



J.O. Edgar Houle, BA, DC, FCCS(C)

Dr. Edgar Houle is perhaps best known for his insatiable quest for knowledge, especially as it pertains to the human body. Throughout his career, he has attended many fine institutions in his search for a more complete understanding of chiropractic and health. Dr. Houle was brought up in a chiropractic family; his father, J.O. HOULE, D.C., F.I.C.C. having graduated in 1928 from Lincoln Chiropractic College, who gave him the insight for his years of dedicated service to chiropractic in Canada.

Dr. Houle was one of a small number of chiropractors who attended university before chiropractic college at that time. He first attended the University of Montreal and in 1955, received his B.A. in Biochemistry and in 1956, was certified in Electrocardiography. He then enrolled at the Chiropractic Institute of New York because at this time, many of the great names in chiropractic were on the faculty of C.I.N.Y. Doctors like Francis Hirsch, D.C., who was one of the profession's foremost authorities on neurology; Clarence Weiant, D.C., Ph.D., who taught anatomy, physiology and pathology, was one of the cofounders of C.I.N.Y. with Thure Peterson, D.C., the president; Bruno Oettekling, Ph.D. was also an anatomist and the author of the text *Human Craniology* and lastly, one of the leaders in technique, M.A. Grecco, D.C. The environment that these giants in chiropractic provided helped stimulate Dr. Houle's tireless quest for more knowledge. During his time at C.I.N.Y., he was elected an active member of the New York Academy of Sciences in 1957. He graduated from the Chiropractic Institute of New York in 1959 and also received an honour certificate in x-ray laboratory. In 1968, he completed a post graduate course in Immunohematology at the Philip Levine laboratories in New Jersey. With this training, he worked with Ortho Diagnostics travelling all over the province of Quebec teaching and revising blood banking and transfusion techniques. Quite commonly he worked 14 hour days. He kept this up for three years and then returned to chiropractic, and more particularly, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

In 1970, he became a full time faculty member of C.M.C.C. and taught many different courses such as: neuroanatomy, physiology, pathology, principles of Chiropractic and technique. His classes were always very well attended due to his knowledge and enthusiasm for whatever subject he was teaching. He had the great ability to stimulate the student to greater heights. Although the vertebral basilar artery insufficiency syndrome in a percentage of the population has been documented as well as the importance of assessing this condition, Dr. Houle can be credited with making the chiropractic profession more aware of the precautions we should take before adjusting the upper cervical spine in his paper, "Assessing hemodynamics

of the vertebro-basilar complex through angiothlipsis". (CRAC 2018) He is also the author of "Prostaglandins, a new dimension in chiropractic nosology" and "The Barre-Lieou Syndrome – one example of neuropathogenesis resulting from pathomechanics".

A milestone in chiropractic occurred when the July 1972 edition of the *Digest of Chiropractic Economics*, published a paper he authored titled "The Knowledge Explosion – the index medicus, a symbol of achievement and a goal for the chiropractic profession". It was through his realization that chiropractic must catalogue and provide an easy retrieval system for all the research on chiropractic and related areas. This led to the publication of "The Archives" and Chiropractic Research and Archives Collection (CRAC) by C.M.C.C. Dr. Houle was a member of the test committee of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (USA) in 1971. In 1977, he returned to Quebec to full-time practice, but still made weekly trips to Toronto to impart his wealth of knowledge to the students of C.M.C.C.

Dr. Houle has not confined his expertise to education; he has been very active within the profession; in 1964, he was elected Vice-President of the Quebec College of Chiropractic and in 1975, he was the Administrative Director of the Quebec Order of Chiropractors. Together with his administrative duties, he has been actively involved with several publications. He was editor and publisher of "La Vigie" a scientific paper in 1960, and from 1978 to 1979, he was the Canadian Editor of *Chiropraxis*, a French periodical that discusses the art and science of chiropractic. Over his career, he has written more than 350 articles for various newspapers and journals, and he has authored over 17 briefs.

He has been involved with several notable presentations. In Montreal in 1971, he did a complete review of Basic Sciences for the Quebec Chiropractors in preparation for licensure in that province. In 1978, he was invited to Tours, France, to lecture on "The Pathomechanics of the lumbar spine and the P.G.L. and A.G.L. syndromes".

Dr. Houle's chiropractic career has been a constant search for knowledge. His philosophy can be best expressed in his own words, and cannot fail to inspire new and old graduates alike: "Our future is assured, if we develop our research and academics, if we further devote ourselves to excellence and service and kill at once our tools of tribalism." With thoughts such as this, our profession should grow and move forward as a health discipline, into the 21st century.

J. Mannington, DC