

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS  
1 9 4 7

DEAR ALUMNUS:

Each year seems to go just a little faster than the preceding one. Whether this is a manifestation of an increasing tempo of life or a symptom of advancing age, I do not know, but I suspect it is a combination of the two. At any rate, the weather and calendar agree, even though my lagging time-sense does not, that another year is coming to a close and the time is again at hand to compose another Christmas letter to you.

This year the University has the largest enrollment in its history. About 9,600 stream up the hill and across the campus every morning. This number means great crowding in Ithaca and its environs, but somehow everyone seems to have found a place to call home. The present registration represents about a 50 percent increase over the largest pre-war year, but it is a two-fold or even three-fold increase over the days that many of you remember here. Large as the student body seems to be, it is not nearly so great as in many other universities, particularly the state universities of the country. The present level was maintained only by rigid limitations in all of the colleges and divisions. In the aggregate, more than five times as many students sought to enter this fall than the number accepted. The increases in registration in institutions of higher learning in this country are not due entirely or largely to war and the G. I. bill, as many think. Before the war the pressure on colleges was rapidly growing, and Cornell undoubtedly would have grown even had there been no war. President Day has said that he believes that Cornell probably will remain permanently at about its present size.

So far as the Veterinary College is concerned, we have held close to our pre-war size. For the last four years we have had only three classes. Since there is no fourth year class this year, we will have no graduating class next June. Next year we will again have a full complement of students; about 185 undergraduates and 15 to 20 graduate students. At present we have 143 undergraduates and 15 graduates. We expect to admit approximately 50 new students next fall.

For admission to the 1947 class, we had 752 completed applications of which 49 were accepted. All of those accepted are men, 36 are veterans, the average age is over 23 years, and a considerable number are married and several have children. They are an earnest lot from which fine work is expected. In making the selections the Committee on Admissions worked hard and long. It had to refuse a considerable number of sons of alumni and there are some hard feelings on this matter. For these we are sorry. An honest and sincere effort was made to be fair to all applicants. When sons of alumni were close to the level of merit

of other candidates, the committee was glad to give them "a break," justifying this action by the fact that it was sure in these cases that their interest in veterinary medicine was genuine and based upon enough experience with the profession to give them a good basis for their decision. In behalf of the committee, it should be noted that it is not a happy task to have to disappoint 94% while pleasing 6% of those with whom it deals.

While speaking about this subject, I want to tell you that the faculty has made the decision to require two years of college work for admission beginning with the class entering in 1949. The forthcoming college announcement will give more information about this. This step has been under consideration for more than ten years, and would have been taken before now had it not been for the disruptions of the war. The veterinarian of the future must be better grounded in the fundamental sciences if he is to measure up to the expectations of the public, and he must have a better general education if he is to take his place among well educated people.

Many faculty changes have been made during the last year, mostly among the younger members, but there are several which involve key positions. Dr. Earl Sunderville, taking advantage of an option of the State Retirement System which permits members to retire at age 60, became Professor-emeritus at his own request last February. Since that time "Sundy" and Mrs. Sunderville have been relaxing in the South, at their summer home on Lake Ontario, and at their home in Ithaca. Dr. Howard J. Milks, "Daddy" Milks to the younger generations, retired under the age rule of the University on June 30th to the ranks of the Emeriti. He and Mrs. Milks are in good health and continue to reside in Ithaca. These two men have given long, faithful, and distinguished service, as all of you know, and well deserve the rest that they are now getting.

Incidentally it should be noted that we are rapidly approaching the time when the College will be in the hands of the third generation of faculty members since those who took over from the original group will soon reach retirement. "Denny" Udall, Howard Milks, and "Sundy" have already retired; Ray Birch, "Spike" Hayden and "Jay" Frost will follow along within the next five years; and your correspondent and Hugh Dukes have a few more years. A competent younger group is gradually taking over.

Malcolm E. Miller was appointed last spring to take over "Sundy's" position as Head of the Department of Anatomy, and Dr. Ellis P. Leonard, '34, will take over as Director of the Small Animal Clinic on January first. "Mac" Miller has been Associate Professor of Anatomy, and Ellis Leonard has been associated with Joe Engle in small animal practice at Summit, N. J. since his graduation, except for a two-year period (1935-'37) when he served on the clinical staff of Kansas State College.

Al Zeissig, who has been on leave of absence serving with the New York State Health Department as a consultant on rabies control since December 1945, presented his resignation as of July 1st. It was accepted with regret. Al was an excellent teacher and a popular member of the faculty but he feels that he will have a larger field in public health work than in teaching and he expects to remain in that field. To take his place we have secured Dr. James A. Baker,

whom some of you will recall as "Fish" Baker. Baker obtained his Ph.D. in 1938<sup>8</sup> and his D.V.M. in 1940 from Cornell. Since graduation he has been on the staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Animal Pathology Division, at Princeton, N. J. where he has done distinguished work on virus and rickettsial diseases of animals. During the war he served four years as a captain in the Veterinary Corps, the greater part of it on the Grosse Isle project in research on rinderpest. Since the job of Dean seems to be becoming more complex and time consuming yearly, and since this has meant that his teaching work has been suffering more and more, the writer is withdrawing from the greater part of his teaching responsibilities and turning them over to Baker, who is well qualified for the job. He holds the appointment of a full professorship. It is expected that our programs of teaching and research in the virus field will be greatly expanded by Baker and his assistants.

Walt Gibbons resigned last January to accept the position as Director of the Large Animal Clinic of the Veterinary School of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, Ala. During the past year he has been appearing on most of the programs of the state veterinary societies of the southern states. There are plenty of indications, both at Auburn and elsewhere in the South, that Walt is making good. He has our confidence and best wishes.

Mac Miller's place in the Department of Anatomy was filled during the summer by a young man, Dr. Robert E. Habel, who is a graduate of Ohio State and who was on the anatomy staff there. He has assumed responsibility for the course in applied anatomy which is given in the third year of the new curriculum.

Other new staff members are Ken Gumaer '43, who is Field Veterinarian in charge of our mastitis laboratory at Farmingdale; John R. Steele, '46, who returned after a year of practice with John McAuliff at Cortland to take a newly created position of Assistant Professor of Pathology; Dr. Carolyn F. Sprague, who accepted a newly created position as Assistant Professor of Physiology; Francis H. Fox '45, who returned from a year in the clinics at Ohio State as Assistant Professor of Medicine; Ken McEntee '44, who became Assistant in Pathology in place of Pete Zepp who resigned to enter practice with his father in New York City; John Leahy '47, who became Assistant in Anatomy; David Eisenberg who became Instructor in Poultry Diseases with Ken Hilbert at the Farmingdale Laboratory; Mrs. Barbara Hough, who became Assistant in Physiology; Tim Brasmer, Colorado '46, and Clark Taylor '47, who became Internes in the Small Animal Clinic; and Don Delahanty '44, who became. Interne in the Surgical Clinic. Don Rankin obtained his Ph.D. in physiology in June and left to accept the position of Professor of Physiology at Colorado State College.

Don Baker and Steve Roberts were promoted to full professorships during the year. The rest of the faculty are plugging away at their old positions, working hard and enjoying reasonably good health. Dr. Hopkins is around daily and Miss Haight generally turns up at social functions of the staff.

Phil Levine and his family sailed from New Orleans on October first for Brazil where Phil will spend a year at the Biological Institute at Sao Paulo in

