

BILL TO LICENSE CHIROPRACTORS MAKES PROGRESS

Government Measure Super- cedes Original Act Intro- duced By Buckley

Requiring only forty-five minutes' discussion, the act to regulate the practice of chiropractic in Alberta passed the committee stage in the legislature Wednesday evening, without amendment, and unless the bill is halted on third reading, this province will shortly be issuing certificates to licensed chiropractors, to adjust the spinal columns of those who so desire it.

The bill is a government measure, introduced following the withdrawal of the private bill of J. C. Buckley, U.F.A., Gleichen, and as it now stands, sets out the following regulations: There is to be an advisory board of five members to be appointed by the minister of health, two members to be resident chiropractors who have had not less than six months' resident study in each of three years at a school of chiropractic; two members of the faculty of the University of Alberta, nominated to the minister by the president of the university, and a chairman.

Must Be Registered

After July 1, 1923, all chiropractors must be registered. A resident chiropractor, to qualify, must have been resident for at least one year before the passing of the act, and must hold a diploma showing at least two six month courses in a resident school of chiropractic; must be of good moral character, and over the age of 21.

Persons entering the profession from places other than Alberta must show educational standards equal to grade XI of Alberta; a chiropractic diploma from a school where he has taken three six months' terms, in residence, with a total study time of 2,400 hours, of which he must have attended 90 per cent, in all subjects; must be over 21, and of good moral character.

The applicant is to be examined to ascertain his general knowledge as a chiropractor, and in anatomy, physiology and histology, chemistry, sanitary science and hygiene, general diagnosis, pathology and bacteriology, and the principles and practice of chiropractic treatment.

Fee Is Fifty Dollars

A fee of \$50 is required for registration, and certificates are renewable annually. Provisions are made for disciplining members, and for withdrawing certificates from persons convicted of unprofessional conduct.

The registered chiropractor must describe himself as "Doctor of Chiropractic" or in some other way which will make it clear that he is not a doctor of medicine or surgery, and he shall use no drugs, nor treat venereal or other communicable disease, perform any surgical operation, nor practice obstetrics or osteopathy.

A fine of not less than \$25 or not more than \$100 is provided for infractions of the act.

Boyle Objects to Bill

Strong objection to passing any bill which would license men to practice their art upon the public, was urged by Hon. J. R. Boyle, who referred to cases in the courts against chiropractors and who asked the legislature to use extreme discretion in accepting such a responsibility. He advised the government to withdraw the bill entirely, in view of the possible harm which it might create.

Hon. J. E. Brownlee stated his personal lack of confidence in chiropractic as a healing art, but pointed out that there was a strong public demand for regulation of the profession, which the government felt it must fulfil by bringing in the bill. He had made the bill as drastic as was reasonably possible, with a view to safeguarding the public, and two or three years would speedily prove to the public, whether there was really anything in the claims of chiropractic, or not.