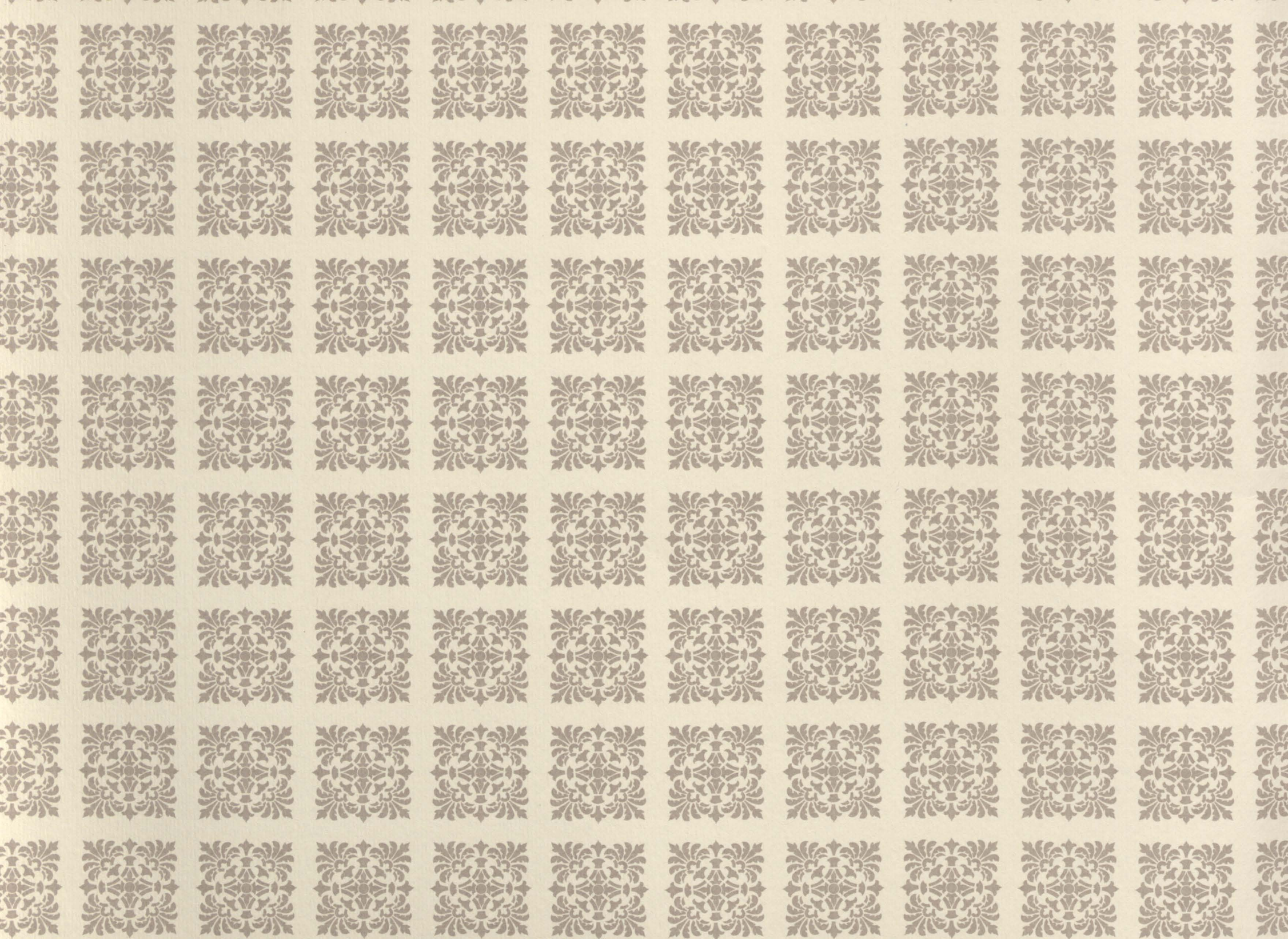


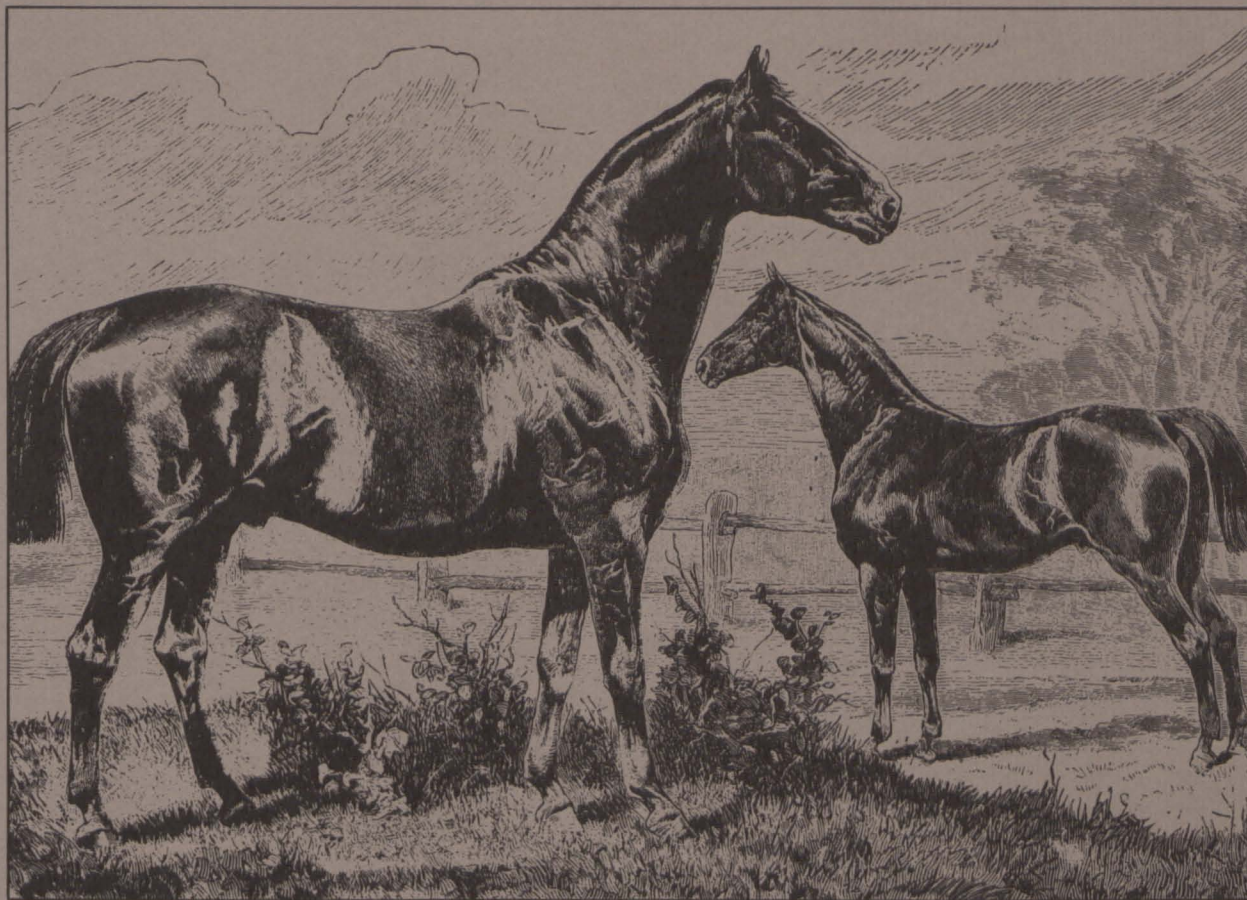
“Don't Forget the Horse Doctor”



The first forty years of one of the
first veterinary colleges in America



“Don’t Forget the Horse Doctor”



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All passages set in italics are quotations from *A Cornell Heritage: Veterinary Medicine 1868-1908*, by Ellis Pierson Leonard, D.V.M. '34, except where noted. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Leonard, not only for his permission to borrow so liberally from his work but also for his help in preparing this summary of the first four decades of veterinary medicine at Cornell.

