

Such is the status of a science and system of healing which but two or three decades ago was entirely contained within the thought of a single man. Could anything more strongly appeal to mortal man as regards its efficacy than to see the universal public as well as men of learning inquiring as to the why of Osteopathic success?

The reason of all this is apparent when a thorough research is made by the intelligent mind. In the first place it must be noted that Osteopathy is the culmination of all the positive medical knowledge of the ages. True it is that Osteopathy has Therapeutical knowledge absolutely its own, nevertheless the basic principles are the same wherever cures are performed. Medical men for centuries past have been striving to discover the exact cause of disease to apply specific treatment. They have signally failed in many of their attempts, although in others success has been achieved.

At this stage Osteopathy steps into the field of medical science and occupies the field of its chaotic and unreliable factor—drugs—with the determination to improve upon past methods.

This is done with full confidence because it offers to the world a complete science to take the place of empirical practice. Giving drugs for various human ailments has been the great stumbling block of the past. Physicians have long attempted to alleviate and cure disease by drugs until they have become disgusted with the uncertainty accompanying such procedure. The Osteopath takes advantage of this fact and by his research in nature's laws has discovered that the body is a complete mechanism and contains within its tissues and forces such remedies as are essential to the cure of disease. He finds that it is not external agencies which are required by the body, other than substantial food, to prevent, alleviate and cure disorders; but that the body mechanism demands mechanical liberation of its pent-up forces and fluids; that when the chemical and dynamic forces of the body are complete then health ensues, and that disease implies physiological and psychological disturbances, dependent upon anatomical disorders. When the anatomical is correct the physiological potentates is an Osteopathic maxim. Thus it is very apparent that Osteopathic science is characterized by keeping the body tissues mechanically correct.

There is nothing mystical in the least about practical Osteopathic procedure. It means, first, the application of the mechanical principle concerned in each and every case, and, second, the care of the body hygienically. Naturally preceding the therapeutics there arises the etiology of disease.

The Cause of Disease.

In all specific treatment the cure of the affection depends directly upon the cause. Hence, the cause of the disease from the Osteopathic point of view is any force that would cause derangement of the tissues to such an extent that the pathological or perverted physiological action arises. In other words, such mechanical violence as follows the various strains, slips, falls, bruises, etc., to which all are daily subjected and which results in functional or organic changes.

Any fall or strain might occasion displacement of a bone, muscle, ligament, cartilage, etc., to such an extent that pressure or irritation is brought to bear upon nerve fibres, blood vessels, lymphatics, etc., and local or remote disorder is the effect.

The Cure of Disease.

The Osteopath, with infinite labor and patience, properly adjusts the bones, normalizes and puts the misfit muscles into their traces, reduces false pressures, stimulates, relaxes, or inhibits the mighty network of nerves that control the functions of every organ in the body. He frees the forces and currents. Nerve centres are manipulated by manual pressure, so that by stimulating or desensitizing the Osteopath controls and regulates the action of the heart, stomach, bowels, liver, pancreas, kidneys and diaphragm and other functions. By pressure on the vasometer centre which controls the calibre of the arteries, he reduces the temperature of fevers several degrees in as many minutes.

True it is that often nature is very kind to us, and *vis medicatrix naturæ* is able to meet the demand. Many times, however, nature is unable to cope with the disturbance, and the finely constructed and sensitive mechanism suffers the consequences. How utterly ridiculous, then, for the physician to prescribe an external agent with the hope of eliminating or relieving some symptom or morbid condition dependent upon the derangement;