Editorials

HIS EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS
August 6th is Dr. Andrew Taylor Still’s 85th anniversary. As a mark of special honor to him, the American Osteopathic Association, representing the practice he established, holds its seventeenth annual meeting with him. But the Board of Trustees believes that the profession would like to co-operate in paying him some further mark of respect on this occasion.

On his 80th birthday, it will be recalled, the Alumni of the school over which he presides, raised a considerable sum and had a magnificent portrait painted of Dr. Still. The exercises on that occasion were in the nature of a distinct tribute, both from the profession and the townspeople, to the esteem in which he is held. While these personal tributes are well, Dr. Still’s life has been so earnest and productive as to make personal and flattering expressions seem hardly worthy, or at least insufficient. And so the Board tried to find some means of honoring a great man by aiding the greatest possible number to co-operate in carrying on the work which stands for his life.

It is no easy thing to conceive and carry out an idea worthy of the occasion. Such an occasion seldom comes. It is not often that people who owe so much to one man have him with them so long after the greatness of his work is established. This fact calls for some signal tribute. On the other hand, it is hard to make an appropriate expression to a man of Dr. Still’s years. The plan hit upon by the Board as being one in which the entire profession could co-operate in showing him the high and ever-increasing admiration and appreciation with which he is held is this: To suggest that the members of the profession raise a large sum for research, and present it through him on the occasion of his 85th birthday to the institution named in his honor and dedicated to carrying on, without break, his great work. Only a self-perpetuating institution can do this—one in which the means and energy of the whole profession can unite and guarantee that competent workers may be kept constantly at work, solving the problems that arise.

The Research Institute is essentially Dr. Still’s successor in so perpetuating his work. The national organization, the state units, and even the practitioners themselves are all essential, but they constitute the operating department, so to
to speak; the part hardest to supply, and the supremely necessary, in the long run, is that which is to continue the development started by the brain of Dr. Still. While the machinery which keeps our people together, secures legislation and brings us in contact with the public and permits us to put in operation our principles and theories, in other words, to practice our system, must receive our constant concern, we are leaving undone the biggest half if we do not carry on the research work which Dr. Still began.

The plan proposed is elastic and will meet every varying circumstance. Amounts from $1.00 up may be contributed. Each may give as he feels impelled to do and as his circumstances permit. He may give a set sum, as $5.00, $25.00 or $100.00; he may give the proceeds of a day’s practice or he may decide to send in the returns from the best day in March, April, May or June, or to per cent. of the practice of any one of these months, or set himself any task if he feels warranted. We want a large fund in which every one who feels that he owes something to Dr. Still and wants to give expression to that sense of obligation can have a part. The amount each gives need not be made public, but the names of all contributors and the number of them, with the total amount raised, should be a permanent part of this special memorial.

The Board of Trustees has conferred with the Finance Committee of the Research Institute and this plan meets its hearty approval, and all special contributions made between now and the meeting time will be credited to this anniversary offering. We ought to be able to report two facts on that occasion: First, that we have assured a permanent endowment fund by raising from among ourselves at least $100,000; and, second, that we should have in cash contributed between now and that date a large offering in which every loyal osteopathic physician has had a part in raising.

Recent happenings are most opportune. In this number of the Journal announcement is made of the splendid contribution made by the profession in Illinois, and Chicago in particular, to the A. T. Still Research Institute. They have bought property in Chicago as a permanent home for the Institute conservatively valued at from $35,000 to $50,000 and have donated it as their contribution towards this movement. And if everything works out as is anticipated, the Research Institute, with several men giving their entire time to this work, will be in actual operation before August 6th. This will make a splendid celebration, but we need to have a more personal and universal touch to it. Therefore, we appeal to all those who have made and paid regular pledges, those who have given liberally and those who have yet given nothing and who do not see their way to make a pledge for systematic giving, we appeal to all of these to make some contribution, so that we may bring this to Dr. Still at that time and tell him that 5,000 of those whose lives have been made larger and more useful through his selflessness have brought this sum as a special thank offering to him and will place it as a part of the permanent endowment fund of the institution named for him and dedicated to carrying out his work.

Nothing can give Dr. Still more satisfaction than to know that the work which he has so grandly started is to be carried on. Time and again he has stated that the work done by him is merely a start and that the thousands who believe in it should strive in pushing his principles further and in testing their application
to disease. This institute furnishes the practical, and only practical, means for insuring his work.

