

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

**JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1919**

To the Alumni of the Veterinary College:

Someone has said that "just-before-Christmas everybody smiles because everyone is thinking how to do something for another." One of the blessings of our civilization is the provision annually for a period in which we are admonished to think of others and to rededicate ourselves to better service. Your Alma Mater is mindful of her alumni and anxious that they shall stand foremost among those who are solving the problem of animal conservation. This letter, bearing her greetings, carries congratulations for every joy and success that has come to you and also sympathy if sorrow or misfortune has shadowed your pathway. It is hoped the New Year will bring much pleasure as well as professional attainments.

There are many difficult and perplexing problems, that have arisen in the readjustment of veterinary education to meet the present requirements, the solution of which is calling for the best knowledge and wisdom in the profession. The past twelve months have been busy ones at the college. Most of the students who were in the army have returned. We are glad to state that Majors Fish and Udall were with us at the opening of the college year. Captain Muldoon accepted the professorship of veterinary medicine in the Veterinary Department of the Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas. We are very sorry to lose the service of so good a teacher, but we are glad for his advancement, which is well deserved. Dr. Frick '18, has accepted a position in the department of *materia medica* in the same school. These two loyal Cornellians will establish a new center for the development of Cornell spirit in veterinary work.

The alumni did valiant service in the National Army. Of the 483 living, 166, or more than 34 per cent, were in the service. So far as we have learned, there was not a death. There have been many words of praise from commanding officers relative to their efficiency. I quote a letter by a Lieutenant Colonel to one of our men.

"The Commanding General of the 86th Division directs me to express his appreciation of the excellent service rendered by the veterinary corps during your assignment as a Staff Officer to these headquarters. The work of your department has been above criticism, and it gives me great pleasure to extend assurances of cooperation and assistance in the development of this very important branch of our military organization."

Lt. Col. Stanchiff, Majors Foster and Jewell and Capt. Clark have been held in the Surgeon General's office in Washington, D. C.

The report of the college for the year 1918-19 will be printed and sent you early in the year. It gives the results of the investigational work, the changes in faculty, and other details in which we hope you are interested. There were forty-five new students this fall. Six of them were admitted to advanced standing or the Graduate School, and thirty-nine were freshmen. This approaches very closely the normal number prior to the war.

The Semi-Centennial Celebration of the University in June was a noteworthy event. There was a large gathering of former students and their friends. The Cornell spirit took them as of old. In connection with the celebration there was a Forum, or Conference, in each college to ascertain how to advance or improve its work. The one here was very helpful. The proceedings of one part of it were published and a copy was sent to each alumnus. If you did not receive it, please let us know and another will be sent you. A large number of our alumni were present.

A feature of the conference that gave me a genuine surprise, and also touched deeply "the human" within me, was the presentation by the alumni to the University of a portrait of myself

painted by Avrid Nyholm. I tried at the time to express my thanks to those present, but I desire to take this occasion to assure you each and all of my deep appreciation of this evidence of your friendship. I hope that in due time we may have on the walls of the lecture room to be in the south wing the portraits of all the members of the original faculty of this college. It is remarkable that they are all still with us, Dr. Law and Professor Gage being emeritus professors.

We are sad to announce the untimely death of four alumni, Dr. W. W. Herron '06, died of influenza January 3, 1919 at his home, Sherman, N. Y. Dr. D. E. Wright '12, died of tuberculosis, March 28, 1919 in California. Dr. D. W. Clark '13, died very suddenly of heart trouble May 29, 1919, at his home, Walton, N. Y. Dr. D. B. Allen '14, died of influenza October 31, 1918 at his wife's home in New Brunswick, Canada. She brought his body to his home at Marathon, N. Y., where she was taken ill with influenza and died November 7.

The last Legislature authorized the construction of the south wing to James Law Hall. The State Architect is working on the plans. We hope it will be built next summer. The new space will be used for administrative offices, library, diagnosis laboratory and an amphitheatre. It will give much needed relief to the library and also enable the museum to be restored fully to its original use.

There are many difficult problems educationally as a result of high prices and low salaries. The University is endeavoring to obtain an endowment of \$5,000,000, the proceeds of which are to be used to advance salaries. The trustees likewise requested the Legislature to increase the compensation of the men in the state colleges. Unless teachers in veterinary colleges can be paid adequately, the educational work will deteriorate. It is not believed that the importance of competent veterinarians to the animal industry of the country will permit this. We must work to the end that our profession shall succeed in meeting its full obligation to livestock owners and society generally. We are fortunate in being a part of a great University and I trust we may be faithful to her ideals of education and service. We hope

you will feel free to make constructive criticisms relative to any part of the work that will help us to make the college as useful to the profession and beneficial to the country as possible.

There are normally numerous changes in addresses but this year there have been more than heretofore. Please keep our records correct by notifying us of any change. When possible, we hope you will visit the college. We are always glad to see you.

Again, wishing you and yours a "Merry Christmas" and a happy and prosperous New Year, I remain
Sincerely yours

Sincerely yours,

Halloway