

# Osteopaths dedicate week to history

When Dr. Frank J. McDevitt of Farmington was 11 years ago, he had a chest pain for 10 days. He couldn't raise his arms. He was taken to a doctor of osteopathic medicine, who determined the problem concerned the articulation of the ribs.

"A few minutes later, the problem was gone," said Dr. McDevitt. That encounter made a strong impression on the boy is indicated by the fact that today Dr. McDevitt is president of the American Osteopathic Association.

For Dr. McDevitt, who has practiced for 26 years in his Livenia office, last week was a busy week, it being National Osteopathic Medicine Week. The theme for the week was "Health for the Whole Person."

## Few Chinese attend college

Although there are some 650 institutions of higher learning in China, there is room in China's colleges for only about 4 percent of the high-school graduates in any year, National Geographic says.

"It has been part of osteopathic philosophy for years to treat all the body, not just the sore throat," pointed out the doctor. "We treat the patient as one whose problem is a sore throat."

He said the manipulation of bones and muscles, a hallmark of osteopathy, is a diagnostic method as well as therapy because the parts of the body are inter-related. "If the structure is wrong the function will be wrong," he said.

He added that nutrition is also an important consideration in osteopathic medicine.

Because of the emphasis on the whole person, a greater percentage of osteopathic doctors enter general practice or those medical specialties involved in primary care, explains informational material prepared by the association.

It adds that osteopaths are licensed to practice all phases of medicine in 50 states. In most states, doctors of osteopathy (DOs) take the same licensing exam as doctors of medicine (MDs). DOs comprise only 5 percent of the physician population, but treat more than 10 percent of the American public.



Dr. Frank McDevitt

about 20 million people.

In fact sheets, the association also indicates that a recent Kellogg Founda-

tion study revealed that "more than 90 percent of all DOs are involved in primary care medicine, compared to 45 percent of MDs."

The study also showed that half of the nation's osteopathic physicians practice in small towns and rural areas.

Dr. McDevitt said that before a DO is licensed, he has to take an internship in which he is rotated through all departments of the hospital, "so as to be familiar with all, and so we are not narrowed in our approach."

He added that Michigan has more osteopathic doctors than any other state. Nationwide, there are about 20,000. There are 205 osteopathic hospitals and 15 osteopathic colleges, including one at the University of Michigan.

Dr. McDevitt and his wife, Barbara, have seven children. William, a DO, is in training to become a urologist; Jim is a computer engineer; Diane is a dental hygienist; and Karen Simon is a registered nurse. Their daughter Mary Howell is a bookkeeper, Marlene is a student at Oakland Community College and Kathy attends Mercy High School.

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