

ments with both contempt and disgust. They constitute the grossest possible distortion of the etiology and pathology of disease.

OSTEOPATHIC CASE REPORTS.

I have examined many of the case reports of osteopathic practitioners with the object of determining the merits of their claims and the range of applicability of the system.

Take this case from "Practice of Osteopathy," by Charles Hazzard, page 77: "Male, aged 43, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th dorsal vertebrae posterior, especially the 3rd. The cervical muscles were badly contracted, due to the atlas being displaced to the right." Relief in this case was secured "by pressing the dorsal vertebrae forward, throwing the upper ribs and clavicles forward." To begin with, the bones of the spinal column cannot be moved at pleasure. In the next place, the atlas would not be displaced to the right. Such things do not happen, except as the result of accident, which reveals the conditions in some other way than asthma. Finally, asthma is a disease with many peculiarities in its clinical history. It may come on suddenly and suddenly abate.

A case of pleurisy is reported on page 111 thus: "The case was developed by the irritation of the eighth and ninth left ribs, which were luxated by continued bending over at his work. Correction of the lesion cured the case." It may be said definitely that stooping at his work, that of dentistry in this case, did not luxate or displace his ribs. Such a view is untenable. Then any irregularity in the shape of one's ribs do not cause pleurisy. Such a view of etiology is pure nonsense. If one meets with an injury and fractures his ribs he may have a pleurisy. In the last place, pleurisy usually tends to recover, so it would be quite erroneous to speak of manipulating the ribs as having *cured* the case.

On page 162 this case is reported: "Constipation and piles of many years' standing, caused by a bent coccyx. Four treatments gave great relief." It may be noted here that constipation and piles are not caused by a bent coccyx; and that a surgical operation is the only way by which a bent coccyx can be straightened. Then, anyway, an attack of constipation and piles is often a matter of short duration.

On page 167 a case of appendicitis is thus recorded: "Lesions; 2nd lumbar lateral, with heat and pain about it; 11th right rib luxated. Treatment relieved at once, and the patient was cured in two weeks." Now the so-called lesions mentioned had nothing to do with the appendicitis; and to say that they had is to discredit one's intelligence. Moreover, it is common enough for an attack of appendicitis to recover in two weeks.

On page 330 there is the mention of the following case: "Total