

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

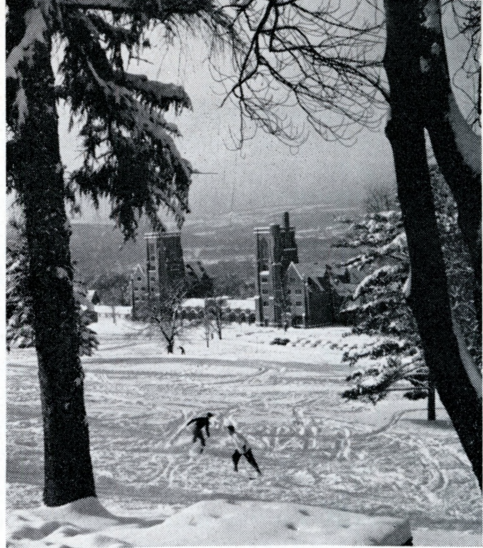
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK

Christmas Eve

This night amid swift change of passing year,
A sweet quiescence hovers o'er the earth . . .
In creed of grasping greed and groping fear
The world gives pause. A world so dwarfed in girth,
So small that scarce a shadow now is cast
To presage what a future year may bring,
And yet through much forgetting holding fast
This eve to hope of peace, a changeless thing.
Though weary earth may warp or wax or wane,
Tonight the gleaming Christmas stars are spread
On high o'er silver hills to once again
Shine as of old upon the manger bed . . .

The same unchanging firmament above,
The same eternal guiding Light of Love.

Jessie Parker Damp
Cornell '29



McFaddin and Lyon Towers,
Baker Dormitories

CHRISTMAS, 1959


DEAR CORNELLIAN,


For twenty-seven years a great leader faithfully set aside some moments for reflection late in November to prepare a Christmas letter to the Alumni of the Veterinary College. William Arthur Hagan wrote the first of these informal messages in 1932, the year that he became Dean. These letters, through the years, have become part of the great Cornell tradition. In a spirit of humility I am pleased to have the privilege of continuing in this tradition; extending the good wishes of the Season from the faculty to those of you who are sons and daughters of Cornell University.


New snow falls on the campus each year and yet there is a continuity of the decades in the white blanket that is covering the campus as I write this letter to you today. The valleys still echo the peal of the carillon, the bronze statues of Ezra Cornell and Andrew Dickson White seem to wait patiently for the seeds of knowledge planted in the minds of those who share their heritage to grow and "bring forth new fruit." No matter how far you might be from the familiar scenes of the campus, you surely remember the ice in the gorges, the colorfulness of State Street in the Christmas Season; the exuberant feeling of happiness that seems to permeate the air at Christmas-time on the campus. This time of the year seems to be the time for reflection and undoubtedly you have thought about the winter sports, the brisk cold mornings; perhaps the warmth of a bowl of oatmeal at Willard Straight Hall. Do you

*Incorrect These
letters began in 1914*


remember looking ahead to the floats on Spring Day; the anxiety of the prelims, and the satisfaction of passing them; the summer recess; your first stethoscope; autumn and its colors; trunks and books and instruments, and the eagerness to begin another year? It is in this spirit of reflection that I would like to send forth to you from those of us on the campus that feeling of fellowship that cannot be expressed by the written word, but which must be read between the lines; a warm and friendly feeling that transcends distance and time and, in essence, simply expresses the good wishes for a very Merry Christmas!


 Recently I asked for a briefing on those personal events that might be of interest to you which occurred prior to July first of this year; prior to the time that the Poppensieks returned to Cornell. Most of what I will relate to you, therefore, was told to me by your former teachers and colleagues expressly for transmittance to you.


 For the past three and a half months Doctor and Mrs. Hagan have been vacationing in Europe, reactivating some old friendships and making new ones on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, revisiting some familiar places, and enjoying some new sights at the same time. We have had some reports from them that they are enjoying their journeys. As you know, their enthusiasm is quite contagious and we await their return anxiously to hear all about the experiences that they have had abroad. They will return in mid-December and after spending the Christmas holidays at the home of their son Bill in Connecticut, will proceed to Ames, Iowa. On January first, Doctor Hagan will assume his new duties as Director of the National Animal Disease Laboratory in Ames. You will be interested to know that he was named Professor of Veterinary Bacteriology Emeritus by action of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University. He and Hadley Carruthers Stephenson now constitute our full complement of emeritus professors. We regret to tell you that Raymond R. Birch, who was Professor of Veterinary Research and Superintendent of the Experiment Station Emeritus, died on July 26th of this year.


