



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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1924

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

GEETINGS: The hands on the dial are pointing to the close of another year. We hope it has been kind to you and that the one about to begin will be full of happy living and success. We rejoice if good fortune may have come your way and we are glad indeed for victories won that tend to exemplify the purpose of your *Alma Mater*. As the time goes by, understanding deepens in the truth of those lines in the "Song of the Open Road" that run,

"It is provided in the essence of things that from any fruition of success, no matter what, shall come forth something to make a greater struggle necessary."

There have been but few changes of general interest on the Campus. The outstanding one is the Union Building that is going up on the west side of Central Avenue and south of the Library. It will be an attractive structure built of native stone. Its purpose is to furnish a social center for all university students. It has come about from a request in the will of Willard Straight, '01, to make Cornell "a more human place". The new stadium on the athletic field is a structure of "magnificent proportions".

The building of particular interest to you is the South Wing of James Law Hall. It was completed early in the summer and is now occupied. It has given much needed relief for office and library. The latter has a large,

well lighted room in addition to the one used previously. This enables students to consult the literature and it gives them a place to study during a vacant hour. We have a full-time librarian who will be glad to help you in looking up literature on any veterinary subject in which you may be interested. I hope you will utilize this opportunity. At the east end of the Wing is an amphitheatre, large enough for conferences, and into which animals may be brought if desired. It is provided with a moving picture machine and balopticon. Beneath the north side of this auditorium the diagnosis laboratory has satisfactory space.

The surgical hospital has become too small. We have an appropriation for a second story; the plans have been drawn in accordance with Dr. Frost's suggestion and they are now in the State Architect's office for approval. It is expected that the work will be done in the spring. The kennels in the small animal hospital are overcrowded. This building will have to be enlarged in the near future.

The annual report mentions the changes in the faculty, which are few, and the special work that is under way. Poultry diseases are calling for much attention just now. I was told recently of a country practitioner who took in \$1100.00 last year for his professional assistance to the chicken raisers. If veterinarians do not do this much needed work, others will attempt it. Dr. Brunett, who is doing research on this subject, will be glad to help any of you in this connection. He has recently discovered *Vogelpest* in this state.

As we were unable to secure reports enough last year to send a copy to each of you they were mailed on request. There are a few copies still available. I hope you will keep your set complete, for there are numerous requests for them.

The news from the alumni is good. It is not always enthusiastic relative to practice, but there are glimmers of light, and occasionally positive assurances of improvement. These come from men who recognize the economic situation in agriculture and who are rendering valuable service to the stockmen, who are "hit" harder by these times than the practitioners. It is gratifying to know we have so many such genuine men among the graduates. They assure the permanency of the profession.

Capt. R. M. Buffington, '05, who has been at the university for four years, has been ordered elsewhere and Capt. E. M. Curley, who did graduate work here last year, has been assigned to the Veterinary Unit of the R. O. T. C. W. H. Boynton, '08, has returned to the United States. The new dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of California brought him to the University to study hog cholera vaccine. His work on rinderpest has been most successful, according to a letter from Buencamino, '07, who is practicing in Manila. C. M. Haring, '04, is studying in Europe this year. W. A. Billings, '16, as extension veterinarian in Minnesota, is proving to be a great success in helping both animal owners and local practitioners. Many of the boys are becoming county veterinarians, where they can be of like assistance to their profession. C. A. Lueder, '02, who was Veterinarian at the State College, Morgantown, W. Va., came to Ithaca this fall to train the crew. We hope he will be as successful as "The Old Man". He often calls at the College. In this connection we should add that Ray Van Orman, '08, is a successful football coach at Johns Hopkins University.

There are 76 undergraduate students in the college, of which 19 are freshmen. There are in the United States a total of 523 veterinary students. The outlook for next year is slightly better than it was for this. The encouraging part is that many of those who write for information are either in, or graduates of, agricultural colleges.

The college has lost a loyal friend and strong supporter in the death of Ex-Senator George A. Blauvelt. He was a state trustee of the University, a member of the Veterinary College Council, and of its Legislative Committee. He was deeply interested in veterinary medicine and anxious for the advancement of the profession.

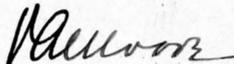
Dr. Williams is looking well and seems to be working hard as usual. Professor Gage is in good health. He has gone to Honolulu for the winter.

The last of October there is a University home-coming on a Saturday when there is a good football game. Would it not be a good thing for those of you who can to visit the college on that day next year? I shall be glad to secure tickets for the game, and arrange for a meeting, inspection of the college, luncheon together and any other service that will

make this day pleasant for you and your family and a joy for us. Come and bring your boys. Joe Wilder, '02, has a son in the Junior class. Veterinary medicine is coming into its own, and the next generation will be *glad* to be in this service. The hard times through which we are passing must change and the vast amount of work that veterinarians alone can do, is calling to our young men to be what Conrad calls in "Lord Jim", "always an example of devotion to duty".

Again I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the brightness of a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. H. Wood".