



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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS  
1923

*To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:*

GREETINGS: The wheel of time has brought us again to the season in which from long habit we are accustomed to turn our thoughts from self to the things that tend to make others happy. It is also a time when men reflect on the experiences of the past. I trust that in these moments, the memories of your *Alma Mater* will be pleasant; the high hopes that brought you to her are being realized; and her ideals, that were crystallized by those great and noble men, Andrew D. White and James Law, are still dominating your professional activities. Some may say they are old, but a rejection of principles because they are old, is mischievous in its tendency.

In the University, as well as in this college, the year has been one of completing projects rather than initiating new ones. It has been a period of steady progress. The new chemistry building is practically completed; the dairy building, the finest in the land, is occupied; the new heating plant is in operation; and the South Wing to James Law Hall is nearing completion. The laboratory at the Veterinary Experiment Station has been enlarged and improvements have been made for the preparation of serum and for research work.

There have been few changes in the college faculty. Dr. Carpenter, who spent last year at the University of California, returned in July. Dr. Fuller resigned in June to take up practice in connection with poultry diseases and Dr. Earl L. Brunett, '23, succeeded him. Dr. A. M. Mills, of the Department of Surgery, accepted a position with the Borden Company and Dr. M. H. Mabey, '17, has taken his place.

Our good professors Emeritus, Professors Simon H. Gage and Walter L. Williams, are still working hard, thereby setting a good example for the younger generations. Professor Gage is doing some interesting research work in co-operation with Dr. Fish. Dr. Williams is now living in his new home on Cayuga Heights.

We are reading proof for the report of the College for 1922-'23. A copy will be sent you early in the year. It contains helpful contributions to veterinary medicine in which you will be interested. The good showing of the clinics will please you. It is gratifying to know that such excellent facilities have been developed by the clinicians for teaching practical medicine and surgery. Twenty-five years ago it was prophesied that the college could not succeed because it had no clinical material.

We have eighty-three undergraduate students this year, which is less than a year ago. The only college that has a larger number is Ames, Iowa, with a registration of ninety. There are but 502 veterinary students in the twelve state colleges in the country. This means that there will be only one new graduate annually for each four or five veterinarians who will retire for natural causes. This has been the condition for the past three years and must be for four more. We are still in the period of readjustment, or perhaps mal-adjustment, after the war. However, let us not lose our optimism. Dean Smith says, "An optimist is a man who can make good lemonade out of any kind of a lemon that is handed him". Who can do that better than you?

It is my sad duty to report that W. Nelligan, '06, died of pneumonia in Richmond, Mo., September 14, 1921. Word of his untimely death was not received until early this year. Thirty-three of the graduates are with us no more.

The news from the alumni is encouraging. Many of them have been on the programs of veterinary and other meetings this last year. Dr. Ward Giltner, '06, has been made Dean of the Division of Veterinary Science in the State College of Agriculture at East Lansing, Mich. Dr. R. W. Gannett, '05, of Brooklyn, is President of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. At the World's Dairy Congress four of the six Americans on the program of the section on "Diseases of Dairy Cattle" were Cornellians. The alumni are identified with all progressive activities in the profession and in many civic affairs. We find among them members of boards of education and presidents of the same, members of boards of health, masters of lodges, rotarians, and

holders of political positions. They illustrate the ideal, emphasized so often in these days, that one group of men cannot thrive independently of others.

I regret that there are some rumors of discontent, especially among those in practice. There has not been a return to the normal since the war. The tendency in disease eradication has been to use salaried men rather than employ those in practice. The continued annual reduction in the number of veterinary students is a clear index of the reaction to the intrusion of this form of state veterinary medicine. The live stock owners in many localities are beginning to feel keenly the effect of the shortage of available, competent practitioners, and they are loathe to accept "quacks" in the place of the trained men who in recent years have served them. The time will come, and it cannot be far away, when the *symptom-complex* of this situation will be understood and the destructive influence of state veterinary medicine on private practice will in some way be overcome. The animal owners will see to it that "the things of first importance are placed first", which means competent service. The principle of state veterinary medicine in tuberculosis control is being tested to the finish. Its advocates believe that it is the wisest and best method; and they point to practitioners who are being benefited by it. We must be patient until the truth of it all is revealed. The heavy losses to animal husbandry, due to sporadic diseases, is creating a demand, that economically must be satisfied, for efficient veterinary service and for the protection of those who qualify to give it. The introduction of new methods is always trying; and while it may be discouraging just now, it is no time to be disheartened. It is always darkest just before dawn.

I had recently a conference with Commissioner Norgord of the New York Department of Farms and Markets on the recognition of practitioners in tuberculosis control work. He stated emphatically that "It is the plan of the Department to have the local veterinarians take care of all the sanitary work in their communities, under, of course, the supervision of the State. This applies to tuberculosis after the 'area' is cleaned up". The testing of accredited herds is now being done in this State largely by the local men as the plan provides. Further, Dr. Linch tells me that in the first six months of 1923 practitioners tested 22,503 animals under Paragraph "F", and since July a like amount of testing has been done by the local men. Fully one-fourth of the indemnities in New York have been paid on animals condemned by practitioners. In some counties they do all of the testing. This shows that the

State is utilizing local veterinarians. The Commissioner recognizes that practitioners are *essential* to successful animal husbandry.

A number of the alumni have written relative to change in location, or securing a position. We are always glad to aid in making readjustments that tend to improve the status of the individual or the service. We have been able to bring several men in contact with locations or positions during the past year. Let us help you in these matters whenever we can.

We hope you will visit the College as often as convenient and learn of the work that is being done. The educational problems are quite as perplexing as those in other fields of professional work—at least they seem that way to us. We need your help to the end that the instruction may be better and that the boys shall be prepared more thoroughly for their future tasks. Veterinary education in this country is still young and inadequate for the demands on the profession. You, who have had the course, and faced the difficulties in the application of veterinary knowledge, should be in position to make constructive suggestions on the changes that should be made and the direction that future advances should take.

At the close of the World's Dairy Congress a number of the foreign delegates visited the University. One of them, Sir Arnold Theiler, Director of Veterinary Education and Research, University of South Africa, remained over as our guest and gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on the tropical diseases of animals. We have had one student graduate and one graduate student from there who have returned to build up a little "Cornell" on the so-called "dark continent".

The sixteenth annual conference for veterinarians will be held January 10th and 11th, 1924. We hope that many of you will be present. There is at least one important matter that should be considered by the alumni at that time.

Finally, I wish to extend to you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,