

Letters

Chiropractic Education

I think it is necessary to correct certain misimpressions that the letter (11 March) by C. W. Weiant, dean emeritus of the Chiropractic Institute of New York, might have left with your readers.

1) Weiant says: "Today all schools approved by the American Chiropractic Association are nonprofit institutions offering only a 4-year course. . . ." Whatever "approved" may mean, the facts are that no school of chiropractic in the United States is accredited even by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Chiropractic Association, which itself is not listed or approved by any recognized educational accrediting body in the United States. This information was included in a report by the Director of Education of the American Chiropractic Association to its House of Delegates in June 1964 and appeared in the March 1966 issue of the *ACA Journal*.

2) Weiant says: "Their faculties are made up of seasoned practitioners, young chiropractors with academic degrees in the subjects which they teach. . . ." The Director of Education of the ACA, however, said in his report: "Too many instructors [in chiropractic schools] are teaching the basic sciences without having had any advanced or graduate training in these sciences. Too many instructors [are] not trained or qualified as teachers nor masters of their fields, resulting in slavish devotion to textbook teaching and instruction considerably below the level of post-college professional education." It is interesting to note that at the Chiropractic Institute of New York, those faculty members who have legitimate academic degrees (most of which are undergraduate) took them in such subjects as community recreation, social studies, educational anthropology, speech, and French and Latin.

3) Weiant says: "[Chiropractic schools] are equipped with laboratories . . . as

well as . . . adequate libraries." According to a recent study of chiropractic school facilities in California conducted by the Stanford Research Institute, "Library and laboratory facilities, however, appear to be limited in amount of space, functional characteristics, and equipment."

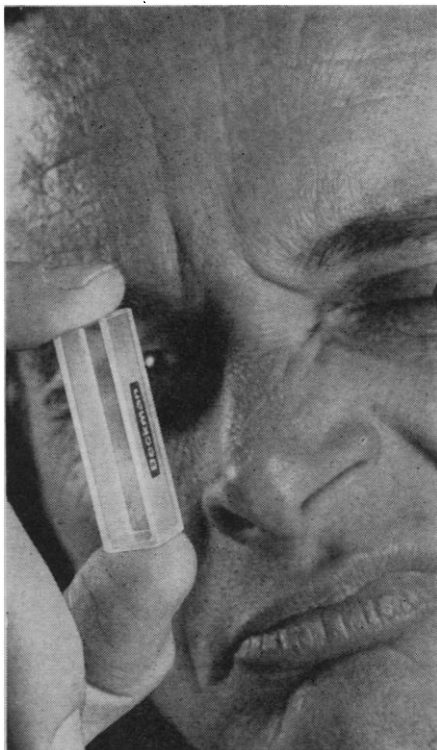
4) Weiant says: "Foreign medical literature of the last 10 years, especially in Germany, is replete with references to chiropractic—contributions to its theory, reports of clinical trials, and enthusiastic appraisals of its usefulness." The facts, according to a recent letter from the secretary of the German Medical Association, are as follows: "We may express that there are physicians here which make use among other therapeutic methods of a certain manual therapy of the vertebral column and the extremities. Those methods are also taught in special courses for doctors (not chiropractors). Those physicians—most of them are specialists for orthopaedy—use such methods besides other methods of curing. They are by no means comparable with an American 'chiropractor.'" In the United States, doctors of physical medicine and other physicians utilize manipulative therapy in their practice, but this does not mean that they are practicing chiropractic or using chiropractic procedures. Manipulative maneuvers are not and never have been synonymous with chiropractic. . . .

HENRY I. FINEBERG
*Medical Society of the State of
New York, 750 Third Avenue,
New York 10017*

. . . In a report to the House of Delegates of the American Chiropractic Association in 1964, the Director of Education identifies the Texas Chiropractic College as one of the three outstanding chiropractic colleges. According to the latest catalogue of that college, the entire faculty is made up of ten individuals of whom one has a recognized degree above the bachelor's degree. This is a master's degree in engineering. The

holder of this degree teaches pathology.

The medical profession, like the adherents of any scientific endeavor, holds that continuous introspection in the form of research is obligatory. It also holds that before being generally accepted and employed, diagnostic and therapeutic measures should be subjected to the forum of scientific evaluation. The scientific community suggests that chiropractic dogma and teaching should be submitted to the same scrutiny that is applied to medical methods. In a court case (*England vs. Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners*) in March 1965, certain testimony clearly enunciated the position of the chiropractic profession concerning specific diseases. The witnesses chosen by the chiropractors were the president of the National College of Chiropractic (who is also chairman of the Committee on Public Health of the ACA) and dean of the Texas College of Chiropractic. The first testified that he did not teach the use of artificial immunization. When asked, "What specific centers would you adjust for tetanus?" he replied, "To normalize the vasomotor extension, of course, you would adjust in the lower lumbar spine." When the other witness was asked, "In your book, Doctor Harper, I get the impression from reading it that at one point you say that some workings of the individual psychic thought could cause a subluxation?" he answered, "Yes, because psychic irritation of the nervous system can through irritation of the cord and into the anterior horn cause muscle contraction and in turn produce a subluxation in which case the subluxation becomes one of the symptoms of the complex and not the cause of the phenomena as long as the original irritation, be it clinical or psychic, remains." He was then asked, "In other words, I could think myself into a subluxation?" He answered, "You could. Now pardon me, may I say one thing. That is one of the, as a perfect example, I have suffered today from the irritation of being up on this stand. This is my first experience. I am demonstrating the fact today." He was then asked, "You mean you think I am giving you a subluxation?" He answered, "Yes." When he was asked, "Could you tell us what vertebra is affected by cross examination?" he answered, "All of them." When asked, "So that the gamut of diseases is possible as a result of being a witness?" he answered, "Chronic irritation of the nervous system." When asked, "You



The toughest UV cell customer in the world!

