

## CORRESPONDENCE

### LIGHTS THAT ARE HIDDEN

An advertisement in a local newspaper stated that "few people who at some time or another have not suffered that terrific pain with 'neuralgia of the face' and yet not one in ten got instant relief with the remedies used or even understood the true cause of the ailment."

"Neuralgia is caused by pressure on the nerve fibers connected with the trifacial nerve of the face. This pressure is found in the neck. The small spinal segments in the neck are displaced enough to cause an impingement of those nerves, and neuralgia pain its the result. Relief is very certain under chiropractic adjustments; why suffer when there is no need of it? Let us explain how we can correct your ailment without the use of poisonous drugs."

E. L. Meyers, M. D., Chico, California, commenting on this says:

One who did not understand would say, "What is wrong with this advertisement?" First of all, it is a gross misstatement of facts, because the fifth cranial nerve or trifacial does not go near the neck; it is purely a cranial nerve having its origin within the skull, and its exit is through openings in the skull known as the "foramens, ovale rotundum and sphenoidal fissure and not between the vertebra of the neck," therefore, it could not be from vertebral misplacement causing an impingement upon the trifacial nerve.

We are, therefore, led to believe the person who wrote this advertisement belonged to the nine in place of the one who really understands the true situation. We who know and have made a lifetime study of conditions particularly due to disease, see the error not only in this advertisement, but in others of "wonder cures," patent medicines, so-called Chinese herb venders, and other cults that have taken root in America today.

Among the various "systems" of healing is the "osteopathic system," founded in Kirksville, Missouri, about thirty years ago. Their educational requirements at the beginning were very low, and are still deficient in quality or quantity of learning and upon the requirements for admission to other schools and colleges. Another "system" is chiropractic, with very low requirements for entry and only a short time for study—eighteen months. Whereas a regular medical student must study at the present time eight years, then after the eight years he is called in assembly and graduated; but he is still without the freedom of other "systems." He has a code of ethics, which is the bushel basket that forever hides his light. He must not advertise his individual ability to treat certain diseases, for if he does he is classed by his fellow-physicians as quack advertiser. Therefore, he has no way except his work to show his ability.

In my opinion, at the present time and age this is all wrong, as long as the class of advertising is true and not false. I think a medical man should be allowed this privilege without the odium of classification of *quack*. How is Brown to know the class and character of merchandise Smith has for sale without the medium of advertisement through the newspaper. Readers, stop and think of the conditions as they exist today! Who has founded and operates the hospitals of our land? Who, at great sacrifice to life and drudgery, has discovered the life-saving secrets, such as yellow fever, malaria, diphtheria, scarlet fever, diabetes, hydrophobia, tetanus or (lockjaw), smallpox, typhoid, and finally cancer in its early stages? The answer is the regular practitioner of medicine who has given his life to research work; and have they who have been the discoverers patented their ideas? No. It has been given to suffering humanity, without reward through the medium of the regular medical man.

Last, but not least, the physician gives his time and knowledge in establishing free clinics and health centers for the poor. Everything that has been discovered has been through exhaustive research of the regular medical man, and he is still working—working to add pleasant and comfortable years to human life by conquering the enemies of health.

### "WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE"

Under this caption (a quotation, by the way, from the San Francisco Daily News), are a few paragraphs in the May number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. Why shouldn't doctors disagree? Disagreement has the authority of the greatest antiquity behind it. Adam and Eve disagreed with the Lord and were put out of the Garden of Eden. Some time later their sons disagreed and Cain killed Abel. As years went on the population became so disagreeable, individually and collectively, that the Lord sent the great flood to wipe off the earth. Centuries afterward, tribes and nations disagreed with each other and began warfare. To settle disagreements between individuals our courts were founded. Man disagreed with the circumstances surrounding animal life and began to wear cloths, live in houses, and cook his food. If his food disagreed with him, or the weather, or he got a disagreeable hurt, he felt the need of human aid. Hence, the founding of the profession of medicine and surgery.

In the Dorothy Ellingson case it is reported that Dorothy disagreed with her mother and then shot the mother. At the trial one set of attorneys bitterly disagreed with another lot of attorneys. Dorothy seemed to disagree with everybody in the courtroom, and the judge seemed perturbed also. Why did the News editor not notice some of these other disagreements, but single out the doctors for comment? Our civilization is founded on disagreements. Disagreement is the biggest and most popular thing in the world today. Any Democrat or Republican will swear to the truth of this statement.

ETHAN H. SMITH.

528 Flood Building, May 12, 1925.

To the Editor—In Dr. Miller's article on "Ringworm of the Scalp," in the March number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, I found no mention made of quartz light therapy. This was a surprise to me, as I have had very good results with it in treating fungus infections.

A young man who had a very bad case of tinea barbae, covering nearly two-thirds of the beard region, of two months' duration was completely cured by two treatments carried to the point of vesication.

A young man of 16, with a skin lesion on the thigh and inguinal adenitis of four months' duration, declared by the pathologist to be a yeast infection, was immediately benefited and permanently cured by three weeks' treatment with quartz light.

The almost immediate improvement and ultimate entire cure in these cases, as well as others of minor degree of infection has converted me completely to the use of quartz light in all fungus infections.

I would like to know the experience of others in the treatment of such cases, for if quartz light will cure ringworm even of hairy regions, why risk x-ray?

F. F. ABBOTT, M. D.

Ontario, California.

Doctor Miller's reply:

"I think the following will answer the enclosed communication:

"The title of my article was 'Ringworm of the Scalp.' The discussion was, therefore, limited to fungus infections of the scalp. In the treatment of the disease in this location, quartz light therapy has not been found to be of value.

In the treatment of kerionic fungus infections of the bearded region and in blastomycosis or coccidioides of the skin, quartz light therapy is undoubtedly of some value. However, I have never seen or read of any such rapid cures in these stubborn infections as Dr. Abbott reports. I am sure that a more detailed clinical and bacteriological report along with the technique of treatment of his patients would be welcomed by all of us.

Sincerely yours,

HIRAM E. MILLER."