

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

Merry ~~Christ~~mas

CHRISTMAS 1957

DEAR ALUMNUS:

For some years I have been expecting to be challenged on the salutation that I have used on these letters. None has come. However, I want to say that I am not deliberately ignoring the alumna. In the interest of simplicity I hope they have forgiven me for concealing them in the larger group.

Finally after some six years of planning, building, and chewing of finger nails, we are now settled in our new quarters. I think settled is a good word for it, since our people are beginning to look as if they felt at home. A few workmen are still around, however, and I suspect we will not be wholly devoid of them for a long time. They have made a lot of changes to provide electrical circuits and plumbing to special equipment not provided in the building contract, they are correcting errors in design, some made by us and others by the architect, replacing faulty work here and there, and doing many odd jobs. Most of this work has now been finished and I would say that we are about 99.44+ percent complete. The buildings seem to be fulfilling their promise of utility and convenience. The equipment is of the latest and best. We think we are pretty well set, so far as physical equipment is concerned, for a long time to come. The roads, sidewalks, curbing, outside lighting, and grass seeding have all been finished. The only work that remains is the placing of trees and shrubbery, and that is scheduled for the spring. We look quite presentable now, but the planting next spring will help.

On Saturday, November 23, we held open house both afternoon and evening for our friends on other parts of the campus and among the townspeople. The staff received in their respective areas and about 150 students served as guides. We estimate that more than 2,000 people came to see us, and spent more than two hours in visiting. At the winter Conference we will have open house on one afternoon for the Conference visitors. We have been taking small parties and considerable groups through the buildings at various times. Probably there will be some simple dedicatory exercises held in the spring, during Farm and Home Week, when the Governor of the State usually pays a visit to the campus.

The alumni portraits of former faculty members are now hung in their permanent new locations. That of James Law is in the main foyer above

the doors to the auditorium which is named in his honor. Below the portrait is a beautiful bronze tablet which gives a brief account of his life and accomplishments, including the fact that the main building of the old college had borne his name. The tablet says the old building was razed after we moved to our new buildings in 1957. Actually it hasn't been torn down as yet, and it is likely to stand for a year or two more, since the State has been very slow in processing the plans for the moving of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. The wording is intended for the fellow who reads it fifty years from now when all of us who knew the old buildings so well will either be gone or muttering in our beards. The portraits of Williams, Hopkins, Milks, Udall, Frost, Hayden, Birch, and Sunderville are hanging on the sidewalls of the auditorium, each in the center of a large brick panel. They look very well, and they dress up the auditorium considerably. We are planning to place name plates on all of our portraits to maintain their identity for posterity. It is a little hard to realize that our students and a large part of our faculty today never knew any of these men.

The portraits of Moore, Fish, and Gage hang in the College library; Gage on the north end of the great reading room, and the others at the opposite end. Gage's portrait was placed in the library, since it is fitting that he be recognized as the first librarian and one who, in the early days, was active and influential in obtaining funds for its support. The faculty committee which studied the matter and made recommendations for the placing of all portraits decided that the second, third, and fourth deans should assist Gage in keeping an eye on what goes on in the library. Moore's portrait which, you will recall, is a full-length likeness, is hanging in the center of the south wall flanked by Fish's on his left. A place on his right has been reserved for No. 4!

Since many of you will not be present at the Conference in January when the latest portrait will be presented to the University, I want here to express my great appreciation for what you have done. The portrait is finished and I concur with a few others who have seen it that it is a fine likeness. It must have taken a mighty effort on the part of the artist but he has come up with something that I believe will please you. I appreciate more than I can tell the many gestures of friendship and understanding that you have shown, this being the latest. Warm feelings that I cannot describe are engendered by it. I can only say—Thank you!

The three-story middle wing of the basic science building has been given the name The Veranus A. Moore Laboratory. In the lower hall we have mounted the name plate taken from the old Moore Laboratory and beneath it is a new bronze plaque giving a brief resumé of Moore's life and significance to the College, including a statement that his name had once identified one of the buildings of the old veterinary quadrangle.

All of our retired professors are living in Ithaca, and all appear to be in good health. Earl Sunderville is frequently seen around the College, Ray Birch occasionally. Hadley Stephenson, as you probably know, is working part-time as a consultant for our Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs. Miss Haight, whom many of the older people will remember as our financial secretary for many years, is living in her own apartment in Ithaca. She is in rea-

sonably good health but doesn't get out a great deal any more. Miss Julia Law, one of the daughters of James Law, was with us during our open house. She was anxious to see everything and didn't miss much. Mrs. Udall, Mrs. Milks, and Mrs. Hopkins continue to live in the city. Mrs. Hayden is living with her daughter in Hamburg, New York. Dr. Veranus A. Moore's youngest son, Norman, is a physician and Chairman of the Department of Clinical and Preventive Medicine of the University. Two daughters, Louella and Mary, of Dr. W. L. Williams, reside here, as do Bill Fish and his family, Bill being the only son of Dr. P. A. Fish. Mrs. Simon H. Gage, widow of Professor Gage, is a teacher in the Ithaca High School.

