

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS
1 9 4 0

DEAR ALUMNUS:

Work as we may, there is no one who sticks to his job as steadily as old Father Time. Another year's records soon will be filed in the archives of history. As you look over the parts that apply to you, balancing the accomplishments against the disappointments, I hope you will find satisfaction in it. As we approach another Christmas season, I hope you will have cause to be content: to be thankful for a good year; for the fact that you are an American; and for the fact that the peace and freedom for which our forefathers fought is still with us, even though it may be tempered by the thought that these are threatened perhaps to a greater degree than they ever have been before. "The world is a looking glass, and gives back to each man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it in turn will look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly, kind companion."

In Ithaca the first real snow storm of the season lies upon the ground, and this morning I had to do battle with the car and the garage driveway to make my eight o'clock. The football season is over and that is a relief to most of us here. Our natural hopes were let down a little at the season's end, yet most of us realize that a team unbeaten over a long period brings strains and tensions to an educational institution which are not good for the kind of scholastic effort that we want at Cornell. At Philadelphia a few days ago, our Walt Matuszczak, the team captain, and practically the entire first string group played the last game of their

careers. It was a brainy, resourceful team, a fighting team, a great team that will long be remembered.

The members of the faculty have changed little during the last year. The entire group has been blessed with good health. Of course, we are all getting older and many of us are finding that our joints which formerly worked like those of well-oiled machines are beginning to squeak a little now and then. But we manage to squeak through. During the year, Birch joined Milks and Hayden in the grandfather's spit and whittle club, and prospects are good for more members in the club during the next year or two. Mrs. Moore, whom I reported last year as being very ill, is now very much better. Norman Moore, the youngest son of Dean and Mrs. Moore, is the new Medical Director of the University and Physician-in-Chief of the Cornell Infirmary. In taking this place, he gave up an extensive practice which he had built up in the City of Ithaca during the last twelve years. Miss Haight apparently is enjoying and thriving on her new leisure. The professors emeritus are still going strong, and the rest of us are plugging along at our daily stints.

Dukes and Fincher were on sabbatic leaves last spring. Dukes visited nearly all parts of this country, visiting a great many medical and veterinary institutions. Besides the veterinary schools of this country, he also visited those in Havana and in Mexico City. Fincher lectured for one quarter at Ohio State University and for a shorter period at Texas A. and M. He then drove across the country and back during the early part of the summer. Sunderville and Baker have been granted leaves for next spring.

At the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees, Brunett and Baker received promotions from the rank of Assistant Professor to that of Associate Professor, and Malcolm Miller from Instructor to Assistant Professor.

A new face on our faculty is that of Dr. J. A. Dye, Assistant Professor of Physiology. Dye has taught human physiology in the Ithaca Division of the Cornell Medical College for many years. In the reorganization of the work in Stimson Hall, following the abandoning of the medical teaching in Ithaca several years ago, it was thought best to concentrate all the work in animal physiology in one department. Instruction in human physiology will be continued, but Dye's research work will gradually be merged with that of other members of our Department of Physiology under Dukes.

We have about 160 students this year, and this number will remain fairly constant so long as we continue our present plan of admissions which, limits each class to approximately forty members. For admission this year there were almost ten times as many applicants as there were places. The Committee on Admissions is able to pick pretty good students under these circumstances, and few are dropped for scholastic difficulties. One effect of the heavy demand for admission, for which we are sorry, is that we are no longer able to admit many students who reside in states other than New York. We are not limited by any law or regulation in this matter, but we do not feel it is wise, so long as so many residents have to be refused admission, to take more than four or five per year from out of the state. Since there were nearly 100 out-of-state applicants this year, the competition was very severe.

Practically all the work on the college grounds now has been completed and we are 100 per cent paved, curbed, and side-walked. Many trees and shrubs were planted last spring and all the lawns were graded and seeded. These face-lifting operations have made a great improvement in the appearance of the veterinary quadrangle. With the aid of Professor W. C. Muenscher, of the Department of Botany, we expect to start our garden of poisonous and medicinal plants next spring. About fifteen years ago, I saw such a garden in the grounds of the veterinary school at Alfort, France, and this makes me very enthusiastic about the venture. We are very fortunate in having the interest of Prof. Muenscher, who is an authority on poisonous plants and the author of a recent text and reference book on the subject.

Plans for the Thirty-Third Annual Conference for Veterinarians are rapidly maturing. Again it will be a three-day meeting, and the dates are January 8, 9, and 10. All alumni who live in the northeastern states should receive programs in due time. Those who live in the more distant states will not receive them unless they are specifically requested. We shall be pleased to send them to any who want them, of course. Just drop me a card. A meeting of the alumni will be held on the evening of January 8th. We hope to have an attendance of at least 300. Plan to come and meet your classmates again.

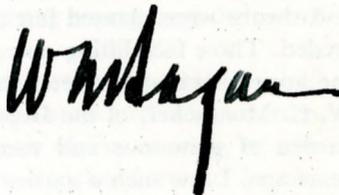
It is my sad duty to report the deaths, during the past year, of the

following: William L. Clark, '07; Clifford P. Fitch, '11; Bernard A. Gallagher, '01; Arthur G. Hall, '08; Clair O. Joslyn, '30; Valentine M. Knapp, '04; Louis R. Koten, '12; J. Lynn Leonard, '09; Raymond C. Reed, '01; Floyd G. Scammel, '99; Ernest L. Simpson, '06.

“Thou, who thy honor as thy God rever'st,
Who, save thy mind's reproach, naught earthly fear'st,
To thee this votive offering I impart,
The tearful tribute of a broken heart.
The friend thou valued'st, I, the Patron, lov'd;
His worth, his honor, all the world approv'd.
We'll mourn till we too go as he has gone,
And tread the dreary path to that dark world unknown.”

A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you!

Cordially and sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Fitch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.