Disasters, Discoveries, Developments and Distinction: The Year That Was 1907

ROLF E. PETERS and MARY ANN CHANCE

ABSTRACT: During 1907, D.D. Palmer went back to commerce briefly before returning to teaching chiropractic, and his former student Thomas Storey faced prosecution for injuries thought to have resulted in a patient’s death. B.J. Palmer announced special chiropractic courses for osteopaths and medical practitioners and a one-off bridging course for “pseudos.” He also established a night school, invested heavily in teaching aids, published Volume 2 of The Science of Chiropractic and made a number of practice aids available to the profession. In a premeditated test case, Palmer graduate Shegataro Morikubo and the Universal Chiropractors’ Association (UCA) legal team established chiropractic as separate and distinct from medicine and osteopathy. The year was also characterised by catastrophic earthquakes, floods, mine explosions, rail disasters and shipwrecks, achievements in women’s suffrage, an important scientific discovery and establishment of a number of modern icons.

INDEX TERMS: CHIROPRACTIC; HISTORY OF MEDICINE, 20TH CENTURY; HISTORICAL ARTICLE.

INTRODUCTION

In August 2007 we attended Palmer College Homecoming and participated in the dedication ceremony for the new $12.5 million Academic Health Centre, a 3-storey, 50,000 sq ft, state-of-the-art facility financed in large part by alumni donations. In another Homecoming ceremony, one of us (REP) received the “50 Years of Service to Chiropractic and Humanity” medal, marking a half-century as a practising chiropractor. In the 50-something years we have been connected with the profession, we have witnessed exponential development in chiropractic practice, education, research and publication and the gradual integration of chiropractic into the health care system, but we were curious about what was happening on this campus on Brady Street hill a hundred years ago, and what events were shaping the status of our profession.

In 1906, B.J. Palmer had taken over leadership of the Palmer School by buying out his father’s interests, purchased 828 Brady Street and added a lecture hall to the building. He had also more than doubled student enrolment by temporarily reducing tuition fees, commenced a series of public lectures on chiropractic and published The Science of Chiropractic.1

During 1907, B.J. would consolidate growth of the School, acquire a number of important teaching aids for the chiropractic course, start a new series of public lectures, offer recordings of these lectures for sale, and introduce a new kind of adjusting table. The most important development, however, would be establishing the identity of chiropractic as separate and distinct from osteopathy in the landmark case of the State of Wisconsin vs. Morikubo.

There were discoveries, disasters and other news of note that we will recount briefly, to impart a flavour of the times.

THE WORLD IN 1907

Quakes, Volcanoes and Tsunamis

Geologically, 1907 was an even more turbulent year than 1906 had been.1 In January, an earthquake rocked Kingston, Jamaica, virtually flattening the city in 36 seconds of hell. At least a thousand persons perished, and property damage was estimated at $10 million.2 On the other side of the world, thousands more died in the Dutch East Indies (Sumatra) when an earthquake and accompanying disturbances in the ocean touched off a tsunami that destroyed and almost totally submerged Simalu (aka Hog Island), drowning 1,500 and sweeping them out to sea. Another 400 were killed on Tana Island.3

At least 1,000 died in April in a major earthquake along the west coast of Mexico between Acapulco and Salina Cruz. Earthquakes were also felt on the same day near Constantinople, in Spain and in the Russian Trans-Caspian Territory.4 Even more devastating were earthquakes in October leaving 12,000 dead in Central Asia5 and another 12,000 in Russia.6

On the island of Hawaii, Mauna Loa erupted in January,7 and in mid-April, Puyehue volcano in Chile erupted violently, accompanied by awful subterranean rumblings, earthquakes, intense darkness, electrical displays, flying ash and boiling water.8 Stromboli also became violently active in 1907; some believed this to be a precursor to the great seismic convulsion that virtually destroyed Messina the following year.9 Other major eruptions took place in Indonesia and in Africa.7

Rolf E. Peters, MCSc, DC, FICC, FACC
Mary Ann Chance, DC, FICC, FACC
Editors, Chiropractic Journal of Australia
Wagga Wagga, New South Wales

Chiropractic Journal of Australia
Volume 37 Number 4 December 2007
Floods

The worst storm in 23 years blew across Southern California on 9 January, killing a rancher, washing out railroad tracks, collapsing tunnels and leaving nearly every small ship in Santa Barbara sunk, driven ashore or pounded into kindling. Floodwaters and gale-force winds uprooted trees and destroyed bridges, rolling stock, and oilrigs. In Los Angeles, many avenues were flooded from curb to curb, and churning water threw aside heavy manhole covers and flowed from the storm sewers, turning streets into rivers.\textsuperscript{9}