 The faculty continues to be staffed by men of distinction. Peter Olafson has served laudably as President of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society and was the honored recipient of the Borden Award for his outstanding research contributions in diseases of dairy cattle. Philip Levine was invited to Israel in May to appear on the program during the dedication of the new Veterinary Research Institute in Rishon-Le-Zion, near Tel Aviv. He also attended the International Veterinary Congress in Madrid and visited the veterinary colleges at Copenhagen, London, and Cambridge. Clyde I. Boyer, Jr., specializing in diseases of turkeys, spent a year on sabbatic leave at Texas A. and M., and earned an M.S. degree while there. He returned to the Cornell scene this fall, and it is indeed good to have him back. Donald W. Baker, with his usual exuberance and tireless enthusiasm,

spent an interesting sabbatic leave last fall in the Orient studying the disease problems of wild monkeys that are captured and used in such large numbers for medical research and poliomyelitis vaccine production. He returned to Cornell from the Philippines at the beginning of the second term. Kenneth McEntee was on sabbatic leave working at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. He also spent several weeks in a number of countries in Europe consulting with specialists in the field of reproductive diseases at various veterinary colleges there.


 The Department of Pathology and Bacteriology welcomes a new staff member in the personage of Lennert Per Krook, Associate Professor of Pathology, who arrived from Kansas State University on November first. He was educated in Sweden and will specialize in diseases resulting from nutritional deficiencies.


 Hugh Dukes, the all-time great leader in veterinary physiology, has announced his plans to retire at the end of June 1960. At the same time, another of our distinguished colleagues in physiology will retire. He is Joseph A. Dye, who has taught the courses in human physiology and endocrinology and metabolism and who is known especially to those of us in veterinary science for his research contributions in the ketosis problem. Needless to say, we will miss both of these fine men and I know that all of the alumni join with the faculty in wishing them many good years of health and happiness.


 Bob Dougherty had an interesting experience in serving as local chairman of the Experiment in International Living on the campus last summer. This involved the placing and entertaining of nine French veterinarians, who were here for two weeks. Bob and Ruth and their two children were "naturals" for this type of an experiment. They are well-seasoned international travelers and are gracious emissaries of American hospitality. Lou Nangeroni continues to serve as a Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Society for Medical Research. Joseph H. Gans, our pharmacologist, was again the recipient of the Harry Snyder Research Grant from the Graduate School and Morley Kare is continuing his fascinating research in the Animal Taste Laboratory. The Poultry Science Research Award was conferred upon him for his work on taste in birds.


 Under the direction of Cyril L. Comar, Professor of Radiation Biology and Director of the Radiation Biology Laboratory, an International Radioisotope Training Course was sponsored by the United Nations and given at the College. Eighteen hand-picked participants from eighteen different countries attended and showed a great deal of enthusiasm for the course. New members of Dr. Comar's staff are Fred W. Lengemann, Associate Professor, and Daniel N. Tapper, Research Associate. Fred Lengemann earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees here at

Cornell and then his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. Dan Tapper received the V.M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a B.S. degree from Rutgers and has completed his Ph.D. degree in the Department of Physiology here at Cornell. Robert H. Wasserman spent a week in Buenos Aires to instruct in the radioisotopes course sponsored there by the International Atomic Energy Agency.


 Dr. Comar was greatly in demand during the year for various international conferences. He represented The Food and Agriculture Organization in a World Health Organization Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, The Atomic Energy Commission in a tripartite Conference in England, and the Pan American Union in a conference on Atomic Energy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also attended a special conference in Rome called by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to deal with problems of contamination of the food-chain. He is a distinguished representative of the Veterinary College.


 Mike Fincher was on sabbatic leave during the fall semester, and served as a Fulbright lecturer in the Veterinary School at the University of Salonica, Greece. He was a popular ambassador and, at the conclusion of his services there, was given a citation and made an honorary member of the faculty. Steve Roberts with his boundless energy turned out his usual championship polo team and Francis Fox has added another fine daughter to his family. Francis, who is another member of the Department of Medicine with boundless energy, has continued to yell all year at Tiko, who in turn continues to exercise his prerogatives with independent canine pragmatism.


