

down adhesions around a stiff joint? What of the oculist who improves vision and cures headaches by glasses? What of the obstetrician who corrects a malpresentation and delivers the child alive? These are instances of treatment that are mechanical as the osteopaths would have us believe.

But osteopathy is an old thing under a new name. Long ago in Britain there were bonesetters. Then there was the system of treatment by Swedish movements. And all this comes back to what every tribe in the world has practiced since time began, namely, to rub stiff parts and gently stroke or handle painful parts. To reduce a dislocation is only educated manipulation.

But we wish to be fair to the osteopaths and therefore, we quote again from Kendrick Smith:

"Massage, gymnastics and such procedure have always been utilized in the practice of medicine, but they were general treatments administered by persons who were not physicians and given under the orders of the attending medical advisor. In absolute contradistinction to this, and it is most essential that this should be emphatically and distinctly understood, is osteopathy, a system complete in itself, applicable to the treatment of all conditions, the osteopaths being mechanical physicians as contrasted with medical physicians. The contrast is one of method, not of completeness or scientific or professional prestige."

So the osteopathic system differs entirely from "massage, gymnastics and such procedure," though we are told that it is mechanical. We are told "osteopathy is a system complete in itself, applicable to the treatment of all conditions." Now, how can this be so, when it is only a mechanical system, as there are so many conditions that could not be treated in this manner, and, if so treated would be made worse, as peritonitis from a rupture tube, appendix, or stomach. Yet it is a "system complete in itself, and applicable to the treatment of all conditions." May kind heaven defend the people from such a system!

But the same authority goes on to state:

"As a matter of fact osteopathy is a positive, not a negative, system of treatment. The principle of osteopathy is anatomical adjustment. Because this principle is correct and because it works, it happens that medicine is not necessary for its adherents, but there is no more sense in classifying osteopathy as a non-drug system than in labelling it as non-electrical system or a non-anything else."

Now, what "anatomical adjustment" is there to be made in the case of a person who is dying from pressure on the brain caused by a syphilitic gumma? This is a case for proper antisyphilitic treatment, and not for twisting at the spinal column in some ignorant sort of way.