

# Scientific Advertising

By  
Claude C. Hopkins

Part One

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## Part 1

*By Claude Hopkins*

### Introduction

Claude Hopkins (1866-1932) is the name that is synonymous with advertising.

He was the founding father of modern day advertising as we know it, and a great pioneer in his time. He strongly believed that through the implementation of testing mechanisms all results could be traced back to their fundamental principles.

This is why he chose to name his first work Scientific Advertising. "This book deals not with theories and opinions, but with well-proved principles and facts". This book contains the life long work of a man that was totally dedicated to marketing.

In his time he was directly responsible for the great marketing breakthroughs of such companies as, Pepsodent, Schlitz, Palmolive and Goodyear Tyres.

This work, is required reading by anybody wanting to know how to increase the results of their financial status through effective marketing and advertising.

It provides tremendous insights and a wealth of information. His favourite quote was that no argument in the world can possibly compare to one dramatic demonstration.

Please read and then re-read this book at least three times. You will find that with each reading you will be able to savour more and more of what Claude imparted, until you have a full appreciation and understanding of his concepts.

# Scientific Advertising

## Part 1

*by Claude Hopkins*

### — Chapter 1 —

#### **How Advertising Laws are Established**

The time has come when advertising has, in some hands reached the status of a science. It is based on fixed principles and is reasonably exact. The causes and effects have been analyzed until they are well understood. The correct methods of procedure have been proved and established. We know what is most effective, and we act on basic laws. Advertising, once a gamble, has thus become, under able direction, one of the safest of business ventures. Certainly no other enterprise with comparable possibilities need involve so little risk.

Therefore, this book deals not with theories and opinions, but with well-proved principles and facts. It is written as a text book for students and a safe guide for advertisers. The book is confined to establishing fundamentals. If we enter any realms of uncertainty, we shall carefully denote them.

The present status of advertising is due to many reasons. Much national advertising has long been handled by large organisations known as advertising agencies. Some of these agencies, in their hundreds of campaigns, have tested and compared thousands of plans and ideas. The results have been watched and recorded, so no lessons have been lost. Such agencies employ a high grade talent. None but able and experienced people can meet the requirements in national advertising. Working in co-operation, learning from each other, and from each new undertaking, some of these people develop into masters.

Individuals may come and go, but they leave their records and ideas behind them. These become a part of the organisation's equipment, and a guide to all who follow. Thus, in the course of decades, such agencies become

storehouses of advertising experiences, proven principles, and methods.

The larger agencies also come into intimate contact with experts in every department of business. Their clients see the results of countless methods and policies. They become a clearinghouse for everything pertaining to merchandising. Nearly every selling question which arises in business is accurately answered by many experiences.

Under these conditions, where they long exist, advertising and merchandising become exact sciences. Every course is chartered. The compass of accurate knowledge directs the shortest, safest, cheapest course to any destination. We learn the principles and prove them by repeated tests. This is done through keyed advertising, by traced returns, largely by the use of coupons. We compare one way with many others, backward and forward, and record the result. When one method invariably proves the best, that method becomes a fixed principle.

Mail-order advertising is traced down to the fraction of a penny. The cost per reply and the cost per dollar of the sale show up with utter exactness. One ad is compared with another, one method with another. Headlines, settings, sizes, arguments, and pictures are compared. To reduce the costs of results even 1% means much in some mail-order advertising, so no guesswork is permitted. One must know what is best. Thus, mail-order advertising first established many of our basic laws.

In lines where direct returns are impossible we compare one town with another. Scores of methods may be compared in this way, measured by the costs of sales.

But the most common way is by use of the coupon. We offer a sample, a book, a free package or something to induce direct replies. Thus we learn the amount of action which each ad engenders.

But those figures are not final. One ad may bring too many worthless replies, another, replies that are valuable. So our final conclusions are always based on cost per customer or cost per dollar sale.

These coupon plans are dealt with further in the chapter on "Test Campaigns." Here we explain only how we employ them to discover advertising principles.

In a large agency, coupon returns are watched and recorded on hundreds of different lines. In a single line they are sometimes recorded on thousands of separate ads. Thus we test everything pertaining to advertising. We answer nearly every possible question by multitudinous traced returns.

Some things we learn in this way apply only to particular lines. But even those supply basic principles for analogous takings. Others apply to all lines. They

become fundamental for advertising in general. They are universally applied. No wise advertiser will ever depart from those unvarying laws.

We propose in this book to deal with those fundamentals, those universal principles. To teach only established technique. There is that technique in advertising, as in all art, science and mechanics. And it is, as in all lines, a basic essential.

The lack of those fundamentals has been the main trouble with advertising of the past. Each worker was a law unto himself. All previous knowledge, all progress in the line, was a closed book to him.

It was like a man trying to build a modern locomotive without first ascertaining what others had done. It was like Columbus starting out to find an undiscovered land. Men were guided by whims and fancies - vagrant, changing breezes. They rarely arrived at their port. When they did by accident it was by a long, roundabout course. Each early mariner in this sea mapped his own separate course. There were no charts to guide him. Not a lighthouse marked the harbour, not a buoy showed a reef. The wrecks were unrecorded, so countless ventures came to grief on the same rocks and shoals.

Advertising was then a gamble - a speculation of the rashest sort. One man's guess on the proper course was as likely to be as good as another's. There were no safe pilots, because few sailed the same course twice. That condition has been corrected.

Now the only uncertainties pertain to people and to products, not to methods. It is hard to measure human idiosyncrasies, the preferences and prejudices, the likes and dislikes that exist. We cannot say that an article will be popular, but we know how to sell it in the most effective way. Ventures may fail, but the failures are not disasters. Losses, when they occur, are but trifling. And causes are factors which have nothing to do with the advertising.

Advertising has flourished under these new conditions. It has multiplied in volume, prestige and respect. The perils have been almost eliminated. The results have increased many-fold, just because the gamble has become a science, the speculation a very conservative business.

These facts should be recognized by all. This is no proper field for sophisticated theory. The blind leading the blind is ridiculous. It is pitiful in a field with such vast possibilities. Success is a rarity, maximum success impossibility, unless one is guided by laws as immutable as the law of gravitation.

So our main purpose here is to set down those laws, and to tell you how to

prove them for yourself. After them come a myriad of variations. No two advertising campaigns are ever conducted on lines that are identical. Individuality is an essential. Imitation is a reproach. But those variable things which depend on ingenuity have no place in a textbook on advertising. This is for groundwork only.

Our hope is to foster advertising through a better understanding. To place it on a business basis. To have it recognised as among the safest, surest ventures which lead to large returns. Thousands of conspicuous successes show its possibilities. Their variety points out its almost unlimited scope. Yet thousands who need it - who can never attain their desserts without it - still look upon its accomplishments as somewhat accidental.

That was so, but it is not so now. We hope that this book will throw some new light on the subject.

## —— Chapter 2 ——

### **Just Salesmanship**

To properly understand advertising, or to learn even its rudiments, one must start with the right conception. Advertising is salesmanship. Its principles are the principles of salesmanship. Successes and failures in both lines are due to like causes. Thus, every advertising question should be answered by the salesman's standards.

Let us emphasise that point. The only purpose of advertising is to make sales. It is profitable or unprofitable according to its actual sales. It is not for general effect. It is not to keep your name before the people. It is not primarily to aid your other salesman.

Treat it as a salesman. Force it to justify itself. Compare it with other salesman. Figure its costs and results. Accept no excuses which good salesman do not make. Then you will not go far wrong.

The difference is only in degree. Advertising is multiplied salesmanship. It may appeal to thousands while the salesman talks to one. It involves a corresponding cost. Some people spend \$10 per word on an average advertisement. Therefore, every ad should be a super - salesman.

A salesman's mistake may cost little. An advertising mistake may cost a thousand times as much. Be more cautious, more exacting, therefore. A mediocre salesman may affect a small part of your trade. Mediocre advertising effects all of your trade.

Many think of advertising as ad-writing. Literary qualifications have no more to do with it than oratory has with salesmanship. One must be able to express oneself briefly, clearly, and convincingly, just as a salesman must. But fine writing is a distinct disadvantage. So is unique literary style. They take attention from the subject. They reveal the hook. Any studied attempt to sell, if apparent, creates corresponding resistance.

That is so in personal salesmanship as in salesmanship-in-print. Fine talkers are rarely good salesman. They inspire buyers with the fear of over influence. They create the suspicion that an effort is made to sell them on other lines than merit.

Successful salesmen are rarely good speechmakers. They have few oratorical graces. They are plain and sincere men who know their customers and know their lines. So it is with ad writing. Many of the ablest men in advertising are graduate salesmen. The best we know have been house to house canvassers. They know little of grammar, nothing of rhetoric, but they know how to use words that convince.

There is one simple and right way to answer many advertising questions. Ask yourself, "Would this help a salesman sell the goods? Would it help me to sell them if I met the buyer in person?" A fair answer to those questions avoids countless mistakes. But when someone tries to show off, or does things merely to please himself, he is little likely to strike a chord which leads people to spend money.

Some argue for slogans, some like clever conceits. Would you use them in personal salesmanship? Can you imagine a customer whom such things would impress? If not, don't rely on them for selling in print.

Some say, "Be very brief. People will read but little." Would you say that to a salesman? With a prospect standing before him, would you confine him to any certain number of words? That would be an unthinkable handicap. So in advertising.

The only readers we get are people whom our subject interests. No-one reads ads for amusement, long or short. Consider them as prospects standing before you, seeking information. Give them enough to get action.

Some advocate large type and big headlines. Yet they do not admire salesmen who talk in loud voices. People read all they care to read in eight point type. Folks are accustomed to it. Anything larger is like loud conversation. It gains no worthwhile attention. It may not be offensive, but it is useless and wasteful. It multiplies the cost of your story. And to many it seems loud and blatant.

Others look for something queer and unusual. They want ads distinctive in style or illustration. Would you want that in a salesman? Do not men who act and dress in normal ways make a far better impression?

Some insist on dressy ads. That is all right to a certain degree, but it is quite unimportant. Some poorly dressed ads, like poorly dressed men, prove to be excellent salesmen. Overdress in either is a fault.

So with countless questions. Measure them by salesmen's standards, not by amusement standards. Ads are not written to entertain. When they do, those entertainment seekers are little likely to be the people whom you want. That is one of the greatest advertising faults. Ad writers abandon their parts. They forget they are salesmen and try to be performers. Instead of sales, they seek applause.

When you plan and prepare an advertisement, keep before you the typical buyer. Your subject, your headline, has gained his or her attention. Then, in everything, be guided by what you would do if you met the buyer face-to-face. If you are a normal man and a good salesman, you will then do your level best.

Don't think of people in the mass. That gives you a blurred view. Think of a typical individual, man or woman, who is likely to want what you sell. Don't try to be amusing. Money spending is a serious matter. Don't boast, for all people resent it. Don't try to show off. Do just what you think a good salesman should do with a half sold person before him.

Some advertising men go out in person and sell to people before they plan or write an ad. One of the ablest of them spent weeks on one article, selling from house to house. In this way, they learn the reactions from different forms of argument and approach. They learn what possible buyers want and the factors which don't appeal. It is quite customary to interview hundreds of possible customers.

