

NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS, 1950

DEAR ALUMNUS:

When the clock in the library tower can be seen from our front windows, it is proof that summer has gone and winter has stripped the summer's foliage. That time has now been reached. Christmas will soon be here and another year is about to close.

It has been a busy and interesting year for those of us here at the college. The usual routine has taken most of our time and energies but there have been some unusual happenings too. As you know, the University has operated under the direction of Acting President, Dr. Cornelis de Kiewiet. Next year Dr. de Kiewiet will become president of the University of Rochester. Those of us who have worked with him here are very sorry that he is leaving Cornell but we are pleased that he will go into a post where he will be happy and able to apply his great abilities. The committee of the Board of Trustees which has been seeking a new president for Cornell has not yet reported, hence I have no information for you as to who will occupy this very important position, but it is quite certain that a choice will be made soon. President-emeritus Edmund Ezra Day continues to live in the President's house but will move next spring to a new home now being remodelled for him and his family a little north of the Village of Cayuga Heights. Dr. Day has been serving as a consultant to the new State University of New York during the last few months. Vice President Asa Knowles, in charge of University development, has recently resigned to accept the presidency of the University of Toledo. Mr. Knowles has done a very effective fund-raising job for the University during the last two years, and he has been largely instrumental in the success of the effort to raise substantial funds for the support of our research program on diseases of dogs. We are sorry to lose him here but do not blame him for moving into a larger opportunity in his new position. Mr. John Burton, former New York State's Director of the Budget, became Vice-President of the University, in charge of business, several months ago.

Within the Veterinary College we have had some important personnel additions. Gordon Danks returned in July to direct the Department of Surgery and the Large Animal Clinic. Dr. Charles A. Evans came this fall as Assistant Professor of Anatomy, Brud Tucker was transferred from the mastitis laboratory

at Kingston to the central unit in Ithaca, and Malcolm Peckham, who graduated last June, was taken on in the poultry diagnostic laboratory as an Assistant Professor. We have a good group of assistants and internes, most of whom are taking graduate work. Dr. R. E. Hungate, Professor of Bacteriology at Washington State College, an authority on the microbiological flora of the rumen, has been working here this fall on problems of rumen digestion in cattle in collaboration with Dr. R. W. Dougherty of the Department of Physiology.

There are 192 undergraduate students in the College this fall, these being divided fairly equally among the four classes. The number of veterans is decreasing but we have a much higher percentage of such men than the University as a whole. The average age of the students is decreasing with the passing of the veterans but it is still higher than it used to be. About half of our students are married. It is doubtful that we will ever have another class like that which graduated last June. Of 49 members, 36 were married and these had 43 children. One hundred twenty-eight people were directly interested in the D.V.M. diplomas. (13 single men plus 36 married men plus 36 wives plus 43 children = 128.) The faculty invited the class and their families to a picnic supper in the late spring. It wasn't like any previous affairs of the kind. A considerable group of young faculty men have fathered considerable broods and of course these were there too. The effect of the nursery section was to reduce the average age of the party to about 12 years or thereabouts, and to cause milk to displace coffee as the most popular beverage.

Don Baker and Ray Birch are wandering in foreign lands. Don went to Paraguay in July for the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. He is on sabbatic leave and will be away for a full year. He is chasing parasites, as I am sure you would have guessed without my telling you, and seeing lots of unusual things in the Gran Chaco and other wild parts of the down under continent. Mrs. Baker and Jean left about the first of November to join him. They will live for a few months in Asuncion, and then go to Peru for a time before returning home. Ray went to Paris the latter part of October as a veterinary expert for E.C.A. He will travel through some of the countries of southern Europe for about four months checking up on the use of Marshall plan funds. Mrs. Birch expects to go over a little later to make sure that Ray isn't unduly influenced in the duration of this stay by the charms of Páree.

The retired professors are all well. Dr. Hopkins is in his office very regularly. Dr. Milks comes up less frequently but he is often seen around town. The Sundervilles are in and out of Ithaca. They spend considerable time in their summer home near Sodus Point on Lake Ontario. Dr. Udall is always busy. He has made a couple of trips to the Pacific northwest as an expert witness in some lawsuits between stock owners and aluminum smelters over damage claims for fluorine poisoning of cattle.

The principal new landmark on the campus is the new Statler Hall on East Avenue directly in front of the Drill Hall. A part of this building is a faculty club. It is beautifully furnished and since students are not admitted, it is always quiet and uncrowded. It has excellent rooms, furnished according to Statler Hotel standards, a fine dining service including a popular rathskeller, and comfortable reading and lounging rooms. Not many of us have much time for reading and lounging there but the dining service is well patronized by our staff. I don't know about the patronage during the cocktail period in the late afternoon since I suspect it would be considered underhanded for any administrative officer to put in an appearance there during working hours.

