

PROLOGUE

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BEFORE STUDYING the preface and *The Bigness of the Fellow Within* which follows, it is proper you should know three men—the father of him who writes this prologue, the writer of the prologue, and the man about whom he writes in the preface. All this should be read as preliminary to the body of the book. To know me and my background is to know how well I know the one about whom I write. To know B.J. as I know him, is to better appreciate what he writes in his article. My father, A. B. Hender, M.D., D.C., was a close, intimate and personal friend of D. D. Palmer, in his early struggling years, having associated with him at the time of his discovery of Chiropractic. When D. D. Palmer left Davenport, my father linked interests with the son about whom I write. My father became an instructor in The Palmer School of Chiropractic until his death—48 years of service to Chiropractic. He was Dean when he passed away in 1943.

I was born “to the faith.” I grew, surrounded with Chiropractic atmosphere; I breathed it, lived it, heard it talked about, pro and con, on all sides at all times. I grew up saturated with discussions of the trials, troubles, and tribulations of D. D. Palmer’s son, B.J.

For twenty-seven rich and happy years, I’ve worked at B.J.’s side—first, as a student in his school; later as a member of his faculty family; finally, now, as Dean of his beloved P.S.C. I am therefore competent to discuss and tell about him and say what I please.

As a member of his official family, I’ve held almost daily conferences with him. I’ve participated in numberless faculty and staff meetings with him. Hours beyond number, I’ve listened to him lecture, dictate, or make recordings. And, no matter how often all this has been, he has always held my devout attention. I’ve sat with him in fishing boats, on the side of trailers when we traveled on vacations. His every waking moment was always thinking, studying, reading, or discussing multitudinous phases of our Chiropractic, radio, or what-have-you problems—too many times giving up restful trips to stay and work. He almost always carries his faithful Corona with him. When in a train bedroom or drawing room, out comes the note pad, jotting down notes. Later, out comes his typewriter, when he fills in the notes.

When he begins to look out a window or grows quiet, he wants to be let alone until he has studied what he is going to say and write. I have known

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him to write and rewrite a particular sentence or paragraph as many as twenty times, until it was whipped into language which expressed his idea. I have heard him say: “Give us thirty days and we’ll write a book. Give us three months, and we’ll write a paragraph. Give us a year, and we’ll write an epigram.”

Once finished, he would read it to me or some other critic, get reactions to see if we grasped what he was trying to say. If we did, he was finished. If we did not, he started over again.

I once asked B.J. how he wrote his lectures. His answer was characteristic. “We don’t write them, we *build* them.” I asked him to describe the process from time he began a lecture until finished, thinking that might be of interest and help others to duplicate his method. Here is his description:

“We deliberate and mentally carve out our fundamental theme around which we desire to build the talk. It might be a new thought, or it could be a symposium of preceding ideas. We then mentally test it for logic and reason to see if it will stand up under the test of time. If it does, we go ahead. If it does not, we whip it until it does. Having given an idea birth, we then begin to shape our approach.

Conception of a theme is the hardest part we have to go through.”

(Let me here interject a description of his typewriter which, like most other things this man works with, is radically different. Years ago, he became disgusted with constantly taking out and putting in ordinary sheets of paper, because it broke his continuity of thought

when writing. He suggested to the Remington Company that they build him a special typewriter with a continuous roll of paper five hundred feet long, on a spool on top, automatically fed. He also asked for an electric automatic shift of the carriage, by pressing one key on the keyboard which, at the same time, would shift the paper so he could write by the yard on paper eighteen inches wide. I have seen a continuous writing twelve feet long, eighteen inches wide, single spaced, when he was writing. To his knowledge, this was the first electrically-operated typewriter built, and that was at least twenty years ago. He uses the "hunt and peck" system of two fingers and can type as fast or faster than many stenographers using ten fingers. This unusual and different typewriter is an object of curiosity to visitors and is usually demonstrated by the guide who conducts the daily noon tours through The B. J. Palmer Chiropractic Clinic.)

"We then write whatever comes, as it comes, be it good or bad. We keep writing as long as thoughts flow, and they always flow without effort. We may knock out some, much, or all of it later. Much of this may be out of sequence. We keep on until the present line of thinking is exhausted. Then we let it simmer and settle for an hour, hours, days, or weeks. Usually, when building a lecture, it is more or less steadily on our minds, and we are constantly harassed by Innate to keep on keeping on whipping it into shape. Usually, in a few days or a week or two, it is finished for the time being.

"Soon a new line of thinking may begin to flow, and away goes the typewriter again. We frequently rewrite our copy the second or third time before we get it to say exactly what we mean, before turning it over to our lecture secretary. When the subject has seemingly been completed, we turn it over to the secretary who types it on regular size sheets, double spaced, each paragraph on a separate sheet, each page numbered separately. We then take these and rearrange them for sequence of thought. Page 1 may be moved to page 6; or page 9 may be page 1, etc

"We continue the study of our subject from time to time, adding copy, marking it 'Insert 1, page ?' Our secretary then rewrites those pages with inserts. We then go over the copy once more, transpose one sentence from here to there, constantly briefing, cutting out superfluous words or duplicate thoughts, possibly eliminating entire sentences or paragraphs foreign to the central theme.

"From time to time, during intervals between working on a certain lecture, we might be found reading, or checking on gold fish in pools of Clinic Gardens or aquaria in Clinic, or doing any one of a hundred other things here, there, or everywhere, during which one or a series of new ideas may flash. We hesitate, then and there, and make notes. This is kept up for days or weeks, at times getting so many inserts that it looks like a crazy-quilt patch job. We then have the lecture completely rewritten, inserting at proper places all late inserts; then by reading it entire we can see how it sounds or listens. Additional inserts continue until we feel the subject has been fully covered. We then lay it away to settle.

"When it is finished, we have the secretary copy it once more, double-spaced, on loose leaf form for filing in one of the 150 volumes of lecture outlines, each of which is numbered. This lecture, under its title, is indexed in the Index Volume for quick selection at any time. Every lecture we have ever given, from away back when, is builded around an outline and is filed as mentioned for future reference. This makes it possible to repeat most any lecture on most every subject on short notice. Instead of beginning a new outline, we have one ready builded.

"Even then, days or weeks later, a new train of contributory thought may come. When it does, we write them in notes, be it at night in bed or at some other activity, then fill them in on typewriter, revise and rewrite until they represent new thoughts, rewriting pages into which they fit or overlap. If these inserts are of sufficient number to justify, we have all pages of the lecture outline renumbered so they follow each other. This prevents any getting out of order or misplaced. Often this process of renumbering pages may be done three or four times.

"Keeping in mind the various topics we have lectured on and have outlines for, we often go back to one of years ago and add something. The listener hears in one hour the labor of possibly hundreds of hours.

"Often the comment has been made, 'What a brilliant man. His talks are marvelous. I could listen to him all day.' Little does the listener realize that the talk he listens to is not the product of the hour during its deliverance. It is the product of weeks, months, years in advance, even though he hears it all within one

hour.

“Every time a lecture is delivered, we see a part or parts which can be strengthened, others may be deleted. No lecture is ever finished. One talk (*Selling Yourself*) has been delivered more than 5,000 times over the world before all kinds of audiences, cutting and fitting it to suit. It isn't finished yet!