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## HISTORICAL NOTE.

The basic principles of Osteopathy were first announced by Dr. Andrew T. Still, a physician of the old school, about the year 1874, and it is therefore a quarter of a century old. The discovery was the result of observation of the repeated and persistent failures of drugs in the cure of certain diseases of the human body.

After considerable experiment and research, he came to the conclusion that a large number of diseases were caused primarily by dislocations of the various parts of the bony structure of the body. He demonstrated by actual operations that these dislocations directly, or by producing a wrong alignment of the muscular attachments, caused obstruction to the flow of blood and lymph, or made a pressure on the nerves, resulting finally in lack or excess of nutrition, and derangement or total loss of function. His theory was that if the pressure on the nerves and blood vessels could be removed by restoring each part of the body to its original and normal condition that nature would resume its operation, and he proved the correctness of his reasoning by performing many wonderful cures of diseases pronounced incurable by the medical profession. The greatest success of his treatment was in the reduction of misplacements and dislocations, such as so-called hip disease, curvature of the spine, etc., and from this fact the name Osteopathy was adopted.

The word is derived from the Greek word "osteon" (bone) and "pathos" (disease of suffering).

A great many criticisms have been offered by different hypercritical members of the allopathic and homeopathic schools as to the fitness of the name; but as the word allopathy literally means "another disease," and homeopathy "the same disease," we believe the criticisms are not well founded when put on a comparative basis.

For a number of years after the announcement of his theory he encountered great opposition; but as the time passed, and the results of the work became more widely known, this opposition abated in a measure, and the science was accepted by the people, and there is no form of treatment that has ever been discovered and presented to the public that has made as many friends as that of the science of Osteopathy. And the reason for this is, that it is based on plain common sense and redeems its promises.

In course of time a school was established for the education of practitioners, from which a number graduated and made locations in different parts of the country, and by this the knowledge of the science was enlarged, although there are thousands of people still who know nothing of it.

Within the last two years laws have been enacted legalizing its practice in eight states, and it is merely a question of a short time before it will be so recognized in every state in the Union. In one or two legislatures the bills in its favor were passed by unanimous vote of the bodies, and in others the vote was practically unanimous, as the only votes against it were cast by doctors of medicine holding seats in the house or senate.

## AN EXPLANATION OF OSTEO-PATHY.

Osteopathy maintains a unique and commanding position to-day before the world of science.

Unique, because no other school of medicine has ever leaped forth in unrestrained bounds and received the good will both of press and legislature; commanding, because men of scientific eminence on both sides of the globe are earnestly endeavoring to learn of its philosophy.