Dr. Leonard is now at work on the second volume of the history, which will cover the period from 1909 to 1948.

Unless otherwise noted, illustrations were provided through the courtesy of Cornell University Archives, the Roswell P. Flower Veterinary Library, or Cornell University Visual Services.



The legend of Ezra Cornell's persistence in obtaining a veterinarian for the first faculty has been recounted so frequently, even by White himself, that today it is often taken as factual. The anecdote... relates to President White's leave taking on his departure for Europe to seek additional faculty and teaching accouterments. Cornell... was waving farewell as the ship left the dock when suddenly he cupped his hands to his mouth and shouted across the widening gap, "Don't forget the horse-doctor!"

Above, the founders of Cornell University: left, Ezra Cornell, whose gift gave the University its start; right, Andrew Dickson White, its first president.

Above right, Morrill Hall, the first building on the Cornell campus, was named to honor the author of the Land Grant Act, a vital factor in the creation of Cornell.



The "horse-doctor" to be remembered was Dr. James Law, an erudite Scotsman who had been recommended to Ezra Cornell and Andrew D. White by John Gamgee, a distinguished graduate of the Royal Veterinary College in London. Later events were to prove that this was one of the best suggestions ever offered to the founders of Cornell University.

Law, because of his gifts and his nature, was perfectly matched to the university being formed by White and Cornell. Parting from the 500-year-old traditions of Oxford and Cambridge, Cornell University set forth to "teach such



John Gamgee, whose persistence in recommending James Law to White and Cornell was to have a profound effect. (Photograph courtesy of Ruth D'Arcy Thompson.)

branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts." Having said this, its charter went on to allow for instruction and research in other branches of science and knowledge. Finally, as the land-grant institution of the state of New York, the University undertook service to the people of the state and nation as a significant part of its mission.

Teaching, research, service — James Law's career shows his own commitment to the University's aims. He was a true scientist, destined to become one of the great pioneers in American veterinary medicine and the mentor of many others.



When Cornell was opened, in 1868, most so-called veterinarians practicing in the agricultural regions of the United States had no education and no knowledge of chemistry, materia medica, or pharmacy. Dr. Law's earliest Cornell classes and his frequent lectures to farm groups concentrated on giving stockmen and future farmers the information they needed in order to be less dependent on these totally unqualified "pretenders."

Throughout his career in America Dr. Law fought tirelessly to establish meaningful standards for veterinary medicine. When New York State adopted stricter entrance requirements for veterinary training and then established the veterinary college at Cornell, Law may have thought he had won his battle. Unfortunately, the struggle, which began when he joined Cornell in 1865, was still going on when he retired forty-three years later.

The college was only in its second year when New York State legislative activity prompted Dr. Walter Williams of Cornell to write a strong letter to the *American Veterinary Review*. He objected, first, to a bill that favored "admitting to practice a new batch of charlatans who during the past three years have practiced contrary to law." Further, he took issue with another measure written "in the interest of students who entered veterinary colleges in 1896 without complying

But in the Western Hemisphere, apart from the larger cities, the great pecuniary interest in livestock is largely at the mercy of ignorant pretenders whose barbarous surgery is only equaled by their reckless and destructive drugging. The constantly recurring instances of absolute and painful poisoning, and cruel and injurious vivisections practiced under the name of remedial measures are almost sickening to contemplate.

James Law, preface to *Farmer's Veterinary Adviser*, 1870

Above, Professor James Law, as he appeared when he came to Ithaca in 1868.

Right, the wooden Chemistry Laboratory, location of some of the earliest veterinary classes.



with the laws then in force as to matriculation." Finally, he reproached the editors of the *Review* itself for an apparent effort "to wipe out entrance requirements for veterinary education."

Naturally, Dr. Law also had some words to say (or write) on the same subject: "This is not and should not be a question of the survival of this school or that; it is and must be the question of how to best contribute to the welfare of our great livestock interests."

A veterinary school that did not survive was the one at Harvard. Its dean, faced with the same scarcity of both applicants and funds that was confronting Law, stopped accepting students in 1900. James Law was made of sterner stuff and was, perhaps, more deeply committed to his goals. Patience, persistence, and optimism were his most notable characteristics. Gradually they led the veterinary practice from superstition to science.



At the present moment our common profession is perhaps more highly appreciated in America than it has been at any time in the past. Men begin to recognize that the veterinarian is not a mere dispenser and administrator of drugs, nor a simple wielder of the surgeon's knife, but that he is in the highest sense a sanitarian. Here, gentlemen, we have already accomplished much. We can point with pride to the hundreds of millions that have been saved to each of the countries of Western Europe by the control and extinction of animal pestilences. Even America can testify of this work, and Massachusetts and Connecticut are bright examples of its efficiency.

James Law, commencement address, American Veterinary College, 1879

Above, Professor Walter L. Williams was conducting research on a previously unknown equine disease when Law first visited him in Illinois in 1887. For both it was a memorable meeting and led to the appointment of Williams to the original veterinary college faculty seven years later.



Courtesy of DeWitt Historical Society

After eleven yearly protests, in my report to the Governor, setting forth the futility of the existing law as administered, and after the enactment of a series of amendments, which showed clearly the hand of the stock dealer rather than the sanitarian, the legislature last year empowered the Commissioner of Agriculture to put a stop to the constant stream of tuberculosis from without which had steadily planted numerous fresh centres of infection in our bovine herds.

Dr. Law's final Report to the President, 1907-08

Fortunately for veterinary medicine in the United States, Dr. Law and his colleagues did not rely entirely on the wisdom and dedication of the lawmakers. Skillful and thorough teaching, scientific research of the highest quality, and service to the people laid the foundations for their ultimate success.

In the second year of the University (1869-70), Law not only taught all the specialties of the purely veterinary subjects to Cornell students but also completed work on his book *Farmer's Veterinary Adviser*. Written to serve farmers "beyond the reach of the accomplished veterinarian," the volume was so useful, so easily understood and applied, that fifteen editions were published. In its way, it was a symbol of Law's motivations during the period before the college of veterinary medicine was established.

THE FARMER'S VETERINARY ADVISER

A GUIDE TO THE
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASE
IN DOMESTIC ANIMALS

By JAMES LAW

Professor of Veterinary Science in Cornell University; Veterinary Alumnus of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland; Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain; Consulting Veterinarian to the New York Agricultural Society; Member of the American Public Health Association; Former Professor in the Albert Veterinary College, London, and the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh; Author of General and Descriptive Anatomy of the Domestic Animals, etc.

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

NINTH EDITION

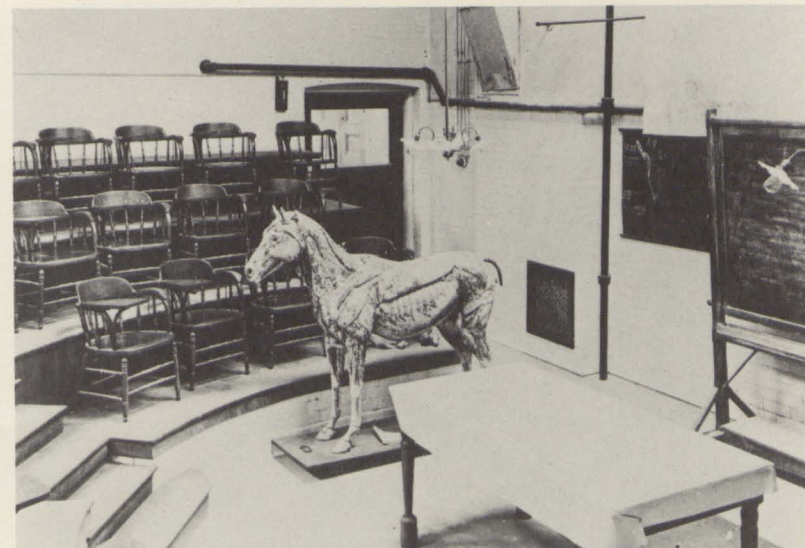
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PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR

1889

During that period and beyond it, Simon Henry Gage stood beside Dr. Law, enhancing Cornell's reputation in veterinary medicine with roughly one hundred fifty papers in technical subjects and biography. His many contributions to Cornell included, as well, energetic and effective help in the organization of the college.

