

New York State Veterinary College
at Cornell University
Ithaca, N. Y.

JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS
1918

To the Alumni of the Veterinary College:

The news that the war is probably over gives added joy to the Season's Greetings. The twelve months past have been anxious ones for us all. But I trust the "Fates" have dealt kindly with you and that this may be the happiest Christmas in your experience.

The work to win the war has been foremost here as elsewhere. The task for the faculty seemed to be to intensify its teaching and research to the end that there might be greater conservation of food producing animals; and for the alumni, to do more thorough and constructive work. Many have entered the service. Of the faculty, Dr. Udall is a Major assigned to the 86th Division which is overseas. Dr. Muldoon is a Captain stationed at Camp Lee, Va., to give instruction to veterinarians. Dr. Fish is a Major in the Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C. Of the 471 living alumni, 148 are, according to our records, in the army. Many of them are in Europe. It is gratifying to state that the reports which come to us indicate that the Cornell men are doing excellent work. Most of the letters from the boys in France as well as from those who are in the camps ring with a true spirit of patriotism. We are assured that they are making a splendid record.

Several changes have taken place in the faculty. Dr. Burnett resigned and accepted a position in Laramie, Wyo. Dr. Koenig

has gone into practice in Jamestown, N. Y. Dr. Pickens accepted a position in the Maryland Agricultural College and Dr. Billings went to the University of Minnesota. Dr. Frost has been appointed Superintendent of the Ambulatory Clinic during Dr. Udall's absence. We regret to report so many changes but until our legislature recognizes the importance of keeping efficient men by providing adequate salaries, the college will continue to suffer such losses. We are glad, however, that the services of these able workers in animal pathology are not lost to the profession.

The number of students is much smaller than heretofore. There were 70 who registered this fall. Those in the entering class and a few of the others are in the Students' Army Training Corps. The second and third year men who were largely in the Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps would have been transferred to the S.A.T.C. if the war had continued. The committee on Education and Special Training in the War Department planned a course for veterinary S.A.T.C. students of ten terms of twelve weeks each which we have been following this fall. We expect to be able to return to the regular four-year course by next term. The military status of the university during the fall has affected deleteriously college work, but, under the new draft law, had the war continued, the S.A.T.C. undoubtedly would have been of much help both to the students and the veterinary corps of the army.

It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of five alumni during the year. Dr. W. B. Mack '04, died January 18th at Reno, Nev. Dr. B. B. Stroud, '03, died May 12th at Somerville, Mass. Dr. L. S. Matthews '10, died October 24th at Cooperstown, N. Y. Dr. W. A. Munsell '10, died October 25th at Green Cove Springs, Fla. Dr. H. R. Millard '11, died November 20th at Cheyenne, Wyo. Drs. Matthews and Millard died from the effects of influenza. We have not heard of any deaths among those in the army although one or two are reported to have been wounded.

In the death of Ex-President White, the college has lost a strong friend. He died November 4th and his funeral was on his 86th birthday. Among the honorary pall bearers was our former Director, Dr. James Law, who is the last survivor of the original faculty of Cornell University. President White always took a keen interest in the veterinary college. He was a close friend and admirer of Dr. Law.

In June next the University is to hold its Semi-Centennial Celebration which was postponed from this year because of the war. It is to be largely a university family affair. One of the features will be the getting together of the alumni by colleges for the purpose of making a constructive "ante-mortem" dissection of the curricula in order to ascertain what "operations" are necessary to adjust them to the needs of the future. Many educators believe that changes are necessary in college work to adapt it to after-war conditions. Can you not help us to find what they are in this college and how best to make them? Please plan to be here and to participate in the discussion on the veterinary course. We believe you are interested in your Alma Mater and want her to be efficient in the preparation of men to fulfill the purposes of veterinarians, which are rapidly coming to include the additional function of constructive leaders of the animal husbandry in their communities.

It is expected that with the coming of peace the number of students will return to normal. To insure this your co-operation is needed. It is necessary that veterinarians take an interest in securing the right kind of men for the profession. We trust that the gathering next June will give much additional momentum to the work of the college. The last annual report was sent you a few months ago, from which you can ascertain the kind of work that is being done. We appreciate your suggestions to the end that the work of the college may become more valuable to the live stock interests which it is to serve. We hope you will visit the college as often as you can and give us the benefit of your constructive criticisms. We are always glad to see you. While

the buildings and equipment remain but little changed, the problems in teaching and research are subject to many variations in keeping with the modern demands upon the profession. It is hoped that together we can advance the profession we have chosen to a degree of success far beyond that obtainable by either alone.

Again, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, I remain

Sincerely yours,

W. A. R. R.