

Season's Greetings

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

CHRISTMAS, 1951

DEAR ALUMNUS:

Winter has set in unusually early this year in Ithaca. After a beautiful summer and early fall, he of the icy breath sent down enough snow in the first week of November to bring out the cinder trucks and a few sets of tire chains. Now, just before Thanksgiving, the ground again is white and the holiday will be of the kind more often seen in magazine illustrations than in reality. The festoons of holly are up on downtown State Street and the store ads. warn that the number of shopping days is becoming few. Another Christmas season is at hand.

In recalling the events of the last year I find that most of them have been what may be called routine. Each year is much like the preceding in most respects. Each year there is the graduation of one class and the enrolling of another, the routine of class schedules, and the regular chores in the clinics and laboratories. The progress of time brings changes in personnel, and changes in the viewpoints of the old personnel as a result of greater experience, but the general program goes on and on, with changes only in details.

One of the great figures in the history of Cornell was lost last spring in the death of Edmund Ezra Day, Cornell's fifth president. As you know, Dr. Day re-

tired from the presidency two years ago because of failing health but was persuaded to continue in the role of elder statesman in a specially created office of Chancellor. On medical advice he resigned this position early in 1950, hence he was in an emeritus status at the time of his death. He had moved into a new Ithaca home, presented him by a group of University trustees, only a month before. His interest and activities in State and National affairs continued until the end. Only the day before his death on March 23rd, I returned with him on a train from Washington, D.C. He was a great man, an interesting companion, and a loyal friend. His forthrightness made some enemies but these were greatly outnumbered by those who admired his great intellect, his courage and his warm human qualities.

While the trustees were canvassing the field for a new president, the University operated very well under the capable direction of two acting presidents, Provost Cornelis de Kiewiet (July 1949 to February 1951) and Vice President Theodore P. Wright (February to July, 1951). Deane Waldo Malott, Chancellor of the University of Kansas, was chosen as the Sixth President last spring and took office on July 1st although he was not formally inaugurated until September of this year. President Malott is a friendly man who has proved his abilities in the business world as well as in academic administration. He and Mrs. Malott have made an excellent impression on the campus community and have fitted easily into the life of Ithaca. So far my business contacts with him have been limited but everything I know about him leads me to believe that he will measure up to the high tradition of former Cornell presidents. We had hoped to have him as our Conference dinner speaker but an important commitment in Washington makes that impossible.

William I. Emerson, a Cornellian of the Class of '31 and a Wall Street broker, last spring was appointed Vice President for University Development to replace Asa Knowles who resigned in February to become President of the University of Toledo. Mr. Emerson has carried on the vigorous program started by Mr. Knowles to increase the endowment and improve the physical plant of the University. So far as the Veterinary College is concerned, we were pleased with the immediate interest he displayed in raising funds for the support of our dog disease research program. Since our physical plant for this work has been completed and equipped, the remaining problem is to secure continuing financing of the program. We are greatly pleased with the success that he has had in eliciting pledges from kennel clubs, veterinary associations, commercial companies, and individuals for annual contributions for this purpose. We are now assured of such support for several years during which time we expect that the laboratory will prove its worth and make the finding of additional funds easier. The support of this project by the veterinary alumni has been excellent and is appreciated.

Don Baker is still in South America working for the Institute of Inter-American Affairs but he will be back on his regular job in late January. Recently I saw him in Lima, Peru at the First Pan American Veterinary Congress. He looks very well and is enjoying his work. Ruth Baker and Jean, their daughter, are with him. His headquarters are in Asuncion, Paraguay but he appears to have travelled over a good part of the southern continent.

Dr. Wendell Krull, veterinary parasitologist at Oklahoma A. & M. College, served as Acting Professor of Parasitology in this college for four months last summer. He was employed for special field studies on the lanceolate fluke which has become a serious problem in cattle and sheep in several counties in central New York. Working with John Whitlock and Cortland Mapes, he made a great deal of progress on the life cycle of this parasite.

Earl Moore, who has been our specialist on turkey diseases, resigned early this fall to accept a position in the Wooster Experiment Station in Ohio, his home state. We have not yet filled his position here.

Late last winter all of us were saddened by the death of Ruth Stephenson, wife of Hadley Stephenson. She had been ill for some time and her death was not unexpected, however, family and friends are never quite prepared for such things. Ruth had long been a popular member of our faculty group. She maintained her friendly and cheerful spirit until the end although she knew for a long time that she was fighting a losing battle.

Betty Peacock, the dean's secretary, well-known to all recent and many older graduates, and Frank Fielder, assistant to Gordon Danks, were recently married. Frank is an Australian, a graduate of the Veterinary School of the University of Sydney. This is his second year at Cornell. He worked for a practitioner in Canada for one year, and spent another year at Colorado A. & M. College where he qualified for the D.V.M. degree before coming here. I don't like the idea of an assistant, or anyone else for that matter, carting off a good secretary but I suppose business always has to give way to romance. When they leave next summer, they will carry with them the best wishes of us all. We are glad that both plan to continue with their present jobs until the end of the collegiate year.