A generation hence Dr. Still will be known not for the work which he actually did, nor will his greatness be limited by the limitations of the work where he left it; but credit for the conception of the great principle and for all the good that may grow out of what he conceived and their application to human needs will history accord to him. We can do nothing more for him than to insure that this work will be done, and if we have a spark of gratitude in us we will do nothing less.

A HOME FOR RESEARCH

Announcement is hereby made that the magnificent property, pictures of which are presented herewith, has been purchased by the profession in Illinois and presented to the A. T. Still Research Institute as its contribution to this movement. This property speaks for itself. Its value is conservatively estimated at from $35,000 to $50,000. The ground fronts on Ashland Boulevard fifty feet and extends back one hundred forty-five feet. It is a beautiful stone structure, eleven rooms on the first and second floors, besides splendidly appointed quarters in basement and attic; lighted throughout by gas and electricity and equipped with a splendid ventilating system. A brick building 25 x 50 feet, covers the rear of the lot. This will make splendid quarters for the animal experimental department.

This, until his recent death, was the home of General Fitzsimonds, who was one of the leading citizens of Chicago and indeed of the country, an engineer and builder of acknowledged reputation and ample means. This property could be had only because apartment houses, factories and shops are extending in this direction, and render it not as desirable a residence for people of means.

It is believed that arrangements have been made to place one worker of acknowledged reputation, both in and out of the profession, in charge of this work, and several assistants under him. If the contract as planned is arranged, the actual work will begin in the summer, as soon as the necessary changes in the building can be made.

This is certainly the most important announcement that has been made to the profession within recent years. Our research workers, now too numerous to call by name, have demonstrated clearly that the principles upon which osteopathy rests its claim are easily demonstrable, and that the profession now has opportunity of giving to the world facts having a most important bearing upon the nature, cause and cure of disease.

Will the profession rise to its opportunities here? The Finance Committee of the Research Institute has been appealing for funds for several years. Considering all things, those appeals have been responded to perhaps fairly generously. When it was started, the announcement now made, seemed a long way into the future. We have already put into mortar
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and stone the structure of our air castle of a few years ago. Now we are called upon to people it and make it truly a hive of industry, out of which will come that which means more to the profession than anything beside the original propositions which Dr. Still laid down. And as we reach out to grasp our success, let us not fail to be thankful to Dr. Still, the truth of whose conception and the scientific value of it have been proven and enlarged by all of the work which we have done and whose method of applying it, whose technique, in its simplicity and directness, is what we are all now seeking to reproduce.

In this connection a brief review of the work of the Finance Committee will, we believe, be appreciated by the profession at large. Therefore, we are going to present it herewith a little in detail: About 450 persons have thus far become actual contributors to this fund. The amount subscribed for by them was about $90,000. The amount actually paid in is about $40,000. The amount due on subscriptions and unpaid is about $30,000. Now the practical side of this. If all payments due had been made, interest received from these amounts invested would have amounted to $13,000. The amount actually received from these investments has been a little over $7,000, so that the Research Institute is short on income alone about $6,000; and withholding this sum has perhaps not helped the individuals who have withheld it to any considerable extent, as the amounts of interest are small, but their aggregate sum is very considerable.

The amount paid in is an average of about $8.00 for each osteopathic physician in active practice. Whereas, the amount paid for the building and equipment by the Illinois profession will amount to an average of about $75.00 per capita for the profession in that state. The profession should be ashamed to allow this disparity to remain so long. If it is worth $75.00 each to the Illinois profession, it is certainly worth fifty or at least twenty-five dollars per capita to the rest of us.

Two calls are now being made: The plan of the A. O. A. to aid the profession in raising a large sum as a special honor to Dr. Still; and the call made to the Finance Committee of the Research Institute for us to arise and meet our possibilities by starting the work off in dead earnest as soon as the building is remodeled for occupancy. We present below the amounts paid by states which will prove, we trust, interesting and stimulating as well. As a parting shot, pay as much as you can as early as you can. The money that comes in now will be worth a great deal more than that money if delayed a few months or years. Make an earnest effort, deny yourself something if necessary, but rise to the occasion: and rising to the occasion, means raising the price paid per capita way above $8.00.