ABSTRACT: Chiropractic in Australia today is a registered profession with portal of entry status and deals primarily with musculoskeletal conditions, particularly mechanical low back pain and cervicogenic headaches. This paper attempts to determine what types of cases our pioneer chiropractors managed. It was found that although chiropractors were few in numbers and therefore relatively unknown, they successfully managed a wide range of cases, usually after medical intervention, often by specialists, had failed.

INDEX TERMS: CHIROPRACTIC; AUSTRALIA; HISTORICAL ARTICLE

INTRODUCTION
Since 1979, when the Commission of Inquiry into Chiropractic in New Zealand published its findings, which divided chiropractic cases into Type M (musculoskeletal) and Type O (organic) and stated that “chiropractic can be effective in relieving musculo-skeletal symptoms ... and ... in a limited number of cases where there are organic and/or visceral symptoms, chiropractic may provide relief, but this is unpredictable...” most research into chiropractic results has focused on Type M problems, and terms like mechanical low-back pain and cervicogenic headache have become buzzwords. Another buzzword currently impacting chiropractic research and practice, evidence based medicine (EBM), though fine in theory, has been found to be flawed, as some papers purporting to be evidence based have been criticised as being fraudulent and manipulated to assure previously expected outcomes.

These terms were unknown to the late 19th and early 20th century chiropractors that pioneered our clinical science. Lacking a substantial body of literature to guide them, their decisions on what cases to accept had to rely on the patient’s history, what was then known about neurology, and their powers of deduction. The question then arises: What did our early chiropractors “treat”?

METHODS
Since original case records have become inaccessible, evidence of cases treated by early chiropractors was sought by searching documents held by the Australian National Library, State Libraries of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, Palmer University Special Collections and the archives of the Association for the History of Chiropractic-Australia, and by interviewing the earliest chiropractors still living at the time of our investigations.

RESULTS
Our search yielded relevant information from the following sources:
• Published material of the Palmers and other early American chiropractors,
• Chiropractic experiences of individuals who later became chiropractors and practised in Australia,
• Letters, advertisements and testimonials of Australasian chiropractors,
• Stories published in Australian newspapers, and
• Results mentioned in Parliamentary Debates.

TO TREAT OR ADJUST?
D.D. Palmer had treated patients for nearly 10 years as a magnetic healer. After discovering chiropractic he wrote:

“For many years I had thought, studied and questioned many MDs as to the respective cause of disease. I knew many persons, some of whom were cured and some who died under all modes of treatment. I also observed that all kinds of treatment treated the effects.

“In my practice of the first ten years I followed a line of thought; that thought was that diseases were caused by a difference in the patient affected and the one not so. By my treatment of the effects, previous to this, I was continually coming closer, and on Jan. 14th, 1896, I was pleased to name that science ‘chiropractic.’ The unique movements that I developed to move the vertebrae of the spinal column, that are now used by all chiropractors, and are now taught at the Palmer School of Chiropractic, I named ‘adjustment.’”

D.D. Palmer also used Webster’s Dictionary to define these terms:

TREAT:—To care for medicinally or surgically; to manage in the use of remedies or appliances; as: to treat disease, a wound or a patient.

ADJUST:—To make exact; to fit; to make correspondent or comfortable; to bring into proper relation.
Anecdotaly, D.D. also mused:7

“The first chiropractic lesson I gave S.M. Langworthy may help to explain to others the differences between adjusting and treating. I had a case containing pathological specimens, the doors of which did not close properly, so I asked S.M.L. to assist me. When shown the trouble, he at once said, ‘Shave off the sides of the doors, so they will close.’ I replied, ‘That is Allopath. We will use Chiropractic.’ So we leveled the case, adjust it, then the doors were OK [emphasis added].”

With the advent of medical and osteopathic laws it became illegal not only to do, but even profess publicly to treat, cure, alleviate or relieve any ailment or disease, of either mind or body.8 Thus, to protect against medical prosecution, such terms as diagnose and treat were eliminated from the chiropractic lexicon, as evidenced in the Constitution of the Universal Chiropractors Association, which stated:9

“Art.IV states that the use of the prefix Dr., or terms such as doctor, Chiropractic Physician, etc., may not be used, also the use of such words as cure, heal, treat, treatment in any printed form, and that the use of such words shall constitute an offense sufficiently strong for the Association in the judgment of the board of directors, to refuse to defend such a member if prosecuted [emphasis added].”

This article was added because the use of these terms could not be successfully defended in court in light of the laws at that time.

**CASES OF D.D. PALMER**

While it would be futile to dig too deeply into the cases that D.D. Palmer had adjusted, just a few will suffice to indicate the breadth of case mix. Of his first chiropractic patients, he would write:

“Harvey Lillard, a janitor, in the Ryan Block, where I had my office, had been so deaf for 17 years that he could not hear the racket of a wagon on the street or the ticking of a watch. I made inquiry as to the cause of his deafness and was informed that when he was exerting himself in a cramped, stooping position, he felt something give way in his back and immediately became deaf. An examination revealed a vertebra racked from its normal position. I reasoned that if that vertebra was replaced, the man’s hearing should be restored. With this object in view, a half hour’s talk persuaded Mr. Lillard to allow me to replace it. I racked it into position by using the spinous process as a lever and soon the man could hear the racket of a wagon on the street or the ticking of a watch. I had a case containing pathological specimens, the doors of which did not close properly, so I asked S.M.L. to assist me. When shown the trouble, he at once said, ‘Shave off the sides of the doors, so they will close.’ I replied, ‘That is Allopath. We will use Chiropractic.’ So we leveled the case, adjust it, then the doors were OK [emphasis added].”

The circumference of the thigh above the hip (sic) was 3 inches less than its mate. D.D. found a lumbar vertebra slightly displaced through a wrench, which occluded the left foramen, pinching sensory and motor nerves. After 5 weeks of adjustments, Dresher left Davenport, carrying his satchel in his right hand and his crutches over his left shoulder. Eight years later, when the Palmers visited, he could state that he had no problems in the intervening years. As a horticulturist he had bred many different kinds of strawberries, and named the best variety “Chiro.”11

A.S. Hodge, DDS, presented a sworn affidavit:12

“I suffered constantly with asthma for over 16 years. There was no comfort for me in suffering a thousand deaths in order to live. Neighbors said it would be a blessing for all concerned if Dr Hodge could die. I tried asthma cures at home and abroad. I paid one person $100. The only permanent relief I experienced was an empty pocket-book...”

“I had heard of Dr. Palmer and read his paper, but I had tried so many asthma cures that I despised of ever being cured or relieved this side of the grave. On April 30th, 1901, I went to Davenport against the wishes and advice of my wife, friends and doctors. A man suffering as I was night and day for near 17 years will keep trying. I told Dr. Palmer that I had at last come to see a quack. He replied: “I will quack that asthma out of you.” He cured me in less than two minutes. I arose from that table free of asthma...

“...God bless the discoverer of Chiropractic. [Signed and sworn to 12 August 1901]”

In a case of exophthalmic goitre of D.D.’s daughter Mae, Mae’s husband, Niles Brownell wrote:13

“Mrs Brownell has gained 20 pounds since she came home. When she went to your place for treatment she weighed only 95 pounds. She was a nervous living skeleton. Her eyes protruded so much that they gave her a staring and fierce expression. Her neck was much enlarged and pulsed violently. She was greatly troubled with palpitation of the heart, which, at times, was very alarming and distressing. She had but little appetite, could not sleep and was easily irritated.

