

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS
1 9 4 4

DEAR ALUMNUS:

It has been my rare pleasure on this clear Sunday in November to read the twelve Christmas letters preceding this one. If you wish to appreciate fully these letters to the alumni of this college, I suggest that you read a few old ones. They are an orderly record of the more important events at this college. The best part of the letters was the clever manner in which Dean Hagan expressed his optimism and sound philosophy about professional and other problems. His letters and the earlier ones by Dean Moore were obviously intended to bring to you first-hand information about your *Alma Mater*, and to extend the SEASON'S GREETINGS from the faculty.

The greatest change around this college during the past year was the temporary loss of Doctor Hagan. The Board of Trustees granted him a leave of absence during the last ten and one-half months to act as Special Consultant to the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. His duties required 35,000 miles of travel, taking him into every state in the United States. The purpose of the year's strenuous work was to consult with the state veterinarians and various other people and agencies responsible for animal disease control work. This survey required trips to farms, ranches, Indian reservations, experiment stations, and quarantine stations along the Mexican border, and at seaports. He returned looking fit and with even more than his usual enthusiasm about all college and professional problems.

The adjustment to the absence of the Dean necessitated changes in staff. A. M. Mills, '20, of Earlville, was appointed Acting Professor of Medicine and assumed my duties in the ambulatory clinic in a most commendable way, while I tried to pose as Acting Dean. Pete Olafson was appointed Acting Head of the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology, and Al Zeissig took over much of the graduate and undergraduate teaching normally directed by the Dean. In this he was assisted by Al Hoerlein. All of these temporary appointments ended November 1, when Doctor Hagan returned at the scheduled time.

The faculty was affected by other things not associated with the temporary change in administration. The use of a new appropriation of \$10,000 for research and extension work in the field of parasitic diseases of livestock made possible the appointment of John H. Whitlock as Assistant Professor of Parasitology. Whitlock, a native of Canada, received the D.V.M. degree at Iowa State College and an M.S. at Kansas State College. He had conducted clinical course work and research in animal parasitology at Kansas since 1935. His assistance will enable Don Baker to expand the extension and research work in this important field. Seth Johnson and Mel Hofstad were promoted to the

rank of assistant professor. M. E. Becker, '43, was commissioned in the Veterinary Corps in the fall of 1943, leaving an instructorship in physiology. This is the fourth member of the faculty to join the Armed Forces.

The special wartime assignment of the active faculty has been to give continuous instruction since September 1941. This fall term permits but one day's vacation, Christmas Day. We trust, as no doubt all of you do, that real vacations may be obtainable during the next few years.

The faculty is making a study of refresher courses. Alumni on the far-flung battlefields are naturally keen about getting back and obtaining some old and new professional information. Hadley Stephenson as chairman of the committee on refresher courses has some plans in preparation. I know that everyone here will be glad to help make the refresher schools successful. There were refresher courses for groups of 10 to 30 or more held this year. Baker and Olafson gave a two-day course in April for the state and federal veterinarians on sheep scab and on mange in cattle. A few weeks later several faculty members participated in a rather general refresher course for the same group. Phil Levine gave another on poultry diseases for practitioners and state men doing poultry work. A few practitioners have urged us to provide courses for them.

I regret to report the death of Dr. Simon Henry Gage, at the age of 93, on October 20, 1944. His health had been good until very recently when he was stricken in his laboratory in Stimson Hall. He was still working on another book, "The History of the Microscope," which he had not yet completed. Dr. W. L. Williams, after having revised two books in 1943 during his 87th year, remarked recently that he was feeling better than he had for several years. He retired 23 years ago. Those of you who knew Mrs. Williams will be saddened to hear of her death on September 3. She had been in failing health for a few months. Doctor Hopkins maintains a keen interest in college affairs and walks briskly up the hill to his office from Seneca Street twice daily, while most of the active members of the staff prefer transportation. Doctor Udall is busy with agricultural as well as professional pursuits and is apparently enjoying excellent health.

Events outside the college have marked this as an unusual year at Cornell. The total enrollment has remained high with the following registration at this time: civilian men 1,321, women 2,267 (an all-time high), Army 455, of whom 215 are Military Academy Preparatory Students (Pre-West Point), and Navy 1,705, of whom 340 are studying Diesel and steam engines. The Diesel school is located in a rough-appearing laboratory, which houses equipment valued at a million and a half. It stands north of the old Armory, near Olin Hall.

During the last year a School of Labor and Industrial Relations was located here by legislative action. A temporary board of trustees for this new school was formed early in 1944 with President Day assuming the responsible position of chairman of the board. The ultimate aim of this educational venture is to create a more workable relationship between the representatives of labor and industry by having them study their common problems on this campus.

As a part of a serious attempt to give detailed attention to the education of men and women who have been in the Armed Forces and

have been honorably discharged, President Day appointed a Director of Education for Ex-Service Personnel. Professor L. C. Petry who holds the new position reports that 180 veterans of this war from all allied armies are enrolled at Cornell.

