

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

December 20, 1916.

*To the Alumni of the Veterinary College :*

It seems fitting at this season to be reminded of our Alma Mater. As the years go by the personnel of the faculty changes but the University with its traditions and the college of your choice remain to encourage and if possible assist those who champion the principles of noble professional service. We hope your success during the year has equaled our expectations and that the "Season's Greeting" may find you happy in the consciousness of an untiring effort to make the world better.

The college year just closing has been uneventful in that there have been few happenings that are especially noteworthy. The most gratifying result has been that the beginning of the four year course brought us 36 freshmen, only 12 less than the average for the five years prior to 1915. This is encouraging to the faculty and a cause of felicitation to the Alumni. Dr. Law prophesied long ago that eventually the preparation for veterinarians would be on par with other learned professions. We rejoice that he has been spared to witness its fulfillment.

The experience of the year has shown that the rearrangement of the clinics and the establishment of the new department for the study of the diseases of breeding cattle were efforts in the direction of better results. There are, however, still many difficulties in the way of an ideal institution. The members of the faculty are constantly striving to find ways and means to strengthen the weak places in the curriculum and in the instruction to the end that the highest possible efficiency may be attained. I believe it is safe and just to state that improvements are constantly being made. We are glad for constructive criticisms that will help us to make the College a greater asset to the State and a better place for prospective veterinarians.

The direct and indirect reports from the Alumni are encouraging. Those holding public and institutional positions seem to be giving satisfaction and those in private practice are, as a rule, meeting with success. It is most gratifying to frequently hear from their clients words of high commendation of their services. We regret, however, that occasionally statements are made which indicate that now and then an Alumnus has departed from the ethics of honorable professional service. The reputation of the College depends upon the character of the work of its Alumni. We are glad that the "clouded spots" are few and that we have occasion to rejoice because of the excellent work that the Alumni are doing.

I am sad to announce the untimely death of Dr. E. K. Butts, '12, at Atlanta, Ga., Dr. J. J. Gallagher, '04, in California, and Dr. C. B. Potter, '99, in Ithaca. Dr. Butts was killed in an automobile accident.

There is a matter of interest to us all. In *October*, 1918, the University is to celebrate its Semi-Centennial. At that time it hopes for large endowments. As this is a state college, it will be necessary for us, if we are to appreciably participate in these benefits, to see to it that the University receive endowments for certain things that the College needs and that we cannot obtain from the Legislature. Some of the things that are necessary to advance the veterinary profession are endowments for graduate scholarships and fellowships; for special research and the publication of results; and for the Cornell Veterinarian. These are among the things we are hoping for. Other professions have them, why should not ours? To secure them we must each do our share in bringing these needs to the attention of those who are able and who desire to help some worthy cause. Would it not be splendid for the Alumni themselves to join in doing at that time something of lasting benefit to our profession? For example, an endowment for the Cornell Veterinarian to enable it to illustrate its articles better would tend to influence for good the profession as a whole. This would be especially appropriate as this *Journal*, which promises to become the leading veterinary publication in the country, was a product of the Alumni for the

purpose, as stated in its first editorial, "to promote loyalty, not merely for one's *Alma Mater*, for that is taken for granted, but to the veterinary profession and its uplift." This organ stands for the ideals of the College and its Alumni and it should be issued in as perfect a form as possible.

It is a pleasure to announce that Dr. Frank H. Miller of New York was reappointed a State trustee of the University. He rendered valuable service during his first term. It was through his influence that Mr. James Gordon Bennett became interested in the college and recently endowed an annual prize of \$50 for work in anaesthesia. Dr. Miller himself gives a similar prize to the student doing the best work in physiology. His greatest assistance to us, however, is in the Board of Trustees where he is always ready to define and to defend the rights of the Veterinary College. We are fortunate in this representation on the Board and also in the hearty support and cooperation of President Schurman. Like Ex-President White, he has a kindly feeling for the veterinary profession.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, perplexities and delays in the development of the College, we should recognize and appreciate what has been done for us by the State and the University. The Alumni and Faculty should unite in a determined effort to demonstrate through actual service that the College more than justifies its existence. There are confronting the animal industry of the country difficult and important problems which can be solved only by those trained in a veterinary curriculum. It is because of this that our responsibility is so great.

We hope that as often as you can you will visit the College and give us the benefit of your suggestions. We are working for the same results and if we pull together the hard places will be easier, the success greater and the pleasure derived from our efforts far more enjoyable.

Again extending the "Greetings of the Season" and the best wishes for the coming year, I remain

Sincerely yours,