Our faculty continues to expand. During the past few months we have acquired two more members of professorial rank, Dr. Cyril L. Comar, who became Professor of Radiation Biology on September 1, and Dr. Joseph H. Gans, who became Professor of Veterinary Pharmacology on November 1, 1957. Both are in the Department of Physiology, Dr. Comar heading a special unit of that Department known as the Laboratory of Radiation Biology. Dr. Comar did his undergraduate work at the University of California and acquired his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Purdue University. He has served on the staff of several Universities but during the last several years he has been Chief of Biomedical Research of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies. He is recognized as an outstanding authority on the biological effects of ionizing radiation. He will teach and carry on research work in his field with the help of a staff of assistants. His work will be largely supported by a number of government agencies that are interested in, and concerned with, the effects of ionizing radiation on living organisms, including animals and man. He will give graduate courses in his field, and we expect that veterinary students will have enough contacts with his staff and their work so that they will develop a working knowledge of the subject. I am sure that you will hear much more of Dr. Comar and his work as time goes on.

Until now we have not offered any separate courses in pharmacology to our students but that does not mean that they have had none. It has been worked into the courses in physiology. With the coming of Dr. Gans, who obtained his veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the Jefferson Medical College, we are preparing to launch into separate courses. The first will be given to the second-year veterinary students this spring.

Howie Evans (anatomy) is the only staff member on sabbatic leave this fall. He is working at the University of California, in Davis. Gordon Danks (surgery) expects to take a leave during the spring semester. Probably he will give some help during the late winter to the people in Indiana who are building a new veterinary school preparatory to starting in 1959, and then take off during the spring to see some of the veterinary schools of Europe. During his absence we are expecting to have Dr. E. R. Frank, of the Veterinary School of Kansas State College, with us to work for three months in the large animal surgery. Don Baker (parasitology) expects to take a sabbatic during the latter part of next year, during which time he is planning to assist the National Polio Foundation by slinking around a few of the jungles of Asia to learn how monkeys live in the wild, and how they are captured and

handled and fed by the original captors before they appear on the markets where the Foundation buys them. All of this is by way of trying to find out why so many of the simians die before they are able to make the contribution to science and technology that is expected of them. Mike Fincher is apt to take off at about the same time to do a little lecturing and demonstrating on veterinary medicine for the good of one of our allies, a country in the Near-East. So far as I know, the rest of us will be sawing wood at the old stand.

The 50th Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on January 8, 9, and 10. The meetings will be held in the James Law auditorium, except for the dinner which will be in the Statler. A shuttle bus service will be operated from the lower campus to the College during all three days of the meeting to make it easier for those of you who are in too much of a hurry, or too tired, or too old, or maybe too lazy, to walk. I tried walking once, but have been too hurried, too tired, too old, or maybe too lazy to try it again. Those who have cars will find plenty of parking space near the meeting place. Since this is our semi-centennial, and the first meeting in the new quarters, we expect this meeting will be something special. We are arranging an especially good program and hope to have an especially good attendance. We will look for you.

The Alumni list has suffered an unusual number of losses this year. Nineteen have answered the final call since the last letter was sent out. In addition we have had a fragmentary report of another that apparently occurred about five years ago and which we had not known about. This concerned Murray Howes, '10, who is believed to have died in 1952. Those who died more recently are:

Ray J. Stanclift '98, Nov. 15, 1956; Benjamin B. Loveland '18, Nov. 29, 1956; Bert R. Wilbur '03, Dec. 8, 1956; Earl F. Whipple '23, Jan. 12, 1957; Albin Muskovin '19, Jan. 19, 1957; R. N. Gordon Darby '07, Jan. 29, 1957; Albert R. Greenwood '52, Feb. 4, 1957; Chester R. Perkins '99, Mar. 8, 1957; Ralph D. McCord '13, Mar. 25, 1957; Clarence E. Shaw '01, Apr. 22, 1957; H. Gregory Dean '12, May 3, 1957; L. M. Lounsberry '18, May 10, 1957; Roy C. Hartman '14, June 12, 1957; Ralph Gangarosa '40, July 3, 1957; Charles T. Whitney '38, July 15, 1957; Ray S. Banks '11, Aug. 19, 1957; Harold B. McMurray '24, Sept. 15, 1957; Harrison V. Baker '14, Nov. 14, 1957; and Leonard Howell '32, Nov. 22, 1957. May they rest in peace.

May I close by expressing the hope that you will have a Christmas of happiness and good cheer, also a New Year full of hard work and solid prosperity. My best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely yours,