Others send out questionnaires to learn the attitude of buyers. In some way all must learn how to strike responsive chords. Guesswork is very expensive.

The maker of an advertised article knows the manufacturing side and probably the dealer's side. But this very knowledge often leads him astray in respect to consumers. His interests are not their interests. The advertising man studies the consumer. He tries to place himself in the position of that buyer. His success largely depends on doing that to the exclusion of everything else.

This book will contain no more important chapter than this one on salesmanship. The reason for most of the non-successes in advertising is

trying to sell people what they do not want. But next to that comes the lack of true salesmanship.

Ads are planned and written with some utterly wrong conceptions. They are written to please the seller. The interests of the buyer are forgotten. One can never sell goods profitably, in person or in print, when that attitude exists.

## —— Chapter 3 ——

### **Offer Service**

Remember that the people you address are selfish, as we all are. They care nothing about your interest or profit. They seek service for themselves. Ignoring this fact is a common mistake and a costly mistake in advertising. Ads say in effect, "Buy my brand. Give me the trade you give others. Let me have your money." That's not a popular appeal.

The best ads ask no one to buy. That is useless. Often they do not quote a price. They do not say that dealers handle the product.

Such ads are based entirely on service. They offer wanted information. They cite advantages to users. Perhaps they offer a sample, or to buy the first package, or to send something on approval, so the customer may prove the claims without any cost or risk. Some of these ads seem altruistic. But they are based on a knowledge of human nature. The writers know how people are led to buy.

Here again is salesmanship. The good salesman does not merely cry a name. He doesn't say, "Buy my article". He pictures the customer's side of his service until the natural result is to buy.

A brush-maker has some 2,000 canvassers who sell brushes from house to house. He is enormously successful in a line which would seem very difficult. And it would be, if his men asked the housewives to buy. But they don't. They go to the door and say, "I was sent here to give you a brush. I have samples here and I want you to make a choice." The housewife is all smiles and attention. In picking out one brush, she sees several she wants. She is also anxious to reciprocate the gift. So the salesman gets an order.

Another concern sells coffee, etc., by wagons in some 500 hundred cities. The man drops in with a half-pound of coffee and says, "Accept this package and try it. I'll come back in a few days to ask you how you like it."

Even when he comes back, he doesn't ask for an order. He explains that he

wants to send the women a fine kitchen utensil. It isn't free, but if she likes the coffee, he will credit 5c on each pound she buys until she has paid for the article. Always some service.

The maker of an electric sewing machine motor, found advertising difficult. So, on good advice, he ceased soliciting a purchase. He offered to send to any home, through a dealer, a motor for one week's use. With it would come a man to show how to operate it. "Let us help you for a week without cost or obligation," said the ad. Such an offer was irresistible, and about nine in 10 of the trials led to sales.

So in many, many lines. Cigar makers send out boxes to anyone and say, "Smoke 10, then keep them or return them, as you wish."

Makers of books, typewriters, washing machines, kitchen cabinets, vacuum sweepers, etc., send out their products without any prepayments. They say, "Use them a week then do as you wish." Practically all the merchandise sold by mail is sent subject to return.

These are all common principles of salesmanship. The most ignorant peddler applies them. Yet the salesman in print very often forgets them. He talks about his interests. He blazons a name, as though that was of any importance. His phrase is, "Drive people to the stores", and that is his attitude in everything he says.

People can be coaxed, but not driven. Whatever they do, they do to please themselves. Many fewer mistakes would be made in advertising if these facts were never forgotten.

## —— Chapter 4 ——

### **Mail-Order Advertising — What It Teaches**

The severest test of an advertising man is selling goods by mail. But that is a school from which he must graduate before he can hope for success. There, cost and result are immediately apparent. False theories melt away like snowflakes in the sun. The advertising is profitable or it is not, clearly on the face of returns. Figures which do not lie tell one at once the merits of an ad.

This puts men on their mettle. All guesswork is eliminated. Every mistake is conspicuous. One quickly loses his conceit by learning how often his judgment errs — often nine times in 10. There one learns that advertising must be done on a scientific basis to have any fair chance of success. And he

learns how every wasted dollar adds to the cost of the results. Here he is taught efficiency and economy under a master who can't be fooled. Then, and then only, is he apt to apply the same principles and keys to all advertising.

A man was selling a \$5 article. The replies from his ad cost him 85c. Another man submitted an ad which he thought better. The replies cost \$14.20 each. Another man submitted an ad which for two years brought replies at an average of 41c each.

Consider the difference, on 250,000 replies per year. Think how valuable the man who cut the costs in two. Think what it would have meant to have continued that \$14.20 ad without any key on returns.

Yet there are thousands of advertisers who do just that. They spend large sums on a guess. And they are doing what that man did - paying for sales from two to 35 times what they need cost.

A study of mail-order advertising reveals many things worth learning. It is a prime subject for study. In the first place, if continued, you know that it pays. It is therefore the best advertising as applied to that line.

The probability is that the ad has resulted from many traced comparisons. It is therefore the best advertising yet discovered for that line.

Study those ads with respect. There is proved advertising, not theoretical. It will not deceive you. The lessons it teaches are principles which wise men apply to all advertising.

Mail-order advertising is always set in small type. It is usually set in smaller type than ordinary print. That economy of space is universal. So it proves conclusively that larger type does not pay. Remember that when you double your space by doubling the size of your type, the ad may still be profitable. But traced returns have proven that you are paying a double price for sales.

In mail-order advertising, there is no waste of space. Every line is utilized. Borders are rarely used. Remember that when you are tempted to leave valuable space unoccupied.

In mail-order advertising there is no palaver. There is no boasting, save of super-service. There is no useless talk. There is not attempt at entertainment. There is nothing to amuse.

Mail-order advertising usually contains a coupon. That is there to get some action from the converts partly made. It is there to cut out as a reminder of something the reader has decided to do. Mail-order advertisers know that readers forget. They may be absorbed in a story. A large percentage of

people who read an ad and decide to act will forget that decision in five minutes. The mail-order advertiser knows that waste by tests, and he does not propose to accept it. So, he inserts that reminder to be cut out, and it turns up when the reader is ready to act.

In mail-order advertising, the pictures are always to the point. They are salesmen in themselves. They earn the space they occupy. The size is gauged by their importance. The picture of a dress one is trying to sell may occupy much space. Less important things get smaller spaces.

Pictures in ordinary advertising may teach little. They probably result from whims. But pictures in mail-order advertising may form half the cost of selling. And you may be sure that everything about them has been decided by many comparative tests. Before you use useless pictures merely to decorate or interest, look over some mail-order ads. Mark what their verdict is.

A man advertised an incubator to be sold by mail. Type ads with right headlines brought excellent returns. But he conceived the idea that a striking picture would increase those returns. So he increased his space 50% to add a row of chickens in silhouette.

It did make a striking ad, but his cost per reply was increased by exactly that 50%. The new ad, costing 50% more for every insertion, brought not one added sale.

The man learned that incubator buyers were practical people. They were looking for attractive offers, not for pictures.

Think of the countless untraced campaigns where a whim of that kind lost half the advertising money without a penny of return. And it may go on year after year.

Mail-order advertising tells a complete story if the purpose is to make an immediate sale. You see no limitations there on amount of copy. The motto there is, "The more you tell, the more you sell." And it has never failed to prove out so in any test we know.

Sometimes the advertiser uses small ads, sometimes large ads. None are too small to tell a reasonable story. But an ad twice as large brings twice the returns.

A four-times-larger ad brings four times the returns, and usually some in addition. But this only occurs only when the larger space is utilised as well as the small space. Set half-page copy in a page space and you double the cost of returns. We have seen many a test prove that.

Look at an ad of the Mead Cycle Company - a typical mail-order ad. These have been running for many years. The ads are unchanging. Mr. Mead told the writer that not for \$10,000 would he change a single word in his ads. For many years he compared one ad with another. And the ads you see today are the final result of all those experiments. Note the picture he uses, the headline, the economy of space, the small type. Those ads are as near perfect for their purpose as an ad can be.

So with any other mail-order ad which has long continued. Every feature, every word and picture teaches advertising at its best. You may not like them. You may say they are unattractive, crowded, hard to read - anything you will. But the test of results has proved those ads the best salesmen those lines have yet discovered. And they certainly pay.

Mail-order advertising is the court of last resort. You may get the same instruction, if you will, by keying other ads. But mail-order ads are models. They are selling goods profitably in a difficult way. It is far harder to get mail orders than to send buyers to the store. It is hard to sell goods which can't be seen. Ads which do that are excellent examples of what advertising should be.

We cannot often follow all the principles of mail-order advertising, though we know we should. The advertiser forces a compromise. Perhaps pride in our ads has an influence. But every departure from those principles adds to our selling cost. Therefore, it's always a question of what we are willing to pay for our frivolities.

We can at least know what we pay. We can make keyed comparisons, one ad with another. Whenever we do, we invariably find that the nearer we get to proved mail-order copy, the more customers we get for our money.

This is another important chapter. Think it over. What real difference is there between inducing a customer to order from his dealer? Why should the methods of salesmanship differ? They should not. When they do, it is for one of two reasons. Either the advertiser does not know what the mail order advertiser knows. He is advertising blindly. Or he is deliberately sacrificing a percentage of his returns to gratify some desire.

There is some apology for that, just as there is for fine offices and buildings. Most of us can afford to do something for pride and opinion. But let us know what we are doing. Let us know the cost of our pride. Then if our advertising fails to bring the wanted returns, let us go back to our model — a good mail order ad — and eliminate some of our waste.

## — Chapter 5 —

### **Headlines**

The difference between advertising and personal salesmanship lies largely in personal contact. The salesman is there to demand attention. He cannot be well ignored. The advertisement can be ignored.

But the salesman wastes much of his time on prospects whom he never can hope to interest. He cannot pick them out. The advertisement is read only by interested people who, by their own volition, study what we have to say.

The purpose of a headline is to pick out the people you can interest. You wish to talk to someone in a crowd. So the first thing you say is, "Hey there, Bill Jones" to get the right person's attention. So in an advertisement. What you have will interest certain people only, and for certain reasons. You care only for those people. Then create a headline which will hail those people only.

Perhaps a blind headline or some clever conceit will attract many times as many. But they consist mostly of impossible subjects for what you have to offer. And the people you are after may never realise that the ad refers to something they want.

Headlines on ads are like headlines on news items. Nobody reads a whole newspaper. One is interested in financial, one in political, one in society, one in cookery, one in sports, etc. There are whole pages in any newspaper which we never scan at all. Yet other people may turn directly to those pages. We pick out what we wish to read by headlines, and we don't want those headlines misleading. The writing of headlines is one of the greatest journalistic arts. They either conceal or reveal an interest.

Suppose a newspaper article stated that a certain woman was the most beautiful in the city. That article would be of intense interest to that woman and her friends. But neither she nor her friends would ever read it if the headline was "Egyptian Psychology".