The Agriculture-Home Economics library building, being constructed by

the State, is well along but I suppose it will require the greater part of another year to finish it. It is a large structure connecting the east ends of the Plant Science Building and Warren Hall, forming the east end of the quadrangle behind Roberts Hall. Excavations have been made just north of the Law School for the new Annabel Taylor Hall, the new home of the Cornell University Religious Workers group. This is a gift from Mr. Myron Taylor, the donor of the Law School building, and is to be named in honor of Mrs. Taylor.

Coming back to the Veterinary College, the virus disease isolation building for which the State supplied the funds has been completed on Snyder Hill and has been in full use for more than six months. It is meeting all of our expectations. A new water supply system is being built to supply the Snyder Hill buildings. The distributing system has been laid and a contract let for the erection of a 30,000 gallon standpipe early in the spring.

As you know, substantial sums have been obtained from private donors, including many alumni and other veterinarians, for initiating a research program on diseases of dogs. This was done as a subsidiary project of the Greater Cornell fund raising campaign by direction of the Trustees of the University. Great credit for the success in raising these funds is due Vice President Knowles. With these funds two buildings have been built on the Snyder Hill site. One is a small structure for the raising of dogs for experimental purposes. This structure has been completed and is in use. The other is a larger structure containing two laboratories and ten isolation units for holding experimental animals. This building should be completed and occupied before the first of January. These new facilities will be devoted immediately to studies on the virus infections of dogs under the direction of Drew Baker. The State isolation building is being used for the study of virus infections of farm animals including chickens, the latter under the direction of Phil Levine. It is expected that the State will support the studies on farm livestock but we are hoping to obtain a substantial part of the support for the dog program from private contributions. Support for several years is already in hand but additional funds will have to be sought for a longer range program. The help of the alumni in this effort will be needed.

We are moving satisfactorily toward the realization of the plan to have a new physical plant for the Veterinary College at the east end of Tower Road. During the spring months the faculty made a study of space requirements in the new buildings. These were finally approved by all of the necessary agencies and I have recently been informed by the Bureau of the Budget that funds have been allocated for the employment of a private architectural firm for developing the detailed plans. By the time you read this the work of plan making should be under way. It is hoped that the work can be far enough along before the end of the coming legislative session to permit an appropriation being made to begin construction next year. We have planned for a physical plant that will be as modern and workable as we know how to devise. On the basis of the space requirements, which have already been approved, it appears that the new plant will cost somewhere between four and six million dollars. The construction work under ordinary circumstances would require from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 years. If the world situation does not worsen in the meantime, we may be able to move in by the fall of 1953.

The 43rd Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on January 3, 4, and 5, 1951. Mark your calendars now and plan to be with us. The programs will not be far behind this letter. The regular program will be on the first and second day. The third day will be devoted to special exercises dedicating the new dog disease laboratories. A symposium on virus diseases of animals will

be held in the morning, the speakers being some of the outstanding virologists of the United States and Canada. The dedication ceremonies will be held in the early afternoon in the auditorium of Statler Hall, and these will be followed by inspection of the new facilities. All Conference guests are invited to these programs. Gordon Danks is chairman of the committee arranging the program of the first two days, and it will be up to usual standards, I am sure. The Conference dinner on Thursday evening will be in Statler Hall in order that our guests may have an opportunity to inspect the structure and sample its service.

An unhappy duty of the writer is to report on those of our alumni who have been called during the year to lay down their working tools and cease their earthly labors. I hope none have been missed but if so, please call my attention to them so we may correct our records. Those about whom we know are as follows: Apr. 12, 1947, Floyd C. Overton, Jr., '10; Feb. 10, 1950, William J. Mitchell, '00; May 4, 1950, J. Woodward Claris, '17; June 9, 1950, Frank Haner, '14; July 14, 1950, Ward Giltner, '06; July 30, 1950, David F. Deming, '14. In addition to the alumni listed, Seth S. Kelly, Jr., '52, was killed in an auto accident on December 26, 1949.

We are entering the second half of the 20th century. During the first half the profession has made great strides in many ways but I am confident that still greater ones will be made in the half century before us. After centuries of work with drugs that were only palliatives, the sulfa drugs and the antibiotics are now showing the way to cures of animal infections. There will be newer and better agents. We are beginning to understand the working of the endocrine glands, and the nutritional needs of animals. Our diagnostic methods are rapidly improving, and surgical procedures are becoming more skillful and successful. Veterinary medicine is keeping pace with world progress. If our statesmen, politicians, and social scientists can only develop technics by which the world can learn to live in peace rather than in conflict, and in spite of the present gloom I think progress is being made in that direction, the world in the year 2000 A.D. is bound to be much different and much better than the one we know today.

I am done with the years that were; I am quits;
I am done with the dead and the old.
They are mines worked out; I have dived in their pits;
I have saved their grains of gold.
Now I turn to the future for wine and bread;
I have bidden the past adieu.
I laugh and leave hands for the years ahead;
Come on; I am ready for you!

—Edwin Markham

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year of Happiness and success.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. A. Danks", written in a cursive style.