Heavy flooding was experienced later in January in Kentucky, leaving thousands of Louisville residents homeless and hundreds more out of work as factories, warehouses, lumber yards and business houses were engulfed in the floodwaters.\textsuperscript{10}

In Australia, Melbourne’s Yarra River flooded on 25 January; a photograph of a train passing through floodwaters in South Yarra can be seen at http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/images/12800/12800/00001-000107-290.asp. At the end of February, there was a considerable rise in the Brisbane River after heavy rains, washing immense quantities of water hyacinth into the Brisbane reaches of the river.\textsuperscript{11}

Flooding in the Carson River Basin of California and Nevada resulted when heavy snows started on 16 March and extended down to the valley floors, turning into rain that continued until 20 March across the entire watershed. Bridges and dams were destroyed, agricultural land and irrigation structures were severely impacted, badly damaged stretches of railway were closed for 6 weeks, and residents of low-lying areas had to be evacuated.\textsuperscript{12} At about the same time, snowmelt combined with heavy rains allowed the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers to swell out of their banks, leading to a record flood in Pittsburgh. Death toll was low, but damage to the city was estimated at US$5 million (1907 dollars).\textsuperscript{13}

Thousands were left starving in Japan when major floods in August destroyed rice crops.\textsuperscript{5}

Shipwrecks

In January the Liverpool ship Pengwern ran aground near Scharhoern with only the mizzenmast visible; the crew had drowned despite heroic efforts of the captain and crew of the tug Vulcan to rescue them.\textsuperscript{14}

When the three-masted schooner Harry Knowlton and the Joy Line steamer Larchmont collided near Block Island Sound, Rhode Island during the night of 11 February, more than 150 went to their death. It is believed that many went down with the ships, however most who survived the collision froze to death in their lifeboats.\textsuperscript{15}

On 21 February the Rotterdam mail steamer Berlin en route from England was wrecked off the Hook of Holland at the entrance to the river Maas, leading to Rotterdam. Initially only one of some 200 people on board were thought to have survived,\textsuperscript{16} however later reports indicated that rescuers led by Prince Henry, husband of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, were able to rescue another 14.\textsuperscript{17}

Three days later, the Austrian Lloyd steamship Imperatrix, bound for Bombay from Trieste, wrecked on Cape of Crete and sank, killing 137, and the French warship Jean Bart sank off the coast of Morocco.\textsuperscript{18}

In March the steamship Congo sank at the mouth of the Ems River when it collided with the German steamship Nerissa, killing 7,\textsuperscript{19} and the powder magazine on board the French battleship Jena exploded, apparently caused by the explosion of compressed air in a torpedo on the vessel.\textsuperscript{19} Next day it was reported that at least 80 men had perished, including the commander of the ship and the chief of staff of the Mediterranean squadron. A further 300 men were seriously wounded, many without hope of survival.\textsuperscript{20}
On 15 July an explosion occurred on the U.S. battleship Georgia, commissioned only 10 months earlier. Eight men were killed and 13 seriously injured when powder that had just been taken from the ammunition hoist exploded while the ship was at target practice. A week later, the steamship Columbia collided with steamship San Pedro off Shelton Cove, Mendocino County, California, killing 100, including the captain.

Rail Disasters

The Accident Bulletin issued on 31 July by the Interstate Commerce Commission indicated that during the 3 months ended 31 March there occurred 2,078 collisions and 1,913 derailments in the United States, causing 421 deaths and 4,920 injuries.

Mining Disasters

An explosion in a Colorado mine late in January killed 20. Another 8 were killed in an explosion in a West Virginia mine, which triggered a cave-in that nearly caused entombment of 100 miners.

December was a very bad month for mine explosions in the United States: Fayette City PA, 1 December, 30 killed; Monongah WV, 6 December, 338 killed; Leadville CO, 9 December, 18 entombed; Yolande AL, 14 December, 75 killed; Jacobs Creek PA, 19 December, 250 entombed—a total of 711 casualties for the month. The U.S. Congress reacted to the Monongah disaster by passing tougher mining laws.

Political Events

On 13 February mounted London police rode into a deputation from the Women’s Social and Political Union as they marched on Parliament to demand voting rights. After clashing with the police for 5 hours, 15 suffragettes reached the House of Commons and 57 were sent to Holloway Prison. Parliament killed the woman suffrage bill on 8 March. A week later, Finnish women won their first seats in the nation’s parliament, and in June Norway’s Storting granted suffrage for women provided they or their husbands paid taxes regularly.

