

Review

Reviews of books for this section are welcomed from osteopathic physicians and from faculty members in osteopathic medical institutions. Interested individuals will be sent information on format on request. A certain number of reviews are invited for books supplied to JAOA by publishers; persons wishing to be part of this program should write to the editors, giving background and areas of interest.

American Academy of Osteopathy 1993 Yearbook: Selected Papers of John Stedman Denslow, DO

Edited by Myron C. Beal, DO, FAAO. Pp 315, with illus. American Academy of Osteopathy, 3500 DePauw Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1136, 1993, \$42.95 (nonmembers only), plus shipping and handling.

The 1993 membership "perk" recently arrived from the American Academy of Osteopathy. The 1993 *Yearbook* brings together the important story of the development of modern osteopathic medical research with examples in the form of selected papers by John Stedman Denslow, DO.

Osteopathic medical history buffs will find in this volume important documentation of Dr Denslow's enthusiastic and persistent pursuit of laboratory methods to objectively quantify osteopathic palpatory diagnosis. Specifically, the foreword by Myron C. Beal, DO, FAAO, and Michael M. Patterson, PhD, JAOA contributing editor, and the lead article itself record a gold mine of

osteopathic medical information. By themselves, these pieces are reason enough to add this book to one's professional library.

But there is more—much more—in these 300-plus pages. Reprints of Dr Denslow's articles are presented in sections devoted to those articles reporting research and those articles in the categories of spinal mechanics and posture; the osteopathic medical examinations and findings of somatic dysfunction; the somatic component in health and disease; clinical discussions; and case reports.

Among the many "required reading" articles is a sociohistorical review of the development of the osteopathic medical profession. This subject is presented with great clarity in an article Dr Denslow had originally presented at the interprofessional seminars, sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and hosted by the Foundation for Research of the New York Academy of Osteopathy in December 1981. This article should be required reading for all osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students.

In a single volume, this *Yearbook* consolidates central social, historical, and scientific details that constitute the foundation and framework of our profession. The powerful presentation and comprehensive content are compelling and persuasive. Anyone harboring doubts concerning the scientific validation of somatic dysfunction (the osteopathic lesion) will have a tough time balancing those doubts with the scientific results Dr Denslow reports. His articles provide powerful footnotes

in the form of published documentation, which appears in world class journals, such as the *American Journal of Physiology* and the *Journal of Neurophysiology*. Readers learn how his work was begun, and why he chose, as his main research thrust, to document somatic dysfunction by objective means. Furthermore, his articles point the way for osteopathic medical research in our generation. Specifically, Dr Denslow includes the process he used to determine priorities for selecting osteopathic medical research objectives.

Another landmark publication from the Academy, this *Yearbook* provides easily accessed documentation of historical and scientific information in a single volume. By helping to answer some of the questions we DOs find so difficult to answer, the *Yearbook* boosts our self-esteem and pride in the osteopathic medical profession. ♦

David A. Patriquin, DO, FAAO
Department of Family Medicine
Professor emeritus
Ohio University College of
Osteopathic Medicine
Athens, Ohio