To the Alumni:

Another year has passed and again Christmas and the New Year are approaching. The year has been one of gladness for some, of sadness for others, of experience and maturation for us all. During this year the ugly head of European war again has been reared. Events abroad make us wonder whether civilization is progressing or retrogressing. Happily we are quite remote from the conflict, from the uneasiness and terror engendered by proximity to nations ruled by self-seeking groups who are ready to sacrifice nations to attain their ends. No matter what our individual lots during this past year have been, surely we, individually and as a nation, have much for which to be thankful, and it is toward these things that we ought to turn our thoughts at this season.

Impersonal though this letter must, of necessity, be, I hope that each of you will accept it as a personal message expressing the hope that, when you have balanced your personal accounts at the end of the year with worthy accomplishments on the one side and discouragements on the other, you will find yourself "in the black."

I think you may be interested in knowing that the body of Cornellians who have gone forth with the D.V.M. degree now numbers one thousand fifty-five. Of this number our records show that one hundred fourteen have died. The 941 who are living are scattered through twenty-two foreign countries and thirty-five of the states which constitute our Union. A surprisingly large proportion are located within the borders of New York State (792 = 84.1 per cent).

In comparison with the total number of Cornell alumni your number
is not great. So far as interest in your Alma Mater is concerned, I am proud that I do not have to take my hat off to the Deans of any of the other colleges. The proportion of the total number of alumni who have attended the annual meeting of the group on the campus at Conference time in recent years has, I am sure, exceeded that of any other college. The faculty of the Veterinary College is grateful for this fine support and we hope that our efforts will merit in future your continued backing. I am impressed by the fact, however, that the loyalty of many of you seems to be directed more toward your College than toward your University. This is but natural and I would not have it otherwise, yet I hope you will keep it in mind that whatever distinction the Veterinary College may have attained in the past should be attributed in large measure to the fact that it has been soundly administered without favor or political influence by Cornell, and in so doing the University has made each of you its debtor. This debt can be paid by using your influence in sending to Cornell boys and girls of good sound stock who are earnest, conscientious, intelligent and anxious for an education in any of the fields in which the University engages. Another way in which you can be very helpful is by joining that large group of Cornellians who, through the Alumni Association, are annually making contributions toward the unrestricted funds for supporting the University. In these days when constantly decreasing returns from endowment funds is working a real hardship on the institution, the alumni fund has been very helpful. Most of the alumni contributions are small. I know that not many of the veterinary alumni are overburdened with wealth, but most of you can afford as much as the average alumnus of any of the other colleges.

The past year has seen rather marked improvements in the appearance of the College, especially of the College grounds. The old wooden buildings in the quadrangle have disappeared; new paved roads, curbs and sidewalks have appeared; and a new paved parking ground behind James Law Hall has replaced the former parking area in front of this building. The paving work has not been completed and cannot be completed until spring. When the job has been finished, the veterinary campus will have been cleared of most of the unsightly situations which have existed for years and will be in much better condition than it ever has been before.
The members of the faculty have been busy as usual. The research work is reported annually and all of you may have copies by writing for them. The teaching has proceeded as usual. The curriculum is now being intensively studied and changes, some of a major character, are likely to be instituted within the next two years. The question of whether or not an additional year should be added is being debated, but this has not gone far enough to permit of my saying anything more about it at present. If any of you have ideas on this subject, I shall be glad to hear from you about them.

I am glad to report that all members of the faculty and their families are well at the present time. This includes the Professors-emeritus. Last spring Mrs. V. A. Moore was desperately ill with pneumonia and complications. For a time her life was despaired of, but she rallied when hope had nearly been lost and has made a good recovery. You have heard, I am sure, of the death on March first of Professor Asmus. His death was sudden and unexpected, although he had suffered several rather severe attacks of angina during the winter. In spite of these he met all of his classes up to and including the day of his death. Mrs. Asmus continues to live in the family home on the campus.

All alumni will be interested to learn and will regret to hear that Miss Haight will retire this winter. She has given a lifetime of service to the Veterinary College and the institution never will have a more devoted servant. Only those who have served in the Deanship can fully appreciate the value of these services, and since I am the only survivor of this group I want to testify to it here. Such services as she has given cannot be purchased with money. Business hours and vacation periods have meant nothing to her when there was work to be done, and unfortunately there has been too much of it most of the time. The good wishes of all who have known her, and especially of those who have worked with her during her thirty-four years as Financial Secretary of the College go with her. We hope that she will have many years in which to enjoy the leisure which she has so well earned.

The Thirty-second Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held this year on January 10, 11, and 12. A three-day conference is being tried for the first time. The first day will be devoted principally to large animal diseases and practice, the last to small animal practice. The intermediate
day will be used for laboratory and clinical demonstrations and practice, and for lectures on topics of interest to all veterinarians. The Alumni dinner will be held in Willard Straight Hall on the evening of the first day, and the Conference dinner in the same building on the following evening. I can promise you that there will be a good program, including several innovations, and we hope to see many of you here. Programs will be mailed about the first of the year. If you have not been receiving programs, I would be glad if you would let me know so our mailing list can be checked.

A note of sadness always has to be injected into these Christmas letters in recording the deaths that have removed members from the circle during the year. The following have come to my attention: Joseph L. Wilder, '01, in March; Melancthon Hamilton, '05, in August; Charles W. Marshall in December; William J. Selkin, '13, in March; Glenn Thompsett, '13, in July; Clarence C. Mould, '17, in January; and Frank C. Maus, '23, in November. To the loved ones who have been left behind our sympathies are offered.

"God rest you, Chrysten gentil men,
Wherever you may be,—
God rest you all in fields or hall,
Or on ye stormy sea;
For on this morn oure Chryst is born
That saveth you and me."

Sincerely yours,