So in advertising. It is commonly said that people do not read advertisements. That is silly, of course. We, who spend millions in advertising and watch the returns, marvel at the readers we get. Again and again we see 20% of all the readers of a newspaper cut out a certain coupon.

But people do not read ads for amusement. They don't read ads which, at a glance, seem to offer nothing interesting. A double-page ad on women's dresses will not gain a glance from a man, nor will a shaving cream ad from a woman.

Always bear these facts in mind. People are hurried. The average person worth cultivating has too much to read. They skip 3/4 of the reading matter which they pay to get. They are not going to read your business talk unless you make it worth their while and let the headline show it.

People will not be bored in print. They may listen politely at a dinner table to boasts and personalities, life histories, etc. But in print they choose their own companions, their own subjects. They want to be amused or benefited. They want economy, beauty, labour saving, good things to eat and wear. There may be products which interest them more than anything else in the magazine. But they will never know it unless the headline or the picture tells them.

The writer of this chapter spends far more time on headlines than on writing. He often spends hours on a single headline. Often, scores of headlines are discarded before the right one is selected, for the entire return from an ad depends on attracting the right sort of readers. The best of salesmanship has no chance whatever unless we get a hearing.

The vast difference in headlines is shown by keyed returns, which this book advocates. The identical ad run with various headlines differs tremendously in its returns. It is not uncommon for a change in headlines to multiply returns from five to ten times over. So we compare headlines until we know what sort of appeal pays best. That differs in every line, of course.

The writer has before him keyed returns of nearly 2,000 headlines used on a single product. The story in these ads is nearly identical. But the returns vary enormously, due to the headlines. So with every keyed return in our record, appears the headlines that we used.

Thus we learn what type of headline has the most wide spread appeal. The product has many uses. It fosters beauty. It prevents disease. It aids daintiness and cleanliness. We learn to exactness which quality most of our readers seek.

That does not mean that we neglect the others. One sort of appeal may bring half the returns of another, yet be important enough to be profitable. We overlook no field that pays. But we know what portion of our ads should, in the headline, attract any certain group of people.

For this same reason we employ a vast variety of ads. If we are using 20 magazines, we may use 20 separate ads. This is because circulation's overlap, and because a considerable percentage of people are attracted by each of several forms of approach. We wish to reach them all.

On a soap, for instance, the headline "Keep Clean" might attract a very small

percentage. It is too commonplace. So might the headline, “No animal Fats”. People may not care much about that. The headline, “It Floats” might prove interesting. But a headline referring to beauty or complexion might attract many times as many.

An automobile ad might refer in the headline to a good universal joint. It might fall flat, because so few buyers think of universal joints. The same ad with a headline, “The Sportiest of Sports Bodies”, might out pull the other by 50 to one.

This is enough to suggest the importance of headlines. Anyone who keys ads will be amazed at the difference. The appeals we like best will rarely prove best, because we do not know enough people to average up their desires. So we learn on each line by experiment.

But back of all lie fixed principles. You are presenting an ad to millions. Among them is a percentage, small or large, whom you hope to interest. Go after that percentage and try to strike the chord that responds. If you are advertising corsets, men and children don’t interest you. If you are advertising cigars, you have no use for non-smokers. Razors won’t attract women, rouge will not interest men.

Don’t think that those millions will read your ads to find out if your product interests. They will decide by a glance — by your headline or your pictures. Address the people you seek, and them only.

## —— Chapter 6 ——

### **Psychology**

The competent advertising man must understand psychology. The more he knows about it, the better. He must learn that certain effects lead to certain reactions, and use that knowledge to increase results and avoid mistakes. Human nature is perpetual. In most respects it is the same today as in the time of Caesar. So the principles of psychology are fixed and enduring. You will never need to unlearn what you learn about them.

We learn, for instance, that curiosity is one of the strongest of human’s incentives. We employ it whenever we can. Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice were made successful largely through curiosity: “Grains puffed to eight time’s normal size”; “Foods shot from guns”; “125 million steam explosions caused in every kernel”. These foods were failures before that factor was discovered.

We learn that cheapness is not a strong appeal. People are extravagant. They want bargains, but not cheapness. They want to feel that they can afford to eat and have and wear the best. Treat them as though they could not and they resent your attitude.

We learn that people judge largely by price. They are not experts. In the British National Gallery is a painting which is announced in the catalogue to have cost \$750,000. Most people at first pass it by at a glance. Then later, they get farther on in the catalogue and learn what the painting cost. They return then, and surround it.

A department store advertised at one Easter a \$1,000 hat, and the floor could not hold the women who came to see it.

We often employ this factor in psychology. Perhaps we are advertising a valuable formula. To merely say that would not be impressive. So we state — as a fact — that we paid \$100,000 for that formula. That statement, when tried, has won a wealth of respect.

Many articles are sold under guarantee — so commonly sold that guarantees have ceased to be impressive. But one concern made a fortune by offering dealer's signed warrant. The dealer to whom one paid his money agreed in writing to pay it back if asked. Instead of a far away stranger, a neighbour gave the warrant. The results have led many to try that plan, and it has always proved effective.

Many have advertised, "Try it for a week. If you don't like it we will return your money". Then someone conceived the idea of sending goods without any money down, and saying, "Pay in a week if you like them". That proved many times as impressive.

One great advertising man stated the difference in this way: "Two men came to me, each offering me a horse. Both made equal claims. They were good horses, kind and gentle. A child could drive them. One man said, 'Try the horse for a week. If my claims are not true, come back for your money'. The other man also said, 'Try the horse for a week'. But he added, 'Come and pay me then'. I naturally bought the second man's horse.'

Now, countless things - cigars, typewriters, washing machines, books, etc. - are sent out in this way on approval. And we find that people are honest. The losses are very small.

An advertiser offered a set of books to business professionals. The advertising was unprofitable, so he consulted another expert. The ads were impressive. The offer seemed attractive. "But", said the second man, "let us add one little touch which I have found effective. Let us offer to put the buyer's

name in gilt lettering on each book". That was done, and with scarcely another change in the ads they sold some hundreds of thousands of books. Through some peculiar kink in human psychology, that name in gilt gave much added value to the books.

Many send out small gifts, like memorandum books, to customers and prospects. They get very small results. One may send out a letter to the effect that he had a leather-covered book with the man's name on it. It was waiting for him and would be sent on request. The form of request was enclosed, and it also asked for certain information. That information indicated lines on which the man might be sold.

Nearly all men, it was found, filled out that request and supplied the information. When a man knows that something belongs to him - something with his name on it - he will make the effort to get it, even though the thing is a trifle.

In the same way, it is found that an offer limited to a certain class of people is far more effective than a general offer. For instance, an offer limited to veterans of the war. Or to members of a lodge or sect. Or to executives. Those who are entitled to any seeming advantage will go a long way not to lose that advantage.

An advertiser suffered much from substitution. He said, "Look Out for Substitutes", "Be Sure You Get this Brand", etc., with no effect. Those were selfish appeals. Then he said, "Try Our Rivals' Too" - said it in his headlines.

He invited comparisons and showed that he did not fear them. That corrected the situation. Buyers were careful to get the brand so conspicuously superior that its maker could court a trial of the rest.

Two advertisers offered food products nearly identical. Both offered a full-sized package as an introduction. But one gave his package free. The other bought the package. A coupon was good at any store for a package, for which the maker paid retail price.

The first advertiser failed, and the second succeeded. The first even lost a large part of the trade he had. He cheapened his product by giving a 15c package away. It is hard to pay for an article which has once been free. It is like paying railroad fare after traveling on a pass.

The other gained added respect for his article by paying retail price to let the user try it. An article good enough for the maker to buy is good enough for the user to buy. It is vastly different to pay 15c to let you try an article than to simply say, "It's free".

So with sampling. Hand an unwanted product to a housewife, and she pays it slight respect. She is in no mood to see its virtues. But get her to ask for a sample after reading your story, and she is in a very different position. She knows your claims. She is interested in them, or else she would not act. And she expects to find the qualities your story told.

There is a great deal in mental impression. Submit five articles exactly alike, and five people may choose one of them. But point out in one some qualities to notice, and everyone will find them. The five people then will all choose the same article.

If people can be made sick or well by mental impressions, they can be made to favour a certain brand in that way. And that, on some lines, is the only way to win.

Two concerns, side by side, sold women's clothing on installments. The appeal, of course, was to poor girls who desired to dress better. One treated them like poor girls and made the bare business offer.

The other put a woman in charge - a motherly, dignified, capable woman. They did business in her name. They used her picture. She signed all ads and letters. She knew herself what it meant to a girl not to be able to dress her best. She had long sought a chance to supply women with good clothes and give them all season to pay. Now she was able to do so, with the aid of the men behind her.

There was no comparison in those two appeals. It was not long before this women's long established, next - door rival had to quit.

The backers of this business sold house furnishings on installments. Sending out catalogues promiscuously did not pay. Offering long time credit seemed like a reflection.

But when married women bought garments from Mrs.\_\_\_\_, and paid as agreed, they wrote to her something like this: "Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, whom we know, tells us that you are one of her good customers. She has dealt with you, she says, and you do just as you agree. So we have opened with you a credit account on our books, good any time you wish. When you want anything in furnishings, just order it. Pay nothing in advance. We are very glad to send it without any investigation to a person as recommended as you are".

That was flattering. Naturally those people, when they wanted some furniture, would order from that house.

There are endless phases to psychology. Some people know them by instinct. Many of them are taught by experience. But we learn most of them from

others. When we see a winning method we note it down for use when occasion offers.

These things are very important. An identical offer made in a different way may bring multiple returns. Somewhere in the mines of business experience we must find the best method somehow.

## —— Chapter 7 ——

### **Being Specific**

Platitudes and generalities roll off the human understanding like water from a duck. They leave no impression whatever. To say, "Best in the World", "Lowest Prices in Existence" etc., is at best simply claiming the expected. But superlatives of that sort are usually damaging. They suggest looseness of expression, a tendency to exaggerate, a carelessness of truth. They lead readers to discount all the statements that you make.

People recognise a certain license in selling talk, as they do in poetry. A man may say, "Supreme in Quality" without seeming a liar, though one may know that other brands are equally as good. One expects a salesperson to put his best foot forward, and excuses some exaggeration born of enthusiasm. But just for that reason, general statements count for little. And a man inclined to superlatives must expect that his every statement will be taken with some caution.

But a man who makes a specific claim is either telling the truth or a lie. They know that he can't lie in the best mediums. The growing respect for advertising has largely come through a growing regard for the truth. So a definite statement is usually accepted. Actual figures are not generally discounted. Specific facts, when stated, have their full weight and effect.

This is very important to consider in written or personal salesmanship. The weight of an argument may often be multiplied by making it specific. Say that a tungsten lamp gives more light than a carbon and you leave some doubt. Say that it gives 3 1/3 times the light, and people realise that you have made tests and comparisons. A dealer may say, "Our prices have been reduced", without creating any marked impression. But when he says "Our prices have been reduced 25%," he gets the full value of his announcement.

