the protagonist of Methodism. Wesley lived in America, in Georgia to be precise, for three years as a missionary to the Indians. It is known that Wesley engaged to some extent in medicine. In his book "Primitive Physic" he proclaimed that physical healing formed an intergral part of the doctrine to which, under God, he felt himself called. An apt example of the priest-doctor.

As has been shown, Dr. Still's father (Dr. Abram Still) was such a Methodist priest-doctor, but more priest than doctor, his son, A. T., starting life in similar fashion later becoming more doctor than priest. Those who are conversant with Dr. A. T. Still's writings will have noticed the religious overtones in all he wrote.

Many who knew Dr. Still personally have described him as a 'spiritual' man; what they probably inferred was, that he was a mystic, by which is meant that he possessed powers beyond his own comprehension. (Most great physicians, throughout history, have possessed this gift.) He often achieved results which others could not emulate, and without rational reason; perhaps he was an unusual and peculiar teacher, in spite of the fact that he was a clever anatomist and was able to realize the implication of observed facts. It is therefore proplematical whether all his successes were due to his manipulative ability. Psychogenic background could have accounted for many diseases so apparently marvelously cured. But this does not, in one iota, detract from Dr. Still's genius for healing, or for his genius in applying manipulative methods. Dr. Charles Hazzard recounts, "He spoke in parables. In speaking before his classes he was often so allegorical that, even if one knew his manner of speech well, it was difficult to follow him."

The further quotations from Dr. E. R. Booth, are also pertinent:

"There are scores of well attested instances in which Dr. Still has shown his power of clairvoyance, - perhaps it would be better to say

telepathy." (This is 1905 and Dr. Rhine had not yet propounded his theories.) "The possession of such a power by many persons cannot be denied; but various theories are advanced by clear-headed, honest investigators to account for the facts..... Such eminent scholars as Professor Wm. James, Alfred Russell Wallace, Sir Wm. Crooks, etc. Whether such a power is a special gift..... makes no difference as to the fact. In the case of Dr. Still he seems to have inherited this power, if such a thing is possible, from both sides of his family. His brother Dr. Edward C. Still relates an incident showing that his father possessed the power of telepathy. One Sunday while preaching he stopped suddenly, asked one of the brethren to continue the services, saying he must go immediately to see a man several miles away who had become sick suddenly. He had not gone far till he met a messenger coming post haste after him to go to see the patient.....

Dr. Booth goes on to state:

"This power or gift (call it what we please) seems to have been greatly intensified in Dr. A. T. Still. Most persons who have spent even a short time in Kirksville have heard stories of his power to divine what was taking place elsewhere. Several instances with which well known persons are familiar in all the details could be related. One will be related by way of illustration. About 5:30 a.m. July 4, 1898, the day after the victory of the United States over Spain in the great naval battle of Santiago, the writer had occasion to go to the railroad depot in Kirksville. He met Dr. Still coming from the station. He said the report was that a certain number of Spanish vessels had been destroyed, but he insisted that there was one more, as he had seen, 'in his mind's eye' the day before, about the time of the battle. He had seen great vessels dashed to pieces, and had been eager from that moment to get authentic news. It will be

remembered that the Colon was not reported among the destroyed in the first account of the battle.

Dr. E. C. Still relates several incidents from early life of similar import. Dr. A. T. Still, while living in Kansas often wrote letters to his brother in Missouri describing what had taken place there and asked if his account was correct. The report of his brother is that he was almost invariably correct. These manifestations caused some of the family to think he was going crazy; but his eldest brother was in full sympathy with him."

Dr. Hazzard also said that, "Dr. Still possessed psychic powers because of his ability to foretell correctly happenings near and far."

Dr. Still was therefore no ordinary man, nor can he be judged and evaluated by ordinary standards. He was like no one else, either before him or since. He was an instinctive scientist, possessed of amazing foreknowledge and perspicacity, yet he had in him much of the philosophic enquiring mind of Hippocrates and the precocious dare of Paracelsus, inasmuch as that he found like Paracelsus, the customary medical methods inadequate and had the courage to proclaim this and offered an alternative system.

All evidence shows that Dr. Still was one of those doctors who could heal by whatever sensible method he chose to employ; firstly, because he would have used the method intelligently and, secondly, his patients had the will to get well. Over and above all this he appears to have been possessed of the gift of psychokinesis, that is the action of the mind upon a physical system (the PK of Dr. Rhine); which Dr. Still obviously manifested in order to will his patients to get well.

