

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS
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DEAR ALUMNUS:

My last Christmas letter was written before Pearl Harbor. How little of us guessed then of the events the New Year was to bring. We were fearful of war but fervently hoped that some way would be found by which it could be avoided. Now it is difficult to conceive how blind we were to think we could escape the responsibility of helping to rid the earth of the blight that had fallen upon it through the machinations of Herr Schickelgruber and his kind. Now we are regretful and not a little ashamed that we avoided this responsibility so long that disaster came close to overtaking the kind of civilization that we have built up through the centuries.

This letter is being written on Thanksgiving day. Among the many things for which I am thankful is Pearl Harbor. Dastardly as this deed was, it awakened our people as nothing else could have done, to the realization that we had to fight if our way of life was to continue. The isolationists and the peace-at-any-price people suddenly were silenced. We became a united people in our determination to put everything we had into the effort to destroy the inhuman and unChristian philosophy which was bent on enslaving the earth.

We as a nation have put forth a mighty effort during the year that has just passed, and we have reason to be proud of what our production armies and our military and naval forces have accomplished. We are thrilled, just now, by our first victories in the Pacific; by the great exploit in North Africa, and by the turn of events in Russia. We have a bitter and perhaps a prolonged war to fight, but we have the confidence that will carry us to ultimate victory. Rarely can one judge accurately of the importance and significance of events at the time they happen. I am optimistic enough to think that from now on we will carry the ball. For the first time we have begun to call the signals and the HiroHitler team are doing the guessing. We are rapidly building up our military might while that of our opponents shows definite signs of having passed its peak of perfection. It is certain that we shall have to pass through anxious days and that casualty lists longer than we have ever before experienced will

have to be scanned before victory is achieved. The strength of desperation of our unscrupulous enemies will have to be broken, and break it we will. We have no alternative but catastrophe.

A considerable group of alumni of the Veterinary College will not see this letter. They are scattered through foreign lands, England, Ireland, Iceland, North Africa, Russia, India, China, Australia. Definite information about these men cannot be obtained because of army regulations, but in one way or another we have had word from many. Several are serving in other branches of the army but nearly all are commissioned officers in the Army Veterinary Corps. Many more are in uniform and serving in training units in various parts of the United States and our territories. I believe that more than ten per cent of our total group are in active service, and that probably one third of these already are overseas. No casualties have yet come to our attention.

The faculty and students of the College are carrying on. Probably all of you know that we are on a war-time schedule, operating three terms per year. Beginning on June 1, less than one week after Commencement last spring, we opened a new college year. The fourth-year class that would have graduated next June will finish its work and will be graduated on January 28. Another class will be graduated in September of next year, and thereafter we expect to admit new classes and graduate others at intervals of approximately nine months. Our students are given temporary commissions as Second Lieutenants in the Medical Administrative Corps, Army of the United States, in order that they may not be drafted. We have about 160 students, our normal number since limitation of enrollment became effective about ten years ago.

We have no definite information as yet from the War Department about the policies which are to be followed regarding college students. It is quite certain, however, that this will be the last year that is even semi-normal for them. Many students in Arts, Architecture, Law, and Agriculture already have been drafted, or have volunteered for military service. Many more are now enrolled in the advanced R. O. T. C. and the Enlisted Reserve Corps. Whether these men will be ordered out before the end of the current year is not known, but there is a general feeling that most of them will not be left in college beyond the end of the present college year at best. The drafting of 18- and 19-year-olds will certainly dry up the pre-medical and pre-veterinary springs unless special provision is made for such students. It is not conceivable that this will be allowed to happen, especially in case of the pre-medical group, and we hope not in the pre-veterinary group as well.

All of you know, I am sure, that Doctor Udall retired from active service last June. He is around the college this year about as much as usual, but not always so early in the morning. He is looking and

feeling well, and getting ready for another edition of his book. The other emeritus professors, Gage, Williams, and Hopkins are well and active. Professor Gage recently published the 19th edition of his book "The Microscope." Our Financial Secretary-Emeritus, Miss Haight is well and living in Ithaca. Two casualties were suffered in the faculty ranks during the year. In June, Dr. Myron D. Reed, Instructor in Pathology, a young Kansas State graduate who had been on the faculty less than a year contracted a malignant staphylococemia which resisted all treatment. He died early in the month. Doctor Brunett faced a crisis last spring when it was discovered that he was suffering from malignant hypertension. The situation was so serious that he was taken to New York where he underwent a bilateral sympathectomy. He stood the operations well and is so much improved that he has been able to return to work. By taking it easy we hope that his improvement will continue to full recovery.