"Hoppie" Hopkins, Dennie Udall, "Sundy" Sunderville, "Daddy" Milks, and Ray Birch, our stalwart crew of *emeriti*, are all well. The first two continue to keep pretty regular office hours. The others come around from time to time.

"Mac" Miller had a brain tumor removed last spring in the New York Hospital. The operation was very successful and it has completely relieved the symptoms from which he has suffered during the last ten years. He is feeling and looking better than he has for years, and has a new outlook on life now. He is back on a full schedule of work, including the labor on his textbook of canine anatomy.

An arrangement is in effect this year whereby Francis Fox and Adrian Mills have exchanged jobs temporarily. Fox is working in large animal surgery and Mills in the ambulatory clinic. The changed assignments will be helpful to both.

During the last two years we have had a number of foreign visitors, most of them staff members of foreign veterinary schools and research laboratories who were brought to this country on E.C.A. funds. Many have been distinguished veterinarians. Although they have taken much time of many staff members, we have enjoyed meeting these people and have profited by information received from them. We hope that in these contacts we have been making a small contribution toward better understanding of our country, our people, and our way of life by the peoples of other countries. It is certainly clear that this is sorely needed in this troubled world of ours.

The program of our 44th Annual Conference for Veterinarians, to be held on January 9, 10 and 11, is about ready for the printer and you may look forward to its arrival shortly after you read these words. Hadley Stephenson is chairman of the program committee this year. I am sure it will be up to our usual standard and we hope to see many of you here again. This year we are planning to hold most of the sessions in the auditorium of Statler Hall where you will be more comfortable than in our overcrowded auditorium.

Some of you, particularly those who drive to Ithaca, may be interested in knowing that Ithaca now has a big new *de luxe* motel where you may obtain living accommodations if you so desire. It is known as the Plaza Motel, and is located in the southwest part of the city next to the Shopping Plaza on the Elmira Road. It offers

hotel-type accommodations at hotel rates. It has become quite popular and advance reservations are advisable.

The architect is now well along on the plans for the new Veterinary College. The general layout has been completed and approved except for some minor details. Working drawings are now beginning. Our staff is well-pleased with the plans and we believe that when completed it will be the best plant of its kind in existence. Its cost will be close to \$5 million.

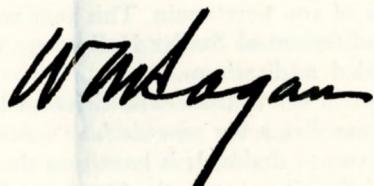
As to actual construction, the time schedule cannot now be predicted. Funds will be requested in the 1952 State budget, but if they are made available we still have the question of the availability of steel and other structural materials to consider. The pressing need of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations for new quarters is an important factor in the situation, since that school will, according to plan, take over some of our present buildings, and that cannot be done of course until we are moved. Under the most favorable conditions it is possible that a contract might be let by next summer.

Since the last Christmas letter was written the grim reaper, according to our records, has claimed seven alumni. In addition, we have learned of four earlier deaths which were not recorded. The names of these persons, their classes, and dates of death are as follows: Walter Emerson Howe, '97, June 15, 1950; Charles Fred Flocken, '01, Feb. 4, 1951; Clarence Melvin Haring, '04, July 10, 1951; James Garfield Wallace, '07, April, 1943; Jerry Raymond Beach, '13, Jan. 4, 1951; Francis James Caveney, '16, April 14, 1947; William Henry Seabrook, '18, Sept. 11, 1950; DeWitt LaGrange, '19, March 19, 1951; James Sumner Marshall, '24, Feb. 20, 1951; Adalyn (Schoenfeld) Yaskin, '25, Dec. 9, 1950; Lynn Bacon Fake, '40, Oct. 27, 1950.

To most veterinarians this has been a year of hard work and material prosperity. I hope that all of you have had your share of the prosperity and I am sure that you have had enough work. Hanging over us and dampening our enthusiasms, like a great cloud, are the tensions and uncertainties of the future. We hope that the country has enough moral fiber and material strength, and that our statesmen have enough wisdom to finally bring us through to a period of world peace. Most people feel that there is little they, as individuals, can do about the situation. This is a mistake for the strength of democracy lies in the hands of the common people. We, and others of good intent, can throw corruption out of office and choose those who are wisest for our leaders. If we will, we can eliminate the chisellers who believe that the public owes them a living. We can help to reinstate the old philosophy that healthy prosperity comes only from hard work and the creation of new wealth. In recent years we seem to have slipped from this philosophy; we have altogether too many who are trying to contribute little and collect much, not realizing, or caring, that this can only wear out the goose that lays the golden egg.

I hope that all of you will have a very Merry Christmas and that 1952 will bring greater happiness, prosperity, and peace of mind than the year that now is closing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Morgan".