A mail-order advertiser sold women's clothing to people of poorer classes. For years he used the slogan "Lowest Prices in America". His rivals all copied that. Then he guaranteed to undersell any other dealer. His rivals did

likewise. Soon those claims became common to every advertiser in his line, and they became commonplace.

Then, under able advice, he changed his statement to "Our Net Profit is 3%". That was a definite statement, and it proved very impressive. With their volume of business, it was evident that their prices must be minimum. No one could be expected to do business on less than 3%. The next year their business made a sensational increase.

At one time in the automobile business, there was a general impression that profits were excessive. One well-advised advertiser came out with the slogan, "Our Profit is 9%". Then he cited actual costs on the hidden parts of a \$1,500 car. They amounted to \$735, without including anything one could easily see. This advertisement made a great success along those lines at that time.

Shaving soaps have long been advertised "Abundant Lather", "Does Not Dry on the Face", "Acts Quickly", etc. One advertiser had as good a chance as another to impress those claims.

Then a new maker came into the field. It was a tremendously difficult field, for every customer had to be taken from someone else. He stated specific facts. He said, "Multiplies Itself in Lather 250 Times", "Softens the Beard in One Minute" and "Maintains its Creamy Fullness for 10 minutes on the Face", The Final Result of Testing and Comparing 130 Formulas". Perhaps never in advertising has there been a quicker and greater success in an equally difficult field.

Makers of safety razors have long advertised quick shaves. One maker advertised a 78-second shave. That was definite. It indicated actual test. That man at once made a sensational advance in his sales.

In the old days all beers were advertised as "pure". The claim made no impression. The bigger type used, the bigger the folly. After millions had been spent to impress a platitude, one brewer pictured a plate glass room where beer was cooled in filtered air. He pictured a filter of white wood pulp through which every drop was cleared. He told how bottles were washed four times by machinery. How he went down 4,000 feet for pure water. How 1,018 experiments had been made to attain a yeast to give beer that matchless flavour. And how all the yeast was forever made from that adopted mother cell.

All claims were such as any brewer might have made. They were essentials in ordinary brewing. But he was the first to tell the people about them, while others cried merely "pure beer". He made the greatest success that was ever made in beer advertising.

“Used the World Over”, is a very elastic claim. Then one advertiser said “Used by the Peoples of 52 Nations”, and many others have followed.

One statement may take as much room as another, yet a definite statement will be many times as effective. The difference is vast. If a claim is worth making, make it in the most impressive way.

All these effects must be studied. Salesmanship-in-print is very expensive. Every word you may use may cost \$10 to insert. A salesperson’s loose talk matters little. But when you are talking to millions at enormous costs, the weight of your claim is important. No generality has any weight whatever. It is like saying “How do you do?” when you have no intention of inquiring about one’s health. But specific claims when made in print are taken at their value.

*This concludes part one.*

# Scientific Advertising

## Part 2

*By Claude Hopkins*

### —— Chapter 8 ——

#### **Tell Your Full Story**

Whatever the claim you use to gain attention, the advertisement should tell a story reasonably complete. If you watch returns, you will find that certain claims appeal far more than others. But in usual lines, a number of claims appeal to a large percentage. Some advertisers, for the sake of brevity, present one claim at a time. Or they write a serial ad, continued in another issue. There's no greater foolishness. Those serials almost never connect.

When you once get a person's attention, then it is time to accomplish all you ever hope with him. Bring your good arguments to bear. Cover every phase of your subject. One fact appeals to some, one to others. Omit any one, and a certain percentage will lose the fact which might convince.

People are not apt to read successive advertisements on any single line, no more than you read a news item twice, or a story. In one reading of an advertisement one decides for or against a proposition. And that operates against a second reading. So present to the reader, when once you get him, every important claim you have. The best advertisers do that. They learn their appealing claims by tests — by comparing results from various headlines. Gradually they accumulate a list of claims important enough to use. All those claims appear in every ad thereafter.

The advertisement seems monotonous to the man who reads them all. A complete story is always the same. But one must consider that the average reader is only once a reader, probably. And what you fail to tell him in that ad is something he may never know.

Some advertisers go so far as to never change their ads. Single mail - order ads often run year after year without diminishing returns. So with some general ads. They are perfected ads, embodying in the best way known all that one has to say. Advertisers do not expect a second reading. Their constant returns come from getting new readers.

In every ad consider only new customers. People using your product are not going to read your ads. They have already read and decided. You might advertise month after month to present users that the product they use is poison, and they would never know it. So never waste one line of your space to say something to present users, unless you can say it in headlines. Always bear in mind that you address an unconverted prospect.

Any reader of your ad is interested; else he would not be a reader. You are dealing with someone willing to listen. Then do your level best. That reader, if you lose him now, may never again be a reader. You are like a salesperson in a busy man's office. He may have tried again and again to get entrance. He may never be admitted again. This is his one chance to get action, and he must employ it to the full.

This again brings up the question of brevity. The most common expression you hear about in advertising is that people will not read much. Yet vast amounts of the best paying advertising shows that people do read much. Then they write for a book, perhaps for added information.

There is no fixed rule on this subject of brevity. One sentence may tell a complete story on a line like chewing gum. It may on an article like Cream of Wheat. But, whether long or short, an advertising story should be reasonably complete.

A certain man desired a personal car. He cared little about the price. He wanted a car to take pride in; else he felt he would never drive it. But, being a good businessman, he wanted value for his money. His inclination was towards a Rolls-Royce. He also considered a Pierce-Arrow, a Locomobile, and others. But these famous cars offered no information. Their advertisements were very short. Evidently the makers considered it undignified to argue comparative merits.

The Marmon, on the contrary, told a complete story. He read columns and a book about it. So he bought a Marmon, and was never sorry. But he afterwards learned facts about another car at nearly three times the price, which would have sold him the car had he known them.

What a folly it is to cry a name in a line like that, plus a few brief generalities. A car may be a lifetime investment. It involves an important expenditure. A man interested enough to buy a car will read a volume about it if the volume is interesting.

It's the same with everything. You may simply be trying to change a customer from one breakfast food to another, or one toothpaste, or one soap. She is wedded to what she is using. Perhaps she has used it for years.

You have a hard proposition. If you do not believe it, go to that customer in person, and try to make the change. Not to merely buy a first package to please you, but to adopt your brand. A man who once does that at a women's door won't argue for brief advertisements. He will never again say, "A sentence will do" — or a name or a claim or a boast.

Nor will the man who traces his results. Note that brief ads are never keyed. Note that every traced ad tells a complete story, though it takes columns to tell.

Never be guided in any way by ads which are untraced. Never do anything because some uninformed advertiser considers that something is right. Never be lead down paths by the blind. Apply to your advertising ordinary common sense. Take the opinion of nobody, the verdict of nobody, who knows nothing about his returns.

## ■ Chapter 9 —

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### **Art in Advertising**

Pictures in advertising are very expensive. Not in the cost of good artwork alone, but in the cost of space. One third to 1/2 of an advertising campaign is often staked on the power of the pictures. Anything expensive must be effective, else it involves waste. So, art in advertising is a study of paramount importance.

Pictures should not be used merely because they are interesting. Or to attract attention. Or to decorate an ad. We have covered these points elsewhere. Ads are not written to please or amuse. You are not writing to please the hoi polloi. You are writing on a serious subject - the subject of money spending. And you address a restrictive minority.

Use pictures only to attract those who may profit you. Use them only when they form a better selling argument than the same amount of space set in type.

Mail-order advertisers, as we have said, have pictures down to a science. Some use large pictures, some use small, some omit pictures entirely. A noticeable fact is that none of them uses expensive artwork. Be sure that all these things are done for reasons made apparent by results.

Any other advertiser should apply the same principles. Or, if none exist which apply to his line, he should work out his own by tests. It is certainly unwise to spend large sums on a dubious adventure.

Pictures in many lines form a major factor. In some lines, like Arrow Collars and in clothing advertising, pictures have proved most convincing, not only in picturing the collar or clothes, but in picturing men whom others envy, in surroundings which others covet. The pictures subtly suggest that these articles of apparel will aid men to those desired positions.

So with correspondence schools. Theirs is traced advertising. Picturing men in high positions or taking upwards steps form a very convincing argument.

So with beauty articles. Picturing women, admired and attractive, is a supreme inducement. But there is a great advantage in including a fascinated man. Women desire beauty largely because of men. Then show them using their beauty, as women do use it, to gain maximum effect.

Advertising pictures should not be eccentric. Don't treat your subject lightly. Don't lessen respect for yourself or your product by any attempt at frivolity. People don't patronise a clown. There are two things about which people should never joke. One is business, one is home. An eccentric picture may do you serious damage. One may gain attention by wearing a fool's cap. But he would ruin his selling prospects.

A picture which is eccentric or unique takes attention from your subject. You cannot afford to do that. Your main appeal lies in your headline. Overshadow that, and you kill it. Don't, to gain general and useless attention, sacrifice the attention that you want.

Don't be like a salesperson who wears conspicuous clothes. The small percentage he appeals to are not usually good buyers. The great majority of the sane and thrifty heartily despise him. Be normal in everything you do when you are seeking confidence and conviction.

Generalities cannot well be applied to art. There are seeming exceptions to most statements. Each line must be studied by itself. But the picture must help sell the goods. It should help more than anything else could to in like space, else use that something else.

Many pictures tell a story better than type can do. In the advertising of Puffed Grains, the pictures of the grains were found to be effective. They awoke curiosity. No figure drawings in that case compared in results with these grains. Other pictures form a total loss. We have cited cases of that kind. The only way to know, as is with most other questions, is by compared results.

There are disputed questions in artwork which we will cite without expressing opinions. They seem to be answered both ways, according to the line which is advertised.

Does it pay better to use fine artwork or ordinary? Some advertisers pay up to \$2,000 per drawing. They figure that the space is expensive. The art cost is small in comparison. So they consider the best worth its costs. Others argue that few people have art education.

The art judges form a percentage too small to consider. They bring out their ideas, and bring them out well, at a fraction of the cost. Mail-order advertisers are generally in this class.

The question in one of small moment. Certainly good art pays as well as mediocre. And the cost of preparing ads is very small compared with the cost of insertion.

Should every ad have a new picture? Or may a picture be repeated? Both viewpoints have many supporters. The probability is that repetition is economy. We are after new customers always. It is not probably that they don't remember a picture we've used before. If they do, repetition does not detract.

Do colour pictures pay better than black and white? Not generally, according to the evidence we have gathered to date. Yet there are exceptions. Certain food dishes look far better in colours. Tests on lines like oranges, desserts, etc. show that colour pays. Colour comes close to placing the products on actual exhibition. But colour used to amuse or to gain attention is like anything else that we use for that purpose. It may attract many times as many people, yet not secure a hearing from as many whom we want.

The general rule applies. Don't merely try to interest, amuse, or attract. That is not your province. Do only that which wins the people you are after in the cheapest possible way.

But these are minor questions. They are mere economies, not largely affecting the results of a campaign.

Some things you do may cut all your results in two. Other things can be done which multiply those results. Minor costs are insignificant when compared with basic principles. One person may do business in a shed, another in a palace. That's immaterial. The great question is your power to get maximum results.