...The seven weeks of Chiropractic treatment has saved her life and restored her to health.”

Another case of interest was a veteran of the Civil War whose right leg had been shot off. Ever since he had experienced a sharp, excruciating pain in the heel, foot and leg of the missing limb. D.D. found tender nerves at two points on the base of the stump. These were then traced every inch up to and stopping on the right side of the third lumbar vertebra. Careful examination of the left side elicited no tenderness. Four adjustments were all that was needed to eliminate the pain. (This was the first mention of phantom pain in the chiropractic literature.)14

In the Palmer publication *Chiropractic Proofs*, a list of cases appears with names and addresses of patients cured at the Chiropractic School and Infirmary of the following diseases:15

“Appendicitis (3), Asthma (3), Bright’s Disease (1), Blood Poisoning (1), Blindness (2), Consumption (6), Cancer of Nose (2), Cancer of Stomach (2), Cancer of Breast (3), Cancer of Face (1), Epitelioma (1), Child Bed Fever (1), Deafness (2), Chapped Hands (1), Catarrh of Stomach (1),
Cataarrh of Bowels (1), Cataarrh of Head (1), Deafness (2), Diabetes (2), Epilepsy (1), Female Weakness (1), Felons (1), Gall Stones (1), Goitre (1), Heart Disease (4), Hernia (Inguinal) (1), Hip Disease (1), Headache (2), Indigestion (3), Kidney Trouble (2), Lung Fever (1), La Grippe (2), Lame Knee (1), Lame Shoulder (3), Lame Back (5), Lame Arm (1), Lumbago (1), Neuralgia (3), Nervous Prostration (1), Ovaries Congested (1), Pleurisy (1), Paralysis (2), Piles (1), Polypus (1), Rheumatism (sciotic) (4), Rheumatism (inflammatory) (7), Rupture (1), Running of Ears (1), Scrofula (1), Spleen Enlargement (1), Sore Eyes (1), Tumor of Jaw (1), Ulceration of Uterus (1), Weak Eyes (1), Whooping Cough (1).16

D.D. Palmer also provided a multi-page list of diseases and the location of adjustment in his 1910 book, The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic.16

CASES OF B.J. PALMER

B.J. Palmer graduated on 6 January 1902, but prior to his graduation he had already practised the profession of chiropractic. The first recorded adjustment given by him took place in 1898, when D.D. Palmer was out of his office, taking the attendees of the 1898 National Chiropractors’ Convention on a sightseeing trip of the Davenport area. Howard Nutting, a prominent business man, recalled that he had been “attacked by a severe pain in the right side of his face.” He had attended two eminent dentists, neither of whom could stop the pain, which was starting to drive him mad. By chance he noticed D.D. Palmer’s sign and decided to see what Palmer could do. B.J. examined the cervical spine, found a tender nerve, took Nutting into the adjusting room, and gave Nutting’s neck a hard blow. Within 10 minutes Nutting’s pain had disappeared, and 17 years later, when Nutting related the story, he had not had a recurrence of the problem.17

B.J.’s appointment book indicates that he visited Manistique, Michigan from 20 June to 21 September 1901, more than 6 months before his graduation. His first patient was Dr O.C. Bowen, who suffered from asthma. After 3 adjustments he was considered cured. His second case appears to have been left-sided torticollis, which did not improve; neither did his third case, a patient suffering from chronic constipation, bloating bowels and kidney trouble. Case 4 complained of lumbago, a hernia, headaches and tired legs when standing a lot. All symptoms improved, including the hernia, which did flare up again after a bad fall. Case 5, asthma, did not improve after 6 adjustments. Case 6 was paralysed in right side and could not walk without help. After 7 adjustments she was able to walk by herself. During his time in Manistique, B.J. saw 61 new patients.18

The Davenport Daily Times printed an interview with Mrs Kate Limbaugh of Rock Island, who had been medically diagnosed as suffering severe melancholia.19

“...On Dec. 23rd, I had a red spot appear on my right eye. It kept spreading and was noticed by Dr. W.F. Larimer and others who called my attention. On Xmas day my eye became decidedly worse and I stopped work. On the following Monday I began to take treatment from medical doctors. On the same day I fell on the street, caused by temporary blindness in both eyes. I was taken home in a carriage. On Tuesday, I again went to work, but my eyes still caused me considerable trouble.

“On Tuesday night I attended the Owl’s lodge (I being the Deputy Organizer of Oklahoma and New Mexico). My eyes caused me so much trouble that I wanted to be excused. I remained until lodge was dismissed. Started home, got one and one-half blocks when I lost sight of both eyes temporarily; again I was led home by a boy.

“On Wednesday A.M. I went to Dr. Larimer’s office, wearing smoked glasses; by this time I had completely lost sight of the right eye. This loss proved to be permanent. The left eye kept dilating until Thursday night, Dec. 31st, when the left eye was also totally blind and remained so until later events changed it.

“Meanwhile I had gone from one oculist and doctor to another until I had seen five, each of whom in turn told me nothing could be done, that I would go on thru life blind. This was a discouraging outlook.

“On Friday, Jan. 1st. 1909, I again went to Dr.Larimer’s office where my attention was called to work being done at the Palmer-Gregory Chiropractic College where a series of lectures and clinics were being conducted by B.J. Palmer, DC, president of the Palmer School of Chiropractic of Davenport, Iowa. In company with Dr. Larimer and my wife, we attended the clinic on the afternoon of Jan. 1st. At 2 p.m., my case was analyzed by Dr. Palmer. He told me just what subluxation would be found before he had examined my body anywhere. He stated what kinds of subluxations existed, just where the pressure upon nerves existed in the spine. He said that the 6th dorsal and 4th cervical vertebrae were subluxated. I was further told that these subluxations were the cause of my trouble. No time was spent in looking into or at my eyes. The other doctors spent their time there. This certainly was a new form of analysis. He gave me encouragement. He emphasised the fact that cause preceded effect and that the cause was known; the effects would cease as soon as the causes were adjusted.

B.J. Palmer apparently gave a series of lectures and clinics at the Palmer-Gregory Chiropractic College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during the Christmas-New Year period of 1908-9. W.F. Larimer, MD, who stated that he was the physician who had the case of Alfred Thompson under his observation from the first loss of sight until B.J. Palmer had restored it, attested to a case of restoration of sight under oath. He was present at the analysis and had seen the adjustment given, and that he had brought Mr. Thompson to that clinic.

In a sworn statement, Thompson declared:20

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"He examined me, found the subluxations as he said. The class verified these facts. In telling, in advance and then proving it made me sit up and take notice. In addition to all this, he traced tender nerves from each of the subluxations mentioned to the eyes. This was the most unique feature and at once the most conclusive demonstration to me. Every time he touched the right place, it was very sore. The tenderness was continuous so that I knew (because I did the feeling) that he was correct in his analysis from the first to the last. Such confidence as Dr. Palmer exhibited made me place confidence in the possibility of results that he said he would get. The connection was unquestionably proven that vertebral subluxations had everything to do with the loss of eyesight.

