

# NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS, 1953

## TO THE ALUMNI:

A Merry Christmas everybody! A very Merry Christmas and a bright and cheery outlook for 1954!

The first snowflakes of the season are flying as this letter is started early in November. We have had a wonderful autumn but it now looks as if we would soon have to store these thoughts in our memory book and batten down the hatches for another winter. But a beautiful spring will be coming along in a few short months, so let's think of that instead. There is no virtue in adopting a perspective that is too short.

Four staff members are away this year on sabbatic leaves. Herb and Mrs. Gilman are traveling in the south visiting many veterinary laboratories and soaking up sunshine. They will be back in the spring. Hugh Dukes has been in Brazil since July but probably is back in the U. S. A. by now, visiting his home folks in South Carolina. He went to Brazil at the invitation of the government to address a series of medical and veterinary groups in many parts of that country. He will return to Ithaca shortly and will spend the winter and spring revising his textbook. Jim Gillespie of the Virus Laboratory, and Bob Habel of the Anatomy Department are working in Holland this year. Both have their families with them. Jim is working in the government foot and mouth disease research laboratory in Amsterdam, and Bob is in the anatomy department of the veterinary school in Utrecht.

Many of you know that Gordon Danks has been ill for several months with vague symptoms referable to lesions in his spinal cord. After some improvement during the summer months his condition became worse in late September, at which time he entered the New York Hospital for a thorough check-up to seek a definitive diagnosis. Lesions probably traceable to an old injury were discovered in the lower cervical region. He was operated upon in October and now is convalescing in Florida. The reports from him are very favorable. We expect he will be back in Ithaca shortly and probably will be as good as new by Conference time.

Mike and Evelyn Fincher, Steph Stephenson and his sister, Mrs. Joy Weatherup, and the writer and Mrs. Hagan enjoyed a very pleasant trip

to Europe and the 15th International Veterinary Congress in Stockholm last summer. Other Cornell veterinarians who found their way to Stockholm for the meeting are Bill Roy, '51, Hugh Cameron, '31, Dave Hopkins, '30, and Roy Johnston, '20. All were accompanied by their wives. Besides the time spent in Stockholm, the Camerons spent most of their time visiting relatives in Scotland, the Johnstons traveled with the main tour party through Denmark, Holland, France, Switzerland and England, the Hagans spent most of their time in Italy, Mrs. Hopkins visited a married daughter who lives in England while Dave came directly home, and I do not know what the Roys did since they did not travel with the main group. The Finchers took one of the shorter tours after the meeting, visiting Denmark, Germany, Holland, France and England. Steph and his sister not only took the long tour but remained in England a week longer than any of the others. The entire group, except the Roys, traveled together from Toronto to Stockholm. Leaving Toronto by train on the evening of the final day of the A.V.M.A. meeting, the party was in Montreal early the next day in good time to embark on the Empress of France which sailed at noon for Liverpool. From Liverpool the group went to Edinburgh by train and, after two days, again by train to Newcastle where the North Sea boat embarked for Bergen. Two days were spent in the fjord region of Norway and one day in Oslo, before the final overnight trip by sleeper from Oslo to Stockholm. I do not know whether we learned enough to make the trip worthwhile but I am sure we all had a good time.

Ithaca has had more than 50 cases of poliomyelitis this summer and fall, of which five have been in families connected with this college. Mrs. Morley Kare, wife of one of the professors in the Department of Physiology, was stricken in late summer, an employee working on the veterinary farm was attacked a little later, and shortly after the beginning of the fall term two children of veterinary student families and one child of one of the non-professional employees were victims. None of the cases were fatal but all were left with considerable residual damage. Three are still in the Ithaca Reconstruction Home and probably will be there for a considerable time.

I am sure that all of you have heard of the death just before last Christmas of the last member of the original faculty, Grant Sherman Hopkins. Dr. Hopkins passed away quietly in his sleep in his home in Ithaca. Last March another of our original group, Mrs. Pierre A. Fish, passed away after a short illness. Our other retired faculty members, Dr. Udall, Dr. Sunderville, Dr. Milks, Dr. Birch and their wives are all in good health and making Ithaca their home bases. Miss Helena Haight, known to all alumni who graduated during the first forty years of the college's existence, is well and living in retirement in Ithaca.

I am happy to report that the turn-over in the faculty during the past year has not been unusually great. It was reported last year that Hadley Stephenson planned to retire in February. This determination was carried out and he was elected Professor-emeritus. Since that time he seems to have been thoroughly enjoying himself. As a veterinary consultant to a commercial company, and to the Cornell Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs, he has had something to occupy his mind and time. He has traveled a great deal.

Recently he sprung a surprise on most of us by taking a wife. He and Mrs. DeEtte Daley were married on October 31 in St. John's Episcopal Church in Ithaca.

