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No, the Journal did not get put together backwards. However, our readers may think so at first, because this month the editorial page is devoted to discussion of a new pharmacy book, and, as most readers know, our book review section is found at the end of each month's issue rather than at the beginning.

But the book in point is one that warrants some attention and, even more important, some thoughtful reflection.

As books go—especially compared with the scholarly tomes familiar to most of our readers—this volume does not present a particularly impressive appearance. If anything, its appearance belies its content, since it is little more than a pocket volume of 116 pages, with large size type and lots of white space on the relatively small pages.

What sets it apart, however, is the message it delivers—a message that is virtually a call to revolution in pharmacy. The volume is titled "*The Four Walls of Pharmacy*," and it is subtitled "*Professional Power with and for the People*."

Moreover, if its title and message set it apart, what stamps it with the seal of credibility is the identity of its authors. No wild-eyed, long-haired disciple from some radical, left-wing organization was responsible for its preparation. To the contrary, the senior author is none other than Henry M. Burlage, Ph.D., pharmaceutical scientist, long-time dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Texas, and pharmacy teacher for over 50 years. The coauthor is his son, Robb K. Burlage, a Harvard-trained authority in economics, who has spent over a decade in specialized activities as a health economist.

The cover flap, in somewhat of an understatement, asserts: "*This book will surely provoke those in pharmacy and related fields, for no point of debate is left untouched. . . . Challenging old-fashioned thinking, the authors categorically state: 'Pharmacy needs lobbying power. . . .'*"

The "four walls" alluded to in the title refer to the Drug Industry (Wall I), Education (Wall II), the "Medical Team" (Wall III), and Government (Wall IV).

The authors waste no time in exposing their assessment of the drug industry, subtitled this chapter "The Noble Exploiters" and claiming in their opening paragraph that "ethical" is a nice word to go with drugs, but in the corporate or drug industry realm "it is a farce." Finally, they conclude this chapter by explaining that the industry is discussed as their first "wall of the pharmacists' captivity" because it dominates directly as well as indirectly through each of the other three "walls" mentioned above.

In turn, attention is then focused on each of these other realms and the role they play and have played in constraining, restricting, and thwarting pharmacy in its effort to attain its potential as a profession and in its ability to serve the best interests of the public. Moreover, other related activities in the pharmacy sphere come in for their lumps as well, regarding state boards of pharmacy—"In all too many cases, the appointments are political in payment for support"; regarding the "captive pharmacy press"—because of the dependency upon advertising income, "it is questionable whether the press of the state associations and some representing the national associations is a free press"; and the hypocrisy of pharmacy organizations which take in members who engage in the very activities that the organization was established to oppose.

Therefore, while no facet of the pharmacy universe escapes either caustic comment or at least a critical eye, it is the assessment of pharmacy education and pharmaceutical research that is most pertinent to the majority of our readers. And again, our traditional systems and accepted approaches are questioned and challenged. For example: "*The senior author, for fifty years a pharmaceutical educator, placed his early faith, along with many of his colleagues, in the potentiality of scientific education to reconstruct professional practice. And yet pharmacy as a public interest profession, despite vital scientific and organizational progress, is today more trapped by the 'Four Walls' than before.*"

In their final chapter, "Tumbling Down the Walls," a series of recommendations is offered which the authors claim must be implemented to bring about positive professional responsibility in pharmacy. The first of these policy reforms challenges us: "To end commercial domination of pharmaceutical research and development and commercial domination of the education/orientation basis of pharmacy practice . . ." And the second challenges us: "To end second-class educational responsibility of pharmacy on the health team . . ." Other challenges are given, and a number of specific recommendations are presented with regard to accomplishing each.

Lest our comments be misinterpreted, we are not necessarily approving or endorsing the content of this volume. We do, however, feel that the authors are correct that major and fundamental changes are necessary throughout pharmacy—including education, research, and drug manufacturing—if pharmacy is to fulfill its proper role in society. And it just may be that some, if not most, of the authors' comments are right on target!

—EGF