

those whose feeling of inferiority is an actuality rather than a complex. They will try to protect their *actual* inferiority by false status symbols. True status is earned, not granted. The measure of a physician is not a matter of degree but a matter of service. Neither an M.D. degree nor a D.O. degree makes a physician—it merely identifies him. And the physician who seeks status rather than knowledge worships at the feet of a false god and prostitutes his ability for service.

Yes, the profession has spoken—not to itself, but for itself. It has expressed its desire to *bring* increasing prestige to the D.O. degree rather than to accept an identification created by others.

The matter of degrees has been presented. And the osteopathic profession has moved closer to the threshold of greatness.

Editorials

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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

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A new year—a new era

The year 1962 will be listed as a momentous one in the annals of osteopathic history. It will go down as the year of the California conspiracy. On July 14 and 15 about 2,000 M.D. degrees were distributed to D.O.'s licensed in that state. On November 6 the people of California by a majority vote supported the desire of former osteopathic physicians

to eliminate themselves and the profession through passage of Proposition 22. The people of California had been told too many times over too many years that there was no difference between osteopathic medicine and allopathic medicine and that in reality there was no need for the separate existence of the two professions. The practice of a majority of osteopathic physicians in California confirmed this philosophy in that every effort was made to follow the precepts of allopathic medicine and to ignore the physiologic principles of osteopathy.

There is little value to recapitulating in bitterness or depression the course of events in California, but the fact remains that the defeat of osteopathic medicine there is a black page in osteopathic history. There is little sense in viewing it otherwise. Perhaps history will reveal that all of us participated in the California defeat. Perhaps it will reveal that this profession many years ago erected the idol of "recognition" and has studiously worshipped at its feet. But regardless of what history will tell, the lesson to be learned from the recent past is a simple one: The osteopathic profession cannot be destroyed without its own participation in the destruction.

Reliable reports coming from California indicate that the pursuit of recognition is already bearing bitter fruit. Evidence is mounting that former osteopathic physicians with an m.d. degree are not granted the same privileges as physicians who earned their degrees at medical schools. It is *now* being pointed out that there are over 2,500 real M.D.'s in California who do not have hospital staff privileges; this number added to the 2,200 m.d.'s make the quest for staff privileges in the newly accepted medical (formerly osteopathic) hospitals highly competitive. When it is considered that the conversion of osteopathic hospitals into hospitals controlled by organized medicine is furnishing a haven for many of the 2,500 M.D.'s who have never before had hospital privileges, it is little wonder that the California Medical Association invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to eliminate the osteopathic profession and to acquire its hospitals for such use.

Other fruits of recognition, California style, are equally sickening. Specialists trained and certified under the aegis of the osteopathic profession have already been told by hospital administrators that no vacancies exist on the staff *in their areas* of specialization. Other specialists are being informed that they can do their own work in a limited area but can accept no more "in the hospital" referrals. It is reliably reported that medical specialists in the various fields have verbally informed former D.O. specialists that they had better not apply to specialty colleges for membership as in that way they will be saved the embarrassment of rejection. It is being pointed out to them that they will not be certified by medical specialty boards.

In a way, it is fortunate for osteopathic physicians in the other states of the Union that the California disaster occurred when it did. By observing

what goes on there, the rest of the profession is having an opportunity to learn what organized medicine means by merger. It is readily apparent that the merger consummated in California has but one purpose—the total destruction of the osteopathic profession and the physicians who make up the profession. The fact of the matter is that organized medicine never promised to do anything else. The wishful thinking was done and the exorbitant claims of benefits to result from “recognition” were made by deluded leaders of osteopathy—not by medicine—in California.

It is unfortunate that a college, over 2,000 individual osteopathic physicians, and a state licensing act had to be sacrificed to make it clear that D.O.'s who agree to merger are partners in their own destruction. Osteopathic physicians in California have actually “recognized” themselves out of existence. Despite the obvious lesson, there are still those so blinded by the greed for recognition that they, too, are walking the path toward destruction. A small group in Washington and another in Pennsylvania would sell their futures for a mess of pottage.

It is ironic that in these two instances the leaders are general practitioners and some of the followers are specialists who have been threatened with a boycott if they do not go along. Aside from the moral injustice of such pressure, the stupidity of the maneuvers is appalling. These osteopathic general practitioners have failed to read the handwriting on the wall. Certainly no thinking man could believe that organized medicine would spend thousands of dollars in the various states for the future benefit of those who have been members of the osteopathic profession.

The osteopathic general practitioner is the attraction, and he has inadvertently become the Pied Piper leading the osteopathic profession toward elimination.

The need to show these general practitioners what is being done *to* them—rather than *for* them—in merger proposals is paramount. On this point, and perhaps this point alone, will depend many of the happenings in the year to come. This next year, 1963, should be the beginning of a new era for osteopathic medicine, an era in which the headlong pursuit of recognition for recognition's sake will be abandoned and the profession will turn its attention to development through service.

As Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was laid to rest in Hyde Park last month, it was said that “she was a follower after the truth, and the truth which she found made her free.” Physicians should be followers after the truth, and if they are, their goal will never be merely recognition. It will be service. As we enter the new year, may we together seek truth through service, for the truth will also make us free.

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“The judgment is reversed”

With these four words, the legality of converting the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in Los Angeles was critically questioned by California's District Court of Appeals.

It will be recalled that the “College Trust Suit” was initiated by the chairman and two members of the C.O.P.S. Board of Trustees who charged that the defendants violated a charitable trust in converting the college to a medical school. When the suit was first presented before a lower court, the complaints were dismissed without leave to amend. The three district judges, after hearing oral arguments from both sides, unanimously agreed that the plaintiffs had a cause of action for alleged violation of a charitable trust. Although the total effect of the appellate court's decision cannot be fully determined until subsequent litigation transpires, the ruling of the three appellate judges is significant. It will be published in the March issue of *THE D.O.*, and it should be read by every osteopathic physician.

In this dramatic reversal, the California District Court of Appeal ruled that three trustees of the California College of Medicine had clear cause to sue the other trustees for breach of a charitable trust in converting the school from an osteopathic college. The judgment read, in part: