James Nathan Frost suffered a fatal heart attack at his home, Hanshaw Road, Cayuga Heights, Ithaca, New York, on October 28, 1949. Born at North Evans, New York, October 5, 1885, he was completing his forty-second year of uninterrupted service as a member of the faculty of the Veterinary College. This record has never been equalled by any other member of this faculty.

Doctor Frost attended the public schools of North Evans and Angola, New York, and graduated from Masten Park High School in Buffalo. He entered the Veterinary College in 1904 and received the D.V.M. degree in 1907 after which he engaged in general practice in Hamburg, New York, for a few months before being appointed Assistant in Surgery at the Veterinary College. He was made an Instructor in 1908, and Assistant Professor in 1913. He became Acting Head of the Department of Surgery and Director of the Surgical Clinic in 1916.

He was appointed Professor of Surgery in 1918, and served as Acting Superintendent of the Ambulatory Clinic that year in addition to his duties in his own department. Doctor Frost had previously worked for the greater part of eight years in the Ambulatory Clinic. From its founding in 1908, the late Doctor W. L. Williams relied upon the unusual ability and energy of Doctor Frost to develop the first Ambulatory Clinic in this country. The difficulties and hardships involved in establishing this clinic, such as the use of horse-drawn vehicles and trains, and developing the confidence of the farmers made this experiment in clinical teaching an important achievement in veterinary education.

The success of Doctor Frost in the development of clinics is undisputed but is emphasized by the case records. During the first year of the Ambulatory Clinic there were 351 cases and 130 cases in the Surgical Clinic. Ten years later, during the last year that he supervised the Ambulatory Clinic it covered 1910 cases. His Surgical and Consulting Clinic handled 4552 patients last year.

Doctor Frost was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, the Western New York Veterinary Medical Association, and the Southern Tier Veterinary Medical Association. He was president of the last mentioned organization in 1921. The clinics of the state and local associations for many years centered around his surgical demonstrations. He was frequently active in clinics of the American Veterinary Medical Association as well as those of many states in this country and of provinces in Canada. While on his only sabbatic leave in 1935, he traveled with his family in central Europe and the British
Isles, observing methods in the clinics of the veterinary colleges. He gave a demonstration at the National Meeting at Belfast, Ireland.

Doctor Frost held membership in the honorary societies of Phi Zeta and Sigma Xi and was a loyal supporter of the undergraduate professional fraternity, Alpha Psi.

His research included collaboration with W. L. Williams in 1908 to 1909 in the perfection of the operation for roaring in horses. He succeeded in popularizing the technique by which the patient was operated on while in the normal standing position and under local anesthesia. He was the first in this country to record a successful rib resection for traumatic pericarditis.

Doctor Frost became an outstanding authority throughout the United States on the diagnosis and treatment of lameness in all breeds of light horses, through his research regarding methods of diagnosis and corrective shoeing based on sound anatomical principles.

He contributed to current veterinary journals upon a great variety of subjects related to the fields of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. He collaborated with Doctor W. L. Williams in 1919 in the fourth edition of the text, “Surgical and Obstetrical Operations,” and with Doctor A. G. Danks in the revision in 1943 of “Williams’ Surgical Operations.”

In his career as a teacher, Doctor Frost gave instruction to forty-five graduating classes in which 1315 alumni of the Veterinary College received his wise counsel on personal and professional problems. In spite of the fact that his assistants were kept very busy in routine surgical teaching, some completed their work for graduate degrees. Several of the leading practitioners, surgeons, teachers, and others in the veterinary profession in this country had the rare privilege of being associated with him as his assistants. It is difficult to estimate the value of his contributions to agriculture and to the veterinary profession.

Practitioners and their clients frequently called on Doctor Frost to investigate unusual problems and outbreaks of disease in large animals. Through this work he associated with persons of prominence in this and other states. He accepted an assignment in January 1948, as Consulting Veterinarian for the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau, Inc., New York.

Doctor Frost will be long remembered for his genial and magnetic personality, his keen sense of humor, as well as for his professional skill. He undertook many seemingly impossible and thankless tasks because they provided good teaching material or because they appeared to be something unusual or new.
His colleagues and students admired his sound judgment and keen diagnostic skill. His long clinical experience in handling clients and patients qualified him to give to his students a side of veterinary practice that was not recorded in text books. His friends and associates in Ithaca and on the campus recognized his sterling character and high ideals. Students, alumni, and faculty found him a sympathetic listener when they came to him for consultation and advice. In common with other great teachers, his influence upon the veterinary profession will prevail for many years.

D. W. Baker, M. G. Fincher, A. M. Mills