

they address to the President of the United States, and his lack of understanding of what lay behind what he chooses to term General Hershey's "stupidity or cupidity," is matched by his evident lack of understanding of the general governmental background of osteopathy.

The U. S. Employees' Compensation Act provides for payment to osteopathic physicians and surgeons and osteopathic hospitals for the care of government employees injured in line of duty.

The U. S. Office of Education recognized the American Osteopathic Association as the accrediting agency for osteopathic colleges and includes osteopathy among the professions concerning which it issues vocational guidance booklets.

The general temper of Congress was well represented in the action of the Senate on 30 May 1940, when it passed what was to have been known as "The Hospital Construction Act of 1940," providing, among other things, for a National Advisory Hospital Council with eight appointed members "selected from leading medical, osteopathic, or scientific authorities. . . ."

As long ago as February 1929 Congress passed, and President Coolidge signed, an act governing the practice of medicine in the District of Columbia and providing that "the degrees, doctor of medicine and doctor of osteopathy shall be accorded the same rights and privileges under governmental regulations."

In a number of states the law requires the inclusion on the State Board of Health of an osteopathic physician, and there is such inclusion in states where it is not required.

Dr. Visscher lives in a land where the privilege of free speech and a free press is often abused because it is not even required that what one says or writes shall be true.

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. . . . Dr. Visscher's protest is directed to proposed selective service deferment changes, its import is clear as are the convictions of the author. . . .

For a scientist to attack viciously a concept about which he knows nothing merely suggests that he has stepped out of his role as a scientist and has become either a politician or an evangelist, in either case his mouthings can be discounted because they represent an emotional outburst and are not a product of his scientific knowledge.

It so happens that the exemption of osteopathic students and physicians from the selective service has been a wartime necessity not only as a means of utilizing the training and skill of everyone where it would operate to the best advantage, which in this case was the care of the civilian population, but also because the medical departments of the army and navy, for reasons of their own, consistently refused to commission osteopathic physicians and surgeons as medical officers, although the congress

repeatedly implied its wish that they be so commissioned. The United States Public Health Service has commissioned a few osteopathic physicians. Because of this situation legislators and selective service officials were unwilling to draft a group of highly trained personnel badly needed, into the services as privates.

The performance of osteopathic physicians and institutions during the war has been most creditable. They stood up to everything asked of them and gave willingly as far as they were able to the war effort, without asking favor or special privilege.

Osteopathic institutions are not perpetrating "a fraud upon a gullible public," but are engaged in the serious business of training physicians and surgeons, able to meet the general medical problems of the average patient.

It is time that scientists shake themselves and keep pace with progress that is being made in allied fields before expressing themselves authoritatively about them, in terms and concepts that have long since been outgrown.

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The type of discussion by Maurice B. Visscher, M.D., of "Osteopathy and University Presidents" strikes the writer as unfair propaganda, and as such is out of place in any scientific journal.

The article is out of place because it is an emotional and untrue discussion of matters which will stand investigation in an orderly, systematic, and scientific manner. We are not interested in the thesis of anyone who thanks God in the market place that he is holier or more learned than other men.

There is abundant evidence that there are just as many pious "frauds" in regular practice in the allopathic cult as afflict the osteopathic school of medicine. But unlike the gentleman we would not be so inaccurate or so uncharitable as to indict the whole allopathic cult because of the undoubted quacks within the fold. We believe that the great majority of the allopathic profession are just as scientific, just as honest, and just as faithful and hard working as the practitioners of the osteopathic school of medicine. . . .

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#### Transposition

I am sorry that I have to call your attention to a typesetter's error in our article which appeared in the January 11th issue of *Science*. Page 51, column 1, line 2 and line 11 are transposed. It is easy to see how the error was made because both lines begin with six identical characters.

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