Dr. Still stated: "I took up the regular practice of an allopathic physician. I was called a

good doctor." This was not bombast. Of course he was a good doctor, after all he was able to administer to his patients that which was as curative as anything then currently fashionable, whether it was surgical, something out of a bottle, or just good common sense advice.

It was a fortuitous change that drove Dr. Still to deviate from the system in which he was trained and experiment with another of his own device, and persevere in spite of bitterness due to personal experience, to overcome the shortcomings of the medical practice of his day. However, there had to be a beginning and an impetus to generate this newly discovered knowledge which was intended, not to supplant the customary treatment by drugs (of which so little was known and what was known as limited to their potential - and this potential fraught with danger) but offer the medical profession a proven alternative.

References:

- History of Osteopathy and Twentieth-Century Medical Practice by E. R. Booth, D.O.
- The Lengthening Shadow of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, by A. G. Hildreth, D.O.
- The Reach of the Mind, By J. B. Rhine, Ph.D.
- "How I Came to Originate Osteopathy" by A. T. Still, D.O. (Ladies Home Journal)

CELEBRATION OF THE
OLD DOCTOR'S
85TH ANNIVERSARY
(From the August, 1913 issue
of The Journal of the American
Osteopathic Association)

The exercises began in the Convention Tent at 8:45 Wednesday

morning, August 6, 1913, President Atzen in the chair.

The Kirksville Military Band gave several favorite selections. The large tent was well filled and all the osteopathic physicians, as well as citizens of Kirksville, manifested their appreciation of the event by the enthusiasm with which they entered into the celebration.

Dr. Dodson, of St. Louis, Chief Marshal, made several announcements and outlined the program of the day.

Miss Roberta Mintern gave a vocal selection entitled, "The Old Doctor's Birthday," which was loudly applauded.

The Debt the Daughters Owe Dr. Still

The President introduced the first speaker, Dr. Jeannette H. Bolles, Denver, Colorado, who responded to the address, "The Debt the Daughters Owe Dr. Still."

"Many, many centuries ago, when the world was young, tall, stately goddesses walked the earth and watched over the welfare of mankind. The forest glades knew their stately forms, the trees waved whispering branches in token of worship, and the flowers bent their beautiful heads beneath the feet of the heavenly visitants. The streamlets murmured to them of love, and the winds breathed sweet messages in their ears. All nature owned their sway and gave willing worship.

"The world of men came no less under the benign sway of these daughters of the gods. Each stately divinity had her appointed work, for in that day service was counted devine.

"Among these dwellers on Olympus, none was more beloved than Hygeia,

the daughter of Aesculapius. Aesculapius was the god who conquered Death. As was proper for the daughter of such a father, Hygeia's work was to guard the health of men. Where sickness was, where suffering was, there the gentle goddess was to be found. By the fevered bed, the cot of pain, the tall, fair form bent pityingly down, the tender eyes beamed hope and love. At her approach the suffering ceased; where e'er she stepped, the pain was stopped.

"It is many years since mankind lost their heavenly guardians. They flitted from earth long ages gone, back to their Olympian home, and haunts of men shall know their forms no more. But they did not carry all hope back with them to the shades of Olympus. Faint visions linger on, distant gleams shot through the gloom. For long, poor suffering humanity has waited and hoped for the return of the gentle eyed goddess, and now the time has come. A modern Aesculapius, Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, has given to the world a modern Hygeia. Like another daughter of the gods, Minerva, she sprang, full grown, from the forehead of her parent, and, though still young, she is strong and vigorous as befits a modern maid.

"To Osteopathy, the offspring of the brain of Dr. Still, is due the great advance that has been made in the Healing Art in the last twenty-five years. Dr. Still, unaided and alone, has changed the methods of healing for the world. He has raised the treatment of disease from empiricism, mere guess work, to a science, placed it on a safe basis of natural laws, to be studied and understood by all earnest seekers of knowledge.

