

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

WHAT THE IRREGULARS ARE ASKING, AND THE ATTITUDE
OF THE PROFESSION.*

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WE shall confine our remarks to osteopathy, chiropractic, and optometry.

OSTEOPATHY.

The osteopaths want legal recognition as qualified practitioners of a recognized art of healing, and equal rights in regard to hospitals, sanatoria, vital certificates, insurance, etc. They have also asked the Government to authorize the establishment of a college and infirmary and of a Board or Council similar to the present Medical Council. They further request that regular osteopaths now practising should be entitled to continue to practise. There are about 100 of this class of drugless healers in Ontario—25 in Toronto.

Let us now see, if we can, what osteopathy is. If anyone ought to know, Dr. Still, the inventor, should. He says, osteopathy is simply this: "The law of human life is absolute, and I believe that God has placed the remedy for every disease within the material house in which the spirit of life dwells. I believe that the Maker of man has deposited in some part or throughout the whole system of the human body, drugs in abundance to cure all infirmities; that all the remedies necessary to health are compounded within the human body. So I hold that man should study and use only the drugs that are found in his own drug-store—that is, in his own body."

Osteopathy is then a science built on this principle: that man is a machine, needing, when diseased, an expert mechanical engineer, or osteopath.

R. B. Henderson, D.O., president of the Ontario Association of Osteopathy, submitted the following definition to the Royal Commissioner: "Osteopathy is that science of healing which emphasizes the diagnosis of disease by physical methods with a view to discovering not the symptoms, of which we take full cognizance, but the causes of disease in connection with misplacements of tissue, obstructions of the fluids, and interference with the forces of the organism. The treatment of diseases by scientific manipulation in connection with which the operating physician mechanically uses or applies the inherent resources of the organism to overcome disease and establish health."

* Read at the meeting of the Toronto Academy of Medicine, Jan. 4th, 1916.