Korea’s Emperor Kojong was pressured to abdicate in favour of his son on 19 July after 43 years in power. Korea became a Japanese protectorate under terms of a treaty signed 6 days later.

In November, Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory became Oklahoma, which was admitted as the 46th U.S. state.

Landmarks and Icons

Nieman-Marcus, the famous Dallas fashion emporium, opened in September. The initial stock—$17,000 worth of women’s tailored suits, evening gowns, furs, coats, dresses and millinery—sold out in just 4 weeks.

New York’s Plaza Hotel, built at a cost of $12 million, opened on 1 October opposite the southeast end of Central Park. After nearly a century as one of the city’s premier...
hotels, it closed in 2005 to undergo extensive renovations. In May 2007, a new apartment in the Plaza was sold for a record $50 million. The Plaza will reopen in 2008 as a hotel/condominium.30

The United Parcel Service (UPS) had its beginnings when the American Messenger Company was founded in Seattle in 1907, changing its name to UPS in 1910. It was destined to grow to deliver some 3 billion parcels a year. Other icons to be established in 1907 were United Press (UP), the Boy Scouts, and Bondi Surf Bathers’ Lifesaving Club, the first lifesaving club in the world.31

Science and Medicine

Alois Alzheimer found accumulations of plaque around nerves and unusual bundles of cells in the cerebral cortex of a dementia patient, providing an explanation for anxiety, agitation and feelings of helplessness experienced by such patients. Though Alzheimer’s disease accounted for more than half of dementia, it remained so rare that little research would be conducted into it until more people lived beyond age 65.32

Outbreaks of bubonic plague were reported during 1907 in San Francisco, Manchuria and China33 and killed 1.3 million people in India.34

Sports and Entertainment

Louis B. Mayer opened his first movie theatre in 1907 and ten years later would found his own production company, which eventually became part of Metro-Goldwyn Mayer. Many future stars of the screen were born during the year: Ray Milland, Cesar Romero, Buster Crabbe, Robert Young, Katherine Hepburn, Laurence Olivier, John Wayne, Rosalind Russell, Barbara Stanwyck, Burgess Meredith, Gene Autry and Peggy Ashcroft.35

Police arrested Australian long-distance swimmer Annette Kellerman for indecent exposure at Boston’s Revere Beach, where she appeared in a skirtless one-piece bathing suit. Even infants would be required to wear complete bathing costumes on U.S. beaches for another quarter century.36

The first long-distance motor car rally, promoted by Le Matin newspaper, began on 10 June as 5 cars left Beijing for Paris. Winner was a 40-horsepower Italia driven by Prince Scipione Borghese, who arrived in Paris on 10 August.37

Miscellany

Taxis equipped with meters that compute fares based on distance travelled and time elapsed first appeared in New York City in May 1907.38 Ironically it was not until 17 October 2007 that legislation was passed in Washington, DC that will make time-and-distance meters mandatory for District of Columbia taxis by 1 April 2008.39

D.D. PALMER’S ADVENTURES

In February 1907 Willard Carver—formerly D.D. Palmer’s lawyer, then a graduate of Parker School of Chiropractic in Ottumwa, Iowa and at this time head of the Carver-Denny Chiropractic College and Sanitarium in Oklahoma City—learned that D.D. was living in Medford, Oklahoma and went to visit him to see how he was doing. D.D. was living comfortably, making a good income from his store and seeing a number of Medford residents as chiropractic patients. Carver proposed that D.D. come to the college, where he would lecture on chiropractic, secure students and also make his extensive mailing list available to Carver. This was agreeable to D.D., so a contract was drawn, and in a few days Palmer arrived in Oklahoma City. When Palmer was not on time for his appointment at the Carver-Denny College, it was ascertained that he had gone instead to see Alva Gregory, a medical practitioner, and formed the Palmer-Gregory School. This association lasted for only three months and one week.33

To squelch the falsehoods promoted by some individuals that D.D. Palmer was not the discoverer of chiropractic, but was taught chiropractic by someone else, B.J. offered to pay anyone $1,000 if they could provide evidence of this.34 In November, B.J. offered $5,000 to anyone who could prove that D.D. received his instruction from the Bohemians or anyone else.35 To put this amount into perspective, the Buck Auto, Carriage and Implements Company of Davenport advertised 1907 Buick models at the cost of $1,120, $1,250 and $1,900, and their top model for $2,500. Imagine the cost of two of today’s top model Buicks at today’s prices!36

Advertisement for Buick cars. Davenport Democrat and Leader, 23 June 1907.

