

eases from which most Americans now die. According to the advocates of preventive medicine, persuading people to adopt more healthful lifestyles will both enhance the nation's health and significantly reduce its health care costs. Because significantly altering people's lifestyles often requires employing the coercive powers of the state, the addition of a reading on prohibition or the war on drugs would have introduced some important countervailing values that should be considered when deciding how much force should be used to induce people to live more healthfully. (Rothstein notes that drug abuse is "primarily a social rather than a medical problem" (109), but his collected readings demonstrate that many health problems are part social and part medical.) And, especially if the costs of Social Security are taken into consideration, one wonders whether an increase in healthful living (and longevity) would yield much of a financial windfall for society. A fuller examination of the social costs of unhealthful living would have been valuable, particularly since lower-income Americans disproportionately engage in the unhealthful practices that the proponents of public health hope to curtail through sin taxes and other social control measures.

But the literature about American health care is too voluminous to be covered comprehensively, and Rothstein has selected a fine array of readings that both impart valuable substantive knowledge and demonstrate the sociopolitical dimensions of many medical issues. The readings also include extensive footnotes and valuable introductory bibliographical essays, both of which will help guide readers to further information about topics of particular interest. The book is primarily designed for the use of students in courses on the history and sociology of medicine and public health, but it will be of interest to all students of America's health care system.

Chiropractic: An Illustrated History, edited by Dennis Peterson and Glenda Wiese. St. Louis: Mosby-Year Book, 1995. xiii, 509 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$87.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY LEE ANDERSON, A & P HISTORICAL RESOURCES

In September 1995 chiropractic practitioners celebrated the centennial of founder Daniel David Palmer's first spinal adjustment. This lavishly illustrated book was part of that celebration, a work featuring an international list of contributors reflecting chiropractic's remarkably wide dissemination.

Chiropractic: An Illustrated History consists of seventeen chapters. The first eight chapters are organized chronologically, albeit with some overlap, while the remaining nine chapters treat a range of topics, from

"Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques" and "Chiropractic Equipment" to "Chiropractic Schools and Colleges" and "Women in Chiropractic." Apart from William G. Rothstein, who provided a background piece on nineteenth-century American medical practice, all the authors are or have been connected in some way with chiropractic; thus, the essays are unabashedly celebratory and also uneven in quality. Nonetheless, the work will surely tell most readers everything they ever wanted to know about chiropractic, past and present, and that is undoubtedly what the editors set out to do.

As readers might expect, the dominant theme of this work is that of the triumphal progress of a few determined believers in the face of sometimes overwhelming adversity. Indeed, one might almost say it is a story of the triumph of good over evil, since many of the essays cast organized medicine—from local practitioners to the American Medical Association—in a familiar villainous role. In that vein, chiropractic's dramatic 1987 courtroom victory over the AMA in *Wicks et al. v. AMA et al.* is duly highlighted. At the same time, however, the authors do not ignore chiropractic's long and mind-numbing history of petty internal feuds spawned by differences of personality, philosophy, and practice.

Of course, the history of chiropractic is far more than the tale of bickering between regular physicians and a band of sectarian dissenters or the sometimes deep divisions among chiropractic practitioners themselves. There is, after all, no denying chiropractic's longstanding appeal to presumably satisfied patients. Chiropractic is also noteworthy as one of the most persistent of the nineteenth-century American sectarian health care movements, and it is even more remarkable for its stubborn resistance to cooptation by mainstream medical science. Osteopathic medicine, for example, originally rested on foundations not so far removed from chiropractic, and osteopaths were, for that reason, also on organized medicine's enemies list. Yet osteopaths have long since adopted much of the scientific and ideological program of regular medicine, while chiropractors remain defiantly and proudly outside the pale, having conceded little more than the incorporation of a substantial scientific component into the professional curriculum and the adaptation of a modest dose of modern technology, including computerized scheduling and billing, in their professional practice.

The history of chiropractic, then, is a story well worth telling, and *An Illustrated History*, whatever its faults, is a significant contribution. Many of the photographs are superb, and the editors—director and archivist respectively at the David D. Palmer Health Sciences Library of the Palmer College of Chiropractic—have delivered a worthwhile, if expensive, volume.

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