"The debt that humanity owes our Grand Old Doctor can never be estimated; the debt that the daughters of men owe goes far beyond - it is humanity's debt plus the daughter's debt. From time immemorial, ever since the mother cared for her child, and people began to live in families, the woman has had

to bear the brunt of all the illness. Was it the baby who was ill? it must wait out its pain and sickness in its mother's arms. Was it mother or sister or daughter? the woman must pass the sleepless nights and weary days beside the sufferer's couch. Was it the man who was ill? the woman must bear the burden. All this, in addition to her own very large share of physical suffering, falls to the lot of woman. Thus humanity's burden is woman's burden and anything that relieves physical suffering calls forth double gratitude from all the daughters of mankind.

"Not satisfied with placing all this burden upon women, Nature provided them with special organs that often increase their ills tenfold. So in addition to the ills they have in common they have those belonging to the special function needed for the preservation of the race. That cruel old profligate, Nature, cares not how much waste, how much pain, if only she can preserve the species. As Tennyson says:

"So careful of the type she seems,
So careless of the single life."

"So it is for many reasons that the daughters of men today turn looks of fervent gratitude to osteopathy, the modern Hygeia. Until our own time they have not only suffered, but suffered in silence; but Dr. Still has brought deliverance to this great class of sufferers. As Mrs. Foraker said. 'If Dr. Still had given nothing more to the world than the relief afforded women, osteopathy would have achieved a success that would be sufficient honor without anything else.'

"Another great benefit which Dr. Still has conferred upon his daughters is, that he has given them a profession. In every other line of work and service, above the lowest ranks, woman has had to fight her way, inch by inch, and then has very rarely succeeded in getting the same pay

for the same work. Thanks to our great and liberal founder, osteopathy from its very beginning has offered the same opportunities to women as to men. Equal pay for equal work seems a small thing to have gained after a hundred centuries of civilization, but osteopathy offers the only field where men and women work together on these terms.

A favorite statement of Dr. Still's was that he would have the constitution of the United States amended to read, that rights and powers shall not be abridged on account of 'sex', race or color, or previous condition of servitude. So the debt we owe the Founder of Osteopathy is very great apart from the debt that humanity owes him. He has helped us to gain political development, economic development, and through the grand work he has placed in our hands, character development.

"Developing the body means developing the soul, Browning recognized this when he wrote:

"Nor soul helps flesh more now
Than flesh helps soul."

"During the dark ages a favorite subject of discussion was 'Do women have souls?' After centuries of oppression and suppression, it is indeed remarkable that any feminine souls should have survived, and certainly no one has done more, by placing us among human beings, by making us persons, to revive those souls than has Dr. Andrew Taylor Still.

"In placing women among physicians, Dr. Still has put them back into the place that they occupied a few centuries ago. The great lady with her herbs and simples was the physician of the feudal times. It was the gentle Elaine who tended Sir Launcelot and 'healed him of his grievous wounds.' Rebecca, the Jewess, nursed Ivanhoe back to life and cured his dangerous wounds with the famous salve, the prescription for which was

an heirloom in her family. Men were too busy fighting and killing, therefore the healing was left to the woman.

"But it is a far cry from the herbs of Elaine and the salves of Rebecca to osteopathy, and how much of that distance we owe to our beloved Old Doctor. When he came into the field the day of the bleeding doctor had passed, and drugging was in full force. Surgery was in its infancy. The great work of Lister had not come in to place it upon a safe basis, and a tithe of the horrors of the surgical room will never be told. Pasteur had not introduced microbes into the medical world, so the only treatment for the many ills that flesh inherits lay in the great doses of drugs. Medicine was pure empiricism. It had been learned by experimentation, the quinine would produce certain effects in malarial conditions, so the people were saturated with quinine. Opium would deaden pain, so it was used recklessly and often deadened the pain by deadening the patient.

"Mercury in its various forms was used in the same irresponsible quantities, and alcohol followed as a natural result of this reckless drugging.

"What wonder that sensible, conservative people should turn from the practice! What wonder that one man revolted against professional poisoning! There must be something better than this. There must be some way to relieve pain without leaving the sufferer a physical, and only too often, a mental and moral wreck. The epithet of Shakespeare's heroine 'drug damned Italy' was none too strong, and we may paraphrase it 'drug damned America.'

"Then it was that Dr. Still began to ponder about this 'drug damning' that is so much worse than any damning that the most fanatical theological creed can conjure up. For many years he thought, investigated,

experimented. The graves gave up their dead that he might study the wonderful human form. So the long years went by in patient toil; patient, struggling towards the light. If osteopathy had never been born, if not one faintest ray of light had come to the medical world from these researches, we should still have abundant cause to honor and bless Dr. Andrew Taylor Still. Just this great lesson in patient and persevering toil, unswerving devotion, to a cause, an unselfish sacrifice to an ideal, is worthy of all the honor it is in our power to bestow. A modern poet has said of another great discoverer, "His greatest lesson still, "Sail on!"

