

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY
ITHACA, NEW YORK



Christmas Greetings

1932

To the Alumni of the College:

The fleeting years again have brought us to the holiday season, that season of joyous childhood memories, that time when even the most self-centered of us look more kindly on our fellows, when peace and good-will reign on earth.

In these difficult times the season will lack its usual joyousness for many. I hope that not many of you to whom this message goes will be numbered amongst these. Hardly any of us but have felt, in one way or another, the effects of the economic situation. But a feeling of optimism is now abroad; the times will improve. Our profession has suffered with the others but I am confident that we have suffered less than most of them. Engineers, architects, chemists,

business administrators by thousands have found it impossible to support their families by the practice of their professions. I do not believe that many veterinarians have been reduced to this.

During the year which has just passed, the faculty of the college has labored diligently to discharge the functions for which it is employed and, we believe, with a considerable measure of success. The annual report has just been completed and will probably be printed and ready to go out to you by late winter. There you will find a report of the research work. A new curriculum has been drawn up in a tentative form. Because our freshman students now have had at least one year of college work before coming to us, we have been able to drop from the new curriculum some subjects previously required, thus making room for more chemistry, more clinical practice, and some electives.

The freshman class, the first entering under the new requirements, numbers 27 students. This represents a material decrease from the 82 of last year, but such a decrease had been anticipated and is causing us no concern. Our new entrance requirement was framed primarily, of course, to improve our educational standards. Its effect in reducing the numbers of students, however, is not without its advantages. The college is staffed and equipped to handle efficiently only from forty to fifty in each class, and this number will, in all probability, supply the demand for graduates. There are 181 students now in the college.

I am happy to say that our faculty organization has been held intact. A more devoted group would be difficult to find. This *esprit de corps* has more than once been the deciding factor which has re-

tained for the college the services of valuable men when they have been tempted with attractive offers to go elsewhere. A new face in our group is that of Dr. H. H. Dukes. A search of the whole profession for the best available veterinary physiologist to fill the position left vacant by Dr. Fish finally focussed on Dr. Dukes. He is a graduate of Clemson College, and of the Veterinary Division of Iowa State College. For the last ten years he has taught physiology and engaged in physiological research at Ames. He has just completed a five-year labor on a textbook of veterinary physiology. Dr. Dukes will introduce into our curriculum a new course on experimental physiology, while Dr. Hayden will devote his time more fully to chemical physiology.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on the 12th and 13th of January. While we are not planning to hold any special celebration of the passing of the quarter century mark of this annual event, we are endeavoring to build up a program which will be as good as any of those of the past. We hope that as many of you as possible will attend. We always obtain help *from* you and hope we can be of help *to* you.

The grim reaper has claimed eight of our alumni during the past year. It is with sadness that I report the deaths of J. V. Townsend '09, Carthage, New York, who died on January 1st; of J. H. Woodside '09, Newberg, Oregon, January 13th; of C. R. Boshart '15, Lowville, New York, February 2nd; of J. W. Corrigan '00, Easton, Maryland, August 10th; of R. W. McGinnis '06, Ogden, Utah, August 21st; of E. R. Steel '14, Kansas City, Mo., September 4th; of D. D. LeFevre '03, Newark, New York, September 28th; and of H. B. Tillou '07, East Aurora, New York, November 12th.

The duties of the position which the Trustees of the University bestowed upon me last June have been entered upon in a spirit of humility. A new dean could do little without the whole-hearted support of his faculty and of the alumni. I never had a doubt that this support would be given, nevertheless it has been heartening to have the kind letters and spoken words which many of you have been thoughtful enough to address to me. I want to say to all of you that your good will and moral support is a thing cherished beyond words and I hope that I may always deserve it.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a full measure of happiness and success during the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. W. W. W.", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.