

Palmer and the Bone-setters: Some Possible Connections

Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Ph.D.

Professor

Palmer College of Chiropractic/West

1095 Dunford Way, Sunnyvale CA 94087

School: 408-983-4000

Residence: 408-395-3605



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ABSTRACT

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KEY INDEXING TERMS:

Let us see now how these systems of caring for the sick helped to influence D.D.'s thinking on the benefits and advantages of working manually -- with the hands.

INTRODUCTION

(a) Phrenology:

Lerner (1954):

In the closing years of the 18th century, Dr. Franz Jose Gall, a Vienna physician, who had made a study of the human brain his specialty, published a theory that each human 'faculty' such as reasoning, talking, calculating, etc. was controlled by a special area of the brain. He made a map, showing the localities of 30 of these faculties.

Another five year period (approximately) passes by, and once again he makes a change. He coins the word, "Chiropractic" about 1896 or 1897 and describes his work as follows:

Dr. Gall's theory may or may not be true; we do not know enough about the brain yet to be sure; though, so far, only the "speech center" has been acutally located.

"Done by Hand"

By the practice of "feeling" the bumps of the skull and then estimating their proportional sizes and importance, the practitioner of phrenology came to believe that he would be able to tell whether the person examined was morally good or bad, healthy or unhealthy, and whether he (or she) by nature was intended to deal with mathematics, music, business, or even burglary.

We began wondering why it was that he had been prompted to place particular emphasis upon the use of the hands in caring for the sick. As I viewed his career, I recognized that he had been studying several forms of healing and most of them embraced in one way or another "manual practice", or the use of the hands.

In the year 1899, he published the following statement about himself:

Barker HA. *Leaves from my life*. 1927, Hutchinson & Co, Ltd. London

"I have taken lessons and studied Christian Science, Faith Cure, Mind Cure, Metaphysics, Magnetic and Osteopathy, therefore, I am acquainted with each and know their differences..."

According to the information furnished to us in August, 1952 by B.J. (during his tape recording) D.D. had also studied Phrenology.