

OSTEOPATHY.

We return to this topic for a very definite reason. The next session of the Legislature will almost for a certainty pass the proposed Medical Act. It will be a most important piece of legislation. Each body interested in it shall try to get as great concessions as possible, and it may be taken for granted that the osteopathic practitioners will not be idle.

If one watches the lay press it becomes apparent that there is an educating campaign in progress. Almost daily in some paper one meets with letters advocating the use of manipulation, and especially for returned soldiers. This sort of thing has been most persistent in the United States. The following from the *New York Tribune* is to the point:

"For the medical profession to continue its quasi-boycott on the practitioners of osteopathy is equally ill-advised at the present time. Especially in the war and in the treatment of convalescents we are sure that osteopathy could do a wide and valuable service. It is precisely the sort of thing that is needed, especially in the later stages of recovery, and with the crying need for physicians it seems an extremely short-sighted policy to reject this proffered aid. Osteopathy has a definite and not a misprized part in modern therapeutics. And it is an ill-timed prejudice which now refuses its meed of recognition."

Commenting on this a Toronto newspaper said as follows:

"A similar prejudice seems to exist in Canada. The Ontario Osteopathic Association offered to equip a free sanitarium for the treatment of returned soldiers, but the offer was ignored. At the same time it is said that at Hart House osteopathic methods are freely used. Apparently the idea is to borrow them without giving the recognized practitioners of the system any share of control or credit."

Just think of turning our maimed soldiers over to the care and treatment of a body of men who follow the nonsensical teachings of the late A. T. Still. His theory of disease was wrong in every detail. He formulated the notion that almost every known human ailment is due to some sort of a displacement; and that the vast majority of these displacements, or subluxations, are to be found in the spinal column. Now this is all wrong. It will at once appear that, even if there be merit in manipulation, it would yield mischievous results if applied on the Still or osteopathic theory. This sort of thing would never do.

But just look at the naivety of the remark, "that at the Hart House osteopathic methods are freely used." This is most misleading. Osteopathy is not only entirely wrong in theory, but it has added nothing in the practical application of manipulation. What is good in this method of treatment has come from other sources than Still and his followers. In some form manipulation and rubbing is both ancient and world-wide. Ling, Olstrom, Mitchell, Graham, and many others have given to it a