

osteopathy. It would be quite erroneous to title him doctor, for in no sense was he a graduate of any medical college.

His father was a minister of the Gospel, and while A. T. Still was a mere boy was sent as a missionary to the Western States, especially Missouri and Kansas. In these locations it was impossible for young Still to obtain any medical education.

In his autobiography A. T. Still tells us that his father was a doctor, but from what college there is no intimation. It is possible that the future founder of osteopathy learned some medical lore from his father.

During the Civil War A. T. Still records his experiences in the army; but they were as the leader of some men, not as a doctor or surgeon. In one place there is the single sentence that he was a surgeon under General Fremont, but when or where is not stated.

About 1874 he began to think that drugs were of no use, and formed his idea of a new system of treatment. He had been digging up Indian bones and studying anatomy after a certain fashion. He came to the most erroneous conclusions that the rule of the artery was absolute and that the body contained a remedy for every disease.

He never had any training in physiology, chemistry, clinical medicine or surgery, and bacteriology was to him wholly unknown. With this sort of mental equipment, he set forth to give the world a new science of diseases and their treatment.

Now the new treatment is only a form of manipulation. It is a combination of massage and motion of the parts of the body. There is absolutely nothing in it that is new, or was new even when he began to practise it. The public might think it new, but not the medical profession. Rubbing, friction, massaging, loosening joints, bone-setting, Swedish movements, etc., were all known prior to the teachings of A. T. Still.

It is true that at times a patient may derive benefit from such treatment. There are cases of stiff joints or congested muscles that judicious rubbing and manipulation may improve, but this is not a new system of therapeutics. On the other hand, we have known of many instances where this sort of treatment has been the means of doing a very great deal of harm.

To discard the protective value of anti-typhoid fever inoculation, the preventive influence of vaccination against smallpox, and the use of anti-tetanic serum in the present war, would mean the loss of the war to the side that so acted. And this is the very sort of teaching of the late A. T. Still and his present-day followers. The whole system of osteopathy is a disgrace to this century.