

FILE NO. 72890

February 10, 1941

Board of School Commissioners  
3 E. Twenty-fifth Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 8, 1941, in regard to the acceptance of certificates required by Article 6, Section 16, Paragraph (a), page 25 (1939 Edition of the Book of Rules of the Board of School Commissioners) from osteopaths.

In my opinion, under Article 6, Section 16 of the Book of Rules, the Board of School Commissioners must accept certificates from osteopaths.

Paragraph (a) of Article 6, Section 16, requires a certificate from the "medical adviser," and Paragraph (b) requires the forms to be "properly filled out by the attending physician." I think it is clear that under the law of Maryland, osteopaths would come within the definition of a medical adviser and an attending physician.

Article 43, Sections 411 to 424, of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides for the establishment of a Board of Osteopathic Examiners for the State of Maryland, who may license those qualified to practice osteopathy in Maryland.

Section 421 of Article 43 defines osteopathy, and refers to those having received a license to practice as "osteopathic physicians."

Section 418 of Article 43 provides for examination of those applying for a license to practice osteopathy upon the subjects of anatomy, physiology, hygiene, principles and practices of osteopathy.

The general law in regard to osteopaths indicates that those licensed to practice osteopathy must know anatomy, physiology, hygiene, histology and pathology. In other words, a properly qualified osteopath should be entirely qualified to diagnose a disease; an osteopath, however, believes that diseases are chiefly due to deranged mechanism of the bones, nerves, blood vessels, and other tissues, and that these diseases can be remedied by manipulation of these parts (see Article 43, Section 421).