

BRINKLEY;
YATES

(copy) Given us by Dr. Yates

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MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California.

Propaganda Department

THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

533 North Dearborn St.,
Chicago, June 27, 1922.

Dr. L. Strahlman, Timken Building,
San Diego, California.

Dear Dr. Strahlman:-

The news item from the San Diego Union of June 20, relative to the "noted goat gland specialist" John R. Brinkley of Milford, Kansas, has been read with interest. John Richard Brinkley, of Milford, Kansas, according to our records, was born in Reta, N. C., in 1885. He seems to have attended Bennett Medical College, Chicago, for three years, from 1908 to 1911, but was not graduated from that institution. Four years later (in 1915), he received a diploma from the Eclectic Medical University of Kansas City, Mo., and four years later still (in 1919) he received another diploma from the Kansas City College of Medicine and Surgery. Neither of these Kansas City institutions is reported in good standing with the Missouri State Board of Health. Our records show that Brinkley obtained a temporary permit to practice medicine in Arkansas in 1915; was licensed in Tennessee in 1915; in Kansas in 1916 and in Texas in 1919. Early in 1920 Brinkley got a great deal of notoriety thru a number of sensational newspaper articles. It was claimed that Brinkley, by implanting the "interstitial" gland of a goat was performing surgical and medical marvels. Thus the New York American for March 14, 1920:

"Dr. J. R. Brinkley, head of the Brinkley-Jones Hospital and Training School for Nurses, at Milford, Kansas, has now furnished to the scientific world what are termed "ample proof" cases, that by injection of the fresh interstitial glands of the goat, sterile people may bear children of either sex desired. Already the town is filling up with childless people to be operated upon. Incidentally cases of insanity are cured within 36 hours after a simple operation. Other diseases also disappear. Milford is a small town 150 miles west of Kansas City. Here Dr. Brinkley has performed more than 100 major operations, more than 300 minor operations, each one a success, cured more than 1,000 cases of influenza, cured one "hopeless" case of sleeping sickness and has banished cancer in the few cases offered."

The thing, of course, was a preposterous canard. Brinkley is unknown to scientific medicine, and the entire publicity campaign savored strongly of commercialism and quackery. Emboldened, apparently, by the advertising he had received, Brinkley came to Chicago, altho he was not licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois. The Department of Registration and Education of Illinois was preparing to take action against Brinkley when the man left the state.

In September 1920, we received from the Secretary of the Kansas Medical Society a statement reading:

BRINKLEY: DR. J.R.: FLETCHER'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL LICENSE FOR BRINKLEY

From the papers of Ed Fletcher, the following letters were removed to the alphabetized correspondence files

CHANDLER, Harry

Fletcher to Chandler, [12 letters] 2/13/22, 2/23/22, 3/1/22, 4/10/22, 4/15/22, 5/2/22, 5/8/22, 7/3/22, 7/28/22, 7/31/22, 9/12/22, 10/18/22

Chandler to Fletcher, [4 letters] 2/13/22, 2/21/22, 2/28/22, 5/11/22

ENCELL, Harry A.

Encell to Phillips, 2/24/22

Encell to Fletcher, [4 letters] 6/20/22, 6/30/22, 7/17/22, 8/14/22

Fletcher to Encell, [11 letters] 6/28/22, N.D., 7/13/22, 7/17/22, 7/17/22, 7/23/22, 7/29/22, 8/3/22, 8/9/22, 8/9/22, 8/18/22

PINKHAM, C.B.

Pinkham to Fletcher, [4 letters] 7/29/22, 8/15/22, 8/17/22, 11/3/22

Fletcher to Pinkham, [4 letters] 8/14/22, 8/17/22, 8/19/22, 10/28/22

Yates to Pinkham, 8/29/22

PHILLIPS, P.T.

Fletcher to Phillips, [13 letters] 4/15/22, 4/15/22, 5/2/22, 5/9/22, 5/22/22, 6/27/22, 7/7/22, 7/14/22, 7/17/22, 8/9/22, 8/15/22, 10/11/22, 10/16/22,

Phillips to Fletcher, [7 letters] 4/29/22, 5/1/22, 6/20/22, 8/12/22, 10/17/22, 10/17/22, 11/3/22

STEPHENS, Wm. D. (Governor)

Fletcher to Stephens, [3 letters] 7/26/22, 7/28/22, 8/9/22

Albright to Fletcher, 8/4/22

Fletcher to Albright, 8/4/22

Mahoney to Albright, 8/17/22

YATES, JOHN C.

Fletcher to Yates, [2 letters] 8/30/22, 8/31/22

Yates to Strahlman, 6/27/22

Yates to Pinkham, 8/29/22

Dr. Brinkley was a member of the Bourbon County Medical Society in 1919, but because of his unethical actions, was not transferred when he moved to Milford, Geary County. Our records show that he is not a member now, nor has his name been reported as being in good standing in the Kansas Medical Society.

Yours very truly,

THE JOURNAL AMA.
Propoganda Department.
A.J.V.

A. F.C. HG

110-1

Dr. Charles B. Pinkham,
Board Medical Examiners,
Sacramento, California.

August 29th, 1922.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just had a talk with Col. Ed Fletcher, concerning the application for a license in California of Dr. Brinkley.

Mr. Fletcher feels very keenly the apparent slowness of the Board of Medical Examiners in action on this matter.

I showed Mr. Fletcher your letter of August 15th, and also told him about the short telephone conversation I had with Dr. Moloney in reference to the pamphlet issued by Dr. Brinkley, which is against our law and would cause revocation of the license of anyone issuing such a pamphlet.

Mr. Fletcher states very plainly that if Dr. Brinkley should have a license, he does not care how quickly it is revoked if Dr. Brinkley oversteps our rules and regulations.

The reason of Mr. Fletcher's activity in this matter is for other political reasons, which I think he has expressed to you. It is not a selfish interest on his part, but for the interest of San Diego County.

If there is any way to bring this thing about, I would appreciate it. I expect to send a copy of this letter to Mr. Fletcher.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) John C. Yates.

August 30, 1922

File 110-1

Dr. John C. Yates,
809 Watts Building,
San Diego, California.

My dear Dr. Yates:

Herewith find enclosed the letter you
left with me on Monday. I thank you for the loan of same.

Yours very truly,

KLM

August 31, 1922

File 110-1

Dr. John C. Yates,
Watts Building,
San Diego, California.

My dear Dr. Yates:

I acknowledge receipt of the copy of
your letter of August 29th, and it was mighty nice
of you. I personally very much appreciate your
friendly attitude, and do hope that you will
see this thing thru to a finish.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 35 Folder: 9

General Correspondence - Yates, John C.



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