

ards. Flexner is no longer around to comment on medical education, California style. But the integrity of osteopathic education should never bow to political expediency.

A D.O. degree is a prized possession. A profession has invested its life in it. Let us resolve that we, at least, will never sell it for sixty-five pieces of silver.

EDITORIALS

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

This periodical is the official publication of the American Osteopathic Association.

Editor	George W. Northup, D.O.
Associate Editor	Katherine Becker
Assistant Editor	Barbara E. Peterson
President	Charles L. Naylor, D.O.
Executive Director	True B. Eveleth, D.O.
Business Manager	Walter A. Suberg

Vox populi

Predictions of future events have long enticed the minds of men. Man, through the ages, has invoked spirits, gazed into crystal balls, and conjured up all manner of gadgets and gimmicks for revealing the future. Modern man, however, turns to statistical study and scientific methods. Organizations have been formed that can with amazing accuracy predict the mood of large masses of people. One of the outstanding organizations in this field is Facts Consolidated, with offices in key areas in the United States and Europe. Through years of experience, this organization has developed an outstanding degree of accuracy in public opinion studies.

Ever since the proposed merger between the California Medical Association and the California Osteopathic Association came out in the open, the American Osteopathic Association has been interested in the reactions of the public in California. To find what they are, the A.O.A. turned to Facts Consolidated. To accomplish the purposes of the study, a sampling plan was developed, quota controls were established, and field work was assigned to sixty Facts Consolidated interviewers. Using the "face-to-face" method, almost 3,000 interviews were conducted from January 31 to February 5 of this year.

A recent release on the findings is most interesting. Contrary to some reports, the people of the State of California are not convinced of the wisdom of the proposed merger. One third of all those interviewed were opposed to the merger agreement which would absorb osteopathic physicians into the medical association and give all osteopaths who elect to take it an M.D. degree. Approximately another third are in favor of the merger agreement, and the remaining third expressed no opinion. More than 62 per cent of those interviewed were opposed to ending the licensing of osteopathic physicians in California. Of the remainder, only 10 per cent were in favor of the proposal, while 27 per cent had no opinion. However, the most important finding of this investigation was that *over 75 per cent of the approximate one third who favored the merger agreement were opposed to the proposal to end the licensing of osteopathic physicians in California.*

As a means of testing meaningful distribution of its sampling, Facts Consolidated made a comparison of party affiliations of those interviewed and of voters registered in California as of November 1960. At that time there were 7,464,626 voters, of whom 39.2 per cent were Republicans, 57.5 were Democrats, and 3.3 refused to identify their political affiliation. In the survey, 38.2 per cent of those interviewed were Republicans, 57.3 were Democrats, and 4.5 refused to state their party affiliations.

Approximately half of each interviewer's quota was male and half female. Interviewers were instructed to complete their quotas in such a manner as to obtain proper representation of socioeconomic, racial, religious, and urban-rural differences. It is important to point out that no control of political party affiliation was imposed either in the geographic sampling or on the quota restrictions imposed on the interviewers. However, as stated above, the political make-up of the sampling was strikingly similar to that of registered California voters. Certainly this fact, among others, indicates the reliability of the methods used.

Although the findings of this survey are encouraging, they should in no way lessen the efforts of organized osteopathy in its fight for survival in California. The people must be further alerted to the dangers of a medical monopoly in California or in any other state of the Union. Physicians the

Nation over rise up in righteous indignation at the suggestion of socialized medicine. However, the complete control of medical care by any one organization in California is no less evil.

Many sincere doctors of medicine must question A.M.A. approval of a new medical school (California College of Medicine, formerly College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons) in less than a year, the proposal to award a \$65.00 M.D. degree to over 2,000 D.O.'s with whom their leaders consistently prohibited professional association, and the complete capitulation of the second largest state medical association in the country to the demands of a handful of osteopathic politicians.

Both organized medicine and organized osteopathy will in the long run suffer if the merger is consummated. Many California people do not want licensing of D.O.'s to be discontinued. Apparently neither the leaders of the California Osteopathic Association nor of the California Medical Association care what the people think. *The American Osteopathic Association does—and we support their opinion.*

When organized medicine or organized osteopathy forgets the people they serve, they court disaster.

The voice of the people is important, and it will be heard.

Editor's note

The pages appearing in this "Special reprints" section have been electronically scanned from the original journals in which they appeared. Consequently, the scanning process at a density to enhance readability has picked up such artifacts as "bleed-through" type from reverse pages and other "blemishes" that existed in the original paper on which the text was printed. Even the yellowing of the original pages has caused some darkening of the margins. JAOA regrets these anomalies and hopes that readers will overlook them and concentrate on the content of these works published in the osteopathic medical profession's early history.

For interest sake, concluding pages of articles may contain "newsy" items of the original date.

Gilbert E. D'Alonzo, DO
June 2001

EDITORIALS

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

This periodical is the official publication of the American Osteopathic Association.

Editor	George W. Northup, D.O.
Associate Editor	Katherine Becker
Assistant Editor	Barbara E. Peterson
President	Charles L. Naylor, D.O.
Executive Director	True B. Eveleth, D.O.
Business Manager	Walter A. Suberg

Signifying what?

Last year Dr. Dorothy Marsh reported to the membership of the California Osteopathic Association that the qualifications necessary for the M.D. degree were submission of evidence of an unrevoked license as a physician and surgeon in the State of California, a D.O. degree granted by a college approved by the Board of Osteopathic Examiners of the State of California, and good moral character, with the application to be reviewed by the College and sent to its Board of Trustees with recommendations. Either Dr. Marsh neglected to inform C.O.A. members of the most important qualification or it was added later by the California Medical Association. In an address before the Council of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, as reported in the L.A.C.M.A. *Bulletin* for April 19, 1962, Dr. Wayne E. Pollock, chairman of the C.M.A. Committee on Other Professions, announced as the *first* requirement for the new M.D. degree that the applicant must have studied in an approved medical school for an academic year (9 months) prior to the granting of the M.D. degree.

He also reported that the degrees will be granted in four separate locations throughout the state and *without publicity*. He did not predict *when* this event would take place.

As time goes on it becomes obvious that the California Medical Association has been telling its membership one thing and the California Osteo-