The appointment of Prof. W. I. Myers to succeed the late Dean Carl E. Ladd of the College of Agriculture makes it certain that the usual friendly relationship between our college and agriculture will continue. The death of Prof. E. S. Savage in November 1943, and of Prof. R. B. Hinman earlier in the year left distinct gaps in the Animal Husbandry Department. Prof. K. L. Turk was called from the University of Maryland to take charge of dairy cattle and Prof. John I. Miller of Cornell was given the work with beef cattle.

The alumni of this college in the Armed Forces total 225, of whom 190 are commissioned officers in the Veterinary Corps, with 8 Colonels and 9 Lieutenant-Colonels. Three men are in the Air Corps, three in the Field Artillery, two in the Tank Destroyer Battalion, and four in the Navy. The first and only reported casualty was that of Lt. (jg) Robert Ashman, '40, of Augusta, Maine, who was reported missing after an airplane crash at sea early in 1944. He had been stationed at the Naval Air Base in North Africa since November 1942. One member of the Veterinary Corps who has been overseas 31 months in a very responsible position with the group in the China area has reported that he hopes to complete a Veterinary-Medical-Chinese-English dictionary during his spare moments. He was an ambitious student and apparently the discomforts of war have not changed him. All of the veterinarians on the home front are looking forward to the day when you who have had rare experiences during your tours of duty may be permitted to report at our meetings. Letters from all of you are interesting and welcome. They help to complete our records of your activities.

It is with sorrow that I record the names of thirteen members of our alumni group who have died since December 1, 1943. Those who have gone on are: Charles B. Cain, '24, Memphis, Tenn. (Dec. 1943); Roy L. Stephenson, '09, Malone, N. Y. (Dec. 1943); Arlton K. Dean, '05, Ithaca, N. Y. (Dec. 1943); D. K. Eastman, '07, Bangor, Me. (Feb. 1944); Robert I. Ashman, '40, Augusta, Me. (Feb. 1944); Charles E. Gibbs, '04, Fredonia, N. Y. (Apr. 1944); Charles S. McCoy, '21, Gouverneur, N. Y. (Apr. 1944); Robert H. Bardwell, '26, Lexington, Ky. (May 1944); Fred E. Cleaver, '07, Avon, N. Y. (Sept. 1944); Henry W. Dustan, '98, Morristown, N. J. (Sept. 1944); Horatio L. Van Volkenberg, '18, Bryan, Tex. (Oct. 1944); Frederick H. Richardson, '34, Ogdensburg, N. Y. (Nov. 1944), and Charles Linch, '05, Albany, N. Y. (Nov. 1944).

The Postwar Planning Commission has continued to push ahead with procedures regarding the building project, which was approved last year by the Regents of the State Education Department. The last estimate of the cost of the reconstruction of James Law Hall has been placed at roughly \$380,000. The architects have labored for several months, assisted by H. H. Dukes and myself, and plans are well advanced for a three-story building. It will be connected with Moore Laboratory so that the second and third floors will be continuous. At the present time a long-time planning program is being studied. This calls for a second project as large as the first. The new project would provide a modern amphitheatre, and improved facilities for the li-

brary and the departments of anatomy and surgery. The proposal to secure the second group of buildings has received excellent support from President Day and the authorities at Albany. If approved, it will be one more project to be completed under the New York State Postwar Building Program. These projects will require final legislative approval.

The year has been a rather hectic one for the veterinary students. All of them realize that they were fortunate to be in college. The A.S.T. Program lasted for a year, terminating in June 1944 after the requirement for veterinarians for the Army had apparently been met. The scholastic average was good in spite of the shifting in and out of barracks. Two classes were graduated during the existence of the A.S.T.P. and 67 seniors were in the Army program at the time of graduation. Of these a total of 27 received commissions as 1st Lieutenants in the Veterinary Corps. The others were able to choose their positions in civil life because of the great demand for veterinarians. Many good positions remained unfilled. Forty-two students graduated in June 1944. Some of these entered the Ground Forces or Maritime Service. In addition, 14 of the undergraduates left college for the Armed Forces upon the termination of the A.S.T.P. There are now a total of 134 undergraduates, of whom 9 are women, and 31 are seniors due to graduate in February. This is a small registration, but not as low comparatively as the registration in Agriculture, Architecture, or Law. The present first-year class includes five veterans of this war. It has not been decided when we will accept another first-year class. The supply of eligible applicants appears to be small and deferment from military service is not available unless the student was enrolled in a veterinary college before July 1, 1944.

One response to the alumni letters last year was a request for the preparation of a suitable publication containing a biography of each graduate as a part of the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the college. The president of the Veterinary College Alumni Association has asked me to be chairman of a committee to consider the preparation of such a booklet. Any suggestions regarding this proposed biography of alumni, or any information you may care to send me regarding yourself will be appreciated.

The Annual Conference for Veterinarians (the 37th) will be held as usual this year. The dates are January 3, 4 and 5. Gordon Danks is chairman of the program committee. He is planning to use the panel discussion method of presentation, which has become increasingly popular during the last few years. I trust that it may be our pleasure to see many of you in January.

I wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR!

Sincerely yours,

M. G. Fincher