THOMAS STOREY

In 1905 D.D. Palmer published an article in The Chiropractor about the mysterious disappearance of Dr Thomas H. Storey, which was ostensibly the reason the elder Palmer had abandoned Davenport in 1902.37 The story was later retold in the Davenport Democrat and Leader.38 Storey, said to have been a vitapractic physician in Duluth, Minnesota, was a student of D.D. Palmer in 1901. During his student days, when Palmer was teaching adjustments of the thoracic and lumbar spine only, Storey devised a mallet and wedge to adjust the cervical spine. He taught this method to Dan Riesland, who spread it throughout Minnesota. Storey had developed a very large practice in Duluth before he disappeared.39
It was not long before Storey was again in the news, this time following the death of a patient about an hour after being adjusted. At this time Storey was practising in Los Angeles and still using the mallet-and-wedge technique. He used a number of other unorthodox techniques, including suspending patients from the ceiling by means of a harness or halter while a heavy mallet was applied “in no tender or gentle manner to various portions of their anatomy.”

The paper also reported that Storey had been arrested about a year earlier on a charge of maltreating a patient, but got off with a fine. The patient was allegedly suspended by his neck in a halter and beaten on the back with a sledge hammer.

Domenick Premus, a farmer from near San Bernardino, had suffered for some time with “kidney and liver trouble” and consulted Storey on the advice of a friend after Chinese herbal treatment had no apparent effect. He was treated on five occasions, the last being on 1 October 1907, when his wife accompanied him. She told the press that Storey had tortured her husband by inserting a heavy wooden drill between the vertebrae and pounding it with a heavy mallet and also placed his hands on the spine and jumped up and down, throwing his whole weight on the small of his back.

Earlier that morning, Premus had apparently been able to walk with ease and talked in a rational manner, complaining only occasionally of a pain with the mallet. He was with Storey for 15 minutes, and an hour later stretched out on the bed at the boarding house where he and his wife were staying during his course of treatment. He placed his hands on the spot where the “drill” had been jammed and began to moan. Before his wife could give him assistance, he went into convulsions, screaming and clawing at the painful spot in his back. Finally, with a cry, he leaped off the bed, rolling to the floor, and was dead within seconds.

The following day, cause of death was found to be a haemorrhage of the lungs due to tuberculosis, however the physician performing the autopsy believed that the treatment he underwent was “too severe for a weak man.” The same day a complaint was filed against Storey for violating the Medical Practice Act. To escape arrest, he fled to Mexico, where he remained until March 1908.

B.J. Palmer used this tragic case to illustrate the dangers of heroic measures such as Storey had used. While condemning his methods, he referred to him as “a congenial, good man and PSC graduate” who devised his wedge-and-mallet adjustments because at the time he was taught, the school “had not elucidated a system of how to adjust cervical subluxations.” He went on to say:

Dr. Storey was and is welcome to return to the PSC without any additional cost and take a post-graduate course and learn how to accomplish more in a minute’s adjustment (using only the hands) than he will do with all the... paraphernalia... that is dangerous to the extreme...

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE PALMER SCHOOL

When B.J. Palmer bought out his father in 1906, the school was still incorporated under its original name, Palmer’s School of Magnetic Cure. On 21 May 1907, he incorporated it as Palmer School and Infirmary of Chiropractic.

Lower Tuition, More Offerings

On 1 January 1907, the Palmer School inaugurated a new tuition system by making permanent the previous year’s special offer of 9 months tuition for $100. This succeeded in attracting even more students: by the end of November, the PSC had enrolled 87 students during 1907. A special chiropractic course for osteopaths was also announced in January.

While lowering tuition made the course more affordable, many were still hindered from completing the program because of the need to support themselves and their families. To meet this challenge, the PSC began, in November, offering a night school course with the same content as available to day students. Credits were fully transferable between day and night school should students decide to change from one to the other.

In the 10 years that the Palmers had been teaching chiropractic to others, chiropractic schools proliferated, turning out practitioners who believed they knew all there was to know about chiropractic, but realised after reading The Chiropractor, The Science of Chiropractic and other writings of the Palmers that their training had been deficient. Some of these “pseudos,” as B.J. referred to them, wanted to study at the Palmer School and begged him to give them credit for
their previous training. This he refused to do, contending that the training they had received was comparatively useless. In mid-1907, however, he offered to provide a one-time course for these people, giving credit, not for their previous training, but for experience in practice—six months credit for a year’s experience or three months credit for six months’ experience. On completion of the remainder of the nine months course, they would be given the same examination as the nine months students, and if successful, would receive the full nine months diploma. This special class was to matriculate on 5 August 1907, and B.J. warned that it would never be offered again.

