



**New York State Veterinary College
at Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.**

**JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1921**

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College :

YOUR Alma Mater sends greetings and the hope that the New Year will bring happiness and prosperity to you and yours.

Several events have taken place in the year now closing that are of interest to you. The most significant of these was the inauguration of our new President, Dr. Livingston Farrand. Acting President Smith sent you a letter early in October telling of Dr. Farrand's work and his qualifications. We have found him equal to our expectations. He is interested deeply in the work of our college and I am confident that he will be a great help in advancing veterinary education. The house built and occupied by President White, and which he gave to the University, will be the home of President Farrand.

The chemical laboratory which is to cost \$1,500,000, donated by Mr. George F. Baker of New York, is under construction. When completed, it will be one of the best equipped chemical laboratories in the country. It is being built on East Avenue where the houses that were occupied by President Schurman, Profs. Comstock and Roberts stood. We are interested in this, not only as Cornellians but also because chemistry is coming to be a very important subject in veterinary medicine.

The Cornell football team has done exceptionally good work. This year it has not lost a game and won a decided victory over the Dartmouth and Pennsylvania teams. In the Intercollege Athletic Association, the veterinary students won the championship in baseball and in the other sports they made a good showing. They were fourth in the intercollege track meet. Our boys are good sportsmen.

Dr. James Law, the "Grand Old Man" of the veterinary profession, the first professor of veterinary medicine in an American University, the founder of the Veterinary College at Cornell, and for twelve years its Director, died May 10, 1921. He, with Mrs. Law and two daughters, had spent the winter in Florida. They were on the way to Amherst when he was taken ill. He was removed from the train to a hospital in Springfield, Mass., where, after a short illness, he passed away. His remains were brought to Ithaca for burial. The members of his faculty at the opening of the college were his pall bearers.

Since 1868, Dr. Law has been the outstanding figure in veterinary education in America. His loyalty to his profession, his untiring efforts to advance its efficiency, his ability to overcome difficulties, his scientific attainments, his kind and genial disposition, his force of character and unswerving courage, made him a tower of strength in bringing about higher standards. He exemplified the simplicity of success in righteous living and faithful service.

It is also my sad duty to announce that, during the year, three of our graduates have died. Lloyd Anthony Wheeler '08 died February 4, 1921, after a brief illness at East St. Louis, Ill. He leaves a wife and five small children. W. S. Eggleston '06 died April 3, 1921, at New Berlin, N. Y., of a disease diagnosed "sleeping sickness". He was ill but a few days. Joseph Dwight Cook '13 died in Denver of tuberculosis September 27, 1921. These untimely deaths remind us of the danger of delay in doing our work. Thirty-one of the boys and our beloved Dr. Law are with us no more.

The rolling of the years has brought a change in the faculty that we all regret. Last year Dr. Williams arrived at the age of 65 when, under the Carnegie Foundation, he retires with its benefits. On his retirement in June, he was elected *professor emeritus*. Under the rules of the foundation, it is not possible for him to teach. He will continue, however, to be

an adviser to the faculty and a contributor of great value to his profession. For more than forty years he has labored in the fields of surgery, obstetrics and the diseases of breeding cattle as a practitioner, a teacher, a research worker and an author. He has rendered most valuable service in each of these activities. We wish for him many years of valuable and happy living. I am glad to announce that his portrait, which the alumni are having painted, will be presented to the University at the annual conference in January. I hope you can be here at that time.

We have 77 undergraduates. This is one less than last year but there are 14 freshmen as against 13 then. There are a few who expect to enter in February. The number of students in the veterinary colleges of the country is small. The total number is less than 700.

There is still a feeling of unrest in many quarters relative to the future of the veterinary profession. There is, however, little cause for worry. A readjustment is in progress and when it is completed there is every reason to believe that veterinarians will be in greater demand than ever. There are more animals in the country than at any previous time and the estimated value of our live stock is fully \$3,000,000,000 more than in 1910. With that situation, there is no reason for discouragement. It is a time for veterinarians to do better work, to be patriotic and loyal to their calling. Of course times are hard but that is another matter for it affects everybody.

The reports that come to us from alumni indicate that they are succeeding. Of special interest is a letter from Manila stating that General Wood has said that the success of Dr. Boynton in the development of a vaccine for rinderpest is the most important work that has been done by the United States in the Islands. We all congratulate the Doctor. Those of you who knew "Bill" personally will rejoice in his well earned success.

The report of the college for last year is in proof and we hope it will be ready for distribution early in the year. The annual conference for veterinarians will be held January 12th and 13th. The subject of tuberculosis eradication will be considered at length. The federal and state plans for this work will be presented by officials and the rôle of the private practitioner will be stated by a veterinarian of experience in this work.

The Cornell Veterinarian has been quoted extensively in European Veterinary Journals during the year. Some of the articles have been

taken practically in their entirety. It is a good organ in which to publish your findings and to record instructive cases. It is the "voice" of the alumni to the profession.

Dr. Hagan is absent on leave this year to do research work at the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton, N. J. In his absence Dr. C. M. Carpenter has taken his work. Dr. Van Volkenberg resigned to accept a position with the Government at Keeseville, N. Y., to study the diseases of fur producing animals. Dr. Hoffman, who came with us a year ago to investigate the diseases of sheep in this state, resigned in March to go into practice in Ohio.

It is our desire to assist the boys as much as possible in finding suitable locations to practice, positions with practitioners, in institutions, with corporations or elsewhere. We also wish to assist alumni when they desire to make a change. To this end, I am asking if you will please give us such information as you may have relative to places for veterinarians. Let us help one another all we can.

I have mentioned the small number of students. If a light registration continues, it will result, in a few years, in a dearth of veterinarians. This means that you should do all you can to interest the right kind of young men in veterinary medicine. It is an important profession and it should be filled with red-blooded men who are willing to work professionally and in various ways exemplify their value to the community. It is only men like you who know the problems who can recommend wisely.

There is little news. Everyone is busy. The students are working hard and they are a fine lot of fellows. The problems in teaching and research are looming large but the faculty is solving them as best it can. We are glad for your suggestions. Drop in and see us when you can. A friendly chat will do us all good whatever our problems may be. Let us not lose faith in the ideals of our profession. The greatest industry in agriculture, animal husbandry, depends for success on veterinarians.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

