



New York State Veterinary College

CHRISTMAS, 1952

DEAR ALUMNUS:

Like the columnist who writes his story days or weeks before publication date and who hopes that what he writes will be appropriate and timely when it appears, I am writing this letter in mid-November when Christmas still seems far away. But the somber skies, the shortened days, and the chill in the air are sure signs of the nearness of winter, and with winter comes Christmas and a New Year. It is the holiday season, a time of year dedicated to good will among men. It is the appropriate time to greet friends and wish them well in the year to come. That is the reason for this letter. That, and to tell you of the year's happenings on the campus and among the students and faculty.

I am glad to say that there have been no deaths or serious illnesses among the active faculty members or their immediate families. Even among our retired group the health score must be regarded as good. Dr. Hopkins has not been very well the last few months, as a result of which he no longer comes to his office. The other emeriti—Udall, Milks, Sunderville and Birch—are very well and active. This is true also of their wives, and of Mrs. Hopkins. Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Asmus, Mrs. Hayden, Mrs. Frost, Miss Julia Law and Miss Helena Haight live in or near Ithaca and all retain an interest in the College and its doings.

The list of retired professors will soon be augmented by the name of Hadley Carruthers Stephenson. Dr. Stephenson has applied for retirement on February 1, 1953. In case you are wondering about his age, I might say that he has not yet reached the compulsory retirement age but he will be old enough next year to get under the wire on the minimum retirement age of the state system. He has decided that he would like to be free to do something else for awhile, and no one can blame him for that.

Charlie Rickard is on a year's sabbatic leave, completing the requirements for the Ph.D. degree in the medical school of the University of Michigan. New faces on the faculty this fall are those of Lou Nangeroni (physiology), John Sickles (poultry diseases), and recently, Bob Kirk (small animal diseases), besides a number of new assistants and internes. John Bentinck-Smith (clinical pathology), Howie Evans (anatomy) and Julius Fabricant (poultry diseases) recently were promoted to the rank of associate professor, and John Whitlock (parasitology) became a full professor.

We have a group of twenty-one graduate students working this year with our staff. All but two or three have the basic veterinary degree. About two thirds are citizens of the United States; the others are from Australia, Brazil, Greece, Peru, Thailand and Turkey.

Some of you older alumni would find interesting differences between student life here now and as it was in your day. Somewhat more than one third of our students are married, and a substantial part have one or more children. It seems that someone is passing out cigars nearly every week. Of course, part of this is by the young staff members, of whom we now have quite a large group. The young married folks seem to have a good time in college but their celebrations are a little more restrained than those I seem to remember of twenty and thirty years ago. For the most part, I think they work harder than most of you did. About half of the evenings Dad has to stay home baby-sitting anyway, so there isn't much to do but hit the books. Besides, Mother checks up now and then and if Father's marks aren't up to snuff, he's likely to have his free evenings cancelled until further notice. And he will be reminded that the family isn't going to put up with shabby living quarters, beans, and no new clothes unless he works hard and does well. In most cases the scheme works. As to the unmarried, I don't know that they are much different, but at least they are forced to compete in class with the married, and that is something.

Seriously, the student wives' group is an enthusiastic lot of girls intensely interested in their husbands' work. Most of them who do not have children, and some who have, work in outside jobs to help support their families. Last year, and again this year, a course of evening lectures on subjects that will help a young veterinarian's wife to help her husband has been given by various faculty and some outside lecturers. These were arranged by the girls and are faithfully attended by them.

The plans for the new Veterinary College are nearly complete. The veterinarians village on the site on east Tower Road is being demolished to make way for the beginning of construction next spring. Unless something slips between cup and lip, a contract will be let this winter and construction will start as soon as the weather permits. As most of you know, an appropriation of \$6,500,000 is available for it.

