Speakers Committee Comes Through...

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**Recommended Citation**  
Adams, Chess and Booth, Larry (1972) "Speakers Committee Comes Through...," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 34 : Iss. 3 , Article 2.  
Available at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol34/iss3/2](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol34/iss3/2)

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Speakers Committee

Much informal discussion time and after-dinner speaking in recent years has been devoted to the precedent of improving the professional image and the professional service of Veterinary Medicine. However, few veterinarians have had the conviction to stand before their peers and bluntly state that in the event they become aware of a legal situation concerning the professional ethics of a fellow veterinarian they “personally” will be waiting to appear for the plaintiff at that veterinarian’s trial. Nor will you often happen upon a practitioner who has taken the trouble to outline a list of twenty “prominent features” of the “undesirable types” in the veterinary profession. Such a speaker is Dr. Whittick of Toronto, Canada who spoke at the September meeting of the Student Chapter of the A.V.M.A. at Iowa State University.

Students at I.S.U. first became aware of Dr. Whittick’s speaking flair during the student chapter national convention at Auburn, Alabama in February of this year where he raised eyebrows and great interest with a speech to the delegates concerning client relations. A few of those from Iowa State who heard Dr. Whittick at that time were impressed enough to pursue an opportunity when they might persuade him to come and speak at one of our monthly chapter meetings. Dr. Whittick, who is a small animal practitioner, keeps a busy speaking schedule whose honorarium is usually in the range of $70/hour, but he promptly agreed to head an afternoon seminar as well as an evening engagement when he learned he was being asked to speak to students, and at a cost of $40/hour to the Student Chapter. Dr. Whittick agreed to this arrangement even though he was scheduled to speak in northern Ontario the day following the Ames meeting.

Several seniors abandoned clinical assignment areas the morning of the meeting in order to form a welcoming committee at the airport for Dr. Whittick. Despite a delay in the flight arrival, the students found that their trip was well worth taking, as Dr. Whittick entertained them with candid remarks on his philosophy and practice of veterinary medicine during the car trip back from Des Moines. This informal talk with Bill Whittick was to be a mere hint of the enlightening and provocative talks which students and faculty alike of the College of Veterinary Medicine enjoyed later that afternoon and evening.

As a result of some of his candid statements, Dr. Whittick has frequently been cross-examined concerning his own practice in Toronto. To questions of this nature Dr. Whittick pulls out a cassette of kodachromes of his facility, grins as if he had anticipated the questions, and is off again on another two hour tirade which ends with a genial invitation to drop in at “The Banks Animal Clinic” any time for a tour.

Notes of appreciation are due the students who made arrangements for Dr. Whittick’s speaking engagements here in Ames, especially for including a very worthwhile afternoon seminar given by Dr. Whittick on the subject of “Intensive Care.” Also to be thanked, are Dr. Wass and Dean Pearson who sent personal letters to Dr. Whittick in behalf of the Student Chapter, and Omega Tau Sigma Fraternity, whose members contributed $50.00 to the Student Chapter for the purpose of obtaining Dr. Whittick as a speaker. It is our hope that the Speakers Committee will be able to induce this quality of speaker to our meetings in the future, as such programs must surely enhance the interest and morale among student members of the A.V.M.A. here at Iowa State University.

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Co-Editors

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