

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

December 1936

DEAR ALUMNUS:

The annual Christmas letter to the alumni (and the alumnae) of the Veterinary College was originated years ago by Dean Moore, and continued by his successors, as a means of keeping in touch with the thousand or so who, during the last forty years, have prepared for their life work "far above Cayuga's waters." This letter must, of necessity, be printed, yet I hope that each of you will regard it as a personal message. The signature at least is personal, and the greater part of an afternoon will be needed for affixing that insignificant scrawl to as many of these letters as will be needed to reach all of you.

The faculty does not lose interest in you as soon as you walk off with your sheep-skin. Just as the artisan likes to return to admire his handiwork, so do we like to admire ours. Some jobs, unfortunately, are never as good as others, yet on the whole we, perhaps a little smugly, are fairly well satisfied with our work. We hope to do better as time goes on, of course. Our ability to improve will depend, partly at least, on our knowledge of how well past products serve their need and wherein they fail. So we are always glad to hear from you. We are glad to know of your experiences, and glad to have suggestions, born of your experience, wherein we may do better for the boys that now are coming to us than we did for you. At any rate we hope at least to keep in touch with your addresses. In the helpful spirit of the Kentucky mountaineer who placed a sign at the fording place in the river to inform strangers that it was dangerous to try to cross when the sign was under water, I can say that if you do not get this letter it is because we do not have your correct address.

No doubt you have all heard that a new President of Cornell University has been selected. The President-elect, Dr. Edmund Ezra Day, for some years has been Director for the Social Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation. Doctor Day is a pleasant, friendly man, fifty-three years of age. He is a graduate of Dartmouth. His teaching experience at Dartmouth, Harvard, and the University of Michigan has given him an appreciation of the problems of universities and the experience in the Rockefeller Foundation has brought wide contacts in the business and educational worlds. His training for the new responsibilities seems to have been admirable. He will take

office next June backed with the hearty support of all who are interested in Cornell.

Doctor Farrand leaves the Presidency with the respect and admiration of all who have known him. He has been a great President. Liberal in his views, tolerant always of those who hold views which differ from his own, decisive in his thinking and speaking, he has been very close to what I should regard as an ideal executive. Since assuming office in 1921, President Farrand has guided the University thru times more difficult than any except those met with in the earliest days of Cornell's life. Those who know something of the difficulties under which he has worked know that he richly merits a rest and they hope he will be able to relax and enjoy the leisure that his retirement will bring him.

As I write this a steam shovel and a gang of workmen are scooping great holes in the ground which lies just south of James Law Hall in the direction of the Drill Hall. They are turning the first sod on the site of the new building for the College that was authorized by the legislature of 1936. The holes now being dug are merely exploratory; the real construction job will start early in the spring. The plans are now about completed, and bids will be called for before the end of the year. With good luck the building should be ready for use in time for the 1938-39 session.

The building will be three stories in height, and L-shaped. The main part of the building will face westward and lie on a line even with the front of James Law Hall; the wing will extend backward from the south end of the main part toward the operating room of the Surgical Clinic. Construction will be of steel and brick faced with native stone. It is planned, eventually, to rebuild the face of James Law Hall with native stone so as to make a harmonious unit with the new structure.

The first floor will contain the general and poultry diagnostic units, class rooms and offices. In the rear will be quarters for large experimental animals, and garages. The second floor will be occupied by offices, research and teaching laboratories for pathology, a museum of pathology, and a seminar room. In the rear will be an autopsy unit, consisting of an amphitheatre, two refrigerating rooms a small laboratory, and dressing rooms. The lie of the ground is such that, altho the autopsy room will be a part of the second floor of the building, it will open, in the rear, on a court level with that of the group of clinical buildings and thus make it easy to bring in large carcasses. The third floor will be occupied by the teaching and research laboratories of bacteriology and, in the rear, by quarters for small experimental animals. An appropriation of \$284,000 is

available for the construction, and I am asking for an additional appropriation of \$64,000 for equipment.