There are a number of other important changes on the campus, completed or in progress. Annabel Taylor Hall, the new home of the Cornell United Religious Workers, was completed and dedicated this fall. Given by Myron Taylor in honor of his wife, it is a beautiful structure standing diagonally opposite Olin Hall beside the Law School, which also was given by Mr. Taylor and bears his name. On South Avenue, east of the Old Armory, are two new buildings, Thurston and Kimball Halls. These belong to the group that eventually will house the College of Engineering on the south side of the campus. These buildings are nearly completed but not yet occupied. On Lower Alumni Field, across the way from Schoellkopf, the new sports building given by Walter C. Teagle is just beginning to rise. This building will supply swimming pools, a rowing tank, bowling alleys, dressing rooms for athletic activities and other facilities for intramural activities which have long been needed here. This building will be connected with Barton Hall by a tunnel running under Garden Avenue. The Jack Moakley House is about completed, I am told. This building is located on Warren Road, north-east of the campus, to serve primarily as a clubhouse for the new eighteen hole University golf course, for tennis courts which will be built there later, and for a small ski run which will be used for instructional purposes. Completed last summer and now in use is the new library of the Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics. This is a fine structure, built by the State, which connects the east ends of Warren Hall and the Plant Sciences Building. It has been named the Mann Library, in honor of former Dean Albert R. Mann.

I understand that a new set of four dormitory units for men, housing about 1200, is "in the mill" and likely to emerge soon. It is planned to place these units close together on some spot down the slope below the main library. Trustee approval has been given to the conversion of the interior of the Andrew D. White home—for years the President's House—for other use. This venerable old structure, so enmeshed in the traditions of Cornell, has been the center of considerable controversy around Ithaca since President and Mrs. Malott stated that they did not want to live in it. Many other uses have been suggested but I understand that it has been decided to keep the library, the dining room, and the kitchens for the use of the President, and to use the rest of the structure, except the servants' wing, as a museum. The fourteen rooms constituting the servants' quarters are to be remodelled into a dormitory for women graduate students.

Our plans for the Forty-Fifth Annual Conference for Veterinarians are

well along and we hope to offer you a program as good as any of those of the past. It will be held on the 7th, 8th and 9th of January in Statler Hall. Reluctantly we have decided to establish a small registration fee this year for the first time, to help toward meeting the increasing costs of these meetings. You should have the program shortly. It is time you were making your lodging arrangements. There is the Statler, Willard Straight, Ithaca Hotel, the Clinton House, Marilyn Hotel and the Plaza Motel, besides many tourist and rooming houses.

One regular feature of these annual letters is a report on deaths of alumni. We depend upon families, friends, newspapers, journals and other sources for this information but we do not always hear of every case. Seven have come to our attention this year. These were: Eugene J. Sullivan, '06 on January 28; William J. Conlin, '20 on February 2; Frank W. Chamberlain, '06 on March 15; Milton Spiegel, '39 on July 1; Harry W. Sutton, '23 on July 21; Harry E. Barker, '13 on August 15 and Garry V. McBride, '40 on October 22.

It seems that we are destined for a long time to live in an uneasy and troubled world. A fresh approach to world problems will be provided by a new administration in Washington but no miracles can be expected. A malignant ideology, one which is wholly incompatible with the freedom and standards of western civilization, has gone far abroad in this world. It is one which we must fight with all our resources. Compromise is not possible. Whether we can successfully combat this spreading menace psychologically, without resort to all-out physical warfare, is a question which only the future can decide.

We should remember that we are not the first generation of man to live in disquiet and anxiety for the future. Man always has had his troubles and I find it hard to believe that those of today are greater than those faced successfully on many previous occasions during the space of recorded history. Nothing can be gained by worrying about things that we cannot prevent. So during this season, dedicated to the celebration of the birthdate of the Christian Saviour, let us be hopeful and cheerful, let us think more of our fellow men and less of ourselves, and let us have faith that the strength and good will of masses of free men eventually will dominate the world and destroy the evils now working within it.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year of peace and prosperity.

Cordially yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. W. W. W. W.', written in a cursive style.