Is the path length within 0.5% of that specified? Are optical surfaces flat to 0.00006 inch? Are all surfaces of unblemished quality? Has this cell been checked by a Beckman DU® Spectrophotometer to guarantee its specified transmittance?

If the answer to these questions is "yes," we might make a sale to our toughest customer — our own quality control specialist. And once he's bought a cell, you can be assured that the cell you buy from Beckman will give the finest, distortion-free transmittance.

You can order from over 100 different cells from Beckman knowing that you'll receive a high quality UV cell that will enhance the performance and reliability of your UV spectrophotometer. Our toughest customer will see to that.

Ask your Beckman Sales Engineer for a copy of UV Cell Bulletin 796-A, or write for Data File LUV-366-10.

Beckman

INSTRUMENTS, INC.

SCIENTIFIC AND PROCESS
INSTRUMENTS DIVISION

FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA • 92634

INTERNATIONAL SUBSIDIARIES: GENEVA; MUNICH;
GLENROTHES, SCOTLAND; TOKYO; PARIS; CAPE TOWN; LONDON

could get polio?" he answered, "It's possible."

Upon examination of chiropractic textbooks in current use we find that chiropractic claims that such illnesses and diseases as allergies, diabetes, heart trouble, tonsillitis, and cancer can be cured by adjusting or manipulating the spinal column. It is not surprising that the three-judge court, in a unanimous ruling, stated, "There has been no showing here that the state has done more than necessary to protect the health of its citizens." The court's opinion also noted, "If the education obtained in chiropractic schools does not meet the standards of the United States Office of Education it may well be that the legislature of Louisiana felt that in the public interest a diploma from an approved medical school should be required of a chiropractor before he is allowed to treat all the human ailments chiropractors contend can be cured by manipulation of the spine." Chiropractic must demonstrate the validity of its claims before it can deserve the endorsement of the scientific world.

J. SABATIER

134 North 19 Street,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Algebra and Illusion

The disillusionment evident in E. N. Gilbert's "Information theory after 18 years" (15 April, p. 320) is very different from the usual tone of the articles on this subject. For the past 18 years we have been hearing of the great scientific accomplishments that were going to come out of information theory. Yet at this late date the author of this sympathetic but realistic review is unable to cite a single, tangible, scientific achievement that has resulted from information theory ("The results are still almost exclusively on paper").

This is a shocking fact. Information theory is a theme that has been successfully exploited in hundreds of grant applications and thousands of papers ("... a page count in the journals devoted to information theory shows that the field is still growing"). Yet these elaborations of the original idea (which was a good one) have been almost entirely sterile and useless. What went wrong? How can we avoid these same mistakes in the future?

The same threat of scientific sterility has arisen in many different areas.

Information theory was the forerunner of a whole series of mathematically oriented new "sciences." This new math started with "game theory" and continues on through the latest fad, "simulation." In all these there is a very high proportion of pseudoscientific nonsense. This is privately acknowledged by the competent people in these areas. Many scientists, however, are not aware of this situation because statements in an algebraic language look very much alike, whether they make any scientific sense or not.

What can working scientists learn from the fact that, in 18 years, the widely heralded information theory has failed to produce a single, solid, scientific accomplishment? This much at least: There is no magic in mathematical languages. The claims that are made for "computer simulation" and the rest of the new math should be taken with a grain of salt.

IRWIN D. J. BROSS

Roswell Park Memorial Institute,
Buffalo, New York 14203

"Amerind"

June Helm's use of the term "Amerind" in her book review (1 April, p. 58) reminded me of an incident I learned of while reading through the Frederic Ward Putnam papers. Putnam, curator of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, served as vice president representing the United States at the 13th International Congress of Americanists held in New York City in 1902. At a dinner meeting in the St. Denis Hotel on 25 October, the menu was printed on birch bark with the items designated in anthropological terms. The appetizer was listed as "Amerind Siouxp." During the after-dinner speeches Putnam remarked, "Amerind" seems to have been placed where it belongs—in the soup.

On the back of his menu there appears a note appended, probably, by his daughter Alice Putnam, which reads, "End of Amerind as a name for Indians." In spite of Putnam's dislike for the term and his effort to eliminate its use, "Amerind" has persisted in the literature and has found its way into the larger dictionaries.

RALPH W. DEXTER

Department of Biological Sciences,
Kent State University, Kent, Ohio