Both men were determined to spread the benefits of veterinary science as widely as possible, and they succeeded in transmitting this determination to all of their students. Their common goal was an even larger one than saving dollars for dairymen, stockmen, and farmers; they sought better health for the public, as well.



Above left, *Professor Gage, with "his sincere and youthful enthusiasm" and fine sense of humor, quite naturally became a legendary figure during his many years at Cornell.*

Above center, *both Law and Gage were deeply concerned over the way cattle diseases, often imported from Europe, were spread through feedlots to permanently infect an entire region. (Photograph courtesy of New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.)*

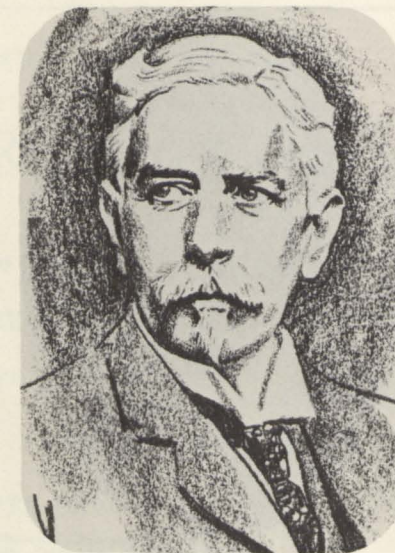
Above right, *if a papier-mâché horse can serve as a cornerstone, the Auzoux horse was the cornerstone of veterinary studies at Cornell. Accurately representing more than 3,000 parts, it could be disassembled into 97 pieces.*

Left, *the early veterinary faculty at Cornell frequently left the campus to aid farmers all over the Northeast.*

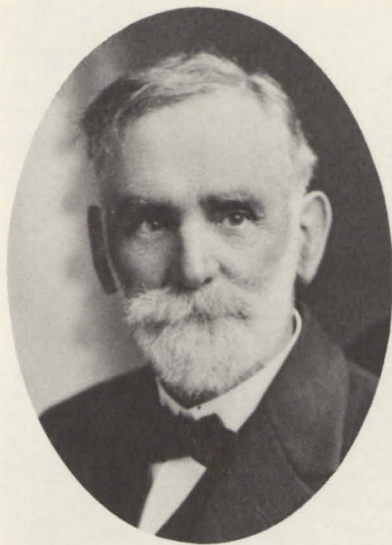


Together, a small group of men who had studied with James Law had a profound effect on Western history. All were dedicated, as was Law, to lives of service to the people.

With the examples of such men as these for inspiration, it was only natural that the Cornell veterinary college should continue their tradition of public service. Its ambulatory clinic was soon caring for patients as far away as Mecklenburg and Jacksonville, New York, at a rate of more than eight hundred a year. The college's free clinics earned high praise for the quality of their service to an increasing number of patients. A small-animal clinic was established in the basement of James Law Hall, charging fifteen cents a day for dogs and ten cents a day for cats. For surgical operations the charge was twenty-five cents to cover anesthetics and antiseptics.



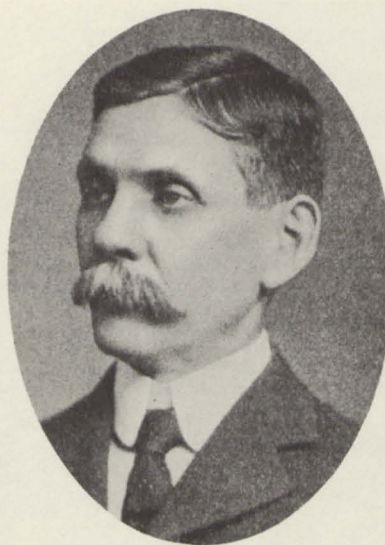
Daniel E. Salmon, recipient of the first D.V.M. degree awarded in the United States. When the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) in 1884, Salmon was named its first chief. He held the post for twenty-one years and was joined, at one time or another, by four other Cornellians trained by James Law. The success of their efforts widened the acceptance of veterinary medicine as a scientific profession. Salmon himself was a pioneer in the use of inoculation to prevent contagious diseases. He identified the infectious pathogen *Salmonella* and gave his name to salmonellosis, a disease of humans.



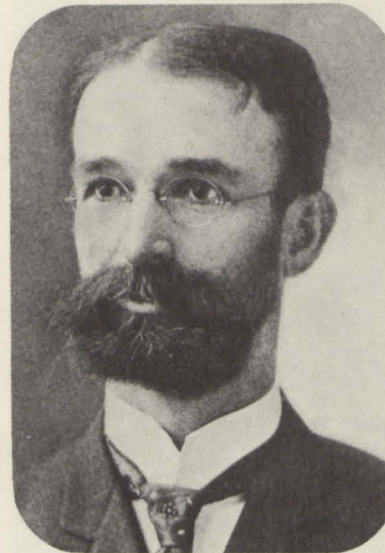
Cooper Curtice, B.S. degree from Cornell, D.V.S. degree from Columbia Veterinary School, M.D. degree from National Medical College. Curtice's work for BAI centered on sheep parasites and cattle ticks. Called to serve on the New York State Board of Health, he conducted studies of tuberculous cattle that led him to develop and initiate tuberculin testing. North Carolina appointed him state veterinarian, and he was able to ferret out the life history of the tick, demonstrating that pastures would become tick free if cattle were eliminated from them for one year.



Fred Kilborne, B.V.S. degree from Cornell. Kilborne joined BAI immediately after receiving his degree and worked with a group investigating Texas cattle fever. At first Kilborne alone was convinced that cattle ticks, not bacteria, were responsible for the spread of this disease. Eventually his theory was confirmed. This research, with five Cornellians at its center, has been described as an "investigatory masterpiece" and "one of the medical classics," partly because it paved the way for Reed's work on yellow fever in the Panama Canal, the control of malaria, and the reduction of parasitic disease caused by *Culex*.



Veranus A. Moore, B.S. degree from Cornell. Moore, too, worked at BAI, as an assistant to Theobald Smith during the Texas cattle fever investigation. Later he succeeded Smith as chief of the Division of Pathology at BAI. Of about thirty papers by him on a variety of subjects, the most important dealt with hog cholera and swine plague. He assisted in the organization of the Veterinary Corps of the U.S. Army and gave endless time and energy to important public affairs.



Theobald Smith, Ph.B. degree from Cornell, M.D. degree from Albany Medical School. Smith was director of the Pathology Laboratory at BAI and took part in the Texas cattle fever research. One of the pioneers in vaccine therapy, he discovered serum sickness, developed the technique for differentiating between human and bovine tuberculosis, and conducted productive research on blackhead in turkeys.

Left, these distinguished veterinarians all began their careers at approximately the same age. Unfortunately, few contemporary portraits of them are available, so they are shown here at various ages. (Sketch of Dr. Salmon courtesy of Parke, Davis & Company.)

Opposite, photograph courtesy of DeWitt Historical Society.

