

ASK THE CHIROPRACTOR

Chiropractic dates back to early civilization

Question: Where does the name “chiropractic” come from?

Answer: The name “chiropractic” comes from the Latin-based roots “chiro” which means “hands or hands on” and “practic” which means the “application of or practice of.” Chiropractic therefore means, by Latin definition, the practice of putting the hands on. In more modern terms it means the application of the hands on the spine to correct neurological interference.

Chiropractic origins date back as far as the first Egyptian civilizations. While I was traveling in Italy I was amazed by the original Egyptian hieroglyphics at a museum. One block of these ancient picture writings denoted a spine with arrows extending away from the spine to various body parts and body organs. The museum curator interpreted the writings for me and described the pictures to mean that the spine controlled all the functions of the body including the organs, and that the Egyptians did healings through the spine to help these specific structures. These interpretations are still the basis of modern chiropractic today.

From Hippocrates (the Father of Medicine) and Galen (the Prince of Physicians) to the 1st century bonesetters of the British Isles, many great men recognized the importance of the spine and nervous system as they relate to the health of the individual.

Today, with our increased knowledge and technology comes an appreciation for natural conservative health-care methods as viable alternatives. Chiropractic offers the “holistic” (total person) concept of health care.

Thomas Edison said it best in 1880, “The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his patients in the care of the human frame in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease.”