As soon as the new building is ready for use, it is planned to raze the unsightly, unsanitary, and tottering wooden buildings that have stood for so many years in the middle of the veterinary quadrangle. The court-yard of the College can then be landscaped and made far more attractive than it is now. As a part of the planting scheme it is hoped that a garden of pharmaceutical plants can be included.

There were only twenty-three in the class that was graduated last spring, and since forty were admitted to the freshman class this fall, the registration is greater this year than last by about twenty students. In spite of this, the size of our student body this year is about the smallest of all the veterinary colleges of the United States. This is due, of course, to our strict limitation of the number of registrants. The forty freshmen of this year were selected from a group exactly six times as large, and there were many applicants after the first of August who were not considered by the Committee on Admissions.

There are many who think that we are limiting our registration too drastically; that the number of veterinarians in this country is too small and the work that veterinarians should do will be, and is being, done by laymen. This may be true in many parts of this country but we do not think that it is in the territory which this college quite naturally serves. We could have placed more men this year than were available, but that was because of the small class. Hereafter, for some years at least, we shall graduate from thirty-five to forty each year. If time shows that this number is inadequate we shall try to make readjustments to handle more students. If any of the alumni have strong convictions on this matter, one way or the other, I should be glad to know of them.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on January 7 and 8, 1937. Those who live in New York and neighboring states will receive programs shortly after Christmas. We hope to see many of you here. If you have not been receiving these programs, and would like them, a postal card will place you on the mailing list.

During the year that has passed since the last letter was written I have learned of the deaths of five of our alumni. They are:
John Benson Bell, '09, Pasadena, California, October 1, 1936.
Frederick G. Caslick, '30, Morristown, New Jersey, July 1, 1936.
Carl Wallace Fisher, '01, San Mateo, California, November 26, 1935.
John Dudley Moore, '16, Tientsin, China, November 27, 1935.
Charles Henry Taylor, '05, Cortland, New York, August 12, 1936.

A veterinarian who was an alumnus of Cornell, altho not of the Veterinary College, for he graduated before the College was founded, died May 23, 1936. He was Fred Lucius Kilborne, B.V.S. '85, of Kelloggsville, New York. Doctor Kilbourne's name will long be perpetuated because of his historic work, with Theobald Smith, on Texas Fever.

"We are spirits. That bodies should be lent us, while they can afford us pleasure, assist us in acquiring knowledge, or in doing good to our fellow creatures, is a kind and benevolent act of God. When they become unfit for these purposes, and afford us pain instead of pleasure, instead of aid become an incumbrance, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given, it is equally kind and benevolent, that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them. Death is that way."

"Our friend and we were invited abroad on a party of pleasure, which is to last forever. His chair was ready first and he has gone before us. We could not all conveniently start together; and why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow, and know where to find him."—Benjamin Franklin.

There have been a few changes in the faculty since last year. Dr. A. G. Danks, '33, who has been a member of the staff of the Veterinary Division of Kansas State College, has become Instructor in Surgery in place of Dr. Burnard J. Errington, who resigned to enter practice at Morristown, New Jersey. Dr. Henry T. Batt, a graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, who has pursued graduate work at the University of Toronto and at the Alfort Veterinary School in France, has become instructor in Physiology in place of Dr. Jesse Sampson, who resigned to enter private practice at Waterman, Illinois. Dr. Winfield S. Stone, '35, who has been an assistant in the laboratory of the Veterinary Experiment Station, was promoted to an instructorship in that department in place of Dr. Hugh S. Cameron, who resigned to accept an Assistant Professorship in the Division of Veterinary Science of the University of California. Dr. Peter Olafson, formerly Assistant Professor of Veterinary Pathology, was promoted in June to a full Professorship.

The members of the staff, including the emeritus professors, and their families, continue to enjoy good health.

In conclusion I wish, on behalf of the faculty, to wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year of health, happiness, and prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

