

HISTORY OF CHIROPRACTIC

THE FIRST CHIROPRACTIC SUCCESS WAS IN 1885

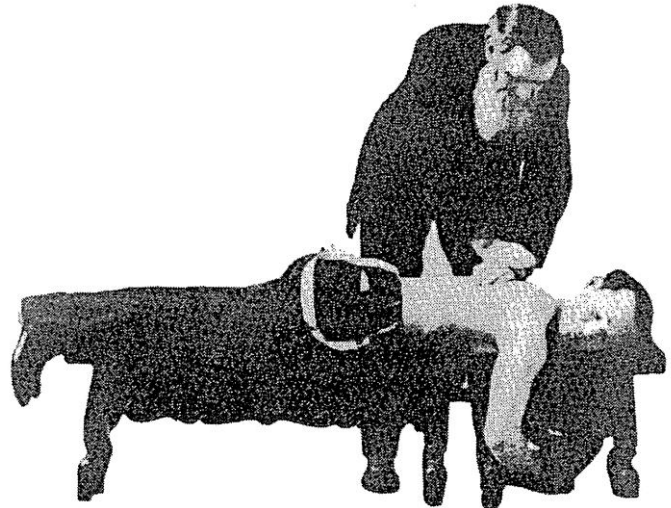


Harvey Lillard, janitor of the Ryan Building in Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, USA, was not a happy man. 17 years before, while working in a cramped, stooped position, he had felt something give way in his spine. The immediate result was not only pain.....he found he had lost his hearing. He mentioned his problem to Daniel David Palmer, who had an office in the Ryan Building and was a keen student of anatomy and physiology. Daniel Palmer had a theory. He surmised that the spine was the highway along which ran the central nervous system. If that highway should become in need of repair and any way restrict the constant traffic of brain impulses and orders carried by the central nervous system, other symptoms seemingly unconnected to the spinal column could result.

He examined Harvey Lillard and found that one of his vertebrae was misaligned. On September 18th 1895, he gave Harvey Lillard the first ever Chiropractic adjustment. Harvey's hearing returned.....and Chiropractic was born.

THE YEARS OF STRUGGLE.

Daniel Palmer was not the first pioneer to find the established medical world ranged against him. In 1845, the American dentist Wells first used Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) to quell the pain of dentistry. He, and the later exponents of anaesthetics such as chloroform and ether, met sometimes violent opposition. In Vienna Semmelweis's insistence on hygiene at childbirth was ridiculed in 1847, in spite of the fact that it reduced maternal mortality. Twenty years later, Lister used carbolic acid and phenol sprays to reduce the risk of infection during surgery. Surgeons who operated in



swallow tail suits and prided themselves on the bloodiness of their aprons, derided Lister too.

So David Palmer was in very good company. He persevered and opened the first school of Chiropractic in 1898. In spite of opposition from the medical profession, five of the first 15 graduates were medical doctors. It's also worth noting that half the pupils were women, a tradition that is still maintained today in most Chiropractic schools. Daniel Palmer live to see dozens of Chiropractic schools open up across America. He died in 1913.

The struggle went on. Many Chiropractors like Daniel Palmer were prosecuted and jailed for allegedly practicing medicine without a licence. A landmark case was when Shegato Morikubo DC, a graduate of Palmer's School, was found innocent of practicing medicine without a licence. The judge decided that he was not practicing medicine....he was practicing Chiropractic. This was the first recognition of Chiropractic as a science in its own right.

YEARS OF PROGRESS.

In spite of opposition, the march of Chiropractic went on unchecked. Palmer's mantle was taken on by his son, B J Palmer, who refined his techniques and took over the school. He also introduced into Chiropractic the new tool of x-rays, enabling more accurate diagnoses of spinal misalignments.

In America, where Chiropractic was born and first flourished, milestone followed milestone.

1913: Kansas was the first state to licence Chiropractors.

1941: The first standards were set up to accredit Chiropractic schools in the USA.

1944: The GI Bill of Rights made grants available for returning veterans to study Chiropractic.

1972: The US Congress voted to make Chiropractic available under Medicare. Today in America, there are around 50,000 practising Chiropractors treating 15-20 million patients. One in 15 Americans sees a Chiropractor at least once a year.

Chiropractic has come a long way from that day in 1895 when Harvey Lillard complained to Daniel Palmer about his deafness.

CHIROPRACTIC TODAY.

Chiropractic soon spread outside the United States and following the setting up of a body in 1947 to regulate and monitor the standards of Chiropractic education in America, others were formed in Canada, Australasia and Europe.

There are now around 2500 Chiropractors working in Britain. This means the profession has doubled in the last 5 years and will double again in the next 5 years.

About 150,000 patients consult a Chiropractor each week.

British Chiropractic has its milestones, too. In 1990 a report by the Medical Research Council published in the British Medical Journal found Chiropractic to be more effective than hospital outpatient treatment for low back pain.

Then in 1994, Royal Assent was given to the Chiropractors Act after it had obtained all party support and the backing of the medical profession. The Act aims to ensure that only those suitably qualified will be able to practice as a Chiropractor. It also set up a registration body, consisting of both Chiropractors and members of the public, to be responsible for the regulation and development and promotion of the whole profession and the establishment and maintenance of a statutory register.

In December 1994, the Clinical Standards Advisory Group (an independent multidiscipline group commissioned by the Department of Health) recommended that GPs should send appropriate patients with low back pain to Chiropractors and members of other recognized manipulative professions.

Most private health insurers now list Chiropractic among their policy benefits. Chiropractic treatment is becoming increasingly available on the National Health.

The future of Chiropractic is obviously one of continual progress and the next 100 years will see many more milestones in the service of alleviating human suffering.



Please give this to a friend or colleague if you think Chiropractic may help them.

Have them call us on 01276 21637

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