

# What the Hell?



by R. J. Hammett, D.C.

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I know that this article was supposed to be a continuation of my last article, but if you will excuse me, I came across something I thought might make you think.

Recently, I visited a mid-western "chiropractic" college which is about an hour and a half from my office. In twenty years of practice, I've occasionally questioned the bookstore to see what's new in diagnostic text and other chiropractic stuff. In years past, I've picked up some pretty good

books on x-rays and diagnostics. But this time things have changed. I hadn't visited this bookstore in 2 to 3 years, so on a Thursday, I made a day of it.

What an eye opener! Upon entering the bookstore, the first things I usually look for are books on "Chiropractic." Well, I found 3 of them. Yep, 3 out of hundreds of volumes, and none of them written by a Palmer or anyone close to a chiropractic philosopher. So, depressed, I began to look at what the chiropractic students used as reference texts. I found the typical diagnostic, orthopedic, and neurological texts all pretty good. But, low and behold, volume after volume of therapy texts, not just physiotherapy, but homeopathic, naturopathic therapy. In fact, any type of therapy you could conceive of, unbelievable. Then text after text of medical care. It looked more like the University of Chicago Medical School bookstore, than a chiropractic college.

Finally, the last blow. As the check out counter, among the gum and candy, there it was . . . Tylenol, Aspirin, and Ibuprophen. I froze in my tracks, looking in disbelief. The student checking me out asked if I was O.K.? I said fine. I asked her, why does a chiropractic college have these types of drugs in its bookstore? She answered, as a matter of factly, that "when you have aches or pains, or headaches, they work fast." I then asked her what a spinal adjustment was. Her answer floored me! She said, "The Tylenol, or aspirins work faster than the adjustments, and besides, who has the time to adjust the spine!?" I took a deep breath and

looked for the exit.

As I'm driving home, I'm thinking to myself, is this what the "new" generation of chiropractors are being taught? Is this how they think about the spinal adjustment? How do they justify their chiropractic degree? A second class medical doctor? I can hear them in their offices after doing an hour of physiotherapy, acupuncture, and writing a prescription for vitamins, telling the patients that they should just take two Tylenol and that will get rid of their life long migraines.

When was the last time you visited your chiropractic college bookstores? What were they selling? Was it Chiropractic? Was it something you even recognized as Chiropractic? If not, maybe you should stomp down to the presidents' office and offer them a preventative dose of Tylenol or Ibuprophen for the

headaches they are creating for the future of the profession.

For those of you in "practice" for 15 years or longer, the implications are black and white. These young turks are the ones who will define "chiropractic" in the future. They will be the ones doing IMEs and testifying against you in court. Yes, the future of chiropractic is improving, gaining "respectability." In fact, chiropractic will look so good, we'll call it physical medicine.

The last thought is, how are you and the "drug wars?" What is in your medicine cabinet, and if your own mental closet isn't cleaned, how can you expect your patients to believe you when you tell them that chiropractic should be first, before drugs or surgery?

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