"The first adjustment was given at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 1st, 1909. At 7:05 p.m. of the same day, the first sign of returning light was noticed. At 8:00 p.m. of the same day I could see with the left eye to read Dr. Gregory’s name and number in the telephone directory. I phoned him that I could see slightly. The next morning, upon arising, I could see perfectly with the left eye. At 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 2nd I having perfect sight in my left eye. I am also having slight flashes of light in the right eye (which was the worst) at 10 a.m. I am able to read printed matter with the right eye. I can discern objects at a distance now clearly with the left eye and considerably with the right eye. I am now certain that all that was predicted has come to pass. I have had only one adjustment up to this time. I am certain that I would not have been seeing at this writing if I had not had competent and careful analysis and adjustments.

"Later—On Saturday a.m. at 10 I had the second adjustment. I now can see clearly with both eyes and can say that my sight has been restored in both eyes."

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**INFANTILE PARALYSIS IS BEING CURED AT PALMER SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC**

Testimonials from Mothers Give Convincing Proof of the Results—Twenty-five Cases Now in Clinics—Over 500 People Watched the Progress in Two cases and Ultimate Cure—Claimed it is Incurable

...We herewith append the record of two cases.

Leota Rohlfs.

Mrs. Treves Rohlfs and three children of Minden, Iowa, returned home last Wednesday after having been in The P.S.C. clinic two months. Mrs. Rohlfs’ daughter, Leota, aged eighteen months, had a thoroughly well defined case of **infantile paralysis.** The case had been so pronounced by the family physician, hence there could have been no question as to the accuracy of the known condition. In signing the patient’s report, Mrs. Rohlfs, the mother of Leota, said: "I consider my daughter well and am only too glad to give my permission to use my name to that effect." Mrs. Rohlfs left all smiles and glad to think that there was a science which could do so much for these cases...

Van Nice Child.

A case of infantile paralysis pronounced so by a physician of Garrison, Iowa, was discharged from the clinic Saturday entirely well, having received, all told, six adjustments. When the case was accepted the child was utterly unable to walk. Three adjustments enabled the little patient to walk up the steps alone. The case was the daughter of Mrs. Glen Van Nice, of Vinton, Iowa, aged two years. Mrs. Van Nice expressed great delight and gave full permission for the publication of the details...

Rutherford Interviews.

In an interview, Dr. Brown (the medical physician in charge of the clinics) was asked, “Have you cases in this clinics at this time?” To this he answered: “We now have about twenty-five cases of this kind in persons of various ages, from infant in arms to adults. We have them from the acute to the chronic stages and all of them are improving according to the length of time they have been here. We intend to send all of these cases of infantile paralysis home well. People are coming to us from all over the country, having heard of the success we are getting. We figure that this will be a mecca for this disease alone if our goods keep being spread by those that have got well. We have had several physicians visit us lately who were on their way to Chicago to attend a surgical convention. When they came they assumed a layman’s name but when we proved beyond a question, to them, that our work was reliable, creditable and successful, they told us frankly who they were and we understand that our work was mentioned during the recent discussion which is referred to in the article I have just shown you...

A case of locomotor ataxia of many years standing and properly diagnosed by medical experts and authorities, and who had been adjusted by other chiropractors, entered B.J.’s clinic on 20 November 1928. Axis was determined as the major subluxation, and nothing else was adjusted. By 5 January 1929, decided improvement in every symptom in every part of her body had been achieved.

Another case that could be considered of interest occurred during the Lyceum week of 1932.23

The most ‘sensational’ report was made on Wednesday, 10 August:

“This case did not arrive on time on Monday to begin that day. The first day was Tuesday, August 9th. Girl about 12 or 14. On Tuesday, the clinic was disturbed by this child being dragged into the clinic, screaming, kicking, biting, yelling, and otherwise raising an awful rumpus. It hardly seemed possible that a girl of that age had to (be) literally dragged into the room and forced to sit down. It took six people to hold her while she was being read. It took five to hold her while B.J. gave her the first adjustment—one holding each leg, one on each arm, and one of the head. The adjustment was given between jerks and fights. An interesting sidelight is that the father is a practicing medical physician, having no confidence or hope..."
in Chiropractic whatsoever. The child had driven her father and mother to distraction and (they) were compelled to resort to violence to try to make it possible to render any service to the child in the clinic. 24 hours after the adjustment, or on Wednesday, August 10th, the child was brought to the clinic with far less violence, less struggling, screaming, etc. The mother verbally made the following report to the clinic: ‘Our child grabs, tears, breaks, destroys everything she can get her hands on. She will bite and kick. Following the adjustment yesterday, we went to the park. My daughter was quiet for the first time in four months. We bought her peanuts, which she fed to the monkeys. She noticed flowers and was pleased to see them. We have noticed a marked change in her disposition. I am sure a proud woman tonight.’ (The case was a raving, unmanageable insane, (sic) and has been so from birth.)

“16 August: Another report by the mother of the raving insane case. She is now quiet all day, except she is at her worst when she appears before the clinic. The child is now talking and loving her mother; notices things, etc...

“18 August. The sensational case of the day, that made the old chronic case-hardened chiropractors sit up and gasp, was our insane girl. For the past few days the mother had carried a switch and whipped the child when she tried to make her do what she desired. Today the girl walked into the room entirely alone, unaided, carrying her mother’s switch in her own hand. She went to her stool, sat down, remained quiet while she was being read; no other person touched her, much less holding her. The reading became clear, she was told she did not need to stay, she got up, walked, and practically danced out of the room alone and unaided. There wasn’t a whimper, cry, or other sound from her this day. To all purposes and intents, nobody would have known she was different from any normal person.”

CASES OF EARLY CHIROPRACTORS

Literally hundreds of pages could be filled with reports of chiropractors and their successes in their practices, however just a few examples must suffice.

A. Henry, DC, of Peoria, Illinois, a graduate of 1902, reported that he had:

“...a good number of patients, one locomotor ataxia, and four of paralysis, two of insanity, and several others with numerous complaints, All are getting better, one case of appendicitis. She was told by the M.D.s that nothing short of an operation would do, but her husband brought her to me. I gave her one adjustment and it was gone. Of course they were glad.”

Jesse J. Darnell, a classmate of Barbara Brake, wrote:

“...goitre case reduced 2 inches in six weeks, one pleurisy and one of pneumonia, both were out the third day. One of eczema cured in two weeks. He had also been presented with a ‘Gold Medal’ for curing Mrs. King of Milwaukee of a serious stomach complaint after several M.D.s had not only failed but made her worse. After 2 weeks of adjustments she was better than for years.”

J.L. Hively, DO, who had taken a short course, wrote:

“I am having wonderful success since my return ... cured a case of stuttering ... have a case of typhoid fever, doing fine. I adjust a lady of suppuration of the roots of the teeth, and relieved her at once ... her dentist could not believe his eyes ... my practice is growing.”

Dr J.M. Woods had been a correspondent with the PSC for 4 years and had been subscribing to all its publications. His experiences with his niece, as described below, prompted him to enrol at Palmer on 30 July 1906.

Dr Woods’ sister, Mrs Susan W. Sherwood, wrote: “On the tenth of January, 1905, my daughter commenced vomiting and continued every day for ten weeks. She could not retain any foods or liquids. Her passages were mainly mucous. It came in rope form. One was eighteen inches long. Many more were of different length and shapes. Much of that mucous was in jelly form and white, like that of an egg. Her tongue swelled until it filled her mouth and the prints of her teeth were pressed all around it. She was reduced in flesh about one-half. She weighed 140 or 145 pounds before the sickness. After feeding her through the skin with baths of milk, olive oil, alcohol, etc., for five weeks, she gained in strength and flesh and then weighed eighty-five pounds. A poison broke out all over her. Day after day it came and went. Her skin turned very dark. Her eyelids and many places were black. She could not hear, taste, smell or feel. Her memory was gone. She still has no recollection of what transpired during several months. Her right side was paralyzed. The foot turned in. She could not move or spread her toes. She had no power to put them down, nor could she raise them. Callous lumps raised along her spine. She passed through a terrible siege of suffering, with a pricking sensation, as if needles and pins were sticking her; also suffered with gas inside, causing unbearable tightness, then it would break out, almost choking her with the rapid, explosive manner in which it came from her mouth.

“The tenth of January, 1906, my brother, Dr J.M. Wood, treated her spine a few times. She commenced to improve; finally could walk on crutches. On the 14th of June she came to my brother’s, Dr. J.M. Wood, New Sharon, Iowa, still very helpless, and using crutches.

“Dr. J.M. Wood has treated her spine since the middle of June. She now walks alone throughout the house and out of doors by holding to some one’s hand.”

O.B. Jones, DC, of Hamilton, Montana, wrote on 16 November 1907: “On May 6th, last, I was called to the bedside of little Frank Vincent, age fifteen, who had been attended for sixteen days by four different M.D.s. No. 1 said he had appendicitis. No. 2 said it was inflammation of the appendix and peritonitism. No. 3 said it was inflammation of both and the bowel. No. 4 said it was of all three, also inflammation of both kidneys, and that the case was a grave one. Then I was sent for in haste. After five adjustments the patient was considered to be out of danger by parents and neighbours. The boy is now in good health and is twenty pounds heavier than before the sickness.”

The Belview (Minnesota) Independent published the following editorial on 3 December 1909: CHIROPRACTIC O.K. FOR INFANTILE PARALYSIS

The disease known as infantile paralysis which has caused the death of a large number of children, especially in the large cities, seems to have proven a puzzle to the physicians who have been unable to combat the disease successfully and have come to regard a severe attack of this disease as fatal, therefore when a cure is effected it is worthy of note even though the practitioner is of a new school. We learn that Miss Sophia Enestvedt of Sacred Heart, whose card as a Doctor of Chiropractic appears elsewhere in this paper, was recently called to see a case which had been given up by the
physician in charge, who had said to the parents, in answer to the question if there was nothing to be done. “No, there is no case on record where one like it has been cured.” Miss Enestvedt said to the parents that she had never had a case like it before but was satisfied that it could be reached by her method and went to work, and for three weeks adjusted the patient every day and after that every other day, and on the 20th of November the little girl walked, a cure having been effected, and we are told that Miss Enestvedt also has another case in hand in which a cure of the same disease is nearly complete...”

Silva Ashworth, DC, wrote to B.J. on 11 January 1911 from Lincoln, Nebraska.31

“...Have been doing good work at University place, and last week the M.E. and Presbyterian churches united in raising funds to employ me to adjust a young man who became insane just before he was to graduate. He was violent, so we put him in a straight jacket. Two young nurses from the asylum are attending him. The MDs raised a terrible row and were not going to let me handle the case, but the Rev. Keener told them they could do nothing and what were they kicking about. They finally calmed down; the authorities of the asylum know that I am handling the case, for I heard a nurse tell them they were going to try me a couple of weeks any way and that they had to keep the young man in a straight jacket, and they seem to be perfectly willing. I have given three adjustments and after the second he became rational; that was the day before yesterday, and night before last he rested well and was sitting on the porch conversing with the family yesterday. At present I have three cases of insanity and expect to get another this week.”

The Canadian Soo News of 29 March 1911 printed:32

RESTORES GIRL’S SIGHT.
Pearl Ruston Was Stricken Blind While Walking on Street

“Sight has been restored to Pearl Ruston in as remarkable manner as she was deprived of it two weeks ago. It will be recalled that the girl was passing the west end school on her way home was suddenly plunged into darkness, a darkness which continued until a few days ago. Every effort was made to restore the sight, but little or nothing was accomplished, and it was the intention of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ruston, who reside in the west end, to take the girl to Toronto.

“On Saturday last she was taken to Dr. W.J. Robbins, who has effected a wonderful cure by drugless methods and without the knife. After an operation which included excitation of the nerve centers, the girl gradually began to see again, and on her way home stated that sparks were passing before her eyes. Seen yesterday by The Evening News, the patient, who was lying in a darkened room, said that she could see everything about her as well as before she was stricken...”

The post-World-War-I “flu” pandemic generated a lot of chiropractic literature, including an entire issue of the Fountain Head News of 136 pages,33 some interesting aspects were:

“FLU STATISTICS”314

• Davenport Iowa: 50 “Regular” physicians, 4,953 cases under medical care, 274 deaths under medical care; 150 Chiro, Faculty and students, 1,633 under adjustment, 1 death

• United States: 344 Osteopaths, 10,141 cases under osteo care, 80 deaths

• Iowa Chiro statistics, excluding Davenport: 102 Chiropractors, 4,735 cases, 6 deaths

• National Chiro statistics, excluding Iowa: 613 Chiropractors, 28,946 cases, 34 deaths

• Total Chiropractic statistics: 865 Chiropractors handled 35,314 cases of influenza, and had 41 deaths.

• The Davenport Medical Death Ratio is 1 to 18 cases, or 55/9 per cent. The American Osteopathic Association Death Ratio is 1 to 127 cases, or 0.0087, or 4/5 of 1 per cent. PSC ratio is 1 to 1,633 cases, or 0.000612, or 3/50 of 1 per cent. Iowa Chiropractic ratio is 1 to 789 cases, or 0.00127, or 1/8 of 1 per cent. The United States Chiro Ratio, excluding Iowa is 1 to 851 cases, or 0.00117, or 1/9 of 1 per cent. The Grand National Chiropractic Death Ratio is 1 to 886 cases, or 0.00119, or 1/9 of 1 per cent.

OSTEOPATHIC FLU STATISTICS:315

344 osteopaths have reported on a nationwide questionnaire passed out by the American Osteopathic Association. They reported having treated 10,141 epidemic cases of “flu,” an average of about 30 cases each, up to our time of going to press.

The exact figures, as given on cases, deaths, ratios, etc.:

Medical Losses (estimated) .................. 12 to 15 per cent
Osteopathic Losses (actual) ................... 0.78 per cent

Perhaps another story might be of interest:36

CASE OF MARGARET LAURIE HART,
Davenport, Iowa, March 1, 1933:

On February 7th, 1933, our daughter was born, suffering from Icterus Neonatorum. Within twenty-four hours she developed acute hemorrhagic form, having one hemorrhage from the mouth and five from the rectum within a period of twelve hours.

Dr. A.B. Hender, who had the obstetrical charge of the case, called Dr. Weber. They decided to give an immediate blood transfusion of 10 C.C. from the Father, in an endeavor to coagulate the blood and give the babe strength. She lost over one pound in weight during the six hemorrhages and was in an extremely emanciared condition. Doctors were pessimistic about the outcome, as 100% of previous cases had proved fatal. (The USA Medical statistics show a fatality rate averaging 98%).

