

The forgotten history of DD Palmer's Chiropractic disciples [Book Review]

Donald McDowall

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'The Forgotten History of D.D. Palmer's Chiropractic Disciples. Biographies of the First Students who transformed Chiropractic and influenced Osteopathy'.

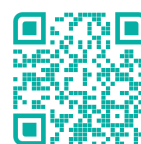
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This book is written in a historical narrative style. It tells the stories of the first Chiropractors, their backgrounds and what they did with their new Chiropractic knowledge. This book is written for a general audience interested in medical history including Chiropractic students and Chiropractors. The authors are all practicing chiropractors with an intense interest in Chiropractic history.



Sourcing the primary literature underpinning these stories appears to have been a challenge of persistence, finances and much cooperation dutifully acknowledged by the authors. All authors have multiple publications listed on the internet to their credit. The first two chapters review the life and character of DD Palmer the discoverer of Chiropractic. The next 23 chapters discuss the lives and accomplishments of his students as they studied and applied their new knowledge.

These male and female students often began with Palmer as patients. They were physicians as well as tradesmen, farmers, and businessmen. In this book their lives have been reconstructed with scholarly rigour giving credulity to Palmer's ideas and vision.

Perhaps the most important theme emerging from this work is the contribution Chiropractic made influencing the practice of adjacent professions such as Osteopathy, Naturopathy and Naprapathy. The authors provide convincing evidence for the adoption of Chiropractic ideas into these professions. Finding the original literature they reference for this work is an amazing challenge given that rarely more than 50 copies of medical books were published at one time. A comment lamented by Palmer when he published his own work.

Yet, little attribution is made by these professions for the ideas they borrowed from Palmer.

The last three chapters bring Palmer's work into the present discussing Palmer's social network, his influence on osteopathy and his lasting legacy. The book is well illustrated with images of primary literature including a previously unknown 1899 manuscript by Oakley Smith, a 1890 graduate and colleague of the Palmers. The manuscript was titled *Chiropractic under Dr. D.D. Palmer* and is yet to be published. Hopefully, the authors will release this find as a companion to this work.

The book ends with an extensive, chapter sectioned reference list useful for further study by readers who have caught the Chiropractic history bug. I have found this book to be a great summary and overview of the early years of my profession. While the Amazon price of over \$120 is more in the range of the cost of academic purchases than that of a novel, its value is in the time and expense saved in your own journey understanding and gathering the sources the authors have used.

It is an essential addition for all Chiropractor's libraries.

Donald McDowall

DC, MAppSc(Musculoskeletal Mgmt), PhD, Diplomate ICAK, FACCS

Adjunct Fellow of the Faculty of Health (SCU)

Private Practice

Canberra, ACT, Australia

donaldmcdowall@me.com

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