But we are reminded that there are in our midst stockmen who deny the existence of the genuine European lung plague in America, and who quote anonymous veterinarians in support of their assertion. . . . They should have witnessed the losses consequent on the introduction from New York City stock yards of infected animals into the stock farm of Mr. Baldwin, live stock agent of the Erie Railway, into the Westchester herd of Mr. Roach of shipbuilding fame, into the dairy herd of the Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, into the herd of the Children's Hospital at Willowbrook, Staten Island, and into a thousand others which it would be too tedious to mention. . . .

If I speak strongly, it is because I see the full measure of our danger. It is because I have traced the history of this disease—It is because I have been honored with a great trust in this matter, and that I would be recreant to that trust, to this country, to my profession and to myself, if I failed to give warning where danger threatens, and reassurance where our course is safe.

James Law, "Contagious Diseases in Animals in the U.S.," 1884



Lung plague (contagious pleuropneumonia), once a widespread and immensely costly disease among cattle, has now disappeared, thanks to the stubborn efforts of Dr. Law and a few others like him.

In the same way, Law and his Cornell colleagues waged a campaign to prevent the transmission of tuberculosis from dairy cattle to humans. The campaign suffered one of its many setbacks when Professor Koch, a highly respected German bacteriologist, announced that bovine and human bacilli are two distinct forms. There was nothing star-

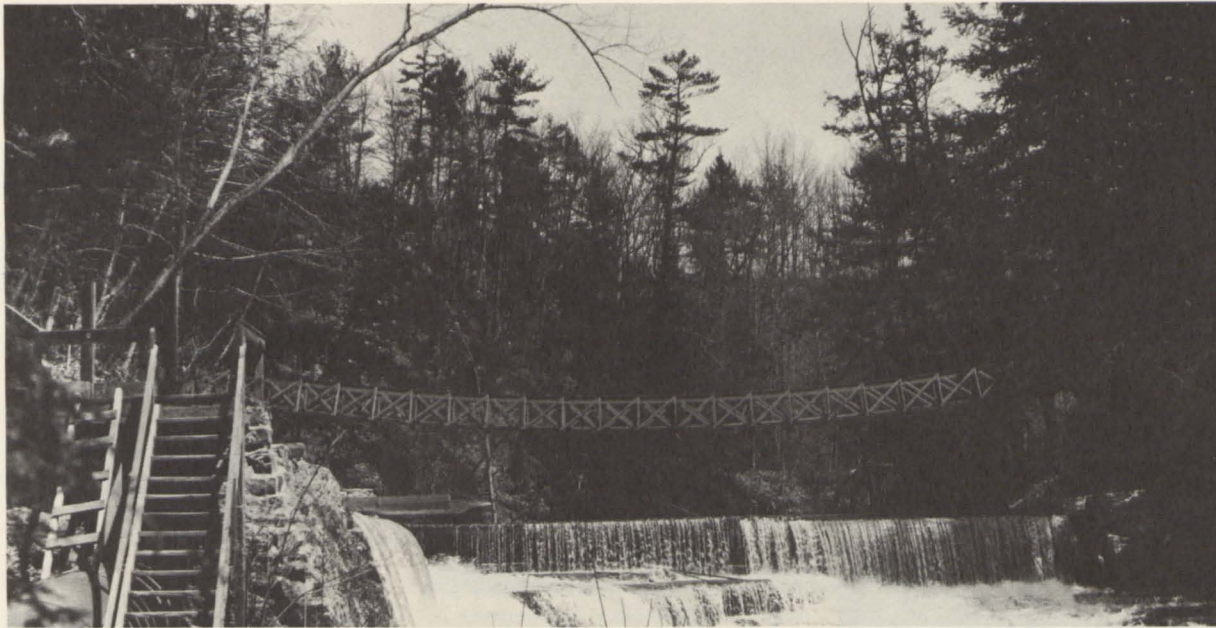


ting about the announcement; Dr. Theobald Smith '81 had discovered the same fact and published his findings several years earlier. It was Koch's conclusion that tuberculosis could not be transmitted from cattle to humans that caused great dismay at Cornell, prompting both Dr. Law and Dr. Moore to come forward with proof that Koch had made a dangerous error.

The college, its faculty, and its alumni continued to lead the struggle for tuberculosis control. After a lengthy period of research Dr. Moore was convinced of the efficiency of tuberculin testing. He and others met with farmers across the state, urging cattle

owners to test their herds and eliminate diseased animals. Because of its immediate cost to stockmen the suggestion was far from being a popular one.

In other areas as well the college was fulfilling its public responsibilities; research on mastitis, a surgical technique to make vicious mares more docile, the manufacture of anthrax vaccine for the state, and a successful effort to stamp out foot-and-mouth disease in the New England states were among the more noteworthy examples. At various times Law was state veterinarian for New York and was given special assignments in other states by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Dr. Law was a man who attracted added responsibilities. As health officer for Cornell he was directly involved when Ithaca suffered a severe typhoid epidemic. As a scientist he was able to trace the source to Six Mile Creek, from which the City of Ithaca drew its water. Cornell's water came from Fall Creek, so the University supplied untainted water to all who needed it.

The college's tradition of service to the people has deep, strong roots.

Opposite: left, *James Law in his prime*. Right, *the imposing University Barn stood where Comstock Hall is now located*.

Above, *this swaying footbridge crossed Fall Creek, the source of Cornell's drinking water, in the vicinity of Forest Home*.

Above right, *sitting on benches that resemble church pews, a large class hears a comparison of the skeleton of a man with that of an ape*.

Right, *James Law is missing from this 1880 photograph. In the first row S. M. Babcock, noted for his butterfat test, is wearing a gray derby. Simon Gage is one of the few in soft hats, top row, fourth from either end*.





Above, somewhere in this picture of the class of 1871 is Myron Kasson, the first person to receive a B.V.S. degree from Cornell. He may be the least known of Dr. Law's students.

Above right, Jacob Gould Schurman was a powerful influence in the creation of the veterinary college, from the day he took office.

Allegorically speaking, the walls of Jericho began to crumble when James Law delivered his famous lecture before the State Agricultural Society at Albany on January 18, 1893. It was entitled "A Higher Veterinary Education, Essential to Maintenance and Improvement of our Live Stock, to our Soil Fertility, our Foreign Markets and our Public Health." He presented all the reasons why veterinary education should receive more recognition and support from the public. He pointed out the value of our live stock and the losses being suffered annually through neglect of veterinary science and the lack of trained professional people.

T

he Cornell faculty had authorized two new degrees in 1871: the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.S.) degree for four-year students, and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree for B.V.S. graduates who had successfully completed two years of postgraduate work.

The first B.V.S. degree went immediately to Myron Kasson, who had stood with Law at Cornell's opening ceremonies. Daniel Salmon, also present at that occasion, completed his clinical training in France, then returned to Cornell to earn in 1876 the first American D.V.M. degree.

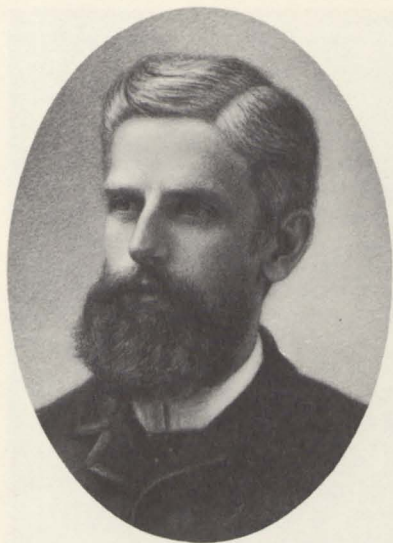
The death of Ezra Cornell in 1874, only six years after the opening of the University, was a heavy blow to many, but especially to Law. "Mr. Cornell's strength and confidence," he said, "tempered in more intimate relations by a kind, fatherly bearing, proved a strong rock for us all to rest upon."