Shortly following the transfusion, there was a further severe hemorrhage, this being the fifth from the rectum. When the babe was 40 hours old Dr. H.C. Chance, Chiropractor, a member of the PSC Faculty, was called in. An NCM reading was made and axis interference three points left was found. Palpation was made and an adjustment (HIO Recoil) given. Post check showed interference completely removed. No further hemorrhage occurred after the adjustment. Within ten minutes, the babe dropped off to sleep. She was checked daily the following ten days, and readings remained clear. At age of three weeks, readings were still clear and she had regained more than her original weight of 6/3 lbs. The third week, the weight gain was 14 oz., making a total weight of 7 lbs. 3 oz. One adjustment was given, at one place. The child is enjoying excellent health and continues to gain rapidly in weight and strength.

Vera Hart, Alan Hart. (Parents and PSC Students.)

Late in 1956 or early 1957, one of the authors (MAC), granddaughter of Dr. H.C. Chance, then a student at the Palmer
School of Chiropractic and working nights as a proof reader at the Davenport Democrat and Leader, met Margaret Laurie Hart, who had returned to Davenport to thank Dr Chance. She worked alongside MAC for the few weeks she spent in Davenport, and related to her what her parents had told her about her dramatic rescue.

As space does not permit more stories, perhaps a series of newspaper headlines might suffice:

- **JOKEY, BLIND FOR 11 YEARS, REGAINING SIGHT BY ADJUSTMENT OF THE SPINE**
- **MISS McINROY’S SPEECH RETURNS—HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK ABOVE WHISPER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, FOLLOWING OPERATION FOR TONSILS**
- **FIRST CHRISTMAS TO SEE HEAR AND WALK IN FIFTEEN YEARS OF LOCAL MAN’S LIFE**
- **VERTEBRAE PUT INTO PLACE BY DOCTOR**
  - Constant Chatter Stilled After 212 Hours; Recovery Seen After Needed Rest
- **CHIROPRACTOR HERE CURING CASES OF SLEEPING SICKNESS**
- **BABY, VOICELESS FOR FOUR YEARS, TALKS**
- **SLEEPING GIRL WAKES WHEN SPINE IS FIXED**
- **GIRL, BLIND 29 YEARS, SEES AGAIN THROUGH CHIROPRACTIC**
- **WOMAN’S AMAZING CURE OF JOCKEY**
- **FIRST-AID TWIST PUTS LIFE IN DOE HELPLESS IN ROAD**
- **AFTER 60 WEEKS, 60 HOURS AND 30 MINUTES WOMAN’S HICCUGH STOPS**

**AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCES**

**Previous Chiropractic Experiences of Individuals Who Became Chiropractors and Practised in Australia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHIROPRACTOR</th>
<th>PROBLEMS HELPED BY CHIROPRACTIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felix G. Bauer</td>
<td>Severe thoraco-lumbar pain due to industrial accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Bauer</td>
<td>Heart problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley &amp; Mariette Bolton</td>
<td>Convulsions, poliomyelitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Boyd</td>
<td>Lumbago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Coulthard</td>
<td>Epilepsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.R. &amp; Rita Hart</td>
<td>Survived “flu pandemic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen MacKenzie</td>
<td>Measles, adenoids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Pharaoah</td>
<td>Football injury “broken back”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadley Rowell</td>
<td>Improved eyesight, complete anaesthesia of left arm of friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Theroux</td>
<td>Seven years blind as a result of war injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon H. Thompson</td>
<td>Lung problem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In contrast to today’s students of chiropractic, some of whom had not personally experienced chiropractic before making their career choices, all of the early practitioners had experienced the value of chiropractic on themselves or family members and were referred to the Palmer School by their chiropractors. A few of the chiropractors whose experiences with chiropractic inspired them to pursue chiropractic as a career, and the problems for which chiropractic care provided relief, are shown in Table 1.

**Letters, Advertisements, Testimonials**

Barbara Brake wrote a letter to B.J. Palmer from Glen Iris, dated 20 September 1905 and stated: “… So far all my adjustments have been limited to relatives and friends. Some of the cases had rheumatism, sciatica, acute neuralgia, swollen glands, prolapsus of the uterus. One and all are satisfied, that they have greatly benefitted…”

She advertised in the Argus, a prominent Melbourne newspaper of its time, for approximately 6 weeks, and quoted various diseases:

- **NERVOUS DEBILITY, Insomnia, Sciatica, and Lumbago CURED.**
- **INSOMNIA, Nervous Prostration, Sciatica and Lumbago CURED**
- **CHIROPRACTIC CURES Sciatica, Insomnia, Nervous Diseases; takes pressure off impinged nerves, relieves pain**
- **ALL NERVOUS COMPLAINTS, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Coughs, Colds CURED by “Chiropractic”**

Joan Wells, sister-in-law of Willard Coates, DC, stated in a letter that Coates had a very strong ally in a member of Parliament from Parramatta, whose son he had helped to walk after years in a wheelchair.

Fred Victor Coxon counted the Bolton family among his patients. He adjusted Stanley P. Bolton at the tender age of about 3 months for **convulsions**. Right after Stanley fell
asleep, while the senior Coxons and Boltons had a game of bridge.44

Sebastian Bernard Dawson, DC, of Perth is said to have been called from Adelaide to Perth by Mr Arthur Lightfoot, whose wife was experiencing menopausal problems that seemed to cause some form of emotional instability, and suggestions were made by Mrs Lightfoot’s physician that she may need to be committed.53

Joseph W. and Myrtle Fletcher arrived in Sydney in late 1928 or early 1929. In a pamphlet published late 1929 or 1930, the Fletchers state that they are graduates of the Palmer College of Chiropractic, as well as graduates of Lincoln College Chiropractic Research, and having had experience in New Zealand and England. In it they also publish a series of testimonials from New Zealand in 1924-1927, the latest of them dated 6 June 1927. Others are from Torquay, England, 12 March 1928 and April 1928; Dartmouth, England, 23 June 1928; as well as one dated November 1928 from Capetown, South Africa, where they had a short holiday while returning from England.

It also states that after some years in practice in New Zealand, they returned to the United States and took up postgraduate work at Lincoln College. This college had been formed by 4 of their former professors at Palmer. It seems conceivable that they did their study at Lincoln during the period between late June 1927, the date of the last testimonial published from New Zealand, and March 1928, the first testimonial from England.

The testimonials deal with the following conditions:
Duodenal ulcer, dizziness and blood pressure, nervous breakdown, bronchitis, torticollis, constipation, psoriasis, appendicitis, goitre, hysteria, infantile paralysis, arthritis, consumption, neurasthenia, eczema, anemia. Fletcher also states that he has on file testimonials certifying to complete cures, relief or help from ailments diagnosed by medical men as follows: Paralysis, diabetes, asthma, blindness, dropsy, intercostal neuralgia, paresis, aneurism, insomnias, spinal curvature, St Vitus Dance, sciatica, catarhral laryngitis, chronic indigestion, liver disorder, high blood pressure, neuritis, incipient TB, tubercular glands, hay fever, chronic gastritis, rheumatism, goitre, chronic headaches, infantile paralysis, neurasthenia, prolapsed uterus, ovarian trouble, deafness, eye trouble, lumbago, Bright’s disease, duodenal ulcer, inflammation of the liver, diaplesia, gall stones, nasal catarrh, septic throat, bronchitis, poisoned foot, traumatic paralysis, somnambulism, chest trouble and displacement of stomach.54

In an advertisement published in Smith’s Weekly on 30 September 1922, Helen MacKenzie stated that: “Insomnia, Blindness, Deafness, Paralysis, Goitre, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Nerves, Maladies of the Liver and Stomach, Bright’s Disease, All Kidney Ailments, etc., yield to CHIROPRACTIC.”55

Cowper Millicham and Mildred Kate Moore-Jones published a pamphlet, “Regain Your Health,” which also contained a few testimonials dealing with asthma, headaches, lumbago, neuritis, spondylitis, poor health, backache, duodenal ulcer, ulcerated stomach, sciatica, tic douloureux and arthritis.58

George Theroux’s most famous case was that of Ross Coulthard, who was cured of his epilepsy, after all else had failed.59

On 14 March 1958, Henry Otterholt, the first graduate chiropractor to practise in Australasia, wrote a long letter to Graham Kinney, entitled “My New Zealand Experience,” which included cases he had managed successfully: blindness following eye pain, severe menstrual pain, visions of demons, colon cancer, migraine, tubercular glands in the neck, blindness of 30 years’ duration, diabetes, epilepsy, insanity, appendicitis, and paralysis.60

Newspaper Stories

Australia was fortunate that some stories were thought to be of sufficient interest to be published in the local press. While there are likely to be more, the following were articles we have so far retrieved.

