

D.D. Palmer's Several Theories of Chiropractic

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1. Keating JC. The embryology of chiropractic thought. *European Journal of Chiropractic* 1991 (Dec); 39(3): 75-89

Table 1: D.D. Palmer's concepts during four periods of publications*

Concept:	1897-1902	1903-06	1908-10	1914
therapeusis	Yes	No	No	No
method	manipulation	adjustment	adjustment	adjustment
innate/educated	absent	nerves; Intelligence	Intelligence	Intelligence
circulatory obstruction	Yes	No	No	No
machine metaphor	Yes	Yes	No	No
nerve pinching	Yes	Yes	No	No
foraminal occlusion	?	Yes	No	No
tone	(vital)	absent	Yes	Yes
nerve vibration	?	?	Yes	Yes
religious plank	absent	absent	optional?	obligatory?

*from 2. Keating JC. The evolution of Palmer's metaphors and hypotheses. *Philosophical Constructs for the Chiropractic Profession* 1992 (Sum); 2(1): 9-19; reprinted in abridged form in the *Beacon* (Palmer College/Davenport Student Newspaper) 1992 (Oct); 33(19): 22-7; reprinted in its entirety in the *Beacon* 1993 (Feb); 33(23): 18-21

3. Keating JC. *Toward a philosophy of the science of chiropractic: a primer for clinicians*. Stockton CA: Stockton Foundation for Chiropractic Research, 1992, pp. 52-7

Table 1: D.D. Palmer's concepts during three periods of publications*

Concept:	<i>The Chiropractic</i> ^a (1897-1902)	<i>The Chiropractor</i> ^b (1904-06)	<i>The Chiropractor Adjuster</i> , ^c <i>The Chiropractor's Adjuster</i> (1908-10)
circulatory obstruction?	Yes	No	No
nerve pinching?	Yes	Yes	No
foraminal occlusion?	?	Yes	No
nerve vibration?	?	?	Yes
therapeusis?	Yes	No	No
method of intervention?	manipulation	adjustment	adjustment
innate/educated?	absent	nerves; Intelligence	Intelligence
religious plank?	absent	absent	optional?
machine metaphor?	Yes	Yes	Yes & No
tone?	(vital)	absent	Yes

^a*The Chiropractic* was the title of D.D. Palmer's journal during the early years of his practice in Davenport, Iowa

^b*The Chiropractor* was the title of the journal published by he and son B.J. Palmer beginning in December, 1904 from the Palmer School in Davenport.

^c*The Chiropractor Adjuster* was the title of D.D. Palmer's journal published in Portland by the D.D. Palmer College of Chiropractic, while *The Chiropractor's Adjuster* was the title of his book.

*from 4. Keating JC. Old Dad Chiro comes to Portland, 1908-10. *Chiropractic History* 1993 (Dec); 13(2): 36-44

Table 1: Contrast between D.D. Palmer's two theories of cancer: 1897 vs. 1904*

Cancers: Their Cause and Cure	Cancers: Their Cause and Cure
<i>The Chiropractic</i> 1897a (Jan); 17: 2	<i>The Chiropractor</i> 1904 (Dec); 1(1): 15
<p>...The cause is an obstruction to the blood circulation and an injury to certain nerves. Show us a case of cancer - no matter in what portion of the body that cancer may be - and we will at once show you two injuries which obstruct the blood circulation and injure certain nerves. It is this combination of injured nerves and obstructions which cause cancers.</p>	<p>Cancers are but the symptoms of impinged nerves. We no longer wonder that there are so many kinds when we consider that no two of us sense alike. All cancers, no matter in what part of the body, have one and the same cause; they are all produced by injured nerves, but the effect of these irritated nerves show their dissimilarity in the great diversity of cancers.</p>

*from 5. Keating JC. "Heat by nerves and not by blood": the first major reduction in chiropractic theory, 1903. *Chiropractic History* 1995 (Dec); 15(2): 70-77