

Pierre Augustine Fish

Dean of the N. Y. State College of Veterinary Medicine

February 17, 1865 — February 19, 1931

The University Faculty deeply deplores the death of Professor Pierre Augustine Fish, who died February 19, 1931, after a short illness. He was born at Chatham, New York, on February 17, 1865, and entered Cornell University in 1885. After a leave of absence of one year, he took the degree of B.S. in Natural History in 1890. He entered the Graduate School and was granted the degree of D. Sc. in 1894. While doing work for the advanced degree he served as instructor in Physiology and Neurology under Professors B. G. Wilder and S. H. Gage. Two different degrees in veterinary science have been conferred upon him: one from the National Veterinary College of Washington, D. C, in 1896, the other from Cornell University in 1899.

Professor Fish spent thirty-eight of the forty years of a useful and distinguished career in the service of Cornell as a teacher, investigator, and administrator. For two years he was in the service of the national government at Washington. During the year 1895-96, he was assistant to his friend and colleague, Professor V. A. Moore, in the Division of Pathology, Bureau of Animal Industry. During the year 1918-19 he was on leave from the University, having been commissioned a Major, Veterinary Corps, and attached to the Surgeon General's Department. Becoming an assistant professor in 1896, he was advanced to a professorship in 1901. When the Ithaca division of the Medical College was established he organized the courses in physiology and taught them for some years. He served for twenty-nine years as secretary of the faculty of the Veterinary College. He became Dean of the Veterinary College upon the retirement of Professor V. A. Moore in 1929. He was a member of the original faculty of the Veterinary College, having left Washington in 1896 with Professor V. A. Moore to become a member of that body.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Professor Fish was his talent for scientific investigation. Research held for him a profound interest. Such an interest in investigation led to a broad productive scholarship, which is manifest in his numerous articles and various larger publications.

He was not only interested in problems of education, research, and administration, but was also a force in the councils of the profession of veterinary medicine. He served as editor of the Cornell Veterinarian from 1912 to 1915, and of The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association from 1915 to 1918, was vice-president and president of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, and a member of numerous important committees in

local, state, and national veterinary associations. He strove always for the highest possible standards of education and professional ethics. His own high personal and professional standards, his keenness of perception, his calm and judicial attitude, caused his counsel to be sought and valued above that of other men. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Zeta, the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, and local, state and national veterinary associations.

He gave himself without stint to the many problems confronting him. His sound learning and impartial fairness endeared him to his colleagues and to the many generations of students passing through his classes. Death closed too soon a most successful career of teaching, scholarship, and administration. We shall treasure the memory of his kindly and helpful personality.

Source: Faculty Records, p. 1684 Resolutions of the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University, September, Nineteen Hundred And Thirty-One