One of Fred Victor Coxon’s cases was featured in Smith’s Weekly on 19 May 1928:51

...Six years ago the 14-year-old son of a Sydney professional man met with an accident while diving at Middle Harbor. He struck the bottom with his head, and was rendered unconscious. After being treated for depressed fracture of the skull, severe headaches developed. He became subject to periods of depression and excessive drowsiness, which, among other things, caused him to “wag it” from school. When he returned to his medical adviser, the latter ascribed his trouble to imagination... (he later developed) epileptic fits...loss of memory and blurring of eyesight...

...Coxon cheerfully took on a job that had baffled Macquarie Street and such was his success that since the first treatment the young man—he is now 20—has not had another fit. It is true that he suffers from occasional attacks of drowsiness and slight headaches, but the fits and the insufferable head pains that clouded his life for six years have disappeared...

Smith’s Weekly of 22 June 1928 announced:62

“Hopeless Lunatic” Makes Amazing Recovery
Adelaide Chiropractor on Eve of Magic Cure

ULTIMATE SUCCESS DEPENDS ON VICTORIAN INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INSANE

Provided no departmental interference is met with at what is regarded as the critical stage of the treatment of his patient, chiropractor G. Theroux, of Haigh’s Buildings, Adelaide, holds out every hope of presenting the Australian medical world with a remarkable achievement.

It will consist of the complete restoration to sanity of an Adelaide resident, who spent nearly three years in various mental institutions in Victoria, where he is regarded as a violent lunatic, for whose recovery no hope was entertained...

In January of this year the patient received his first treatment at the hands of Theroux. Gradually the patient lost any tendency towards violence. He ate well and regularly. As the treatment progressed, so did the patient, and, for the first time in seven years he one day wrote a letter to his mother—just a short note explaining that he was feeling well and containing an allusion to family affairs.

Four months after the chiropractor had begun his treatment, the family decided to obtain independent medical opinion as to the mental condition of the patient and he was examined...
by three reputable Adelaide doctors. The first said: “This is to certify that I have examined Mr. — and find that his physical condition is normal. Mentally his manner is slightly puerile, but he answers questions readily and intelligently. He is capable of performing normally the ordinary functions of life and is fit to be at large with little guardianship.”

The second opinion was: “I have examined —, who has been in Adelaide for four months (on probation from Victoria), and find that he has improved considerably in his mental and physical condition. As he has done so well over here I would suggest that he be granted an extension of twelve months in South Australia.”

The report of the third doctor reads: “I have examined —, who has been in Adelaide four months. He is in good general health. He is able to read and write, and carry on a rational conversation. His mental condition appears to be almost normal. I would advise that a further period of probation be granted to him.

The story of a patient of George Theroux, Ross Garfield Coulthard, was published in Smith’s Weekly in October 1932.63

**EPILEPTIC CURED**

**WHEN GIVEN UP BY DOCTORS**

**SPINAL TREATMENT SUCCEEDS**

**BRIGHT FUTURE FOR YOUTH WHO WAS DOOMED**

On the American vessel “Monterey,” which left Australia the other day is a young South Australian whose ambition is to condense three years’ study into two and to return to Australia a chiropractor.

For nine years Ross Garfield Coulthard, now aged 23, has been a victim of epileptic fits, and was regarded by leading medical men in South Australia as hopelessly incurable.

Six months ago “Smith’s” saw this young man in Adelaide and was ready to agree with the medical opinion. To-day young Coulthard is a fit, healthy and alert Australian, gazing with eager eyes into the future.

The history of young Coulthard’s affliction and recovery makes one of the most interesting stories “Smith’s” has encountered in this realm of human misfortune. Ross Coulthard was a scholar of Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, and was making brilliant progress in his studies when he was knocked on the head with a hockey stick at the age of fourteen.

For three years after that he still attended the college, but made little progress in his studies, slipping back from the top of the class to the bottom, where he remained in spite of his efforts to absorb tuition. Epilepsy claimed him for the victim and the fits gradually developed in intensity until his life and sanity were despaired of.

Constantly under medical attention it was found that the doctors could do little for him, and finally a prominent surgeon performed an operation. An incision in his skull testifies to the efforts made during that operation to remove the source of the trouble which was thought to be a tumor on the brain, a condition suggested by x-ray photos. But when the surgeons peered into the skull they found no tumor and they stated that nothing further could be done as the boy was hopelessly incurable.

Fortunately Ross Coulthard’s father was not a poor man. He had spent many hundreds of pounds on his boy and was prepared to exhaust every avenue to have a cure effected, though it cost him every penny.

With the last hope destroyed by medical opinion, Coulthard, Snr. sought the assistance of any healer whom he heard of as being likely to succeed, but although he consulted herbalists and others he had no success.

“We tried everything we heard of,” Ross Coulthard’s father told “Smith’s” “and when everything had failed we looked around for fresh sources of help. Someone explained to my wife that Christian Science would assist and my wife and I got on our knees and prayed for his recovery.”

But the young fellow’s condition did not improve, and then just as he was about to abandon hope, Mr. Coulthard learned of chiropractic treatment. Accordingly, he took the lad to Geo. Theroux, in Adelaide, and was told, after the young man had been examined, that complete success would be achieved within six months.

“I am grateful to ‘Smith’s’ for what it has done for me in recommending doctors” said the young man’s father, “and through ‘Smith’s’ I would like to point out that chiropractic has saved my son from idiocy or death. It was my intention before his trouble intervened that he should be a doctor, but now his mind is made up to become a chiropractor, and an expert in a branch of science which he has come firmly to believe in during the past six months.

Those who knew him six months ago are astounded at the change Mr. ... [part of text was missing] ... For six years he took medicine three times daily as prescribed for him by doctors.

“The change in him is remarkable. I feel that I would like the public to know that the science of chiropractic has been an immense benefit in this case and I hope that through ‘Smith’s’ other sufferers may derive some benefit from this cheap but efficacious treatment.”

That Mr. Coulthard Snr. sincerely believes in chiropractic is evidenced by the fact that it will cost him well over £1,000 to finance his son’s university studies in Davenport, Iowa, and he says that if it costs him another couple of thousand pounds he will establish his son as a chiropractor in Australia upon his return.

“Maybe some people will scoff at this science,” said Mr. Coulthard, “but I only speak from personal knowledge. I feel that it has saved my son’s life and has lifted a heavy weight from the minds of his mother and mine.”

