## THE CANADA LANCET.

possible in the present advanced state of science and learning in general.

Just take the following from a pamphlet on Chiropractic by B. J. Palmer, a leader of the cult: "Many look at chiropractic as if it was a game of chance, good for some things, but not good for others; all right as far as it goes, but it don't go far enough, but on closer inspection it does not resolve itself into that, it is applicable to all things, under all conditions, no matter what."

Comment is unnecessary on such a statement. It is self thrice condemned.

3. Osteopathy. It should be noted with satisfaction that the commissioner advises that no separate status be granted osteopaths. That it would be a mistake to accord to them the privilege of legal standing as an independent body. Osteopaths will be barred from practising healing unless they first conform with the standards laid down by the Medical College. It would be impossible to find fault with this view. Osteopathy is only a sort of glorified massage, and anything to be found in this system of healing can be placed under the regular medical profession. To meet this view the report definitely advocates action by the Government with a view to encouraging the training of students in physical therapy.

It is recommended that an institute of physical therapy be established on the grounds of the Toronto General Hospital. There should be appointed a competent staff. There should be installed in the department of physics at the University a proper medical equipment for the teaching of physical therapy. The effect of this recommendation, if it becomes law, would be to give the medical student an opportunity of becoming familiar with the best features of physical therapeutics, such as massage, manipulations, electricity, etc.

That there are good features in the practice of osteopathy is not denied; but these good features are quite ordinary and embrace rubbing and manipulation. This is miles away from constituting a new system. It is only one, and, at that, a minor phase of general therapeutics. The part about osteopathy that drags it hopelessly into the dirt is the view that nearly all diseases are due to some luxation or displacement. This holds good for germ diseases, because there must be the malposition of some part, usually the spinal column, before the germ could cause disease. This also leads to a vicious theory about the application of the manipulations, so that a man's spinal column is loosened up to cure his thphoid fever, and so on. When physical treatment is placed in the hands of the medical profession, all this wild application of it will disappear. To say that a child should have its neck loosened up when it

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