



NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, N. Y.

Just-Before-Christmas
1926

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

GREETINGS of the Season. The year now closing has been occupied at your *Alma Mater* in making progress and preparing for better work in the future. There is a loyalty to the veterinary profession here that is characterized by willing and practical and thorough-going devotion to it, sustained by steady action in its service. When the loyal man serves his cause he is not seeking personal advantage. As set forth in the life of Walter Reed, "The secret of happiness and usefulness lies rather, in giving what we can in life, than in getting what we can out of it".

Money is being raised for a War Memorial on the Campus. It will consist of a unit in the dormitory group, with a beautiful architectural design. There will be appropriate tablets bearing the names of the 216 sons of Cornell who sacrificed all in the World War. Chairman R. E. Treman '09, Ithaca, will receive gladly any contribution for this object, given in honor of those "who did not return".

For the first time in several years there is no new construction under way at the college. In the very near future additional space will be required for the Small Animal Clinic. The heavy losses from diseases of live stock call for a new laboratory and more funds for research. These have been requested of the Legislature. It is our expectation that your leadership in the local control of animal diseases will convince its members that the requests should be granted.

There have been several changes in the staff. Dr. Goldberg has accepted a position as pathologist in the Bronx Hospital, New York City; Dr. Cushing has taken a position of greater promise than here, in Philadelphia; Dr. Fincher has a year's leave of absence to work for horse breeders in Kentucky. These inroads have taxed heavily the departments concerned and suggest the necessity for better financial support for teachers and research workers. Drs. P. Olafson and A. Zeissig, '26, are new instructors in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology; Dr. Walter J. Gibbons, '25, succeeds Dr. Cushing, and Dr. Robert H. Bardwell, '26, is substituting for Dr. Fincher.

The ever-growing demands on the administrative office and increasing work in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology have made it necessary for me to transfer the responsibility of the Department to another. This has been under consideration for a long time. We have had several splendid men on the way, but the opportunities elsewhere attracted them and I was left to find other help. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to have Cornell men chosen for responsible positions.

In 1916, Dr. W. A. Hagan, a graduate of the Veterinary Department of the Kansas State College of Agriculture, came here for his Master's degree and to assist Dr. Williams. The following year he was made instructor in the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology. Later he obtained a leave of absence for a year to study in the Rockefeller Institute under Dr. Theobald Smith. He spent the latter half of 1925 in Europe. Further, he is a good teacher, a thorough research worker and a splendid fellow. In view of all these qualifications, it seemed wise for the college to retain his services, and in June, he was promoted to the Head of the Department. I anticipate for him the full co-operation of the alumni. Now I make suggestions to him relative to the Department and he tells me the subjects I am to teach and the hours—an intricate, but workable, interlocking directorate.

The cloud of despondency that has hung over the veterinary profession for several years is breaking. Reports from many practitioners are cheerful. This is especially true of those who, in the days of discouragement, took counsel of their courage and not of their fear. There are many places where veterinarians are wanted. Last spring there were splendid openings for recent graduates. The testing of "accredited herds", the control of poultry diseases, and the care of herds suffering from *Bang abortion disease*, are dependent on veterinarians. The finding of human infection with *Brucella abortus* has established another contact between

veterinary medicine and public health. Further, as Dr. Hollingworth says, "Veterinary inspection of dairy cows, meat and its products is still in its infancy".

The enrollment of students is larger than last year. We have 97 undergraduates, of whom 31 are freshmen. The tuition scholarships awarded by the trustees to entering students who have had college training have brought us several well prepared men. There are eight graduate veterinary students. Dr. M. Westhues, of Giessen, Germany, and Dr. Hans Theiler, son of Sir Arnold Theiler of Pretoria, South Africa, are here on Fellowships granted by the International Education Board.

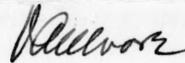
Dr. Franz Benesch, Professor of Veterinary Obstetrics in Vienna, Austria, spent the spring and summer here in the Department of Medicine and Obstetrics, and in visiting American veterinary colleges. He was very well pleased with our institution, and spoke highly of our clinical facilities. He said to me before leaving, "Cornell has the best ambulatory clinic in the world". That is most encouraging, but realize, if you can, what it means to us, and especially to Dr. Udall, to lose, because of inadequate salary, men who have helped him build up a clinic of such reputation, and which cannot be maintained without trained assistants. It is one of the problems that Heads of Departments have to meet. They labor untiringly to build up efficient units for teaching and research and become such integral parts of their tasks that, notwithstanding endless difficulties, they toil on, exemplifying the line in the Talmud, "It is not thine to complete the work, yet neither art thou free to lay it down". The profession, the industry it serves or the State itself cannot afford to have the work of such men embarrassed.

Dr. Jacob Traum, '05, spent a few days at the college on his way home from Europe where he has been to investigate foot and mouth disease; C. A. Lueder, '02, is here doing graduate work; A. L. Danforth, '11, of Watertown, is State Governor of K^owanis; R. R. Birch, '12, returned in September from six months in Europe, studying methods for the control of the Bang abortion disease; Col. R. J. Foster, '02, of the Veterinary Corps, spent a few days here en route to Corozal, Canal Zone, where he is stationed; P. R. B. Smith, '23, is a government veterinary officer in Natal, South Africa; L. N. Case, '08, of Honolulu, was here for a short time this summer. There were many alumni at the meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association at Lexington in August.

The Veterinary Conference will be held January 13th and 14th. A good program is assured. The portrait of Dr. Hopkins will be presented to the University by the alumni. I cannot express our appreciation for the splendid spirit you have exhibited in paying honor to the original faculty. Attend this conference if you can and give us any suggestions you may have for the improvement of these annual gatherings, or for bettering the college curriculum. Students look to the faculty for guidance and the faculty is dependent on the alumni to check its teaching with the practical needs of men in the field. It is the veterinarian to whom the owners of animals look for counsel concerning the control of diseases and it is to him also that the public looks for protection against the diseases of animals communicable to man. We are united in an indispensable interdependence for support and progress in rendering a useful service. Our immediate problem is, as Carlisle said, "Not to see what lies dimly at a distance but to do what lies clearly at hand".

Again, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled to overflowing with happiness, prosperity and usefulness.

Sincerely yours,



A Famous Toast

HERE is a toast that I want to drink
To a fellow I'll never know—
To the fellow who's going to take my place
When it's time for me to go.

I'VE wondered what sort of a chap he'll be
And I've wished I could take his hand,
Just to whisper, "I wish you well, old man"
In a way he'd understand.

I'D like to give him the cheering word
That I've longed at times to hear:
I'd like to give him the warm hand clasp
When never a friend comes near.

I'VE learned my knowledge by sheer hard
work
And I wish I could pass it on,
To the fellow who'll come to take my place
Some day when I am gone.

WILL he see all the sad mistakes I've made,
And note all the battles lost?
Will he ever guess of the tears they caused
Or the heartaches which they cost?

WILL he gaze through the failures and
fruitless toil,
To the underlying plan
And catch a glimpse of the real intent,
And the heart of the vanquished man?

ANON.