The chiropractor, Geo. Theroux, is a French Canadian, who was wounded during the war and as a result was blind for seven years. He claims that his sight was restored through chiropractic treatment.

The Australian Women’s Weekly of Saturday, 7 March 1936 carried this story.64

**ZOO MONKEY CURED OF PARALYSIS**

First Application of Chiropractic Treatment to Animals

For years the science of Chiropractic has been acknowledged as a valuable factor in the treatment of human ailments. Now comes a most interesting extension of this method to animals.

Mr. R.C.M. Searby, an Australian chiropractor has effected a complete cure of paralysis in an orang utan.
Medical critics of Chiropractic have frequently used the argument that much of the success of the treatment is psychological. In this instance no such factor could have entered into the cure, and this indicates most interesting possibilities in the development of veterinary science.

Thanks to the skilful “adjustments” of Mr. Searby, Jane, the light colored orang utan imported from Borneo for Taronga Park, has completely recovered from paralysis of the lower limbs, and now swings about in her cage as sprightly as Jimmy, her mate, who has never suffered illness.

When Jane and Jimmy arrived from Borneo to replace the favorite Freddy, who died, the zoo staff were very worried about their health. They had suffered during transport and to use the words of Mr. Le Souef, the curator, “were in very bad shape.”

It was thought at first that Jane’s inability to walk was the result of weakness or some internal disease. Remedies were administered and a special course of vitamins and nourishing foods given both animals.

They showed considerable physical improvement and, in addition to gaining weight, the condition of their coats indicated that there was nothing organically wrong. But although healthy Jane did not recover the use of her legs, and Mr. Le Souef came to the conclusion that she had suffered some injury that was causing the paralysis.

In an endeavor to localize the trouble special X-ray photographs of the spinal column of the animal were taken, and a chiropractor’s examination of these revealed that there had been a partial dislocation of one of the vertebrae in the neck. In the ordinary course there was nothing in veterinary science which could alleviate the condition, and if nature did not rectify the trouble the orang utan would have to be destroyed...

...Mr. Le Souef decided to ask Mr. Searby to examine the X-ray photographs of Jane, and express an opinion as to whether Chiropractic “adjustments” would benefit the animal.

Mr. Searby thought the treatment would alleviate her condition, and in all probability be the means of the monkey recovering the use of her limbs.

Consequently he took his portable Chiropractic adjusting table to the zoo, and, with his wife, entered the orang utan’s cage.

Attendants held the monkey in the position suitable for the “adjustments,” and, after ten visits extending a little over a month, Jane had recovered.

Smith’s Weekly performed its own investigation, reported in its 26 August 1933 issue, of the results that chiropractic had obtained by contacting a number of patients who agreed to be interviewed and have their stories anonymously published.

These cases included:

- Crippled for 20 years after lifting heavy object which strained patient’s back and degenerated into spondylitis. After the first adjustment improvement was noticeable, after three months no pain, after 12 months back at work;
- Two-year-old child with deformed foot, completely normal after four months of care;
- Clergyman, suffering continual headaches, non-responsive to various medical treatments, and eventually diagnosed with an incurable nerve condition, considered resigning from his parish, was induced to try chiropractic, now better than ever;
- Rheumatoid arthritis of several years standing resolved after 4 months;
- Case of asthma of 28 years standing resolved, no recurrence in following two years;
- Middle-aged lady, was diagnosed by medical advisers as suffering from chronic dysentery with a heart complication and no hope for recovery was held by various medical experts. Under chiropractic care dysentery had cleared up after two months, and in another month there was no trace of the abnormality of the heart. No relapse during the following two years.

Their conclusion?
Fig 4. Headline in Smith’s Weekly, 20 October 1928

These few reports are only some of the stories that appeared in the Australian press.

**Mention in Parliamentary Proceedings**

On 14 July 1938, The Hon. Herbert Paton FitzSimons, MLA, member for the seat of Lane Cove, and Minister for Public Health of the State of New South Wales, moved that leave be given to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the registration of medical practitioners; to regulate the qualifications for and the effect of each registration; to repeal the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act, 1915. He stated, *inter alia*, that “the bill (the current bill under discussion) is designed to deal with lay practitioners, the sale of patent medicines and other matters.” He also stated that “The bill contains no clause to prevent a herbalist, chiropractor or any other lay practitioner from continuing with his practice.”

The second reading of this bill and discussion started on 4 August 1938. On 11 August the member for Dulwich Hills, James Guy Dalley Arkins, MLA, during his speech mentioned:

> “...A well-known New South Wales medical practitioner, who has a scientific brother even more famous than he is, went to the United States of America not long ago, and in that country he became subject to sciatica, or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve, that large nerve of the thigh. Hon. Members know that there is a branch of manipulative surgery known as chiropractics, which for many years was subjected to derision, and those who practised it to persecution and imprisonment.

This man asked that a doctor be sent for. The practitioner who came was a doctor of chiropractic. He is back again in practice, but he does not call it chiropractics—he has merely introduced a new method. . . .”

On the 17th of August, as debate continued, Robert James Heffron, MLA, Member for Botany, stated:

> “…I have no desire to give the name of the gentleman concerned in the case I am about to mention. I have noticed him in the gallery tonight. Without mentioning any names, I will give this man’s experience. He was a heart case and had been in bed for about eighteen months. His doctor had given him about three months to live, and he was gradually getting worse every day and almost gasping for breath. One day when his doctor came to see him he said, ‘I am sacking you today.’ The doctor said, ‘Why? What are you going to do?’ He said, ‘I am calling in a chiropractor’...”

Edward Lloyd Sanders, MLA, Member for Willoughby, stated:

> “The majority of people who go to the chiropractor have first been to doctors who belong to the British Medical Association by whom they have not been treated successfully!”

On 18 August 1938, James Clyde Ross, MLA, member for Kogarah, said:

> “… Ninety per cent of the measure definitely relates to lay practitioners. Chiropractors and similar lay practitioners should be controlled and registered, because among them there are both competent and incompetent men and women. I have before me not notes, Mr. Speaker, but the original testimonials of a number of persons who have been treated by biochemists, neuropaths, and other lay practitioners. I do not say that I can vouch for the truth of them all, but I can vouch for the truth of one case. It is that of a young man who has lived within 100 yards of my home for ten years, and who is about 23 years of age. His name is Walter Higginson. About three and a half years ago that young man, who is about 6 ft. high, and of average physique and intelligence, developed sickness and went to the St. George District Hospital, where Dr. Richardson, a brother of the Honorary Minister in the present Government, examined him. Evidently he was in the early stages of some obscure complaint, and the doctor prescribed certain medicine for him. In a fortnight the young man went back for another treatment. His people were in destitute circumstances. His father was on food relief, and there are six children in the family. Subsequently Dr. Crackanthorp was called in to see the patient and he recommended that he be transferred to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, as it was suspected that he was suffering from early tuberculosis. At that hospital he was put in the tuberculosis ward and subjected to every test. After the most exhaustive examination was proved that he was not suffering from tuberculosis. Later, he was transferred to the orthopaedic ward, in which he was treated for some time. The doctor who was in charge of his case, Dr. Teece, is famous in New South Wales. For upwards of three years the lad was in and out of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. At first he was treated for osteo-arthritis, but ultimately the diagnosis was spondylitis. . . .”

