



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

JUST-BEFORE-CHRISTMAS
1927

To the Alumni of the New York State Veterinary College:

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON. Those who are striving for the best method of living to advance their profession may find the ideals of William Osler—one time teacher of veterinary science and "Patron Saint" of American medicine—helpful. First, "To do each day's work well and not be troubled about tomorrow's . . ."; second, "to act the Golden Rule towards all without regard to the action of others;" and, third, "to cultivate such a measure of equanimity as would enable one to bear success with humility and to meet defeat and sorrow as befits a man".

Veterinary medicine has been passing through a trying experience but "the clouds are breaking" and the profession is coming, gradually but surely, into its own. It is discovering the significance of the educational standards of Dr. Law, the father of American veterinary medicine. His ambition was to found a veterinary college as an integral part of Cornell University. In twenty-six years he succeeded. He firmly believed, as did President White, that the preparation to practice veterinary medicine does not differ in principle from that of other professions.

In the University, the outstanding event of the year was the union of the Cornell Medical College and the New York Hospital to form a great medical center. The cost of the new institution and its endowment, will ultimately exceed sixty million dollars. It will be the best equipped medical school and hospital in the country, if not in the world.

The most significant event in connection with this college is the transfer of its official relation to the State from the Department of Agriculture and Markets to the State Department of Education. This came about through the law calling for reorganization of the State government. Under this plan, our budget is presented to the Governor by the Commissioner of Education rather than by the Dean of the college. As the Department of Education has certain supervision over the professional schools in the State, it is anticipated and expected that the change will be to our advantage. This subject is discussed more fully in the annual report.

The number of veterinary students is increasing steadily. We have an enrollment of 107 undergraduates, of which 39 are freshmen. Nine of these are college men and four have academic degrees. There are a few applicants for admission in February. We have, by one, the largest total enrollment of any veterinary college in America, with Ames a close second. Ohio has the largest number (49) of freshmen. Last June there were 26 in the graduating class. These were not enough to supply the demand. In addition to the positions available, there are many places where a practitioner is needed.

Letters from the alumni are encouraging. Gomez writes of the brilliant success of those in the Philippine Islands. Philip R. B. Smith, '23, is forging ahead in official veterinary work in South Africa. Roadhouse, '06, of the University of California, is spending the year abroad in study and travel. He attended the Rotary convention in Ostend, Belgium, in May. J. E. Mitchell, '11, of Oroya, Peru, was here in October. M. G. Fincher, '20, who was on leave of absence last year, has returned and R. H. Bardwell, '26, who substituted for him, is working for a horse breeder in Kentucky.

It is with sadness that I report the untimely death of four splendid alumni. Floyd P. Hust, '18, County Veterinarian in Sullivan County, died March 8th of pneumonia. Ralph C. Whiting, '24, died June 12 of acute endocarditis. Victor G. Kimball, '08, Assistant Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, died September 5th of sepsis following an operation for sinus trouble. John F. Arnold, '16, died September 13th from dilatation of the heart. He had been in poor health for several months. Whiting had been ill practically since graduation, but the others were well established in their professional life and each was doing a splendid work.

I wish to thank the alumni and friends for their action last January in providing for the painting of my portrait by Professor Brauner. The artist has completed the task and given to the college as good a portrait as the subject would admit. Your loyalty in presenting to the university excellent portraits of the original faculty of the college is unexcelled. That is the compliment which is being paid you by many people in other colleges of the University.

This expression of your friendship and appreciation of the original faculty and its work, will be of much interest to future generations of students. We who remain, however, are conscious of the further fact that the problems of the present, and those of the future, are, and will be, equally as difficult and perhaps far more complicated, than those we encountered. This means that the men who succeed us and those who lead in new departments must be of outstanding ability; and we trust that, in their day, they may be even more successful in advancing the interests of the college and the profession than we have been. Looking a long way ahead, it will be equally as impressive and helpful for students of that time to look at the portraits of those *who carried on the work*, as it will to see those who started it. For that reason it is my earnest desire that you will continue the practice of hanging on the walls of the college the portraits of all heads of departments. I hope I may have the privilege of contributing toward several of them for, while not an alumnus of the college, I was a pupil of its founder, Dr. Law.

In October, Dr. Bernhard Bang of Copenhagen was a guest of the University. He gave two lectures at the college, one on infectious abortion and one on Johne's disease. He was much pleased with the Institution. He spoke particularly concerning the work of Dr. Birch on infectious abortion and of Dr. Udall in the Ambulatory Clinic. He was impressed especially with these departments for, as you know, he discovered the bacillus of infectious abortion and organized and conducted the first ambulatory clinic in Europe. It was a genuine pleasure to have him with us. He is in his eightieth year and exceedingly well preserved.

The annual report for 1926-27 will be sent you early in the year. There is a feeling in the Department at Albany that it would be better to issue separate bulletins than to print the annual report. As new facts of interest that are brought out are made available in current veterinary journals, I have felt that

the report, bringing together all the results of researches at the college, was valuable to the profession. This opinion is strengthened on account of the paucity of new books on veterinary topics. Owing to the small number of students, publishers are not inclined to accept manuscripts for new books on these subjects. We would appreciate your opinion on the wisdom of publishing the report.

The Conference will be held January 12th and 13th. These annual meetings were initiated to help you. They were intended to be short graduate courses. Whether they have accomplished their purpose or not, your presence and discussions have benefitted us. We are blessed by being in the environment of a great university, and where scientific veterinary education in America drew its first "long breath". However, we are so close to the teaching activities that we cannot always comprehend the particular phases of the different subjects required that are best fitted to meet the actual needs of the students in the future practice of their profession. You who are meeting the problems can tell us where the weak places are that they may be strengthened.

Veterinary education has become a public interest and its support and success depend on the efficiency of its two essential factors, the college and its alumni. For that reason the highest success and greatest good will come from united efforts. We are glad always to see you and to welcome your suggestions. The difficulties in formulating a curriculum are far more perplexing than they were when it seemed possible to include all the subjects that were thought to be fundamental.

Again, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,