Another 1907 innovation was the Philosopher of Chiropractic (PhC) degree, first announced in November, that would, after 1 January 1908, be issued to students having an average of 98% or over on their final examinations. All students were eligible to enrol in a 3-month postgraduate course, available at no additional cost, and then attempt an advanced philosophical examination. Those passing the examination with an average of 90% or over received the PhC degree; others received the usual Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree.


deyrolle wax model. Courtesy Palmer College Archives.

Enhanced Teaching Aids

On 6 February, the School acquired a Deyrolle wax model from Paris for use in teaching anatomy. These models were extremely expensive, and at the time there were no more than three in use in the United States. The report in the Davenport Daily Times went on to say:

...This model shows an interior view of the torso. By a section of the skull, vertebral column, ribs and pelvis are disclosed the cerebellum, the medulla and the spinal cord to the sacrum with all of its branches. The model is life size and finished in the natural colors of the nerves, bones and flesh... and is considered the most perfect model of this portion of the body ever made... With the model of the spinal column also came some specimens of extreme curvatures...

The osteological collection also gained more material during February, including a 7– months normal foetal skeleton; one pair of mounted lower extremities showing genu valgum; one set of 7 cervical vertebrae mounted with posterior arches removed, showing transverse, common anterior, and other ligaments.

Late in the year, the Palmer School began using photographic slides as teaching aids. In the November issue of The Chiropractor, B.J. announced 26 lessons—one for each vertebra in the spine—each presentation featuring 50-75 stereopticon (3-D) slides illustrating views of the vertebra, how to palpate for normal and abnormal positions, every subluxation that is possible and does exist between vertebrae,
foramina where pressures upon nerves exist with each of the
subluxations, how to adjust each subject and how it would
release such pressures. A lecture was presented to students
every Thursday evening, free of charge.\textsuperscript{53}

Materials for the Profession

B.J. Palmer had presented his first series of public lectures
during 1906.\textsuperscript{1} The second series, given on Wednesday
evenings, began in January; the first in the series was titled
“Cell Tissues as the Basis of Life.”\textsuperscript{54} These lectures had
been recorded, and from early 1907 phonographic cylinders
were offered for sale to practising chiropractors, who were
encouraged to play them in their reception rooms.\textsuperscript{55}

In April, release of Volume 2 of The Science of Chiropractic
was advertised, priced at $3.25.\textsuperscript{56} In November, it was
announced that Volume 3 would be available in July 1908.
The volume, B.J. promised, would “have approximately 500
half-tones (photographs)... showing how to locate the cause
of each and every disease... (and) give every movement used
in adjusting as taught at The P.S.C.”\textsuperscript{57}

During May, B.J. introduced a new adjusting table—the
suitcase table. The two-piece table measured approximately
68 cm x 40 cm x 11 cm and weighed just over 9 kg. The tables
were guaranteed to stand the weight of any patient that could
be placed upon them, and all the strain that would be given to
them. The price, including packing and crating, was $15.\textsuperscript{58}

Educational Centre of Davenport

On 21 July 1907, J.C. Duncan, owner of the Davenport
Business College, purchased the lot at the top of Brady Street
hill, where he planned to build a 3-storey brick building for
his Davenport Business College. Adjoining the Palmer School
and in close proximity to the Academy of the Immaculate
Conception, this development would make the brow of Brady
Street Hill the educational centre of the city.\textsuperscript{59}

Some time earlier, Duncan had bought 834 Brady for a
residence.\textsuperscript{59} Having sold 828 Brady Street to the Palmers in
1906 for $7,600, he would sell 834 to them for $9,800 in
1910.\textsuperscript{1,60}

On 8 January, it was announced that a public reception
would be given to Shegataro Morikubo, a recently graduated
Japanese student about to leave for LaCrosse, Wisconsin to
practise for a year before returning to Japan.\textsuperscript{61} Morikubo had
at times substituted for B.J. in his public lectures and was
promoted as “having high degrees from several universities
and colleges, and had at one time been a professor in the Tokio
University, in which he received his degree of PhD.”\textsuperscript{62}