> “… After treatment for spondylitis for two and a half years the lad was returned to his home as incurable. The best medical practitioners in New South Wales had done their best to cure him. Including local doctors, the lad was attended by fifteen different practitioners. The stage was reached when for twenty-one months he was confined to his bed at home, during which time he did not set foot to the ground. He could scarcely move his hands, and his eyesight was failing. He was unable to eat properly, and therefore was insufficiently nourished. He was in an apparatus which went from the back of his neck down his spine, and his mother told me that it was a night mare to change his bedding because as soon as his feet were lifted to pull the sheet from beneath him he screamed in agony. When it was decided that no good would be served
by keeping him at the hospital his father was requested to take the youth home and have him sent in by ambulance once a month for examination. After that had been done for a few months it was decided that it was useless to continue. The mother asked whether anything could be done to ease the lad’s pain, and she was told that before long the joints would set and the pain would lessen, though the lad would not die for some time. Later she sent for Dr. Richardson who tested the lad’s eyes and diagnosed them as suffering from a nervous disorder. Again the doctor was sent for, as the lad had developed an intense pain in his stomach in the region of the appendix, and there was a question whether it was appendicitis. So low was his condition that it was stated that he could not be expected to live more than a short period. At the conclusion of that examination, Dr. Richardson walked to the verandah with the mother, who asked him to tell her exactly what was his opinion concerning the boy. He replied: ‘It does not matter what you do. The boy has not long to go, and you must be reconciled to that.’

“For some twelve months persons in the district had been urging the parents to permit a certain chiropractor to have a look at the boy. But the parents were opposed to unorthodox treatment. After all, the lad was their son and they did not intend to take any risks. At the same time he had the attention of the best registered practitioners available, including Dr. Teece and Dr. Vance, and upon hearing what Dr. Richardson said, the lad’s parents, realising that orthodoxy had failed, turned as a last resort to the chiropractor. Accompanied by his wife, who assisted him in the capacity of nurse, the chiropractor visited the boy. After a careful examination he said he thought that he could do something for the lad, though his wife urged him not to attempt to treat so desperate a case. The boy’s parents made it clear that they could not pay for treatment, but the chiropractor said he was prepared to treat the boy gratis. He has been treating him for three months and has not been paid one farthing for his services. He had the lad taken to his rooms in the city and X-rayed, when he found that a vertebra at the back of his neck was out of position. He adjusted the spine, tested it for pressure, and sent the boy home. I do not know what the doctor did; whether orthodoxy is right, or whether orthodoxy is worth anything. I do know that the boy was almost dead, and that he was on his feet a fortnight ago. Certainly he was not walking unaided. Under his bed is a box of tools with the aid of which he has made himself a wireless set. He has not an ache or pain, is eating normally and is continually putting on weight. I do not want anyone to tell me that lay practitioners cannot do this or that. Baseless condemnation of that kind has been going on for centuries, and was levelled at Pasteur and his like. I know as a layman that the boy had the advantage of the best medical attention in the State, and that he was treated in a public institution with all the resources available. The day came when orthodoxy practitioners confessed that they could do nothing for the lad; that he was finished. Yet to-day, that youth has improved out of sight... Not only in the New South Wales Parliament, during discussions on the Medical Practitioners Bill, were chiropractic results mentioned and incorporated in the Parliamentary Debates, but chiropractic successes were also incorporated in the Parliamentary Debates of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Charles Albert Aaron Morgan, MP, Member for Reid, New South Wales, is the first known Federal Member of Parliament to publicly champion chiropractic in the national capital. A patient of Stanley and Mariette Bolton, he had received great benefit. During a debate on the Hospital Benefits Bill on 2 October 1945 he related:72

“I have here the history of a case of a young man who was stricken with an ailment known as dermato-miositis, and who was taken to a public hospital for treatment. The particulars are set out in a letter written by his father, Mr. T.A. Lever, on the 21st February, 1944, to the honorable member for Cook (Mr. Sheehan):

“About 18 or 19 months ago, my son complained that it was getting hard for him to walk. He went to see a doctor who told him there was nothing wrong with him; a week or two later he found that he could not bend down to put his shoes on or go to work. We called in the doctors who still said there was nothing wrong with him. After that my son found it was getting hard to put his arms up above his head. I rang up another doctor who when he knew we had the first doctor would not come. I told him I wanted another doctor’s advice. He told me to ring back the other doctor as there was another doctor in his place; I rang and got the other doctor. He came twice and told me he could not find anything wrong; he told me the best thing to do was to get him into hospital under observation. I asked him to do that, he would not; he told me to get a specialist. All this was costing me money.

“I got in touch with a Doctor Owen of Marrickville who also could not find anything wrong, but did put him into hospital under observation. After being there for three weeks they could not diagnose his complaint and he was transferred to Prince Alfred Hospital under one of our most eminent specialists. After five weeks in there they found out that he had dermato-miositis. After he had been in hospital for nine weeks they told me it was incurable and he would die as no one in the world has ever survived it. I then took him out of hospital two days before his 21st birthday.”

Morgan then interposed a description of the disease taken from Osler’s Principles and Practice of Medicine. Thereafter he continued with Mr Lever’s letter:

“Now during his stay in hospital he was getting worse. He went blind in his left eye, he could not sit up nor put his hands together or bend his legs or straighten his arms, he was getting worse gradually. When I spoke to the doctor about him going blind in one eye and the condition he was in he told me that was his muscles tightening up and he would gradually go like that until he died.

“Such was the history of his case up to the time he came out of hospital. In fact he was much worse than what I have explained.

“In desperation I then turned to a chiropractor who in the interview told us that if we could give him some occasion where his nerve energy had been squeezed he may be able to do something, otherwise he would not take the case on. He then asked if the lad had had a fall on his shoulder at any time, and we said ‘No.’ He then wanted to know if he had been pulled by the arm by any one or anything very hard. On 11 October 1939, more than a year later, the bill was still being discussed. That day Mr Arkin stated:73

“...The other day I introduced to the Minister a well-known solicitor who had undergone at least five major operations and was levelled at Pasteur and his like. I know as a layman that the boy had the advantage of the best medical attention in the State, and that he was treated in a public institution with all the resources available. The day came when orthodoxy practitioners confessed that they could do nothing for the lad; that he was finished. Yet to-day, that youth has improved out of sight...”

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Later in his speech, Morgan also touched on his personal experiences:

"I bring this matter before honorable members because of my own experience. I consider it my duty when I have had things revealed to me to spread the knowledge. In 25 years I never knew a day without suffering. Yet for ten years, since having this new treatment, I have never had an ache or pain. With the Government Whip (Mr. Sheehan), I hold the record for attendance in this House since I have been a member, not having missed a day's sitting in five years. I have cited the case as is done in Canada, the United States of America and other parts of the world and then people who are cured by them will be able to get their tax deductions allowed.

"The hospital authorities wrote to the young man's father confirming the fact that they could do nothing for him. In my opinion his condition is slowly progressive and the treatment only palliative."

"When it was learned in certain influential quarters that this patient was to be treated by a chiropractor, strenuous efforts were made to prevent it. The persons concerned were evidently prepared to let him die rather than that orthodox medical ideas should be 'debunked' and this modern treatment recognized."

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52. Advertisement. The Argus, Melbourne, 28 December 1905.
53. Wells J. Undated letter to Felix Bauer. Authors’ files.
56. Fletcher JW, Fletcher M. Pamphlet, circa 1929/30.
63. Epileptic cured when given up by doctors. Smith’s Weekly, October 1932.