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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1925

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

With the Season's Greetings, I wish for you "a little wealth—enough to keep you always at your best; pleasure—that you may live and love in ever flowing measure; education—that your mind may be broad and deep and full and its freightage at command; a home—to life's end and beyond; health—a sound body wherein your mind and soul may dwell in ease and power; a useful service—a full measure in the work of building an increasingly better world."

The most striking addition to the Campus is Willard Straight Hall. It is adequately equipped with lounges, cafeteria, private dining rooms, game rooms, theatre and offices for student activities. Great hope is entertained that it will add much to the social life and enjoyment of the students. The University is being provided with new and modern facilities whereby its matriculates are enabled to make the most and the best of themselves.

The second story of the Surgical Hospital is the only construction that we have in progress. It will increase materially the Surgical Clinic. The hospital has been crowded almost continuously for several years. This is true also of the small animal quarters. The excellent work in the clinics is bringing an abundance of teaching material.
Dr. Hagan is studying in Europe this term. The International Education Board is sending a few young teachers of veterinary sciences to other countries for study. Dr. Hagan was the first in America to be chosen. The reports of his work encourage us to believe that others may be sent later. Dean Mann of the College of Agriculture, who is in Europe for the Board, is entitled to the credit of securing this opportunity for veterinary teachers. The efficient service that you have rendered and the courageous stand educationally that many of you have taken were important factors in securing this consideration for your Alma Mater.

There is an increase in the entering class of 20% over last year. We have a total registration of 89 undergraduates and 2 graduate students. There are 501 veterinary students in the United States, which is five less than in 1924. Among our undergraduates are several college men, which is a good omen for the future standing of the profession.

We have requests frequently to recommend veterinarians, largely for positions suitable for recent graduates, but occasionally where experience is required. We are anxious to assist not only new graduates, but also older ones who desire to change locations or positions. I hesitate to recommend, except for unusually good places, men who are successful and seem to be happy where they are. This comes, I imagine, from the rule I was taught when a boy in laying stone wall fences, “Never move a stone that is well placed, to accommodate another.”

The report of the college for last year will be distributed soon. It will tell of the work that is being done, in which I hope you will be interested. Researches in animal diseases are revealing constantly new facts that soon find their place in better methods of procedure. They constitute the increments of improvement to professional routine, and if practitioners do not use them they must be applied by the State. Which should it be? This will be discussed at the Conference. In this connection a successful veterinarian writes, “I did want to tell you that we practitioners do not take advantage of some things that we should.”

The veterinary conference continues to attract large numbers each year. We hope you can be with us on the 14th and 15th of January. These annual gatherings are for the benefit of the veterinarians of the State and any suggestions for their improvement are earnestly solicited.
There are many interesting items concerning alumni activities. C. M. Haring, '01, has returned from his studies abroad and resumed his work in the University of California; B. A. Gallagher, '01, has been appointed government bacteriologist of the Hawaiian Islands, and has just sailed for Honolulu; Jacob Traum, '05, is in Europe with a commission studying foot and mouth disease; W. E. Frink, '07, has established a good small animal practice in Los Angeles; W. S. Newman, '07, has been made assistant Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the Department of Farms and Markets, Albany; C. V. Noback, '11, who received his Ph.D. in June, is with the State Health Department; Edward A. Caslick, '22, has resigned from the University of Kentucky to do special work in practice. There are many others.

Our Professors Emeritus—Gage and Williams—are apparently well, vigorous, and working hard, as usual. They are both on the program for the January Conference.

It is sad to report that four of the boys are no more: Ernest I. Smith, '03; Leland G. Dassance, '15; Henry Frederick, '10; and Harry C. McCartney, '14. Dr. Dassance had been for several years a victim of tuberculosis, but the others were taken with little warning. They were all doing excellent work when the "Messenger" came. Mrs. Law, widow of Dr. James Law, died unexpectedly, Dec. 12.

When you can, we hope you will visit the college and discuss with the faculty the questions involved in directing wisely the educational work of the profession. As you needed your teachers when students, so now we need your counsel and advice. When the college was opened, I had no difficulty in selecting subject matter to teach in bacteriology; it was virtually all in one small text. Now there are many large books on the subject and a voluminous current literature. The rapid extension of subjects has made a wise selection difficult. The same is true in all departments. New conceptions of our relation and duty to the public; the modern spirit of uplift; the dangers of superficial knowledge; community versus individual inclination, are among the factors that we should consider together if progress in veterinary medicine is to be made in the right direction. The purpose of the profession must be sold to the public. If it does not buy this it will spend its money for the wares of "quacks"
and "charlatans." The traditions of veterinary medicine in Cornell University, intimately associated as they are with the work of Ezra Cornell, Andrew D. White and James Law, are so replete in high ideals of service and leadership, that I am sure all who have been inspired by them will be able to chart their course wisely. The records show that Cornell men have taken their share, or more, of the responsible positions of trust and leadership in the veterinary profession.

As I look over my class books and visualize you as undergraduates and then glance over the map and see where you are striving, each in his own way, to exemplify the principles of the profession of your choice, the wish comes to me with impelling force that you might return and record, agreeably to your experience, the changes in veterinary education that future progress demands. The different parts of the profession in which we are each engaged are all of one piece, "and we are all at work on the same job."

Finally, I wish for you many Christmas joys and a New Year kind in its dealings and generous in its rewards for faithful service.

Sincerely yours,