## — Chapter 10 —

### **Things Too Costly**

Many things are possible in advertising which are too costly to attempt. That is another reason why every project and method should be weighed and determined by a known scale of cost and result.

Changing people's habits is very expensive. A project which involves that must be seriously considered. To sell shaving soap to the peasants of Russia, a person would first need to change their beard wearing habits. The cost would be excessive. Yet countless advertisers try to do things almost as impossible. Just because questions are not ably considered, and results are untraced and unknown.

For instance, the advertiser of a dentrifice may spend much space and money to educate people to brush their teeth. Tests which we know of have indicated that the cost of each convert may run from \$20 to \$25. Not only because of the difficulty, but because much of the advertising goes to people already converted.

Such cost, of course, is unthinkable. One might not in a lifetime get it back in sales. The maker who learned these facts by tests makes no attempt to educate people to the toothbrush habit. What cannot be done on a large scale profitably cannot be done on a small scale. So not one line in any ad is devoted to this object. This maker, who is constantly guided in everything by keying every ad, has made a remarkable success.

Another dentrifice maker spent a lot of money to convert people to the toothbrush. The object was commendable, but altruistic. The new business he created was shared by his rivals. He was wondering why his sales increases is in no way commensurate with his expenditure

An advertiser at one time spent much money to educate people to the use of oatmeal. The results were too small to discover. All people know of oatmeal. As a food for children it has age old fame. Doctors had advised it for many generations. People who don't serve oatmeal are, therefore difficult to start. Perhaps their objections are insurmountable. Anyway, the cost proved to be beyond all possible return.

There are many advertisers who know facts like these, and concede them. They would not think of devoting a whole campaign to such an impossible object. Yet, they devote a share of their space to that object. That is the

same folly on a smaller scale. It is not good business.

No one orange grower could attempt to increase the consumption of these fruits. The cost probably would be thousand times his share of the returns. But thousands of growers combined have done it on these and many other lines. There lies one of the great possibilities of advertising development. The general consumption of scores of foods can be profitably increased. But it must be done through wide co-operation.

No advertiser could afford to educate people on vitamins or germicides. Such things are done by authorities through countless columns of unpaid for space. But great successes have been made by going to people who already have been educated, and then satisfying their created wants.

It is a very shrewd thing to watch the development of a popular trend, the creation of new desires. Then, at the right time, offer to satisfy those desires. That was done for yeasts, for instance and for numerous antiseptics. It can be done every year for new things that some popular fashion or widespread influence is bringing into vogue. But it is very difficult thing to create that fashion, tastes, or influence for all in your field to share.

There are some things we know of which might possibly be sold to half the homes in the country. A dakin-fluid germicide, for instance. But consumption would be very small. A small bottle might last for years. Customers might not in 10 years repay the advertising cost.

Mail-order sales on a single articles, however popular, really cost less than \$2.50 each. It's reasonable to suppose that the sales made through dealers on like articles will cost approximately as much. These facts must be considered on any one-sale article. Possibly one use will win others. But traced returns, as in mail-order advertising, would prohibit much advertising which is now being done.

Costly mistakes are made by blindly following some ill conceived idea. A product, for instance, may have many uses, one of which is to prevent disease. Prevention is not a popular subject, however much it should be. People will do much to cure a trouble, but people in general will do little to prevent it. This has been proved by many disappointments.

One may spend much money in arguing prevention when the same money spent on another claim would bring many times the sales. A heading which asserts one claim may bring in 10 times the results of a heading which asserts another. Advertiser may go far astray unless he finds this out.

A toothpaste may tend to prevent decay. It may also beautify the teeth. Tests will probably show that the latter appeal is many times stronger than the

former. The most successful toothpaste advertiser never features tooth troubles in his headlines. Tests have proved them unappealing. Other advertisers in this line centre on those troubles. That is often because results are not known and compared.

A soap may tend to cure eczema. It may at the same time improve complexion. The eczema claim may appeal to one in 100, while the beauty claims would appeal to nearly all. To even mention the eczema claims might destroy the beauty claim.

A man has a relief for asthma. It has done so much for him that he considers it great advertising possibility. We have no statistics on this subject. We don't know the percentage of people who suffer from asthma. A canvass might show it to be one in a 100. If so, he would need to cover 100 useless readers to reach the one he wants. His cost of the result might be 20 times as high as on another product which would appeal to one in five. That excessive cost would possibly mean disaster. For reasons like these, every new advertiser should seek wise advice. No one with the interests of advertising at heart will advise any dubious venture.

Some claims not popular enough to be featured in the main are still popular enough to be considered. They influence a certain number of people — say 1/4 of your possible customers. Such a claim may be featured to advantage in a certain percentage of headlines. It should be included in every advertisement. But those are not things to guess at. They should be decided by actual knowledge, usually by traced returns.

This chapter, like every chapter points out results. Scientific advertising is impossible without that. So is safe advertising. So is maximum profit.

Groping in the dark in this field has probably cost enough money to pay the national debt. That's what has filled the advertising graveyards. That is what has discouraged thousands who could profit in this field. And the dawn of knowledge is what is bringing a new day in the advertising world.

## —— Chapter 11 ——

### **Information**

An ad writer, to have a chance at success, must gain full information on his subject. The library of an advertising agency should have books on every product line that calls for research. A painstaking advertising man will often

read for weeks on some problem which comes up. Perhaps in many volumes he will find new facts to use. But some one fact may be the keynote of success.

This writer just completed an enormous amount of reading, medical and otherwise, on coffee. This to advertise a coffee without caffeine. One scientific article out of a thousand perused gave the keynote for that campaign. It was the fact that caffeine stimulation comes two hours after drinking. So the immediate bracing effects which people seek from the coffee do not come from the caffeine. Removing the caffeine does not remove the kick. It does not modify coffee's delights, for caffeine is tasteless and odorless.

Caffeine less coffee has been advertised for years. People regard it like near-beer. Only through weeks of reading did we find the way to put it in another light.

To advertise a toothpaste, this writer has also read many volumes of scientific matter dry as dust. But in the middle of one volume, he found the idea which has helped make millions for that toothpaste maker. And has made this campaign one of the sensations of advertising.

Genius is the art of taking pains. The advertising man who spares the midnight oil will never get very far. Before advertising a food product, 130 men were employed for weeks to interview all classes of consumers.

On another line, letters were sent to 12,000 physicians. Questionnaires are often mailed to tens of thousands of men and women to get the viewpoint of consumers.

A \$25,000-a-year man, before advertising outfits for acetylene gas, spent weeks in going from farm to farm. Another man did that on a tractor.

Before advertising a shaving cream, 1,000 men were asked to state what they most desired in shaving soap.

Called on to advertise pork and beans, a canvass was made of some thousands of homes. Theretofore, all pork-and-bean advertising had been based on: "Buy my brand". That canvass showed that only 4% of the people used any canned pork and beans - 96% baked their beans at home.

The problem was not to sell a particular brand. Any such attempt appealed to only 4%. The right appeal was to win the people away from home-baked beans. That advertising, which, without that knowledge must have failed, proved a great success.

A canvass is made, not only of the homes, but of dealers. Competition is measured up. Every advertiser of a similar product is written for his literature and claims. Thus we start with exact information on all that our rivals are doing. Clipping bureaus are patronised, so that everything printed on our subject comes to the man who writes ads. Every comment which comes from consumers or dealers goes to this man's desk.

It is often necessary in a line to learn the total expenditure. We must learn what a user spends a year, else we shall not know if users are worth the cost of getting.

We must learn the total consumption, else we may overspend. We must learn the percentage of readers to whom our product appeals. We must after gather this data on classes. The percentage may differ on farms and in cities. The cost of advertising largely depends on the percentage of waste circulation.

Thus an advertising campaign is usually preceded by a very large volume of data. Even an experimental campaign, for effective experiments cost a great deal of work and time.

Often, chemists are employed to prove or disprove doubtful claims. An advertiser, in all good faith, makes an impressive assertion. If it is true, it will be a big factor in advertising. If untrue, it may prove a boomerang. And it may bar our ads from good media. It is remarkable how often a maker proves wrong on assertions he has made for years.

Impressive claims are made far more impressive by making them exact. So many experiments are after made to get the actual figures. For instance, a certain drink is known to have large food value. That simple assertion is not very convincing. So we send the drink to a laboratory and find that its food value is 425 calories per pint. One pint is equal to six eggs in calories of nutrient. That claim makes a great impression.

In every line involving scientific details, a censor is appointed. The ad writer, however well informed, may draw wrong inferences from facts. So an authority passes on every advertisement.

The uninformed would be staggered to know the amount of work involved in a single ad. Weeks of work sometimes. The ad seems so simple, and it must be simple to appeal to simple people. But behind that ad may lie reams of data, volumes of information, months of research. So this is no lazy man's field.

## — Chapter 12 —

### **Strategy**

Advertising is much like war, minus the venom. Or much, if you prefer, like a game of chess. We are usually out to capture others' citadels or garner others' trade.

We must have skill and knowledge. We must have training and experience, and also the right equipment. We must have proper ammunition, and enough. We dare not underestimate opponents. Our intelligence department is a vital factor, as told in the previous chapter. We need alliances with dealers as another chapter tells. We also need strategy of the ablest sort, to multiply the value of our forces.

Sometimes in new campaigns comes the question of a name. That may be most important. Often the right name is an advertisement in itself. It may tell a fairly complete story, like Shredded Wheat, Cream of wheat, Puffed Rice, Spearmint Gum, Palmolive Soap, etc.

That may be a great disadvantage. The name is usually conspicuously displayed. Many a name has proved to be the greatest factor in an article's success. Other names prove a distinct disadvantage - Toasted Corn Flakes, for instance. Too many others may share a demand with the man who builds it up.

Many coined names without meaning have succeeded. Kodak, Karo, Mazda, etc. are examples. They are exclusive.

The advertiser who gives them meaning never needs to share his advantage. But a significant name which helps to impress a dominant claim is certainly a great advantage. Names which tell a story have been worth millions of dollars. So a great deal of research often precedes the selection of a name.

Sometimes a price must be decided. A high price creates resistance. It tends to limit one's field. The cost of getting an added profit may be more than the profit.

It is a well-known fact that the greatest profits are made on great volume at small profit. Campbell's Soups, Palmolive Soap, Karo Syrup, and Ford cars are conspicuous examples. A price which appeals only to, say 10%, multiplies that cost of selling.

But on the other line, high price is unimportant. High profit is essential. The line may have small sale per customer. One hardly cares what he pays for a

corn remedy, because he uses it little. The maker must have a large margin because of small consumption.

On other lines a higher price may be even an inducement. Such lines are judged largely by price. A product which costs more than the ordinary is considered above the ordinary. So the price question is always a very big factor in strategy.

Competition must be considered. What are the forces against you? What have they in price or quality or claims to weigh against your appeal? What have you to win trade against them? What have you to hold trade against them when you get it? How strongly are your rivals entrenched? There are some fields which are almost impregnable. They are usually lines which created a new habit or custom with consumers. They so dominate a field that one can hardly hope to invade it. They have volume, the profit to make a tremendous fight. Such fields are being constantly invaded. But it is done through some convincing advantage, or through very superior salesmanship-in-print.

