



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

Just-Before-Christmas
1928

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

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS: Again, the wheel of time has brought us to the "mile stone" where, from force of habit, we pause for reflection and resolution. The college, of which you are a part, is passing this landmark for the thirty-third time. These years are, as it were,

“ . . . folios bound and set
By Time, the great transcriber, on his shelves
Wherein are written the histories of ourselves.”

A third of a century looms long in the life of an individual, but it is little more than a flash in that of an institution. No one who reflects on the changes that have taken place in veterinary education and service since 1896, dares predict the evolution that will occur in another generation.

In the University, the year has been one of steady progress. The building program is advancing: the new dormitory for girls,

a gift to the University, is nearing completion at a cost of a million and a half; the War Memorial, in which you have a part, and the Plant Industry Building in the College of Agriculture, are under construction; plans for the Medical Unit in New York City are nearing completion. The President has announced a well defined and far reaching plan for strengthening, on a large scale, the departments of pure science. As they are the foundation on which the medical sciences rest, the Veterinary College will be benefited directly by it. It is most fortunate that, in a State with such a diversified animal husbandry, its veterinary college was made an integral part of a University like this. It reflects the wisdom of its founders.

The work of the college has advanced steadily in many directions. The annual report will give the details relative to the changes in the personnel of the faculty, the increase of clinical material for teaching, and the various research projects. There were not the increases in appropriations for salaries and new positions, especially for laboratory work in medicine and surgery, that we hoped. These, however, are bound to come.

The opportunities for veterinarians are extending. There are increasing numbers of inquiries for men to fill positions that are attractive for recent graduates. Dr. C. M. Carpenter accepted an appointment with splendid opportunities in the Department of Bacteriology and Research in the Albany Medical College. The bright spot for him in the change is practically a 100 per cent increase in salary.

The depression in the number of students, that gave us much concern for several years, no longer exists. The registration in the lower two classes is as large as it should be. There is a total of 134 undergraduates, of which 47 are freshmen. More encouraging than numbers is the better preparation. Fully 20 per cent of the matriculants in the two under classes have had college or university work. This assures more men of broad training for leaders. There is a total of 886 undergraduate veterinary students in the United States and Canada. Iowa stands first with 142 and New York is second.

It is a sad duty to record the names of those who have completed their work. From human understanding, they were taken prematurely. The prophet has said, "At evening time it will be light." Perhaps then we shall know why.

Francis James Loomis '03	Died March 29, 1928
Samuel Howard Burnett '02	" April 30, 1928
Raymond Vaughn Gorton '19	" May 7, 1928
Francis Leo Gallagher '06	" May 11, 1928
Leo Dispeau Brunner '18	" June, 1928
Clyde Armstrong Gardner '14	" Sept. 7, 1928

Dr. Burnett will be remembered by many who studied pathology under him. He was a man of extraordinary ability. He and Mrs. Burnett were most appreciative of the many kind remembrances from his former students and fellow alumni.

The Conference will be held January 17th and 18th. An interesting program is being prepared. It is good for the faculty to have you come back and tell us of the weak places to be strengthened. The adjusting of a curriculum that will provide "the best that can be given" for those who are going into practice, calls for an understanding of conditions and needs that teachers do not always have. There are many ways by which you can help to make your *Alma Mater* a better place for students. A professional school needs the advice of its alumni to enable it to keep always foremost the fundamentals for the highest service.

Many years ago, in a western city, after a hard day's work in the field, I picked up from the writing desk at the hotel a business card, on the back of which was a poem entitled, "A Famous Toast." I am enclosing a copy, for it expresses my heartfelt wish for him who follows. I am sure you will cooperate to make his term one of unprecedented success.

Again, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and many happy and prosperous New Years.

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.