Following Stephenson's retirement, Bob Kirk, '46, who had just finished a stretch as a veterinary officer in the Air Corps, was appointed to take over his duties. During the year while Hugh Dukes is on leave, Don Rankin, '39, Professor of Veterinary Physiology at Colorado A. and M. College, was appointed on a temporary basis to help carry the load in physiology. Don is on leave from his permanent position in Colorado. A personality who will be missed around the college is Brud Tucker, '41, who resigned this fall to enter practice in partnership with A. H. Russell, '20, of Concord, Mass. George Christensen, '49, Instructor in Anatomy, completed his studies for the Ph.D. degree last spring and resigned to accept a faculty position at Iowa State College. His position has been filled by a young Swiss veterinary anatomist, Herman Meyer. Charlie Rickard, who was away all of last year taking graduate work at the University of Michigan, returned as of July 1, and Larry Smith, of the Ontario Veterinary College faculty, who filled in for him during part of the year, returned to his regular position in Canada.

Honors came to several of our group during the year. In June, Hugh Dukes was honored with a distinguished alumnus award at the commencement exercises at Iowa State College. Later last summer Phil Levine was presented a certificate and a citation from the poultrymen of this state in appreciation of the good work that he has done for the industry. Ed Sunderville, who is officer in charge of the Veterinary R.O.T.C. unit at Cornell, received his promotion from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in early summer.

For several years I have been writing in these letters about the progress of new buildings for the College. First it was only an idea, then it was an appropriation for making the plans and the clearing of the site on the campus. Last year when the Christmas letter was written, it was confidently believed that a contract would be let in the spring and that actual construction would be begun during the past summer. Unfortunately, it didn't work out as rapidly as was then expected. There were delays while architects argued over structural and engineering details. This went on through the summer but finally the plans were accepted in early October and bids are advertised to be opened in Albany on December 17. It now appears that all hurdles have been surmounted and that contracts will be awarded before Christmas. Work should be begun on the construction early next spring. No definite prediction can be made now as to when the new plant will be ready for occupancy. It can hardly be before the summer of 1956. The Ithaca Journal stated that this will be the largest single construction job ever undertaken in Ithaca.

Three new building jobs are now under way on the campus. The Teagle Field House, opposite Schoellkopf, is nearing completion and should be in use before the end of the present school year. The new men's dormitory units, four in number each accommodating 300 students, now appear as skeletons overlooking Stewart Avenue below the World War I men's dormitory group on the library slope. I believe that it is hoped that they may be ready for occupancy next fall. The new Agricultural Engineering

Building, to be located south of the Livestock Judging Pavilion on the agricultural campus, has barely been begun. The plot site has been leveled but little building will be done before spring.

Plans for our 46th Annual Conference for Veterinarians are pretty well completed, the program having been developed by a faculty committee of which Pete Olafson is chairman. The dates are January 6, 7 and 8. Programs will be received by most of you shortly after you receive this letter. The meetings will again be held in the auditorium of Statler Hall, except on the afternoon of the second day when there will be clinics and demonstrations in the several veterinary buildings. In recent years the registration has been approaching 500 and we are looking for as many again this year. With the programs will be a list of some new living accommodations in Ithaca. It is suggested that those who plan to come to the Conference make advance reservations for their rooms directly with the hotels or motels.

In the news that I report to you each year there always is some that is happy and some that is sad. The list of cards in our alumni file that must be transferred to the deceased category each year is gradually growing longer. This is inevitable for the family is growing larger and the earlier graduates are visiting their geriatricians. We have graduated 58 classes.

Those whose deaths have been noted by us during the past year are as follows:

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| ✓ Graff, Rodger F. '52, Dec. 10, '52  | Holt, Alfred L. '35, Mar. 10, '53      |
| ✓ Hopkins, Grant S. '00, Dec. 21, '52 | Hoyt, Floyd E. '18, Mar. 10, '53       |
| Koenig, Fred F. '09, Dec. 30, '52     | ✓ McCartney, Robt. A. '18, Apr. '53    |
| Lawrence, Howard L. '05, Jan. '53     | ✓ Miller, Chas. J. '09, May 11, '53    |
| ✓ English, Andrew '05, Feb. 4, '53    | Dimock, William W. '33, July 23, '53   |
| Liner, Nelson R. '33, Feb. 4, '53     | LaFrance, William J. '33, July 28, '53 |
| ✓ Eno, Chas. R. '07, Feb. 12, '53     | Knapp, John W. '31, Sept. 18, '53      |
| ✓ Harden, Jas. H. J. '23, May 10, '53 |  |

In addition we have learned since last year's letter of the death of Leon ✓ C. Davie, '08, on July 6, 1952.

With the best of wishes, I am

Cordially yours