Other lines are only less difficult. A new shaving soap, as an example. About every possible customer is using some rival soap. Most of them are satisfied with it. Many are wedded to it. The appeal must be strong enough to win those people from long-established favour.

Such things are not accomplished by haphazard efforts, not by considering people in the mass and making blind stabs for their favours. We must consider individuals, typical people who are using rival brands. A man on a Pullman, for instance, using his favourite soap. What could you say to him in person to get him to change to yours? We cannot go after thousands of men until we learn how to win one.

The maker may say that he has no distinctions. He is making a good product, but much like the others. He deserves a share of the trade, but he has nothing exclusive to offer. However, there is nearly always something impressive which others have not told. We must discover it. We must have a seeming advantage. People don't quit habits without a reason.

There is a problem of substitution and how to head it off. That often steals much of one's trade. This must be considered in one's original plan. One must have the foresight to see all eventualities, and the wisdom to establish his defenses in advance.

Many pioneers in a line establish large demands, then, through some fault in their foundations, lose a large share of the harvest. Theirs is a mere brand, for instance, where it might have stood for an exclusive product.

Vaseline is an example. That product established a new demand, then almost monopolised that demand through wisdom at the start. To have called it some brand of petroleum jelly might have made a difference in millions of results. Jell-O, Postum, Victrola, Kodak, etc., established coined names which came to typify a product. Some such names have been admitted to the dictionary. They have become names, though coined and exclusive.

Royal Baking Powder and Toasted corn flakes, on the other hand, when they pioneered their field, left the way open to perpetual substitution. So did Horlick's Malted Milk.

The attitude of dealers must be considered. There is a growing inclination to limit lines, to avoid duplicates, to lessen inventory. If this applies to your line, how will dealers receive it? If there is opposition, how can we circumvent it?

The problems of distribution are important and enormous. To advertise something which few dealers supply is a waste of ammunition. Those problems will be considered in a separate chapter.

These are samples of the problems which advertising men must solve. These are some of the reasons why vast experience is necessary. One oversight may cost the client millions in the end. One wrong piece of strategy may be twice as easy, half as costly, as when done another way.

Advertising often looks simple. Thousands of men claim the ability to do it. And there still is a wide impression that many men can. As a result, much advertising goes by favour. But the men who know realise that the problems are as many and as important as the problems in building a skyscraper. And many of them lie in the foundations.

## —— Chapter 13 ——

### **Use Of Samples**

The product itself should be its own best salesperson. Not the product alone, but the product plus a mental impression and atmosphere, which you place around it. That being so, samples are of prime importance. However expensive, they usually form the cheapest selling method. A salesperson might as well go out without his sample case as an advertiser.

Sampling does not apply to little things alone, like foods or proprietaries. It can be applied in some way to almost anything. We have sampled clothing. We are sampling phonograph records.

Samples serve numerous valuable purposes. They enable one to use the word "free" in ads. That often multiplies the readers. Most people want to learn about any offered gift. Tests often show that samples pay for themselves - perhaps several times over - in multiplying the readers of your ads without additional cost of space.

A sample gets action. The readers of your ad may not be convinced to the point of buying, but he is ready to learn more about the product that you offer. So he cuts out a coupon, lays it aside, and later mails it or presents it. Without that coupon, he would soon forget it. Then you have the name and address of an interested prospect. You can start him using your product. You can give him fuller information. You can follow him up.

The reader might not again read one of your ads in six months. Your impressions would be lost. But when he writes to you, you have a chance to complete with that prospect all that can be done. In that saving waste, the sample pays for itself.

Sometimes a small sample is not a fair test. Then we may send on order on the dealer for a full size package at the store. Thus we get a longer test.

You say that is expensive. So it is expensive to gain a prospect's interest. It may cost you 50c to get the person to the point of writing for a sample. Don't stop at 15c additional to make that interest valuable.

Another way in which samples pay is by keying your advertisements. They register the interest you create. Thus you can compare one with another ad, headline, plan, and method. That means in any line an enormous saving. The wisest, most experienced man cannot tell what will most appeal in any line of copy. Without a key to guide you, your returns are very apt to cost you twice what they need to cost. A sample may pay for itself several times over by giving you an accurate check.

Again, samples enable you to refer customers where they can be supplied. This is important before you attain general distribution.

Many advertisers lose much by being pennywise. They are afraid of imposition, or they try to save pennies. That is why they ask 10c for a sample, or a stamp or two. Getting that dime may cost them from 40c to \$1. That is, it may add that to the cost of replies. But it is remarkable how many will pay that additional rather than offer a sample free. Putting a price on a sample greatly retards replies. It prohibits you from using the word, "free".

For the same reason, some advertisers say, "You buy one package, we will buy the other," Or they make a coupon good for part of the purchase price. Any keyed returns will clearly prove that such offers do not pay. Before a

prospect is converted, it is approximately as hard to get half price for your article as to get the full price for it.

Bear in mind that you are the seller. You are the one courting interest. Then don't make it difficult to exhibit that interest. Don't ask your prospects to pay for your selling efforts. Three in four will refuse to pay - perhaps nine in 10.

Cost of requests for samples differ in every line. It depends on your breadth of appeal. Some things appeal to everybody, some to a small percentage. One issue of papers in the greater New York area brought 1,460,000 requests for a can of evaporated milk. On a chocolate drink, 1/5th of the coupons published were presented. Another line not widely used may bring a fraction of that number.

But the cost of inquiries is usually enough to be important. Then don't neglect them. Don't stint your efforts with those you have half sold. An inquiry means that a prospect has read your story and is interested. He or she would like to try your product and learn more about it. Do what you would if that prospect stood before you.

Cost of inquiries depends largely on how they come. Asking people to mail the coupons brings minimum returns. Often four times as many will present that coupon for a sample at the store.

On a line before the writer now, sample inquiries obtained by mail average 70c each. The same ad brings inquiries at from 18c to 22c each when the coupons are presented at a local store.

Most people write few letters. Writing is an effort. Perhaps they have no stamps in the house. Most people will pay carfare to get a sample rather than pay postage. Therefore, it is always best, where possible, to have samples delivered locally.

On one line, three methods were offered. The woman could write for a sample, or telephone, or call at a store. Seventy percent of the inquiries came by telephone. The use of the telephone is more common and convenient than the use of stamps.

Sometimes it is not possible to supply all dealers with samples. Then we refer people to some central stores. These stores are glad to have many people come there. And other dealers do not generally object so long as they share in the sales. It is important to have these dealers send you the coupons promptly. Then you can follow up the inquiries while their interest is fresh.

It is said that sample users repeat. They do, to some extent. But repeaters form a small percentage. Figure it in your cost.

Say to the woman, "Only one ample to a home", and few women will try to get more of them. And the few who cheat you are not generally people who would buy. So you are not losing purchasers, but the samples only.

On numerous lines we have offered full-sized packages free. The packages were priced at from 10c to 50c each. In certain territories for a time we have checked up on repeaters. And we found the loss much less than the cost of checking. In some lines, samples would be wasted on children, and they are most apt to get them. Then say in your coupon "adults only". Children will not present such coupons, and they will rarely mail them.

But one must be careful about publishing coupons good for a full-size package at any store. Some people, even dealers, may buy up many papers. We do not announce the date of such offers. And we insert them in Sunday papers, not so easily bought up.

But we do not advocate samples given out promiscuously. Sample distributed to homes, like waifs on the doorsteps, probably never pay. Many of them never reach the housewife. When they do, there is no prediction for them. The product is cheapened. It is not introduced in a favourable way.

So with demonstrations in stores. There is always a way to get the same results at a fraction of the cost.

Many advertisers do not understand this. They supply thousands of samples to dealers to be handed out as they will. Could a trace be placed on the costs of returns, the advertiser would be stunned.

Give samples to interested people only. Give them only to people who exhibit that interest by some effort. Give them only to people to whom you have told your story. First, create an atmosphere of respect, a desire, an expectation. When people are in that mood, your sample will usually confirm the qualities you claim.

Here again comes the advantage of figuring cost per customer. That is the only way to gauge advertising. Samples sometimes seem to double the advertising cost. They often cost more than the advertising. Yet, rightly used, they almost invariably form the cheapest way to get customers. And that is what you want.

The arguments against samples are usually biased. They may come from advertising agents who like to see all advertising money spent in print. Answer such arguments by test. Try some towns with them, some without them. Where sample are effectively employed we rarely find a line where they do no lessen the cost per customer.

## — Chapter 14 —

### **Getting Distribution**

Most advertisers are confronted with the problem of getting distribution. National advertising is unthinkable without that. A venture cannot be profitable if nine in ten of the converts fail to find goods.

To force dealers to stock by bringing repeated demands may be enormously expensive. To cover the country with a selling force is usually impossible. To get dealers to stock an unknown line on promise of advertising is not easy. They have seen too many efforts fail, too many promises rescheduled.

We cannot discuss all plans for getting distribution. There are scores of ways employed, according to the enterprise. Some start by soliciting direct sales - mail orders - until the volume of demand forces dealers to supply. Some get into touch with prospects by a sample or other offer, then refer them to certain dealers who are stocked.

Some well-known makers can get a large percentage of dealers to stock in advance under guarantee of sale. Some consign goods to jobbers so dealers can easily order. Some name certain dealers in their ads until dealer in general stock.

The problems in this line are numberless. The successful methods are many. But most of them apply to lines too few to be worthy of discussion in a book like this.

We shall deal here with articles of wide appeal and repeated sales, like foods or proprietary articles. We usually start with local advertising, even though magazine advertising is best adapted to the article. We get our distribution town by town, then change to national advertising.

Sometimes we name the dealers who are stocked. As others stock, we add their names. When a local campaign is proposed, naming certain dealers, the average dealer wants to be included. It is often possible to get most of them by offering to name them in the first few ads. Whether you advertise few or many dealers, the others will stock in very short order if the advertising is successful. Then the trade is referred to all dealers.

The sample plans dealt with in the previous chapter aid quick distribution. They often pay for themselves in this way alone. If the samples are distributed locally, the coupon names the stores. The prospects who go there to get samples know that those stores are supplied, if a nearer dealer is not. Thus,

little trade is lost. When sample inquiries come to the advertiser, inquirers are referred to certain dealers at the start. Enough demand is centered there to force those dealers to supply it.

Sometimes most stores are supplied with samples, but on the requirement of a certain purchase. You supply a dozen samples with a dozen packages, for instance. Then inquires for samples are referred to all stores. This quickly forces general distribution. Dealers don't like to have their customers go to competitors even for a sample.

Where a coupon is used, good at any store for a full-size package, the problem of distribution becomes simple. Mail to dealer profits of the ad which will contain the coupon. Point out to each that many of his customers are bound to present that coupon. Each coupon means a cash sale at full profit. No average dealer will let those coupon customers go elsewhere.