Because Cornell, as a practicing farmer, had shown constant concern for the health of his livestock, it is certain that he was a strong supporter of Law's hopes for a veterinary college.

Twice before the college became a reality the University trustees appropriated money to house the Department of Veterinary Medicine, but the funds fell so far short of the need that they were never used.

Finally Jacob Gould Schurman's inaugural address in November 1892 paved the way for Law's State Agricultural Society lecture two months later. Pointing out that Cornell, as New York's land-grant institution, was providing free tuition to more than five hundred students at a cost of over \$150,000 a year, President-elect



Schurman urged state appropriations of \$40,000 a year for maintenance of the veterinary department and \$200,000 for an agricultural building.

The legislature, pressed by Governor Roswell P. Flower, responded with \$50,000 for a dairy building. That building still stands as the north wing of Goldwin Smith Hall, its doorway ornamented with a relief of a Babcock butterfat test bottle.

President Schurman was far from content. As he dedicated the new Dairy Building in 1894, heard by a large group of law-makers, he bitterly contrasted New York with California and Michigan, both of which had granted millions to their agricultural colleges.



Above left, *Daniel E. Salmon*, recipient of the first D.V.M. degree in the United States, brought honor to Cornell throughout a long and illustrious career characterized by tireless service to the public.

Above, the present north wing of Goldwin Smith Hall was originally the Dairy Building, built with state funds. Above right, the carving of a Babcock butterfat test bottle can still be seen above the entrance.

Right, by 1889 the faculty had grown to at least the 87 members shown in this composite photograph. Dr. Law is at the right end of the first row. In the fourth row, above and to the right of the white-bearded man, is Dr. Gage.





Above right, Governor Roswell P. Flower in 1892 urged the state legislature to concentrate its aid to agricultural education and research in one place: Cornell. Two years later he recommended the establishment of a veterinary college there. Above, shortly thereafter the building later known as James Law Hall took shape, set back from East Avenue some hundred yards.



Almost a year after the Dairy Building dedication, during a landmark conference between President Schurman and Governor Flower, the governor approved a plan to establish a veterinary college at Cornell.

In March 1894 the state assembly passed a bill appropriating \$150,000 for the purpose of founding a veterinary college. The senate promptly reduced it to \$50,000, apparently acting on the (correct) assumption that later legislatures would bring the sum back up to \$150,000.

Passage of the act caused Schurman to comment that the United States now had three types of universities: public, private, and Cornell.

An act to establish a State Veterinary College at Cornell University finally became law on March 21, 1894, when it was signed by Governor Roswell P. Flower. It read ... "There is hereby established a State Veterinary College at Cornell University. For the purpose of constructing and equipping suitable buildings for such college upon the grounds of said university, at Ithaca, New York, the sum of fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated."

But the late Morris Bishop, in *A History of Cornell*, reminds his readers that the act was significant in other ways: "The principle involved was momentous. A state college was to stand on our campus, the gift of the state. But buildings alone do not make a living college. Schurman laid down two corollaries. In the first place, the entire support of the college must come from the state, in annual appropriations. And in the second place, the Cornell Board of Trustees would control its operation, prescribe entrance requirements, fix the course of study, choose the professors, and determine their salaries. Thus, as if casually, Schurman established the formula for the later 'contract colleges.' The formula, by which

the state provides funds and the University provides administration, has worked through more than a half century, very successfully, on the whole."

In May of 1895, with Levi P. Morton in the governor's chair, assemblyman Ed Stewart succeeded in passing a bill appropriating an additional \$100,000 for erecting and equipping the State Veterinary College at Cornell. It was the end of "laborious waiting" for Dr. Law, and the beginning of laborious building.

Not the least of the labors was selecting a site. Several years earlier (1886), in his annual report to President Adams, Law had commented on "an unreasonable fear [among faculty members] of a veterinary building as an offensive and dangerous object."



When funds for veterinary buildings at last were made available, the faculty residents of East Avenue, including President White, became gravely concerned. Their greatest worry, already apparent to Law eight years earlier, was the possibility of air- or insect-borne infection from bacterial laboratories and the animal hospital.

Finally a location was found, a respectful distance southeast of A. D. White's mansion. The Veterinary Building, soon to become James Law Hall, was completed in 1896 on a site now occupied by Ives Hall. This main building, three stories high, contained offices, a museum, a lecture room,

and an anatomy laboratory on its first floor; a library above; and basic and advanced histology, microscopy, bacteriology, and pathology laboratories on the third floor.

Farther east, walled off from Faculty Row by the main building, were the mortuary, the operating theater, and the general and isolation wards, each in its separate building.

Enthusiasm ran high, and the *Ithaca Journal* described the new college as "the most splendidly equipped institution of its kind in America."



Above left, although the veterinary college was still fairly small at the end of the century, classes in veterinary anatomy were large. Sitting in the back row, far right, no more formally dressed than his students, is anatomy professor Grant S. Hopkins '89.

Above, the "horse doctor" and the Auzoux horse join students in striking formal poses for the photographer in the late 1890s.

Right, the original veterinary college faculty gathered for this picture on the occasion of the opening of the college. Walter L. Williams, James Law, and Simon Gage '77 are in the front row; Grant S. Hopkins '89, Veranus A. Moore '87, and Pierre A. Fish '89, in the back.

Opposite, Benjamin F. Kingsbury, left, and Raymond C. Reed, both of whom joined the faculty during the first year of the college.





Chief and foremost of this faculty is Professor James Law, the veterinarian par excellence of Europe as well as America. His name alone is magnificent endowment for an institution devoted to the special department to which he has consecrated a life of success and usefulness. If it is buildings which constitute a college, the state has here one of the best and most modern. If men, Professor Law and his associates will be conceded without superiors; if, indeed, they have peers. In both regards the new college is embarked under most favorable auspices.

All hail to our noble State Veterinary College and success to its noblest of missions.

Ithaca Journal, June 20, 1896

As horses and men set about constructing the yellow brick home for the veterinary college James Law and Simon Henry Gage began to build the faculty.

Gage came to Cornell just five years after its founding, received the Horace K. White Prize in Veterinary Medicine two years later, graduated in 1877, and seldom left Cornell after that. As a close colleague of Law's throughout the years of "laborious waiting," he was eager to assist in building an eminent faculty. At the outset six men were appointed. According to Morris Bishop it was "a group distinguished as scientists and teachers. . . . This faculty made the college immediately a leader in its field, as it has remained":

Veranus Moore, who eventually became dean of the college, has been described earlier in these pages.

Grant Sherman Hopkins, B.S., D.Sc., Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Anatomical Methods. Hopkins came to Cornell in 1885 on a four-year

Chautauqua scholarship, studying under Wilder, Gage, and Law. Upon his graduation he was appointed instructor in anatomy. When the veterinary college opened, he registered for the veterinary courses and earned his D.V.M. degree while teaching all the anatomy courses.

Pierre A. Fish, B.S., D.Sc., D.V.S., Assistant Professor of Veterinary and Comparative Physiology, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy. Fish's D.V.S. degree was awarded by the National Veterinary College; his other degrees, including a D.V.M. degree granted while he was teaching, came from Cornell. He spent summers teaching at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, served in the Bureau of Animal Industry, and later became editor of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*.

Benjamin F. Kingsbury, A.B., Ph.D., Instructor in Microscopy, Histology, and Embryology. Fresh from his work as a graduate scholar and fellow at Cornell, Kingsbury had already written monographs on his subjects.

