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## Letter to Dr. Raymond Keesecker, DO

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*Ost. Concept*

110 West 11th Avenue  
Olympia, Washington

January 19, 1952

Raymond P. Keesecker, D.O.  
American Osteopathic Association  
212 East Ohio  
Chicago 11, Illinois

My dear Dr. Keesecker:

I wish to thank you kindly for this opportunity of expressing an opinion regarding my conception of the "osteopathic concept".

Presumably the desire for a clear definition of the osteopathic concept stems from a need to distinguish ourselves from and to dispell public confusion regarding our profession's variance with ordinary medicine and its concepts of disease.

In preface I should like to comment as follows (having read osteopathic articles discussing the osteopathic concept): To say by comparison that osteopathic medicine seeks the cause of disease and that ordinary medicine does not do so, hardly seems fair to the latter. For certainly ordinary doctors seek and treat many of the causes of a disease. However their lacking in study of and therefore knowledge regarding the many faulty mechanics and dynamics of the structural body parts acting as units, as being a potent cause of disease seems to be the outstanding variance in their concept to that of the osteopathic medical concept of disease.

Regarding my version of the osteopathic concept:

No sharp dividing line between the osteopathic concept and other ordinary concepts of disease can be drawn. Instead the difference must be one of degree of emphasis. We have possession of no fundamental knowledge not known and agreed to by at least some non osteopathic medical authorities. It is merely that we place a far greater emphasis on the importance in health and disease of the integrity of the structural units of the body as regards their form, position, and mobility.

We further emphasize that the body's ability to protect itself against disease and external environment is far greater than is commonly allowed for in ordinary medical thought.

We conceive of disease as a manifestation of functional reactions in pattern/form to changes in environment, which environment should not be viewed as so important that its investigations should be <sup>performed</sup> done at the expense of belittling the search for ~~the~~ inadequately functioning factors within the body which determine the reaction, that is, the disease behaviour.

In terse summary perhaps it might be best stated: "The osteopathic concept chooses to submit that the internal structure and functioning of the body as a whole, regardless of the external environment, will best combat its environment only when and if all of its structural units are functioning at their peak of efficiency". Or, "Health is directly related to and dependant upon the efficient functioning of all body parts. Disease is directly related to and largely determined by inefficient functioning of structural body units" <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>functioning of the spine and all other structures of the body."</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>its behaviour by abnormal</sup> ~~functioning of the spine and all other structures of the body"~~

Needless to say such a concept of disease implies the logical corollary regarding treatment and diagnosis, that is, the vital need to seek and correct the inefficiently functioning body parts in any disease condition for optimum results.

May I take this opportunity to strongly compliment you on this highly worthwhile undertaking. I feel certain that it will result in vital crystalization of thought regarding the fundamentals of our profession.

Respectfully,

RSK:ph

Dr. Richard S. Koch