Such a free-package offer often pays for itself in this way. It forms the cheapest way of getting general distribution. Some of the most successful advertisers have done this in a national way. They have inserted coupon ads in magazines, each coupon good at any store for a full-sized package. A proof of the ad is sent to dealers in advance, with a list of the magazines to be used, and their circulation.

In this way, in one week sometimes, makers attain a reasonable national distribution. And the coupon ad, when it appears, completes it. Here again the free packages cost less than other ways of forcing distribution. And they start thousands of users. Palmolive Soap and Puffed Grains are among the products which attained their distribution in that way.

Half the circulation of a newspaper may go to outside towns. That half may be wasted if you offer a sample at local stores. Say in your coupon that outside people should write you for a sample. When they write, do not mail the sample. Send the samples to a local store, and refer inquiries to that store. Mailing samples may make a convert who cannot be supplied. But the store which supplies that sample will usually supply demand.

In these days, many advertisers get national distribution without employing a single salesperson. They get it immediately. And they get it at far lower cost by any other method.

There are advertisers who, in starting, send every dealer a few packages as a gift. That is better, perhaps, than losing customers created. But it is very expensive. Those free packages must be sold by advertising. Figure their cost at your selling price, and you will see that you are paying a high cost per dealer. A salesperson might sell these small stocks at a lower cost. And other methods may be vastly cheaper.

Sending stocks on consignment to retailers is not widely favoured. Many dealers resent it. Collections are difficult. And un-business like methods do not win dealer respect. The plans advocated here are the best plan yet discovered for the lines to which they apply. Other lines require different methods. The ramifications are too many to discuss in a book like this.

But don't start advertising without distribution. Don't get distribution by methods too expensive, or by slow, old-fashioned methods. The loss of time may cost you enormously in sales. And it may enable energetic rivals to get ahead of you. Go to men who know by countless experiences the best plan to apply to your line.

## Scientific Advertising part 3

*By Claude Hopkins*

### —— Chapter 15 ——

#### **Test Campaigns**

Almost any questions can be answered -cheaply, quickly, and finally - by a test Campaign. And that's the way to answer them- not by arguments around a table. Go to the court of last resort -the buyers of the product.

On every new project, there comes the question of selling that article profitably. You and your friends may like it, but the majority may not. Some rival product may be better liked or cheaper. It may be strongly entrenched. The users won away from it may cost too much to get.' People may buy and not repeat. The article may last too long. It may appeal to a small percentage, so most of your advertising goes to waste.

There are many surprises in advertising. A project you will laugh at may make a great success. A project you are sure of may fall down. All because tastes differ so. None of us know enough about people's desires to get an average viewpoint.

In the old days, advertisers ventured on their own opinions. Few guessed right, many wrong. Those were the times of advertising disasters. Even those who succeeded came close to the verge before the tide was turned. They did not know their cost per customer or their sale per customer. The cost of selling might take long to come back. Often it never came back.

Now we let the thousands decide what the millions will do. We make a small venture, and watch cost and results. When we learn what a thousand customers cost, we know almost exactly what a million will cost. When we learn what they buy, we know what a million will buy.

We establish averages on a small scale, and those averages always hold. We know our cost, we know our sales, we know our profit or loss. We know how soon our cost comes back. Before we spread out, we prove our undertaking absolutely safe. So there are today no advertising disasters piloted by men who know.

Perhaps we try out our project in four or five towns. We may use a sample offer or a free package to get users started quickly. We learn in this way the cost per customer started. Then we wait and see if users buy those samples. If they do, will they continue? How much will they buy? How long does it take for the profit to return our cost of selling?

A test like this may cost \$3,000 to \$5,000. It is not all lost, even when the product proves unpopular. Some sales are made. Nearly every test will in time bring back the entire cost.

Sometimes we find that the cost of the' advertising comes back before the bills are due. That means that the product can be advertised without investment. Many a great advertiser has been built up without any cost whatever beyond immediate receipts. That is an ideal situation. On another product it may take three months to bring back the cost with a profit. But one is sure of his profit in that time. When he 'spreads out, he must finance accordingly.

Think what this means. A man has what he considers an advertising possibility. But national advertising looks so big and expensive that he dares not undertake it.

Now he presents it in a few average towns, at a very modest cost. With almost no risk whatsoever. From the few thousands he learns what the millions will do. Then he acts accordingly. If he then branches out, he knows to a certainty just what his results will be.

He is playing on a safe side of a hundred to one shot. If the article is successful, it may make him millions. If he is mistaken about it, the loss is a trifle.

These are the facts we desire to emphasize and spread. All our largest accounts are now built in this way, from very small beginnings. When business people realise that this can be done, hundreds of others will do it, for countless fortune earners now lie dormant.

The largest advertiser in the world makes a business of starting such projects. One by one he finds out winners. Now he has 26, and together they earn millions yearly.

These test campaigns have other purposes. They answer countless questions which arise in business. A large food advertiser felt that his product would be more popular in' another form. He and all his advisers were certain about it. They were willing to act on this supposition without consulting the consumers, but wiser advice prevailed.

He inserted an ad in a few towns with a coupon, good at any store for a package of the new-style product. Then he wrote to the users about it. They were almost unanimous in their disapproval.

Later the same product was suggested in still another form. The previous verdict made the change look dubious. The advertiser hardly thought a test worthwhile. But he submitted the questions to a few thousand women in a similar way, and 91% voted for it. Now he has a unique product which promises to largely increase his sales.

These tests cost about \$1,000 each.. The first one saved him a costly mistake. The second will probably bring him large profits.

Then we use test campaigns to try out new methods on advertising already successful. Thus we constantly seek for better methods, without interrupting plans already proved out. In five years for one food advertiser, we tried out over 50 separate plans.

Every little while we found an improvement, so the results of our advertising constantly grew. At the end of five years, we found the best plan of all. It reduced our cost of selling by 75%. That is, it was four times more effective than the best plan used before;

That is what mail-order advertisers do – try out plan after plan to constantly reduce the cost. Why should any general advertiser be less businesslike and careful? Another service of the test campaign is this: An advertiser is doing mediocre advertising. A skilled advertising agent feels that he can greatly increase results; The advertiser is doubtful. He is doing fairly well. He has alliances which he hesitates to break. So he is inclined to let well enough alone.

Now the question can be submitted to the verdict of a test. The new agent may take a few towns, without interfering with the general campaign, then compare his results with the general results and prove his greater skill.

Plausible arguments are easy in this line. One man after another comes to an advertiser to claim superior knowledge or ability. It is hard to decide, and decisions may be wrong.

Now actual figures gained at a small cost can settle the questions definitely. The advertiser makes no commitment. It is like saying to a salesperson, "Go out for a week and prove." A large percentage of all the advertising done would change hands if this method were applied.

Again we come back to scientific advertising. Suppose a chemist would say in an arbitrary way that this compound was best, or that one better. You would little respect his opinion. He makes tests sometimes hundreds of tests to actually know which is best. He will never state a supposition before he has proved it. How long before advertisers in general will apply that exactness to advertising?

## —— Chapter 16 ——

### **Leaning On Dealers**

We cannot depend in most lines on the active help of jobbers or dealers. They are busy. They have many lines to consider. The profit on advertised lines is not generally large. And an advertised article is apt to be sold at cut prices.

The average dealer does what you would do. He exerts himself on brands of his own, if at all. Not on another man's brand. The dealer will often try to make you think otherwise. He will ask some aid or concession on the ground of extra effort. Advertisers often give extra discounts. Or they make loading offers – perhaps one case free in ten - in the belief that loaded dealers will make extra efforts.

This may be so on rare lines, but not generally. And efforts, if made do not usually increase total sales. They merely swing trade from one store to another.

On most lines, making a sale without making a convert does not count for much. Sales made by conviction - by advertising – are likely to bring permanent customers. People who buy through casual recommendations do not often stick. Next time someone else gives other advice. Revenue which belongs to the advertiser is often given away without adequate return. These

discounts and, gifts could be far better spent in securing new consumers.

Free goods must be sold, and by your own efforts usually. One extra case with ten means that advertising must sell 10% more to bring you the same return. The dealer would probably buy just as much if you let him buy as convenient.

Much money is often frittered away on other forms of dealer help. Perhaps on window or store displays. A window display, acting as a reminder, may bring to one dealer a lion's share of the trade. Yet it may not increase your total sales at all. Those are facts to find out. Try one town in one way, one in another. Compare total sales in those towns. In many lines such tests will show that costly displays are worthless. A growing number of experienced advertisers spend no money on displays.

This is all in line of general publicity, so popular long ago. Casting bread upon the waters and hoping for its return. Most advertising was of that sort 20 years ago. Now we put things to the test. We compare cost and result on every form of expenditure. It is easily done. Very many costly wastes are eliminated by this modern process.

Scientific advertising has altered many old plans and conceptions. It has proved many long-established methods to be folly. And why should we not apply to these things the same criterion we apply to other forms of selling? Or to manufacturing costs?

Your object in all advertising is to buy new customers at a price which pays a profit. You have no interest in centering trade at any particular store. Learn what your consumers cost and what they buy. If they cost you \$1 each, figure that every wasted dollar costs you a possible customer.

Your business will be built in that way, not by dealer help. You must do your own selling, make your own success; Be content if dealers fill the orders that you bring. Eliminate your wastes. Spend all your ammunition where it counts the most.

## — Chapter 17 —

### **Individuality**

A person who desires to make an impression must stand out in some way from the masses. And in a pleasing way. Being eccentric, being abnormal is not distinction to covet. But doing admirable things in a different way gives one a great advantage.

So with salespeople, in person or in print. There is uniqueness which belittles, and arouses resentment. There is refreshing uniqueness which enhances, which we welcome and remember. Fortunate is the salesperson who has it.

We try to give each advertiser a becoming style. We make him distinctive, perhaps not in appearance, but in manner and in tone. He is given an individuality best suited to the people he addresses.

One man appears rugged and honest in a line where rugged honesty counts. One may be a good fellow where choice is a matter of favour. In other lines, the man stands out by impressing himself as an authority.

We have already cited a case where a woman made a great success in selling clothing to girls, solely through a created personality which won their trust. That's why we have signed ads sometimes —to give 'them a personal authority. A man is talking - a man who takes pride in his accomplishments - not a "soulless corporation." Whenever possible we introduce a personality to our ads. By making a man famous, we make his product famous. When we claim an improvement, naming the man who made it adds effect.

Then we take care not to change an individuality which has proved appealing. Before a man writes a new ad on that line, he gets into the spirit adopted by the advertiser. He plays a part as an actor plays it.

In successful advertising, great pains are taken to never change our tone. That which won so many is probably the best way to win others. Then people come to know us. We build on that acquaintance rather than introduce a stranger in strange guise. People do not know us by name alone, but by looks and mannerisms. Appearing different every time we meet never builds up confidence.

Then we don't want people to think that salesmanship is made to order. That our, appeals are created, studied, artificial. They must seem to come from the heart, and the same heart always, save where a wrong tack forces a complete change.

There are winning personalities in ads as well as people. To some we are glad to listen, others bore us. Some are refreshing, some commonplace. Some inspire confidence, some caution.