Raymond C. Reed, Ph.B., Assistant in Veterinary Bacteriology. Serving as Dr. Moore's assistant, Reed was an instructor of comparative pathology and bacteriology. His chief interests were laboratory techniques. After earning a D.V.M. degree in 1901 he left the faculty to start a practice in Elmira.

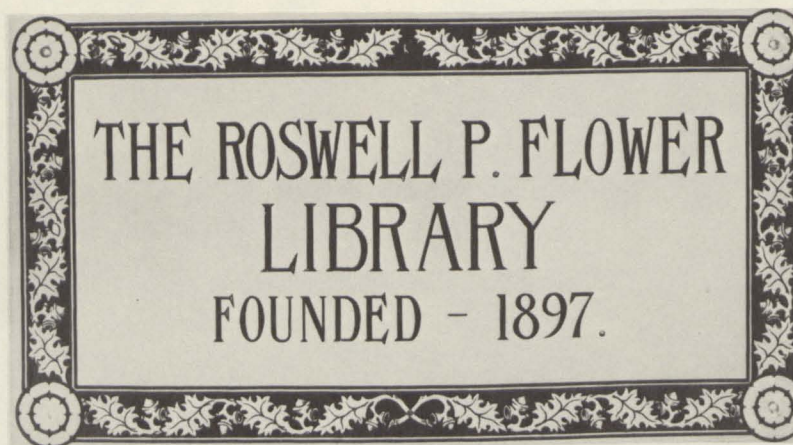
Walter L. Williams, D.V.S., Professor of Veterinary Surgery, Obstetrics, Zootechny, and Jurisprudence. Dr. Law first learned of Williams's excellent qualifications when the younger man was studying an outbreak of dourine in DeWitt County, Illinois. Although his education had been somewhat informal, his natural talents enabled him to achieve great respect in the profession. *The American Veterinary Review*, announcing his appointment at Cornell, said, "It is difficult to see how a better selection could have been made."

By the generosity of the Empire State... we have been furnished with the nucleus of a scientific institution from which large and important results may fairly be expected. We are honored as being in a sense the pioneers in a comparatively new field, we have the place of advanced guard in the inevitable warfare. Though small in numbers, our chosen battlefield is one in which numbers count for less than quality, and in respect of quality we have to prove ourselves. Let us take as our primary thought the Socratic aphorism: "Knowledge is virtue: ignorance is crime."

James Law, inaugural address, September 24, 1896

Upper right, the Flower Library has moved with the college, and the bronze tablet honoring its original benefactor is prominently displayed in the new location.

Right, the reading room of the Flower Library when it was in James Law Hall.



The first class at the veterinary college was a small one: eleven students, three with advanced standing. Uncertainty about completion dates for the college's buildings had delayed the announcement, and a recent change in entrance requirements ordered by the state had forced some potential applicants to go back for additional work in high school.

A year later Professor Law, in his Report to the President, proudly noted that there were seventeen students in the veterinary course. Even more proudly, he pointed to the four D.V.M. degrees awarded and the perfect record for graduates taking the regents' license examination. He contrasted this with the performance of candidates from other schools, only one-quarter of whom had qualified for licenses in the previous three years. "One of our graduates secured the highest marks granted by the Board of Regents examiners," he said, "and, among thirty-two candidates, only four reached the grade attained by our poorest candidate."

There can be little doubt that Cornell's outstanding students were indebted to Roswell P. Flower. While governor he had urged the legislature to set the college in motion. He was succeeded as governor by Alonzo B. Cornell.



Visiting Ithaca for the funeral of Henry W. Sage, the two men were in front of the newly built veterinary college when one of the horses drawing their carriage balked. A tour of the facilities seemed appropriate. At the end of the tour Governor Cornell asked Dr. Law if the college had any further needs. The answer: "We need a good library." Flower immediately wrote out a personal check for five thousand dollars, laying the foundation for what the *American Veterinary Review* described as "the greatest library for veterinarians in the world."

Governor Flower had been a member of the Cornell Board of Trustees for several years. After completing his term in Albany he was unanimously elected chairman of the board but died almost immediately. His widow gave a \$10,000 endowment to the library in his memory.

At the library dedication ceremonies Law said: "Speaking for the teachers and students, I feel warranted in saying that no gift could come to us which would be more far-reaching in its benefit than that of the literature, past,

present, and future, that bears directly upon our daily work. A celebrated living medical teacher in advocating the value of laboratories has referred to books as the graves of living thought. This may be true if the book is never taken from its library shelf, but if it is read and studied it is far more truly the seed of future thought and successful work. The book is or should be the expression of contemporary thought, the record of contemporary knowledge."

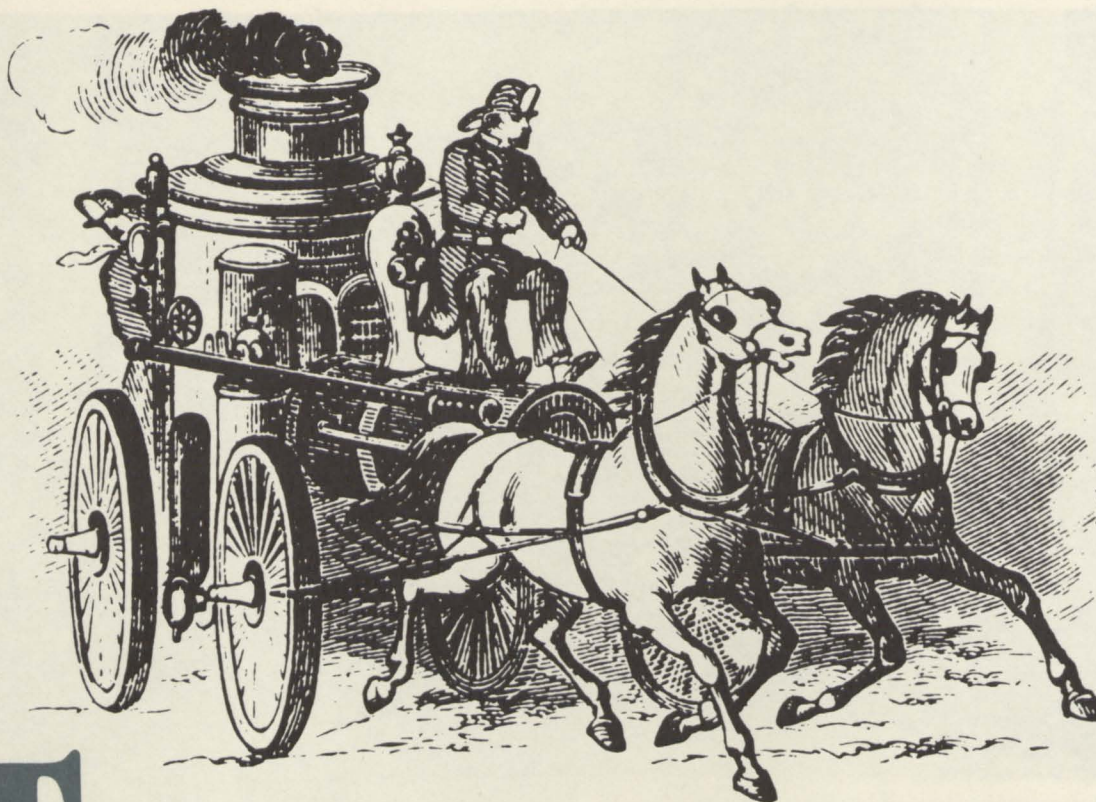


Above left, *under the west portico of James Law Hall during the earliest days of the veterinary college, students and faculty members gathered for a group portrait. The ratio of students to faculty was a praiseworthy five to one.*

Above, *by today's standards the laboratories in James Law Hall were spacious and palatial. Notice the elaborate treatment of walls and ceiling.*

Shortly after four o'clock this morning fire broke out in the building of the State Veterinary College on the campus, and in a few minutes it seemed as though the whole structure was to be totally destroyed. . . . With a fierce blaze raging over their heads a number of students from Barnes Hall and from the nearby fraternity houses worked desperately until they had removed the entire contents of the second and third floors of the building. The entire Flower Library of more than 1700 volumes was carefully removed to the yard of Dean [Horatio S.] White's house and all the specimens and manikins on the two lower floors were safely moved to the lawn in front of the College. It is doubtful if ever a handful of students worked as desperately as did the boys who in a stifling smoke this morning labored to save as much as possible of the Veterinary College. Professor Gage later in the morning said that he was never more proud of Cornell men than he was as he saw them this morning sticking to their work until they had finished it.

