

New York State Veterinary College
at Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

December 20, 1915.

To the Alumni of the Veterinary College :

Our thoughts occasionally go back to our college days and we wonder what is going on at our Alma Mater. There is a corresponding feeling on the part of the teacher relative to the Alumni. In obedience to this impulse, it seemed fitting to send you greetings and the wish that the new year will be a happy and prosperous one for you.

The year now closing has been one of some disappointment so far as material additions to the College are concerned. The request of the trustees for the South Wing to James Law Hall and the completion of the equipment for the clinical buildings was not granted by the legislature. However, we were allowed a small increase in maintenance which is very helpful in the work of this year.

Educationally, a few important changes have been made. A new department of "Obstetrics and Research in the Diseases of Breeding Cattle" has been established and placed under the supervision of Dr. Williams. Dr. J. N. Frost has been placed at the head of the Surgical Department. The Consulting Clinic has been transferred from Medicine to Surgery and the Ambulatory Clinic placed entirely in the department of Medicine. It is believed that these changes will greatly increase the facilities for teaching the practical subjects and for the acquisition of knowledge on the important diseases of breeding cattle. There were 2,865 cases treated in the clinics during the last year, of which 1,822 were in the Ambulatory clinic. Every senior who was graduated last June had an opportunity to see, with an instructor, between 35 and 40 cases under conditions met with in actual practice.

Another important change was the lengthening of the course of instruction to four years. This goes into effect in September, 1916. It is believed that it will add greatly to the efficiency of the future graduates and also bring the students into closer touch with the University. It is the purpose to add courses in the fundamental subjects of botany, physics and zoology but to devote the larger part of the additional time to more training in the practical subjects. In the four year curriculum students will have two years of clinical instruction.

The new students entering this fall number 80 of which 3 were graduates of other veterinary colleges. Last fall there were at the same date 43 new students. We now have a total of 145 undergraduates and 4 veterinary graduates. The latter are registered in the graduate school and are candidates for advanced degrees.

There are now 372 Alumni. Of these 12 have died. I am sorry to announce the death during the year of Dr. W. H. Stevenson, '13, and A. B. Kelly, '98. Dr. Stevenson died from injuries received by a kick from a horse he was treating and Dr. Kelly, from a fall. Fifteen of the Alumni have gone into other business. The remaining 345 are engaged in some form of veterinary work. At the last meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. C. M. Haring, '04, of the University of California was elected its Secretary. Dr. P. A. Fish, '99, has been chosen editor of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association which is to be its official organ. It is hoped that more of our Alumni will become interested in this Association.

I am glad to state that Dr. Law is still living on the campus. His health for one of his age is generally good and his interest in veterinary matters, especially those pertaining to higher education, is unabated. It was through his efforts that veterinary education in this country has been placed on a basis equal to that of the other learned professions. We all rejoice in the success of his work and wish for him many more years of life and enjoyment.

Although the desired additions to the College have been delayed, the University has been more fortunate. The long looked

for dormitories are in evidence. One of the residential halls for men students is completed and occupied and others are under construction. A gift to the University from Mr. Baker of New York made this possible. The new drill hall, located just south of the Veterinary College, is under cover and will be completed by the opening of the next college year.

The annual report will be sent you in due time. It will contain a record of the activities in research and teaching during the year. The epizootic of Foot-and-Mouth Disease that has swept a large part of this country has emphasized the obligation of the veterinarian to the live stock interests of the state and nation. Never before have the American people realized the importance of efficient veterinarians for public as well as private service. In order that this College may do its part in preparing men for the responsible position of VETERINARIAN it is hoped that we may have the benefit of your suggestions. We can fulfill the purpose of the College only in so far as teachers and alumni work together. We hope that from time to time it may be possible for you to return to your Alma Mater where in person we may discuss the important questions pertaining not only to our professional work but also the obligations of the veterinarian to the public.

Again wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain

Sincerely yours,

