

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS
1 9 4 8

DEAR ALUMNUS:

As Wash Tubbs used to say, "I ain't mad at nobody." The current year has been one of peace and relative prosperity for most of us so we can look back on it with general satisfaction. Of course we wish our friends behind the "Iron Curtain" would be a little more reasonable and play ball with the rest of the world instead of keeping us on nettles for fear of another war, but we haven't come to war yet and can still hope that a way out will be found. A lot of us guessed wrong on the presidential election but we aren't going to let that get us down. Income taxes haven't been lowered and probably will be raised, but we can be thankful that we can earn enough to pay them and have something left over. We eat regularly and pretty well, we have enough fuel to overheat our homes in winter, and we manage to buy a new suit now and then and a few extras, so why shouldn't we face the holiday season with a smile? Every human joy is offset with a measure of sorrow. We wish that all peoples of the earth could be as fortunate as we. If this were so, I am sure that we could all look forward to a century of peace, happiness and prosperity.

After as beautiful and fine a fall as we have ever had, Ithaca just now is getting adjusted for winter. The University is humming and the College is in high gear. There are about 9600 students on the campus and of these about 190 are aspirants for the D.V.M. degree. Since we are accepting about 50 new students each year, we now have about the total that we expect to maintain in the Veterinary College for the long pull. Nearly two thirds of our students are veterans of the last war. This ratio is considerably higher than for the University as a whole.

The post-war peak of applications for admission to this College apparently came in 1947. For admission this fall we considered 632 applications but this number was more than 100 fewer than for the previous year. For next fall we will require two years of preveterinary collegiate work instead of one, and this will undoubtedly reduce the number of applications, although we expect to have many more than we will be able to accommodate.

At the present time it does not appear that Selective Service will draw any veterinary students from their work, unless war should actually be declared. Provisions have been made for deferring all college students until the end of the present collegiate year and after that certain professional and scientific students, including those in veterinary medicine, will be deferred until their educations have been completed.

This College was one of six veterinary schools designated by the Department of the Army in July for the establishment of a Veterinary R.O.T.C. unit. Lieut. Col. William E. Jennings, '31 was detailed as its commanding officer in August. Bill already has recruited more than half of the students for the special

advanced R.O.T.C. work which he gives. These boys will receive commissions in the Veterinary Corps Reserve upon graduation. The veterinary faculty has elected Bill a member of its honorable body with all the rights, privileges, responsibilities and honors that pertain thereto, and has delegated him to teach the regular course in Food Hygiene, a job that we are sure he can do better than any of us. If, at some future time, some of the Generals begin sounding off to the effect that we haven't taught our boys all they should know about food inspection, we will be ready to fling the challenge right back in their teeth.

The new method of clinical teaching toward which we have been working for the last four years finally is in full working order, and we think it is working well. The Seniors have all their regular classwork behind them except the well-remembered eight o'clocks in medicine. By nine o'clock everyday, they are free for the rest of the day and the night too for work on their clinical assignments. And the boys are working, too. Only today one of them came in to ask whether it wouldn't be possible to keep the college library open four nights a week instead of three, saying that he could find no time during the day to look up the material that he had to have to complete his clinical reports. Once each week there is a clinico-pathological conference, attended by all Seniors and a goodly number of the faculty, at which groups of students present the completed studies of certain selected cases. The students are entering into the spirit of the thing very well and these cases are hashed over thoroughly. I am free to admit that I am learning things along with the students and I think this applies to some of the other grey beards as well.

We have a couple of new faces on the faculty this year. Robert W. (Bob) Dougherty came to us this fall as a Professor of Physiology from Washington State College. Bob got his B. S. from Ames in 1927, his D.V.M. from Ohio State in 1936, and his M.S. from Oregon State in 1941. He worked for a long time in the Veterinary Experiment Station of Oregon State when Dr. B. T. Simms was in charge. Later he spent the war years in uniform, first being assigned to war gas research in Chicago and later being detailed to the Pacific theater. For the last two or three years he has taught physiology in the veterinary school of Washington State. He has long been interested in rumen physiology and digestion. He will work in that field here and will relieve Hugh Dukes of part of his too-heavy teaching load.

Adrian M. Mills, '20 came in early October to take the position in large animal surgery vacated by Gordon Danks. Immediately after graduating, Adrian spent one year as an assistant in surgery. He then went with W. L. Williams to Hawaii where he worked for two years. Afterwards he had a long experience in the milk game, having been associated with the Borden Company. Finally he went into the certified milk production business himself for a number of years. Several years ago he sold out his dairy business and became a general veterinary practitioner. In 1944 he spent a year with us in the Ambulatory Clinic.

Phil Levine returned with his family in September from a year's leave of absence spent in the Biological Institute at São Paulo, Brazil. It was an interesting experience but I think Phil was glad to get home. I can detect no bad effects from the experience except that he now speaks English with a Portu-

guese accent, a defect which I am sure he will overcome before the end of the winter.