Ithaca Journal, November 14, 1900

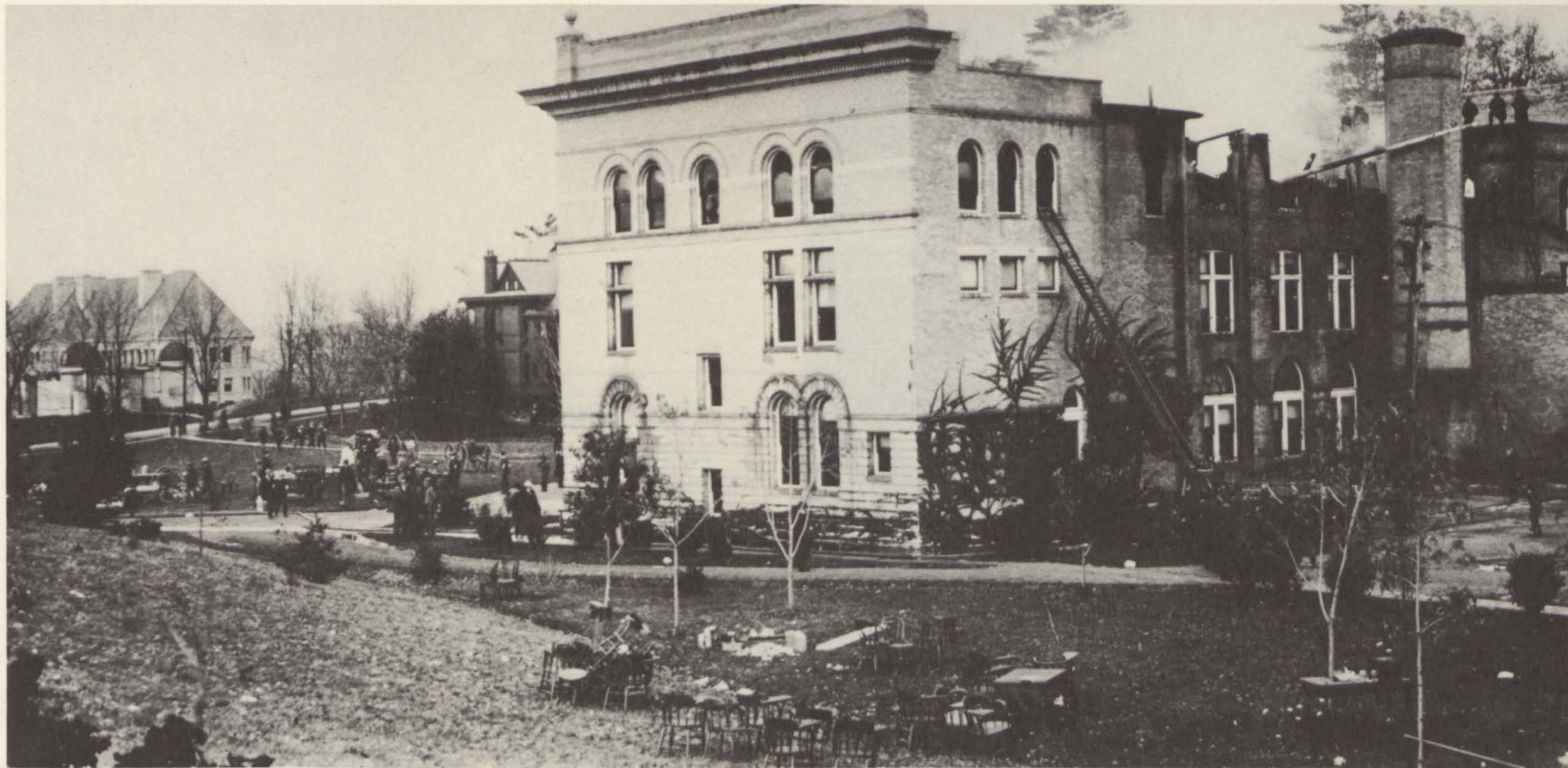


The fire, which broke out in the bacteriology laboratories, in the center of the third floor, may have been caused by the gas-fed heaters for the germ incubators. Damage was more severe because there was not enough water pressure in the campus system to reach the third floor without a pumper, there was no fire engine on the hill, and the horses drawing the engine from downtown had to be walked up the hill.

There was, however, a silver lining. In the course of the repairs the well above the museum was closed over, which allowed the physiology, histology, and embryology laboratories to be moved downstairs, thereby doubling the area available for bacteriology and pathology.

Rebuilding of James Law Hall was scarcely completed when Stimson Hall began to rise at the southeast corner of the quad-

rangle. It was designed as the home for the new Cornell Medical College in Ithaca. The medical faculty at New York University had revolted, forming the Cornell Medical College in New York City. The first two years of its program were to be taught in Ithaca, using veterinary college faculty members and resources for instruction in basic bacteriology and pathology. On the first floor of Stimson Hall a large private office and laboratory were set aside for Professor Gage.



Above, the fire was still smoldering, firemen on the roof and furniture stacked on the lawn, when this photograph was taken. In the background, far left, behind the two domes of the observatory, is the high-peaked roof of Boardman Hall. (Photograph courtesy of New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.)

Left, close to where the observatory stood, Stimson Hall was built. Simon Gage's offices and laboratory were moved here in 1902.



Dean Liberty Hyde Bailey, in a frock coat and work gloves, guides a plow drawn by students at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new New York State College of Agriculture, in 1903.

This College of Agriculture represents the State. Its purpose is to aid in developing the resources of the State, in its materials, its affairs and its people. . . . While the College of Agriculture is concerned directly with increasing the producing power of land, its activities cannot be limited narrowly to this field. It must stand broadly for rural civilization. It must include within its activities such a range of subjects as will enable it to develop an entire philosophy or scheme of country life. . . . Agriculture is properly a civilization rather than a congeries of crafts. The colleges of agriculture represent this civilization, in its material, business, and human relations. Therefore, they are not class institutions, representing merely trades and occupations. The task before the colleges of agriculture is nothing less than to direct and to aid in developing the entire rural civilization; and this task places them within the realm of statesmanship.

Liberty Hyde Bailey, address during Farmers' Week, 1909

Cornell University had taught agriculture from its very first days. Liberty Hyde Bailey became a faculty member in 1888, but it was not until 1903 that the New York State College of Agriculture was established, with Bailey as its dean. Veterinary college faculty members provided the first regular courses in poultry science.

Liberty Hyde Bailey, a dynamic and forceful figure, was the true founder of the New York State College of Agriculture, just as James Law was the founder of the State Veterinary College. A clash between two such dominant men was almost inevitable.

Bailey had developed a plan in 1903 for reorganization of the state-supported units and had achieved almost half of it by 1908. He had made no headway on item five: "The Veterinary College becomes part of the College of Agriculture." The predictable clash became a reality with the approaching retirement of Dr. Law, in 1908.