To create the right individuality is a supreme accomplishment. Then an advertiser's growing reputation on that line brings him ever increasing prestige. Never weary of that part. Remember that a change in our characteristics would compel our best friends to get acquainted all over.

## —— Chapter 18 ——

### **Negative Advertising**

To attack a rival is never good advertising. Don't point out others' faults. It is not permitted in the best media. It is never good policy. The selfish purpose is apparent. It looks unfair, not sporty.' If you abhor knockers, always appear a good fellow.

Show the bright side, the happy and attractive side, not the dark and uninviting side of things. Show beauty, not homeliness; health, not sickness: Don't show the wrinkles you propose to remove, but the face as it will appear. Your customers know all about wrinkles.

In advertising a dentifrice, show pretty teeth, not bad teeth. Talk of good conditions, not conditions which exist. In advertising clothes, picture well-dressed people, not the shabby. Picture successful people, not failures, when you advertise a business course. Picture what others wish to be, not what they may be now.

We are attracted by sunshine, beauty, happiness, health; success. Then point the way to them, not the way out of the opposite.

Picture envied people, not the envious. Tell people what to do, not what to avoid. Make your every ad breathe good cheer. We always dodge a "lugubrious blue".

Assume that people will do what you ask. .. Say, 'Send now for this sample'. Don't say, "Why do you neglect this offer?" That suggests that people are neglecting. Invite them to follow the crowd.

Compare the results of two ads, one negative, one positive. One presenting the dark side, one the bright side. One warning, the other inviting. You will be

surprised. You will find that the positive ad out-pulls the other four to one, if you have our experience.

The “before and after taking” ads are follies of the past. They never had a place save with the afflicted. Never let their memory lead you to picture the gloomy side of things.

## ———— Chapter 19 ————

### **Letter Writing**

This is another phase of advertising which all of us have to consider. It enters, or should enter, into nearly all campaigns. Every businessman receives a large number of circular letters. Most of them go directly to the wastebasket. But he acts on others, and others are filed for reference.

Analyse those letters. The ones you act on, or the ones you keep, have a headline that attracted your interest. At a glance they offer something that you want, something you may wish to know:

Remember that point in all advertising.

A certain buyer spends \$50 million per year. Every letter, every circular which comes to his desk gets its deserved attention.. He wants information on the lines he buys.

But we have often watched him. In one minute a score of letters may drop into the wastebasket. Then one is laid aside. That is something to consider at once. Another is filed under the heading “Varnish”. And later when he buys varnish that letter will turn up.

That buyer won several prizes for articles on good buying. His articles were based on information. Yet the great masses of matter which came to him never got more than a glance.

The same principles apply to all advertising. Letter writers overlook them just as advertisers do. They fail to get the right attention. They fail to tell what buyers wish to know.

One magazine sends out millions of letters annually: Some to get subscribers, some to sell books. Before the publisher sends out five million letters, he puts a few thousand to test. He may try 25 letters, each with 1,000 prospects. He learns what results will cost.

Perhaps the plan is abandoned because it appears unprofitable. If not, the letter which pays best is the letter that he uses.

Just as men are doing now in all scientific advertising. Mail-order advertisers do likewise. They test their letters as they test their ads. A general letter is never used until it proves itself best among many by actual returns.

Letter wiring has much to do with advertising. Letters to inquirers, follow-up letters. Wherever possible they should be tested. Where that is not possible, they should be based on knowledge gained by tests.

We find the same difference in letters as in ads. Some get action, some do not. Some complete a sale, some forfeit the impression gained. These letters, going usually to half-made converts, are tremendously important.

Experience generally shows that a 2c letter gets no more attention than a 1c letter, and that fine stationery gets no more attention than poor stationery. The whole appeal lies in the matter.

It has been found that fine stationery and pamphlets lessen the effect. They indicate an effort to sell on other lines than merit. That has the same effect in letters as in ads.

A letter which goes to an inquirer is like a salesman going to an interested prospect. You know what created that interest. Then follow it up along that line, not on some different argument. Complete the impression already created. Don't undertake another on a guess. In a letter, as in ads, the great point is to get immediate action. People are naturally dilatory. They postpone, and a postponed action is too often forgotten.

Do something, if possible, to get immediate action. Offer some inducement for it. Or tell what a delay may cost. Note how many successful selling letters place a limit on an offer. It expires on a certain date.

That is all done to get a prompt decision, to overcome the 'tendency to delay. A mail-order advertiser offered a catalogue. The inquirer might send for three or four similar catalogues. He had that competition in making a sale.

So he wrote a letter when he sent his catalogue, and enclosed a personal card. He said, 'You are a new customer, and we want to 'make you welcome. So when you send your order please enclose this card. The writer wants to see that you get a gift with the order - something you can keep'. With an old customer he gave some other reason for the gift. The offer aroused curiosity.

It gave preference to his catalogue. Without some compelling reason for

ordering elsewhere, the consumer sent the order to him. The gift paid for itself several times over by bringing larger sales per catalogue.

The ways for getting action are many. Barely can one way be applied to two lines. But the principles are universal. Strike while the iron is hot. Get a decision then. Have it followed by prompt action when you can.

You can afford to pay for prompt action rather than lose by delay. One advertiser induced hundreds of thousands of women to buy six packages of his product and send him the trademarks, to secure a premium offer good only for one week.

## —— Chapter 20 ——

### **A Name that Helps**

There is great advantage in a name that tells a story. The name is usually prominently displayed. To justify the space it occupies, it should aid the advertising. Some such names are almost complete advertisements in themselves. May Breath is such a name. Cream of Wheat is another. That name alone has been worth a., fortune. Other examples are Dutch Cleanser, Cuticura, Dynashine, Minute Tapioca, Three'-in-One Oil, Holeproof, Alcorub, etc.

Such names may be protected, yet the name itself describes the product, so it makes a valuable display.

Other coined names are meaningless. Some examples are Kodak, Karo, Mazda, Sapolio, Vaseline, Kotex, Lex, Postum, etc. They can be protected, and long-continued advertising may give them a meaning. When this is accomplished, they become very valuable. But the great majority of them never attain that status.

Such names do not aid the advertising. It is very doubtful if they justify display. The service of the product, not the name, is the important thing in advertising. A vast amount of space is wasted in displaying names and pictures which tell no selling story. The tendency of modern advertising is to eliminate this waste.

Other coined names signify ingredients which anyone may use. Examples' are Syrup of Figs, Coconut Oil Shampoo, Tar Soap, Palmolive Soap, etc. Such products may dominate a market if the price is reasonable, but they must to a degree meet competition. They invite substitution, They are naturally classified with other products which have like ingredients, so the price must remain in that class.

Toasted Corn Flakes and Malted Milk are examples of unfortunate names. In each of those cases one advertiser created a new demand, When the demand was created, others shared it because they could use the name. The originators depended only on a brand. It is interesting to speculate on how much more profitable a coined name might have been.

On a patented product, it must be remembered that the right to a name expires with the patent. Names like Castoria, Aspirin, Shredded Wheat Biscuit, etc., have become common property. This is a very serious point to consider. It often makes a patent an undesirable protection.

Another serious fault in coined names is frivolity. In seeking uniqueness one gets something trivial. And that is a fatal handicap in a serious product. It almost prohibits respect.

When a product must be called by a common name, the best auxiliary name is a man's name. It is much better than a coined name, for it shows that some man is proud of this creation.

Thus the question of a name is of serious importance in laying the foundation of a new undertaking. Some names have become the chief factors in success. Some have lost for their originators four-fifths of the trade they developed.

## —— Chapter 21 ——

### **Good Business**

A rapid stream ran by the writer's boyhood home. The stream turned a wooden wheel, and the wheel ran a mill. Under that primitive method, all but a fraction of the streams potentiality went to waste.

Then someone applied scientific methods to that stream –put in a turbine and dynamos. Now, with no more water, no more power, it runs a large manufacturing plant.

We think of that stream when we see wasted advertising power. And we see it everywhere - hundreds of examples. Enormous potentialities -millions of circulation – used to turn a mill wheel. While others use that same power with manifold effect.

We see countless ads running year after year which we know to be unprofitable. Men spending \$5 to do what \$1 might do. Men getting back 30% of their cost when they might get 150%. And the facts could be easily proved.

We see wasted space, frivolity, clever conceits, entertainment. Costly pages filled with palaver which, if employed by a salesman, would reflect on his sanity. But those ads are always unkeyed. The money is spent blindly, merely to satisfy some advertising whim.

Not new advertisers only. Many an old advertiser has little or no idea of his advertising results. The business is growing through many efforts combined, and advertising is given its share of the credit.

An advertiser of many years' standing, spending as high as \$700,000 per year, told the writer he did not know whether his advertising was worth anything or not. Sometimes he thought that his business would be just as large without it. The writer replied, "I do know your advertising is' utterly unprofitable, and I could prove it to you in one week. End an ad with an offer to pay \$5 to anyone who writes you that he read the ad through. The scarcity of replies will amaze you.

Think what a confession - that millions of dollars are being spent without knowledge of results. Such a policy applied to all factors in a business would bring ruin in short order.

You see other ads which you may not like as well. They may seem crowded or verbose. They are not attractive to you, for you are seeking something to admire, something to entertain. But you will note that those ads are keyed. The advertiser knows that they pay. The probability is that out of scores of traced ads, the type which you see has paid best.

Many other, ads which are not keyed now, were keyed at the beginning. They are based' on known statistics: They won on a small scale before they even ran on a large scale. Those advertisers are utilising their enormous powers in full.

Advertising is prima facie evidence that the man who pays believes that advertising is good. It has brought great results to others, it must be good for him. So he takes it like some secret tonic which others have endorsed. If the business thrives, the tonic gets the credit.

Otherwise, the failure is due to fate.

That seems almost unbelievable. -Even a storekeeper who inserts a \$20 ad knows whether it pays or not. Every line of a big store's ad is charged to the proper department. And every inch used must the next day justify its cost.

Yet most national advertising is done without justification. It is merely presumed to pay. A little test might show a way to multiply returns.

Such methods, still so prevalent, are not very far from their end. The advertising men who practice them see the writing on the wall. The time is fast coming when men who spend money are going to know what they get. Good business and efficiency will be applied to advertising. Men and methods will be measured by the known returns, and only competent men can survive.

Only one hour ago an old advertising man said to the writer, "The day for our type is done. Bunk has lost its power. Sophistry is being displaced by actuality. And I tremble at the trend."

So do hundreds tremble. Enormous advertising is being done along scientific lines. Its success is common knowledge. Advertisers along other lines will not much longer be content.

We who can meet the test welcome these changed conditions. Advertisers will multiply when they see that advertising can be safe and sure. Small expenditures made on a guess will grow to big ones on a certainty. Our line of business will be finer, cleaner, when the gamble is removed. And we shall be prouder of it when we are judged on merit.

**We hope you enjoyed Scientific Advertising by Claude Hopkins. By applying these time tested principles you will produce massive returns on your marketing dollars.**

This is what David Ogilvy had to say about Scientific Advertising:

"Nobody should be allowed to have anything to do with advertising until he has read this book seven times. It changed the course of my life."

- David Ogilvy

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