EDITORIAL

A. T. STILL, THE FOUNDER OF OSTEOPATHY.

We have before us the Autobiography of Andrew T. Still, with a History of the Discovery and Development of the Science of Osteopathy. It will be noted that the claim is put forth that osteopathy is a *science*. Now, this is just what it is not; for it is the very antithesis of science. There is nothing scientific about osteopathy, unless it be in the fact that it is a means towards the making of money on the foundation of a most erroneous theory regarding diseases and their treatment. In his preface he asks us to read his story as he has written it, and not "the garbled account of some newspaper misrepresentative."

On page 322 of the Autobiography we are told that he was born 68 years ago, and as the date of the first edition was 1897, this would fix the date of his birth as 1829. He tells us that when five years of age he was taught by a teacher who occupied himself mainly in flogging the pupils from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. This was in Virginia. In 1835 his father moved to Newmarket, in Tennessee, where young Still attended Holston College. In 1837 his father, who was both a doctor and a clergyman, was appointed to a mission field in Missouri. This ended his schooling till 1839. In the years 1839 and 1840, under a teacher engaged by about a dozen persons for their children. The father in 1840 moved to another district in Missouri, which interrupted young Still's education till 1842.

In the autumn of this year his father felled trees and built a log cabin 18 by 20 feet, and seven feet high, with mother earth for the floor. In this very primitive building, for the sum of two dollars a head, a teacher instructed the young folks, including Still. In the summer of 1843 there was a three months' course. In 1845 he went to school in La Plata, Missouri. In 1848 he went back to La Plata to attend a school devoted to the study of numbers, where he remained until he had mastered the cube and square root.