 Jim Murphy, who contributed so much to the New York State Mastitis Research Program, resigned in June and returned to his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, to continue research work on mastitis at the New Bolton Center. Jack Hyde, who received his M.S. degree in June and who was with Jim Murphy in the Department of Medicine, has joined forces with him at the University of Pennsylvania. The Mastitis Program in New York State has expanded through the opening of a new laboratory at Amsterdam. Harold Parker retired as veterinarian at the Earlville Regional Mastitis Laboratory and was succeeded by Harold L. Brown, who had been a successful practitioner at Pawling, New York.


 Gordon Danks and Don Delahanty continue to keep the Large Animal Hospital full. Don plans to spend the spring semester on sabbatic leave directing the organization of the surgical clinic of the Veterinary College, Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, in Lima, Peru. Jack Geary, staff radiologist in the Department of Surgery, resigned on October first to become associated with his brother in business in New York City and will be succeeded by Robert Barrett, Class

of 1956. Bob was in practice one year and has been the radiologist at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University. Jack E. Lowe, Class of '59, was appointed to succeed T. N. Gorman, Resident in the Department of Surgery, who has resigned and accepted a position with W. O. Reed, of Elmont, New York and Hialeah, Florida.

 Ellis P. Leonard was on sabbatic leave during the spring semester working on a textbook on orthopedic surgery. He and his wife Alice visited several of the veterinary schools in this country and also a number of private hospitals during the months of April and May. Bob and Helen Kirk have recently completed a new home on Turkey Hill Road and have been in residence there since September.


 Mac Miller is energetically working on what promises to be the most comprehensive textbook in existence on the gross structure of a mammal, exclusive of man. He expects to complete this textbook on canine anatomy in the fall of 1960. Bob Habel continues with his interest in cellular changes in the developing ruminant stomach and Howard Evans is progressing well with his study of the prenatal skeletal development in the dog.


 There is much more that can be told about the activities at the Veterinary College. Undoubtedly you would be very much interested in Charles Rickard's plans for his sabbatic leave abroad; plans that Jim Gillespie and Bob Kirk have for their forthcoming sabbatics. Funds have been appropriated for the construction of a sizeable addition to the Veterinary Virus Research Institute. The new poultry virus research facilities on the main campus are nearing completion and should be ready for occupancy soon. Many interesting research projects are under way in the various departments. It would be fine to tell you about all of them and about the other members of the staff who contribute so much to the teaching, research and extension programs under way, but space limitations make it impossible to do so. We would like to introduce you to some of the new members of the staff and therefore invite you to come back to your alma mater to make these new acquaintances and to renew the old ones.


 In addition to Raymond Russell Birch, Class of 1912, twelve alumni of the Veterinary College passed away during this past year:

Walter C. Buck	Class 1912	Fletcher E. Smith	Class 1905
Died Dec. 7, 1958		Died Feb. 28, 1959	
Kenneth W. Davis	Class 1934	Stanley L. Dean	Class 1914
Died Dec. 16, 1958		Died August 1959	

Audrey D. Moore	Class 1910	Harry P. Wynne	Class 1918
Died Dec. 23, 1958		Died April 4, 1959	
Cecil I. Corbin	Class 1911	George R. Chase	Class 1907
Died Dec. 27, 1958		Died April 21, 1959	
George J. Strang	Class 1931	Samuel Glenn	Class 1921
Died April 4, 1959		Died Nov. 24, 1959	
Roger Davies Hyde	Class 1908	Fred Forbes Bushnell	Class 1933
Died Feb. 14, 1959		Died Nov. 30, 1959	

 In returning to Cornell to renew a fine association with such an outstanding faculty, it is stimulating indeed to sense the limitless depth and breadth of those great minds of the staff; the dynamic fiber of Cornell. Working as individuals in the development of ideas; working in groups to solve academic problems that are a bit too knotty for one man alone; working as a faculty to provide the academic foundation upon which future veterinarians and veterinary science will grow—these are the dedicated stonecutters in the quarries of veterinary education and veterinary research. I know that you join with me in expressing a forthright vote of confidence in them. In assuming the duties so capably discharged by Dean Hagan, I pledge to the Veterinary College and to Cornell University all my enthusiasm, understanding, and interest.

 At the visit of the last of the spirits in Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol" Ebenezer Scrooge vowed, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the past, the present and the future. The spirit of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach . . ."

 Again quoting Dickens, ". . . May that be truly said of us, and all of us!"

Sincerely,