Mike Fincher was promoted to Doctor Udall's former position, and Steph. Roberts, '38, was coaxed back from Kansas State where he was Assistant Director of the Clinics, to answer some of the calls for Mike who has to stay in the office a little more than in the past.

Al. Hoerlein took himself a wife in September and took her back to Colorado for a honeymoon to make good on his stories of the Rocky Mountain scenery and the huge rainbow trout which grow there. Mel. Hofstad and Jean Ferguson were suspected of marital intentions but they slipped off to the parson without warning in November. Phil. Levine announced an addition to his family during the year. Two faces are missing from the business office, Ethel (Fernow) Eaton, who joined her husband in Boston where he is an army officer, and Eleanor (Mack) Fairbanks who joined her officer-husband in Southern Missouri. Both were cheerful, willing and popular workers, and we were sorry to have them go.

Students who were here in the middle thirties will be interested to know that word has been received that Engueda (Joe) Yohannes, our Abyssinian graduate of 1935, is well and is using his professional knowledge in helping to rehabilitate Addis Abeda after the Italian invaders were kicked out last year by the British. All who knew Joe wish him the best of luck and hope that his path will not be quite so thorny as it has been since he arrived home just a jump ahead of Mussolini's bullies.

Navy uniforms have been conspicuous on the campus since early summer. At present there are about one thousand Ensigns in training. They have taken over Sage College and the greater part of the men's dormitory system, crowding the regular students into the fraternity and rooming houses. A temporary mess hall has been built to feed them near the men's dormitories on the slope below the library. Another temporary building, the Diesel Engine Laboratory, has just been finished on the flat ground just north of the Old Armory

To the east of this building a number of telephone poles have been erected to simulate ship's masts, on the cross arms of which signal flags are hoisted to give the neophytes their introduction to the Navy's way of talking. The new Chemical Engineering Building, Olin Hall, which stands on the northeast corner of Central and South Avenues, where the old weather kiosk used to stand, was dedicated this fall and is now in full use.

In spite of the war we are going ahead again this year with plans for our Annual Conference. This, the thirty-fifth, will be held on January 6, 7 and 8. We have endeavored to build a program which will justify itself under the circumstances, and justify busy veterinarians leaving their practices for the time that will be required to attend. We hope to see many of you in Ithaca at that time. It is even more necessary under war-time conditions that professional efficiency be maintained, and we think the program will help you to maintain yours.

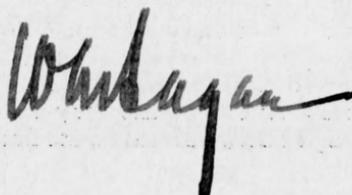
So far as I have been able to learn there have been only three deaths in our alumni group this year. These are John L. Bogan, '23, of Hamilton, N. Y.; Stephen J. Regan, '15, of Wellsville, N. Y., and William R. Crawford, '24, of College Park, Maryland.

I have recently read a translation of the speech made by Louis Pasteur at the time of the opening of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. One paragraph from this address seems so pertinent to those who are engaged in all medical fields in the world of today, that I am quoting it in closing this letter:

"Two contrary laws stand today opposed: one a law of blood and death, which, inventing daily new means of combat, obliges the nations to be ever prepared for battle; the other a law of peace, of labor, of salvation, which strives to deliver man from the scourges which assail him. One looks only for violent conquest; the other for the relief of suffering humanity. The one would sacrifice hundreds of thousands of lives for the ambition of a single individual; the other places a single human life above all victories. The law of which we are the instruments essays even in the midst of carnage to heal the wounds caused by the law of war."

On behalf of your *Alma Mater* and those who are associated with her, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a fair share of the good fortunes of the coming year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. B. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.