

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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1920

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

GREETINGS. It seems but yesterday that I was writing the 1919 letter, so swiftly has the wheel of time rolled by. A number of things have happened during this short period that are of interest to Cornellians and especially to you. In the last twelve months, I hope you have been prosperous and that the New Year will bring greater success and deeper joys.

The resignation of President Schurman is the outstanding event that has taken place in the University. He came to Cornell in 1886 as Professor of Philosophy and was advanced to the Presidency in 1892. It was through his influence, in support of Dr. Law's efforts, that this college was established. In his retirement we lose the wise counsel and generous support not only of a strong leader but also of a loyal friend.

The successor of President Schurman has not been appointed. In the interim, Dean Albert W. Smith of Sibley College, or "Uncle Pete" as he has long been affectionately known, is the acting President. Among other good things, he is stimulating a loyalty that is tending to make a better Cornell. He is trying to develop in the students a love of knowledge and a desire for understanding that existed in the early days. Fortunately, he tells us, he is finding that these essential elements exist now as they did then.

In the college, there have been minor changes only. Two new men have been added to the staff, one to study the diseases of sheep and the other those of poultry and rabbits. The work is being done in the departments of medicine and small animal clinic respectively. For want of adequate funds, we were obliged to begin these investigations with young men. However, the start has been made and the opportunity afforded for acquiring new knowledge on these important subjects.

Dr. Williams has tendered his resignation to take effect next Commencement. He was a member of the original faculty and the third to retire. He is on sabbatic leave in Hawaii this term but will resume his teaching in February. His genius in surgery and his researches in the diseases of breeding cattle have given him a place foremost in his profession. It is planned to give him a testimonial next spring, expressive of the appreciation of his work by students, faculty and alumni. We would be glad to have you participate in whatever is done to cheer him at that time. Dr. Frost is chairman of the committee to make the arrangements and he will be glad to hear from you.

The report of the college for the year ending June 30, 1920, is in the hands of the printer and a copy will be sent you. It will show what is being done in the different departments. It will also give you an opportunity, which we hope will be availed of, to make helpful suggestions in reference to the work. The faculty needs the alumni to keep it in touch with the constant changes that are taking place in the live stock industry.

You may be interested to know what the alumni are doing. Our records show that of the 532 graduates, 504 are living. Of these 333 are in practice; 49 are in the employ of the Bureau of Animal Industry; 47 are teaching and doing laboratory work; 21 are dairy inspectors; 11 are in the United States Army; 4 are in veterinary administrative work; 5 are city dairy and meat inspectors; 5 are in laboratories producing biological products; 12 are unknown and 19 are in other business. There are 320 in

New York State of whom 264 are in practice. This is a good showing. We have good news in the reports of the excellent work that the boys are doing.

I have the sad duty of reporting the death of two of our alumni. Dr. J. V. Prucha '07 died of tuberculosis in June, 1919, and Peter T. Petersen '15 died of Bright's disease December 24, 1919. These untimely deaths remind us of the uncertainty of life. This makes twenty-eight of the graduates who have died.

The number of new students entering this fall was unusually small. This condition holds for veterinary colleges generally. There are a number of influences that have operated to bring this about. It is believed, however, that the reduction is temporary. The demand for well qualified veterinarians is as great as at any previous time. The profession is essential to animal husbandry which is the most vital industry for the welfare of the country. All but two of the private schools are closed and they have very few freshmen.

There is considerable uneasiness among veterinarians as to the future of their calling. The unrest is no greater here than in other professions. This is to be expected for the period of readjustment after a great war. There are times when we must have faith and stick to the high purpose of our calling. The facts do not warrant discouragement for those who are willing and qualified to render service. We should work unitedly and without tiring on the problems that are for veterinarians to solve. They are numerous and important and they cannot be elucidated by men of other training. In the next years, there will be few graduates and later, when the readjustment is complete, the demands for veterinarians will be many. It is a good time to start. I hope you will call the attention of some splendid young fellow to the opportunities and send him here to prepare.

The army reorganization bill provides for Veterinary Training Units in connection with the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Land Grant Colleges. Such a unit has been established

here. It makes it possible for veterinary students to receive material assistance during their last two years and to be commissioned as reserve officers on graduation. It requires no more time for military work in the first two years than was given before and a very few hours additional in the junior and senior years. Captain R. M. Buffington '05 has been assigned here. This is the second unit to be established, the first being at Manhattan, Kansas. There are corresponding units in the engineering colleges.

We have had trouble in keeping our mailing list up to date. Please let us know promptly of any change in your address. We believe the college is able to help you in case you wish to change your location or to enter other lines in the profession if you will keep us informed of such desires. Why not use us as much as you can? It is your opportunity and our pleasure.

There is not much news. The changes are few each year. Everybody is busy. Dr. Law is well and active for one of his years. It will do him good to be remembered on his birthday (Feb. 13) when he will be 83. Come back as often as you can and visit the college, call on the members of the faculty and walk over the campus. It will do you good. We are always glad to see you. We need your help to enable us to train students better than heretofore and to make them more valuable to the live stock interests and the communities which they are to serve. One of the best things a man can do, is to stimulate another to do better.

Finally, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the successes that will make the New Year the brightest and happiest you have lived.

Sincerely yours,

