Osteopathy, Anesthetic Administered by Practitioners.

An osteopathic practitioner is prohibited from using anesthetics or any drugs in the practice of his profession by Chapter 51, Laws of 1905, page 106.

Helena, Montana, Mar. 5th, 1906.

Hon. C. W. Mahaffey, State Board of Osteopathic Examiners, Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of your communication of March 1st, 1906, inclosing letter from Mr. I. M. Beaty of Lewistown, and making inquiry as to whether an osteopathic practitioner has a right to administer an anesthetic when performing a surgical operation.

Section 6 of the Act of March 1, 1905 (Laws of 1905, 106), provides: "The certificate provided for in Section 5 of this Act shall not authorize the holder thereof to prescribe or use drugs in the practice of osteopathy, or to perform major or operative surgery; etc."

This language of the law appears to be very plain. It not only prohibits the use of drugs by practitioners of this school, but prohibits the practice of surgery except in trivial operations. That an anesthetic is a drug is not susceptible of dispute, and it is considered to be a very dangerous drug and one necessitating technical experience and knowledge in administering.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.