In his lecture, “Chiropractic Philosophic Completeness,”
given two months earlier, Morikubo stated, “Philosophy
deals with the essence of reality of things in opposition to
the appearance and show of sense, and is chiefly concerned
in questioning the relation of cause and effect, in order that it
may ultimately synthesize all parts into one complete whole.
The aim of philosophy is, then to exhibit the universe as a
rational system having harmony in all parts. Science, on the
other hand, deals with phenomena or facts, arranging them
according to certain principles on which it is founded, and
from which it is derived.”\textsuperscript{63}

In January Morikubo established his clinic in the McMillan
Building in downtown LaCrosse in the same building occupied
by the arch rival of the profession, A.U. Jorris, DO, member of
the Wisconsin Board of Medical Examiners.\textsuperscript{64} In a 24 January
letter to B.J. Palmer, he said people were talking a great deal
about his work and commented that, “A Chiropractor must
have a large heart and vision worthy of this great science
he represents.” He urged B.J. to avoid accepting cowards
as students, saying “Should (MDs or DOs) molest us... (a)
coward would lose the victory before the battle begins.”\textsuperscript{65}

On 29 January an article appeared in the LaCrosse Leader-
Press stating that Morikubo is prepared to fight and practically
challenges the State Board to arrest him.\textsuperscript{66}

The osteopaths were obviously keeping a close eye on
chiropractic developments, because the January 1907 issue
of Journal of Osteopathy noted the following:
Wisconsin, osteopathically considered, is perhaps the best state in the union outside Missouri. The Osteopaths there are regarded as physicians and have physicians' rights. The only disturbing element is that of the Chiropractors who claim Osteopathy is only massage, while Chiropractic, they claim, is the only method of spinal adjustment. This question was decided last year in an appellate court, but the defendants were not regular graduates of a Chiropractic school, nor were they well educated otherwise. The National association of Chiropractors has been collecting a defense fund with which they have boasted they will prove that Chiropractic and Osteopathy are different and that Chiropractors are privileged to practice anywhere without examination or legal hindrance. They have apparently selected an educated young Japanese who has located in LaCrosse, the scene of the last legal argument, and the outcome remains to be seen, as he has appeared in print and defied the State Board to arrest him.

On 11 August the city of LaCrosse was wrecked by a tornado when a furious storm suddenly swept down from a sunny sky. Hundreds of people were already in boats on the river on this Sunday morning when the storm and heavy rainfall hit. In many cases the boats were swamped and inmates were thrown into the water and had to swim for shore.

**Wisconsin vs. Morikubo**

Just two days later, Morikubo was placed on trial in county court, charged with practising osteopathy without a state licence. The LaCrosse Leader-Press commented:
In the event that the defendant is found guilty a long battle is assured, as Dr. Morikubo came to LaCrosse with the expectation of being prosecuted, and is prepared, with strong backing to take the case to the upper courts if necessary...

The state board of medical examiners claims that the science of chiropractic and osteopathy are identical and that hence both should be licensed under the general head of osteopathy. Dr. Morikubo claims that the two sciences are vastly different and that chiropractic is not covered by the state law which compels the licensing of physicians, surgeons and osteopaths...

Dr. Morikubo is represented by Morris and Hartwell and is prepared to put up a strong defense, having summoned Dr. B.J. Palmer of Davenport, one of the founders of Chiropractic and head of a noted school, as well as other witnesses from abroad, to testify on his behalf...

The LaCrosse Tribune of the same date further reported:

...Upon motion of the attorneys for the defendant, Morris and Hartwell, the charge was amended, the words "practicing medicine without a license," being stricken out, and making the charge that of practicing osteopathy, under the guise of chiropractic without a license. The defense scored its first victory here...

The following day the LaCrosse Tribune continued its coverage:

... During the testimony, Dr. Morikubo traced his life, his education, and defined the principles of chiropractic. The witness said he began attending school, at the age of four years. At first he went to the public schools in Japan, finishing the two years course. Until the age of 16 years, he was a student at a Buddhist temple, which he left to enter the Tokio Academy of Science, a school conducted on a different scale than those in the United States.

From Tokio he came to the United States, continuing his studies in philosophy, as begun in the Tokio Academy. After four years of post-graduate study, he was given a diploma as doctor of philosophy. Then he engaged in the study of osteopathy reading a correspondence course. In March, 1906, he entered the Palmer School of Chiropractic at Davenport, la., where he continued for ten months, receiving a diploma in that time. Then he entered practice, later coming to LaCrosse...