"So we are gathered here today to honor our great and beloved founder and I am asked to tell what women owe Dr. Still. Women are an inseparable half of humanity, so I could do this only by telling what Dr. Still has done for humanity, and that would take more volumes than I am able to write or than you would be able or willing to hear. Emerson has told us that the creator is greater than the thing created, so we are right in honoring our great founder.

"Did you ever think what it means for the exponents of a great school to be able to talk with their founder? Instead of having to imbibe his wisdom filtered through centuries of misrepresentation, to be able to hear from his own lips the principles he advocates, to watch the work of his hands demonstrate the theories of his brain? Suppose the millions of Buddhists could listen to the words of Buddha; suppose the students of philosophy could see and speak with Plato; would not the world tingle and thrill with the wonder of it? Suppose the dwellers on this great continent could see its discoverer face to face, could hear from his own lips the story of the great discovery he made, would not all other wonders pale before this one? But we osteopaths have just this privilege. We have a greater school than any of which Buddha or Plato ever dreamed,

a broader territory than Columbus gave the world, and we have the inestimable privilege of drinking at the fountain head, gaining our knowledge at its very source.

"It is not often that a big thing comes into the world, and when it comes, the reward of the discoverer is usually contumely and scorn. The appreciation and honor usually come centuries after, when praise or blame can cheer or chill no more. But fate has been kinder to our own great Columbus. For years she ignored him, but now she has relented and showered honors upon his head. A grateful humanity, healed from its suffering, relieved from its pain, has given its generous meed of grateful praise. And it is meet that we, more closely his children than the other members of the great human family, should come in love and gratitude to lay our tribute of devotion and reverence at his feet. The grand life has already passed far beyond the three score years and ten of the psalmist. May it stretch yet farther, for many years to come, and may the century mark, when it rolls into view, find him the same kindly, generous father to his ever-increasing family of children.

"May he ever, as he is today, be the truest inspiration, the highest influence, in our lives, and may we always appreciate the inestimable privilege that has been ours, that of sitting at the feet of the one, who in all this broad land of today, is most deserving of the love and gratitude of the sons and daughters of men."

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
JANUARY 17, 1962, FLAMINGO HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wilbur V. Cole, who served as President pro tem, in the absence of both the President and Vice President.

It was announced that copies of the minutes of the January, 1961, annual meeting had been sent to the membership.

Moved by Dr. Ward E. Perrin that the minutes be approved as printed.
Seconded. CARRIED.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Josephine Seyl, read her report. The report was received and filed.

Dr. Cole mentioned that Dr. Arabelle Wolf, who was unable to attend the meeting, had submitted a written report on the survey she had made, on behalf of the A.O.H.S., regarding historical records maintained by divisional societies. A copy is attached.

Dr. Cole brought up the proposal of Dr. Munish Feinberg that an honorary membership in the A.O.H.S. be awarded to Warren C. Young, author of the article on osteopathy, "Rising Fortunes of U.S. Bone Setters," which appeared in the September 26, 1960 issue of "Life."

Moved by Dr. Starks that Warren C. Young be granted an honorary membership in the American Osteopathic Historical Society. Seconded. CARRIED.

The following proposed amendments to the A.O.H.S. Constitution were presented:

Article V - Meetings

Delete the word "national" from the following:

"The annual meeting shall be held at the time of the national A.O.A. Convention."

Article VII - Amendments

Substitute the word "may" for the word "can" and the word "provided" for the word "providing" in the following:

"Amendments to this constitution can be made at the annual meeting, providing a two-thirds vote of the attending members is obtained and the membership shall have been notified at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting."

As Chairman of the Nominating Committee (appointed by President Mercer), Dr. Cole presented the following nominations of the Committee:

President: Dr. J. R. Forbes
Vice President: Dr. R. McFarlane Tilley
Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Wallace M. Pearson

Dr. Cole asked for further nominations.

Moved by Dr. Perrin that the nominations be closed and that the recommendations of the Committee be accepted. Seconded. CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Josephine Seyl, Secretary-Treasurer