TO THE ALUMNI OF THE VETERINARY COLLEGE:

"Again the silent wheels of time
Their annual round have driven,"

The shortening days and the gray skies remind me that another year is drawing to a close and that the time for the annual letter to the alumni is at hand. You number more than a thousand now, and you are scattered to the four corners of the earth. Wherever you are I send greetings which I hope will bring back pleasant memories of your college days. Cornell takes pride in your successes and is grateful to you for the fair name which you have helped to create for her. It is my purpose also to carry to you some of the more intimate news about the College and its doings, things that I know most of you are eager to hear.

Of the six, Law, Gage, Williams, Moore, Fish, and Hopkins, who have been most responsible for the good name which Cornell bears in the field of veterinary medicine, three are still with us and continue to be identified with the institution. Prof. Gage, now in his 88th year, is enjoying good health and maintains a lively interest in his work and all that concerns Cornell. "Uncle Billy" Williams, who will be 83 in February, is as keen witted and as lively as ever. He is often around the College but spends the greater part of his time at his home working on his books. "Hoppy" can be found in his old office more hours of the working week than many of the active professors. I am happy to report that their wives, and also Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Fish, are enjoying reasonably good health. All of you will join me in wishing them many more happy years.

After serving for thirty years without interruption, except for a period of war service, Dr. Udall finally decided to take a vacation this fall. "Dennie" and Mrs. Udall attended the International Veterinary Congress in Switzerland and afterwards the National Veterinary Medical Association of
Great Britain and Ireland where Dr. Udall, as a specially invited guest, presented a paper on his work on bovine mastitis. Relieved of his routine duties, he has been working this fall on a revision of his textbook, "The Practice of Veterinary Medicine." He will resume his regular duties at the beginning of the second term. In the absence of his chief, "Mike" Fincher has kept the Department of Medicine going smoothly.

"Daddy" Milks and "Steph." have had their hands full in handling the ever increasing Small Animal Clinic. "Jack" Frost has been parking horses and cows all over the place in his efforts to handle an overflowing clinic. Prof. Asmus continues to keep the boys paralyzed with fear of his course in horseshoeing and in odd times hammers out beautiful pieces of wrought iron work. The next time you pay us a visit please notice the fireplace set which he made for the seminar room of the new building. Dr. and Mrs. Birch and their daughter, Peggy, took their car to Europe last spring and explored the by-ways of a dozen countries, winding up at the Veterinary Congress. "Herb." Gilman held the fort while Birch was away and now is planning to take his turn at travelling this spring. "Don" Baker is the most enthusiastic parasite hunter of anyone I know. He and Mrs. Baker are the proud parents of a daughter born this fall. "Sundy" continues to keep the student records, quiz the boys on bones and muscles, and act as confidante to half the undergraduates. The course which Dukes gives in experimental physiology is the most popular in the whole curriculum. His "Textbook of Veterinary Physiology" has been selling so fast that he has been forced to revise or reprint it every other year. "Spike" Hayden juggles test tubes, filters blood, and boils urine most of his waking hours. "Pete" Olafson's prelims continue to terrorize the sophomores. The year saw his family increase from four to five. "Beano" Brunett returned in mid-July from a tour of veterinary institutions of this country and resumed his work as principal politician of the staff. "Al" Zeissig has not yet joined the benedicts and, so far as can be seen from the sidelines, the prospects for the immediate future are poor. "Clif" Barber commutes back and forth to the farm on Snyder Hill where he is trying to make two tumors grow (in chickens) where but one has grown before. Miss Haight continues fixing up the figures so they will take them in Albany. As for the scribe, the job of keeping everyone happy claims most of his time.

Instruction was begun in the new Veranus A. Moore Laboratory this fall, but numerous miscellaneous jobs are still going on. It will be mid-winter before we shall be finished, and perhaps not then. Some of the new
equipment will have to wait until next year when a second increment in the equipment appropriation will be made by the legislature—we hope. The job of moving in was no small one but we are quite settled now. It is a joy to those who work in the new building to have enough space, and modern equipment, with which to work.

Rather extensive changes are being made on the second and third floors of James Law Hall. On the second floor six new offices and research laboratories have been partitioned off from the space formerly occupied by the teaching laboratories of the Department of Physiology for Dr. Birch’s department. On the third floor new laboratories for physiology have been created and an elevator is being built so that medium-sized experimental animals may be brought up for class and experimental work. We are hoping for approval of a W. P. A. project to remake the old boiler rooms in the basement into quarters for experimental animals for the work in physiology.

There has been considerable improvement of the grounds this fall but lack of funds has prevented our finishing the work that is contemplated. The grounds immediately around the new building have been graded and seeded, and there have been sidewalk and road repairs, but the greater part of this work is of a temporary nature. We have hopes that the entire job can be completed before the end of next summer.

In point of number of students, this is now the smallest veterinary school in the country. Since we have restricted the quota of entering students to forty per year for the last five years, our total enrollment is about 160. Very few students have been dropped for unsatisfactory work during the last few years, an indication that the admission’s committee has been fairly successful in selecting good students. The faculty continues to maintain its position that forty students per class will supply enough graduates to satisfy the need for veterinary service in this area and that there is no reason for decreasing the efficiency of our teaching by taking larger numbers, as the other schools have been doing. It is recognized that this is a controversial matter and it is possible that the quota may be increased to perhaps fifty at short notice. The veterinary faculty has the authority to do this whenever it thinks it desirable.

The Thirty-first Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held this year on January 12 and 13. We are trying to arrange a good program and hope to see many of you in attendance. Last year the registration numbered about 300 and it was interesting to note that every class that has been
graduated from the College was represented by two or more members. The programs will be mailed out early in January. If you have not been receiving one and would like to be on the mailing list, a postal card will do the trick. A dinner meeting of the Alumni Association of the Veterinary College is being arranged by the officers. It will be held on the twelfth.

In his relentless way, the Grim Reaper, I am sad to say, has invaded our ranks and claimed his own. I have to report the deaths of the following: Wright A. Brunson, '18, November 11, 1937; Miles L. Davenport, '03, April 10, 1938; Elbert W. Little, '06, June 20; Ray S. Hunsberger, '34, September 4; Loren N. Dodge, '21, September 29; Clifford P. Murray, '34, October 6; Luther J. Benson, '09, November 3. Our sincerest sympathy is offered to the loved ones of these men.

“Farewell, dear Friend! may guid luck hit you,
   And, 'mang her favorites admit you!
If e'er Detraction shore to smit you,
   May nane believe him!
And ony De'il that thinks to get you
   Good Lord deceive him.”

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with Health, Happiness and Prosperity, I am

Most sincerely yours,