



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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1922

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

There is something about the approach of Christmas that turns one's thoughts from busy routine to things intended to bring others memories of the pleasant in the past, good cheer for the present and courage for the future. In this spirit, I send the greetings of the season.

While we think of you as former students of this college, I trust you have a keen interest in the University of which you are a part. For this reason, you will be interested in many changes that have taken place in the year now closing. The new chemistry laboratory and the new dairy building have risen from their foundations to their "skylines". Also the new heating plant, which is located near the East Ithaca Station, with steam pipes running to all university buildings, is nearing completion. In all of these, we are directly concerned. Undoubtedly, the veterinary students of the near future will have to pursue more extended courses in chemistry and milk hygiene than are called for at present. It is gratifying to know that, when such additional instruction is required, there will be abundant facilities for it. This is one of the direct advantages in having the Veterinary College an integral part of the University.

The structure in which we have a particular interest is the South Wing to James Law Hall which was provided for by the last legislature. It will correspond in size to the North Wing and will provide suitable administrative offices, an amphitheatre, a diagnosis laboratory and adequate space for the library. This will allow us to return to the museum that portion now used for offices and to carry out the wishes of both Ex-President White and Dr. Law, to have a comprehensive museum of comparative anatomy, pathology and hygiene. In his last years, President White expressed his desire to have the museum extended. Work was started on the wing November 16th and the contracts call for its completion in the early summer.

Mrs. Law and her daughters have presented the veterinary and medical books that were owned by Dr. Law to the Flower Library. There are about 150 volumes, and we hope to have these segregated in the new library as the "Law Collection".

We are glad to report a registration of 32 freshmen as against 14 a year ago. The small attendance in the veterinary colleges in the past four years has aroused much interest among live stock owners who are anxious to have competent veterinary service. It has been a sure indication also of a dearth of veterinarians in the not distant future. In the last ten years there has been an advance in the value of live stock in the United States from a little less than five to more than eight billion dollars. In 1910, there were 11,552 veterinarians in the country and now there are, according to Dean White's estimate, 8,692 graduates. Again, in 1910 there were 2717 veterinary students and now there are 531.

There have been very few changes in the faculty. Dr. Williams is here working hard and looking well. He has sold his former home on Valentine Place and is building a house on Cayuga Heights. We are glad indeed to have him remain in our midst. Dr. Hagan returned this year and Dr. Carpenter is at the University of California. Miss vanZandt, for so many years librarian, is in charge of a State Library in Iowa.

President Farrand tells me he met several of you at Cornell gatherings last winter. I hope this coming season all of you, who can, will attend the Cornell meetings in your locality and make yourself known to the President if he is there. He will be glad to meet you. He has a way of making one feel a better man for having met him. The President is looking for sound and constructive service from Cornellians and I hope the alumni of this college will stand second to none in this respect.

It is with sadness that I report the death of A. Franke '15. Many of you may remember him as the janitor on the third floor. He had obtained a splendid general education in Germany but he wanted to be a veterinarian. After several years of strenuous effort, he succeeded in obtaining the coveted degree. He went to New York City to practice but he became discouraged. May 23rd he wrote a farewell note, saturated cotton with chloroform, placed it in his hat, drew it down over his face, covered himself with a blanket and his spirit passed to the Great Beyond. His life was a tragedy indeed.

The reports we have from the alumni are in the main good, but they indicate that there are many professional difficulties to be overcome. We are living in troublesome times and problems of a perplexing nature are conspicuous in all professions. They are not confined to veterinary medicine for, as Sophocles said, "The gods always throw the dice impartially". Never more than at the present time, has the professional man needed courage, patriotism and ethics to overcome the disturbing influences that have followed the war. However, the foundation fact remains that animals are necessary to agriculture and efficient veterinarians are, and always will be, required. Live stock owners are looking to the veterinary profession for emancipation from charlatanism and for efficient application of scientific knowledge in the control of animal diseases. The measure of success in veterinary, as in human, medicine is the service rendered. It is gratifying to hear of the splendid work many of the alumni are doing. Likewise, it is depressing to

hear that there are a few who, like Legrand in "The Gold-bug" have become "infected with misanthropy and subject to perverse moods of alternate enthusiasm and melancholy".

The report of the college for 1921-22 will be distributed soon. You will be interested in the papers it contains. The development of the clinics has added much to the efficiency of the practical teaching. I know of no other college, at home or abroad, where the opportunities to acquire practical as well as theoretical knowledge of veterinary medicine are better than they are here. It is the irony of fate that, after years of struggle to make this possible, the important problem is to attract young men to the profession. However, with your loyal support, I am sure adequate numbers will be secured. The Cornell spirit must be abroad in the land or your *Alma Mater* would not stand first among the veterinary colleges of America in both the total number of students and the largest freshman class.

When it is possible for you to do so, we hope you will come back to the college and learn what is being done. It will do you good to meet the earnest and industrious young men in the faculty who are here working on some of the problems you are anxious, professionally, to have solved as well as giving instruction to students. You may have suggestions or facts that will help them. The faculty wants the aid that you alone can give that will make the instruction more effective. Reciprocally, we want to know the problems that confront veterinarians in their work in order to make the course of study as helpful as possible. As the college is measured by the work of its graduates, we are anxious that you should feel free to point out the pitfalls you have found in the curriculum and methods employed. If we work together, they may be eliminated. The development of an efficient veterinary college is a task in which we are all concerned and for which we are all working.

If possible, come to the conference. It will be the 11th and 12th of January and there will be a good program.

Again, I heartily wish you and yours a Christmas full of cheer and when its joys are over, a bright and happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