The rest of us have been plugging away. "Hoppy" Hopkins still punches the clock regularly. "Sundy" Sunderville shows up occasionally with a little paint on his glasses and behind his ears. It seems he is painting his house. "Dennie" Udall breezes in and out as of yore. Ray Birch will join these retired stalwarts at the end of the present academic year. I do not know what Ray plans to do after his regular chores are done but he has fortified himself with a house in Ithaca, a woodlot in Ellis Hollow, and a farm up north near Poplar Ridge, so it looks as if he planned on sticking it out somewhere near Ithaca as the others have done.

While speaking of retirements, I do not want to forget George Willis who has been identified with the Medicine Building since Frank Spencer died, years ago. George retired in June but he can't stay away from his old haunts. He is around nearly every day. Tom Merrill is another old employee who is due for retirement very soon. I don't remember when Tom began in the Department of Anatomy.

The College is rapidly slipping into younger hands. "Jay" Frost has several more years to go, and then it will be the turn of "Steph" Stephenson and Yours Truly with Hugh Dukes breathing down our necks. But the younger ones are doing pretty well and there is no cause for worry.

The Forty-first Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of January. The program is pretty well formulated and we expect to have a good offering. We hope to see many of you in Ithaca then. We send out programs to all who live in the Northeast and to certain others who have requested them. If you do not receive them, and want to be placed on the mailing list, a postal card will do the trick.

The larger building plans of the College are still in abeyance awaiting decisions by state authorities. In the meantime we have two smaller projects under way. One is a virus disease isolation building on the Veterinary Farm for which ground was broken only a couple of weeks ago. This will provide isolation facilities for dealing with highly transmissible diseases. It will cost about \$125,000. The other job is the renovation of the Small Animal Clinic, a project which has been hanging fire for several years. This job is pretty well along. Its completion is being held up because of delay in obtaining stainless steel for the new kennel doors. These kennels are being built of structural glass, so they will be good looking, sanitary and easily cleaned. New ventilation equipment is being included in the wards. Clients now enter from the east door on the second floor. They find themselves in a spacious reception room, where they are met by a receptionist who feeds them, at the proper moments, into one or the other of the two examination rooms. We think that our clinic now compares favorably with the best of private small animal hospitals.

For the first time in the history of the College we have passed a full year without having graduated a class. This was the result of the final adjustment from our war-time accelerated to a normal schedule. There will be a class next year, and in each June thereafter, indefinitely. The first class to obtain their sheep-skins was that of 1897; the last one was in 1947. In this period there were

53 classes consisting of 1425 persons of which 37 were women. According to our records, 188 of the men and 1 of the women are deceased, leaving a total of 1236 living graduates. Counting the graduates by decades and including in the final group the present Senior class that will graduate in 1949, the figures come out as follows:—

1890-1899	13	1920-1929	195
1900-1909	182	1930-1939	350
1910-1919	312	1940-1949	415

The grim reaper has been unusually busy this year in our group. Notices of the following deaths have reached us: Franklin DuBois Smith, '14, Dec. 3, 1947; Chas. E. Hayden, '14, Jan. 25th; Ellsworth S. Brown, '23, Mar. 19th; Roscoe E. Davis, '15, Mar. 29th; William A. Dennis, '26, April 13th; Fred D. Holford, '02, May 7th; Raymond A. Halsey, '15, June 3rd; Philip Poley, '28, June 10th; Cassius Way, '07, Aug. 5th; Walter C. Snyder, '18, Aug. 24th; James J. Bogan, '23, Oct. 21st. In addition I must record the death of Harry W. Eggleston, '14 on Oct. 24th, 1943 to correct an omission in a previous letter.

The endowed portions of the University are facing financial difficulties because of the reduced purchasing power of the dollar. In order to raise faculty salaries and supply modern facilities to the staff, without which Cornell cannot expect to maintain the high position it now occupies among the universities of the country, it must have increased endowment funds. Through the Greater Cornell Committee each of you will be approached within the next few months and asked to help according to your means. Few of you are wealthy but most can afford to help in a modest way. I hope that you will respond. Although you graduated from a part of Cornell which is supported by the State of New York, I hope you will remember that the Veterinary College would never have been what it is had it not been a part of Cornell. If you cherish the prestige which you have as a Cornell graduate, help her in her hour of need. And don't forget that you can recover part of what you give when you make out your income tax return.

In conclusion, I extend cordial greetings to you from every member of the faculty. At this holiday time it is particularly appropriate to wish the best for each of you. Let the following verse, whose author I do not know, express your philosophy and mine.

“Build for yourself a strong-box,
Fashion each part with care;
When it's strong as your hand can make it,
Put all your trouble there;
Hide there all thought of your failures,
And each bitter cup that you quaff;
Lock all your heartaches within it,
Then sit on the lid and laugh.”

Sincerely yours,