Dr. Morikubo defined chiropractic as the science, which investigates the cause of disease, reason for the elimination of disease, and the physical means applied to the body, and the spinal column to remove obstruction. Heavy and slight forces are used, all applied suddenly. He said chiropractic was founded on the educated and innate minds tracing the difference between deduction and induction.

In describing the difference between osteopathy and chiropractic, Dr. Morikubo cited treatment received by himself. The osteopath placed him on a table, the witness said, turned and twisted him about, until his bones were almost at a breaking point. He said the chiropractic adjustment was vastly different, in that a characteristic move was applied, and took only one minute. The osteopathic treatment lasted about thirty minutes...

...Edyth Ashmore, Detroit, Mich., vice president of the National association of osteopaths, was on the stand and declared chiropractic and osteopathic treatments were the same thing. On the cross-examination, she admitted that her license in Wisconsin, which would allow her to testify as an expert, was filed only yesterday morning.

Dr. Linniker followed. He traced the fundamental differences between chiropractic and osteopathy in a technical manner. He said that blood plays an important part in osteopathy, while it is not considered in chiropractic... He said force massage
and rubbing are used in osteopathy, while the chiropractic adjustment is practiced in his science. He said he thought chiropractic a distinct advancement over osteopathy.73

The LaCrosse Leader-Press of the same date disclosed that Ashmore, a graduate of the American School of Osteopathy, testified that she had practised in Detroit for 7 years and had entered PSC under the name of Bell after reading in The Chiropractor that Morikubo intended to come to LaCrosse to test the Wisconsin law.72

Morikubo Acquitted

The next day the LaCrosse Tribune reported that at 6:05 p.m. on 14 August, Morikubo had been acquitted by a jury of four that was out for only 25 minutes, after a 2-day trial, “in one of the hardest fought legal battles in LaCrosse county. The article went on to say:

Dr. Morikubo will be re-arrested on a charge of practicing healing for remuneration, at the instance of Dr. W.G. Sarles, Sparta Wisc., president of the state medical board, who swore out the first complaint. If a second chiropractor in Wisconsin can be found, the law will be tested on him, and Dr. Morikubo allowed his freedom. If not, he will be re-arrested and a second test made of the Badger medical statute...

The announcement... called forth a warm altercation between District Attorney Bosshard and Dr. Sarles, on one side, and Senator Thomas Morris, and Attorney F.H. Hartwell, counsel for the Jap. Senator Morris called the plot “Japanese persecution,” in view of the first acquittal and second arrest. Dr. Sarles declared the state board would test the law, and keep practitioners, not graduates of four year medical schools out of Wisconsin...

...Dr. Morikubo was recalled to the stand yesterday afternoon. Dr. W.D. Thomas, one of the most learned educators in the state, followed as an expert, describing the relation between mental power over matter...”74

The only mention of the Morikubo trial in the Davenport press was in the 20 August issue of the Democrat and Leader:

About four months ago a Japanese settled in LaCrosse and opened an office, advertising to cure most all diseases by the practice of what he termed “chiropractic.” He came to the city from Dr. Palmer’s school at Davenport and was sent there for the purpose of testing certain provisions of the medical law of Wisconsin. The testimony showed that he had cured most of the people, but the osteopaths of the city claimed that Chiropractic was nothing more than another name for osteopathy and swore out a warrant for his arrest, claiming that he was practicing medicine without a license.

Dr. Palmer, who was instrumental in having the Jap go to LaCrosse, had prepared him for the trial. A specialist had also come from Oakland, Cal., and took a three months’ course at the Palmer school in Davenport, in order that he might qualify as an expert on Chiropractic...74

After the trial, B.J. commented in The Chiropractor that the newspaper accounts were impartial, although Morikubo had the sympathy of the majority of people because of his unimpeachable character and the superior results he obtained. He also confirmed that the UCA had stood the expenses of the prosecution, citing this as a good reason for every chiropractor to join the Association, whose purpose, he said, was to promote the interests of specific, pure, unadulterated, philosophical chiropractic and chiropractors who practise such.75

Lessons from the Trial

In September, the Universal Chiropractors Association had its first annual meeting and conference in Davenport, featuring a number of papers, including one by Morikubo, presented in absentia. In it, he referred to his court case, acknowledging the UCA’s assistance and stressing the importance of unity in the profession and the need to strengthen the Association so it was better able to defend chiropractic and chiropractors. He repeated the advice he had given B.J. earlier, that a coward should never be allowed to assume a title of DC. He also warned that the osteopaths would continue to try to destroy chiropractors and steal chiropractic from them, and that his accquittal would only make them more determined to do so. He urged all chiropractors to be united for the purpose of securing their rights and development of their science for the sake of humanity. He counselled them to cultivate the virtues of patience and prudence, but warned them to be vigilant lest they be overtaken by “measurers of oppression practiced upon us by our enemy.”75

A Spurious Claim

Cyrus Lerner, in his unreferenced report, reiterated much of what Morikubo had testified in his court appearance concerning his education before studying chiropractic. He went on to say:

...Besides taking courses in science, he took post-graduate work in philosophy—and received his doctorate degree.