Bailey argued that a merger of the two colleges (veterinary medicine to be considered a part

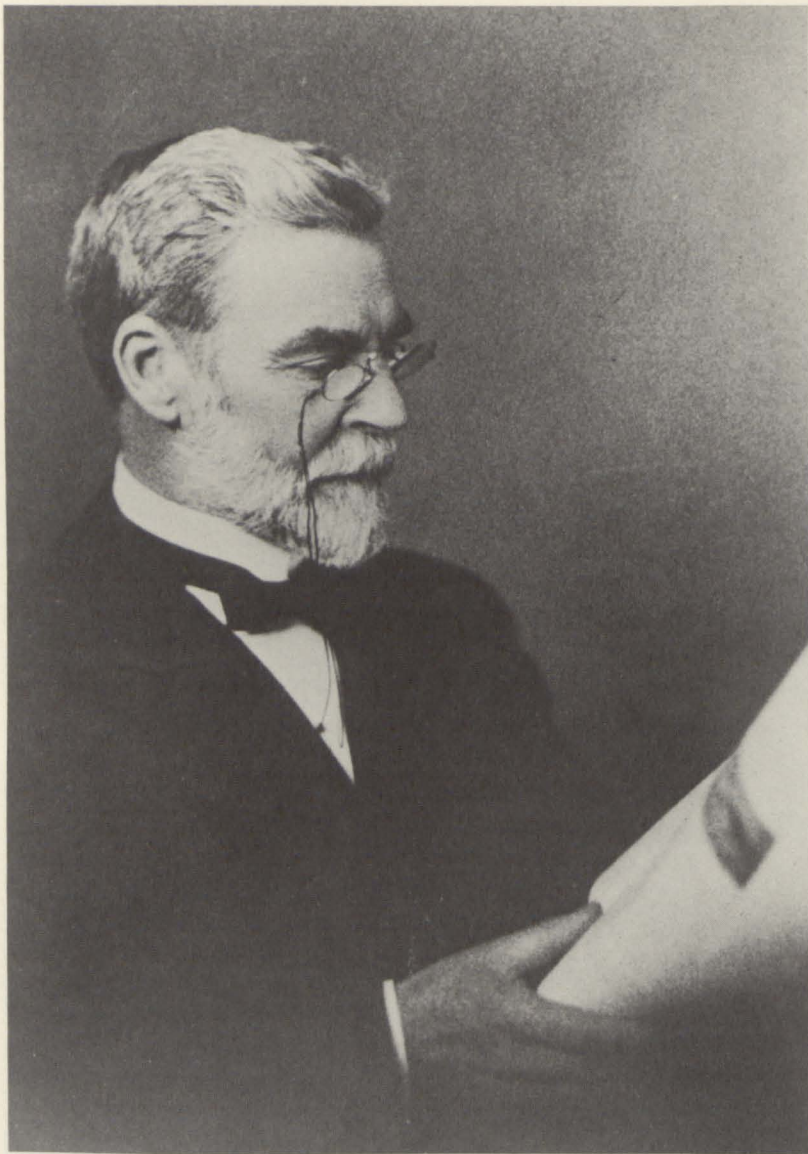
of agriculture) would give them more influence in Albany.

Not surprisingly, Law took exception to this view. In his mind veterinary medicine was more closely related to human medicine than it was to agriculture. "We all want the means of development," he wrote in a memorandum to the trustees, "but for one college to seek to make a cat's paw of another, should not be desired by either party."

The trustees agreed, and James Law's last official battle was won.

In this pair of before-and-after pictures, upper right, James Law Hall and its auxiliary buildings are in the left foreground. Behind the main veterinary college building, now landscaped, are the clinic and the hospital. At the far right is a new observatory. Right, the new buildings of the New York State College of Agriculture have appeared. Because the enabling act limited the amount to be spent on a single building, Roberts Hall was constructed as three separate buildings.





Above, at the time of his retirement, Dr. James Law had seen his greatest goals achieved: the practice of veterinary medicine, generally speaking, was conducted by trained professionals, and an outstanding college of veterinary medicine was functioning at Cornell.

In presenting this last report to you as Director, I desire to express my appreciation of your friendly consideration and the harmonious relations that have always existed between us and to venture the hope that upon laying down the cares and worries of your active career, you may enjoy the pleasure and rest that you have so well merited.

Pierre A. Fish, presentation of annual report to James Law, May 1908



An impressive ceremony had been held in 1905. Publicly advertised as a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the veterinary college, it was in fact a testimonial to Dr. Law. One hundred fifty guests heard former president White's recollections of Law's part in the earliest days of the University. Other speakers joined him in paying tribute, and a Tiffany loving cup was presented to Dr. Law.

During the three years that followed this event, Law's work continued in familiar patterns. Offered the position of chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, he declined, saying he considered it his

duty to remain at Cornell. He wrote frequent letters to people of influence, protesting against relaxation of veterinary licensing standards and lowering of college admission standards.

Finally, in June of 1908, his retirement was accepted, along with that of his longtime colleague Simon H. Gage. At this point Dr. Law yielded the chair to Dr. Veranus A. Moore and retired, after forty-three years of service to Cornell, to the people of the state and nation, and to veterinary medicine.

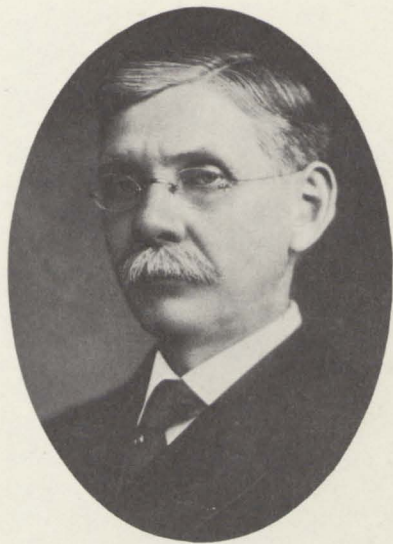
He could look back on many successes, few of them easily won. He had led the struggle to take veterinary medicine in the United States out of the hands of quacks and frauds and put it into

the hands of highly trained scientists.

He had shown the close connection between healthy cattle and healthy people, stamping out several common diseases on the way. He had trained a small group of veterinarians who achieved eminence in his lifetime and had filled them with his own unswerving commitment to the general good.

He had built a college that swiftly became one of the foremost in its field in the nation and has remained preeminent ever since.

"Don't forget the horse-doctor!"



Opposite right, *Simon Henry Gage, B.S. 1877. He came to the University in 1873 and gave the rest of his life to Cornell.*

Left, *Veranus A. Moore, B.V.M. 1872, returned to Cornell as one of the original faculty members after 23 years at the Bureau of Animal Industries. Following Law as dean, he served in the post for 21 years, retiring at the age of 70 in 1929.*



Left, *this Tiffany loving cup was presented to Dr. Law on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the college.*

Above, *the New York State Veterinary College, at the time of Dr. Law's retirement, was handsomely landscaped and had a water garden at the end of the portico.*

T

here came a time when James Law Hall and its associated buildings were torn down, and the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine moved eastward to the head of Tower Road. The new buildings were furnished with the best equipment available and were roomy enough to cope with a student body that had doubled its numbers since Dr. Law retired.

A landmark is the Veterinary Research Tower, built to house the most sophisticated research instruments.

In scattered locations off campus are the state-funded Veterinary Virus Research Institute, the privately funded James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, and the Equine Research Park.

Today, research in veterinary medicine is carried on in close cooperation not only with the Cornell Medical College, as Dr. Law predicted, but also with many other units at Cornell, including the Colleges of Engineering and Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Division of Biological Sciences.

Scenes from the present: upper left, a laboratory in anatomy; upper right, the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health; lower left, The Equine Research Park; lower right, Schurman Hall and the new Veterinary Research Tower; opposite, an aerial view of the Veterinary College.

