

# Howard Jay Milks

*June 25, 1879 — March 30, 1954*

Howard Jay Milks served Cornell University continuously for thirty-eight years, and was Professor of Therapeutics and Small Animal Diseases, and Director of that Department in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell at the time of his retirement in 1947. He was born in Candor, New York on June 25, 1879. His death on March 30, 1954 was too soon. Between those dates Doctor Milks lived a full life. He is survived by his wife, Lena Vose Milks, and three sons, Clifford H. Milks of Owego, New York, Raymond C. Milks of Ithaca, New York, and Richard V. Milks of Penfield, New York.

Following graduation from the Candor High School in 1898, a spell of school teaching and two years in the Cortland Normal School, he entered the Veterinary College at Cornell, from which he received his D.V.M. in 1904. In 1904 he was appointed assistant to Doctor P. A. Fish in Physiology and demonstrated his ability as an investigator, being the first to show that mucin was actually produced by the kidney of the horse. He had over a year of general practice in Watertown, New York and Cincinnati, Ohio before doing further research, for two years, as Animal Pathologist in the Louisiana State University Veterinary Experiment Station at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While there, he demonstrated the lesion of equine encephalomyelitis for the first time. In 1908 and part of 1909 he engaged in general practice in Owego, New York. His ability to teach and to investigate led Dean Veranus A. Moore to appoint Doctor Milks, in 1909, to head the newly formed Department of Materia Medica and Small Animal Clinic.

Doctor Milks had the unusual ability to teach students to become successful surgeons and leaders in small animal and general practice.

Doctor Milks wrote the first comprehensive book in the field of veterinary pharmacology. His "Practical Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics" has become the standard textbook among veterinary colleges in America, necessitating some seven editions. He also was author of the "Laboratory Guide in Pharmacology and Materia Medica." He wrote on many canine disease conditions, producing over thirty papers in all. His paper on diabetes in the dog was the first in this country, as was also his paper describing lung worms in the dog.

Doctor Milks gained much enjoyment from associations with people, being a member of the Congregational Church and the Rotary Club of Ithaca, a member of Hobasco Lodge 716 F. & A. Masons of Ithaca and the Scottish Rite Bodies of Ithaca and Binghamton, New York. He was a charter member of the Southern Tier Veterinary

Medical Association (New York) ; a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, of which he was secretary from 1909 to 1914 and president in 1934. He founded the small animal section of the American Veterinary Medical Association and served as section secretary from 1928 to 1932. He was honored as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and by memberships in Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Zeta.

We could go on and on listing the important contributions to veterinary medicine made by Howard Jay Milks. However, we would like to stress his influence on his fellow faculty associates and upon his students. We would like to remember him as one who did not make snap judgements; who could understand; who loved his family and his fellowmen; who was imbued with the Cornell Spirit that led him to believe in freedom of thought accompanied by a sense of responsibility; who was devoted to veterinary medicine and finally, who was a friend of all of us. His monument will be the contribution he has made toward the advancement of the art and science of veterinary medicine.

*M. G. Fincher, H. C. Stephenson, D. H. Udall*