It is generally believed that the first definite system of philosophy ante-dated the great Greek philosophers, and that it had its beginnings probably with the Hindu thinkers. Philosophers of the East have given to the world considerable ideas about the ways of the world and the speculations of the universe.
Just how much Morikubo had learned in his studies of philosophy we can only surmise, but his training in this field must have been a considerable help to Tom Morris, when he conferred with Morikubo to learn from him the “facts of the case”—because the “philosophy of Chiropractic” was to play an important part in winning the case. 77

Lerner also claimed78—and it was repeated by another writer79—that the writings of Langworthy and the book Modernized Chiropractic were the foundation for Tom Morris’ defence, but we have not been able to find any evidence of this. What we did find is that Langworthy tried to lay claim for the defence of the case, but Morikubo strongly refuted this by pointing out that Langworthy neither entered the trial nor sent a representative, and since press reports did not disclose the tactics used by the defence, Langworthy could not be in a position to make such an assertion. On the contrary, said Morikubo:

...Modernized Chiropractic is osteopathy in principle... There is not a hair breadth difference between the art and science of either, according to those authors...

A philosophy must constitute a fundamental discrimination between two methods of human thought. Modernized Chiropractic has no philosophy to teach. I worked on my defense six months before arrested. It was not “tactics” but the philosophical aspect of Chiropractic which we emphasized and laid stress upon that won this victory. Mr. Langworthy in Modernized Chiropractic does not enter upon metaphysical argument, nor mention one word concerning psychic phenomena as controlled and produced by Innate Mind. Metaphysical debates were the power which saved the day. Had I depended upon “tactics” proposed by Mr. Langworthy, I would be whispering in the county jail today; for without developing a strong metaphysical thought as a basis we would have gone by default.80

Charles Linniker, DO, DC, who testified at the trial concurred:

...The originality and honesty of the defense, in setting forth new scientific principles, and using clean wholesome measures, to put them before a jury, won the case. As for my part (as the expert witness), I have never read any publication setting forth tactics to be used under such circumstance, or have ever read Langworthy’s books. We no doubt produced some new thoughts in the trial...81

CONCLUSION

Developments at the Palmer School and the successful defence of Wisconsin vs. Morikubo propelled the chiropractic profession further forward in 1907 than in any year since D.D. Palmer’s 1895 discovery. Even the prosecution of Thomas Storey was turned to the profession’s advantage when B.J. used it as a cautionary tale demonstrating the importance of learning chiropractic from the source.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance of Professor Glenda Wise and her staff of the Palmer College Special Collection, and of the staff of the Richardson-Sloane Special collection of the Davenport Public Library are gratefully acknowledged.
34. $1,000 reward. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(1/2):28-9.
36. Buck Co. advertisement. The Davenport Democrat and Leader 1907; 23 June:11.
42. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(11):11-6.
44. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(1/2):3.
45. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(12):37.
46. Special chiropractic course for osteopaths. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(1/2):3.
47. Night school. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(9/10):52.
48. A three months course for pseudos August 1st, ’07 only. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(6):36.
50. Seventy-five patients a day. Davenport Democrat and Leader 1907; 29 January, reprinted in The Chiropractor 1907; 3(3):4-5.
57. The philosophy of chiropractic—vol. 3. The Chiropractor 1907; 3(12):56.
61. Another course of fine lectures. Davenport Democrat and Leader 1907; 2 January.
66. Chiropractor is prepared to fight. LaCrosse Leader-Press 1907; 29 January.
68. City of LaCrosse wrecked by tornado. Davenport Democrat and Leader 1907; 12 August.
72. Differences between chiropractic and osteopathy. LaCrosse Leader 1907; 14 August.
73. Jap is acquitted; to be re-arrested. LaCrosse Tribune 2007. 15 August.
74. Chiros and osteos war in Wisconsin. Davenport Democrat and Leader 1907; 20 August.