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Editorially

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It is generally known that some of the veterinary medical schools, especially the new ones that are being established, are considering or are requiring a minimum of 2 years pre-veterinary study, on the college level, as part of the entrance requirements. The question has arisen among ourselves as to the merits of this plan. Of course it is easy to endorse such a plan when one is already enrolled in a veterinary school and will not be affected by the addition of an extra year of required courses to the pre-veterinary schedule. However, the majority of the students in favor of such a plan are aware of many logical reasons that justify an additional year.

Speaking only as students, many of us believe that this additional year would not only be beneficial in preparing us to fulfill our professional obligations, but with a well chosen extra year of study, it could also be beneficial in preparing us for our civic associations.

The field of veterinary medicine is rapidly expanding. Upon graduation there is not one, but scores of different paths the new graduate may choose to follow. In order to train the student to set forth upon any one, or more, of these paths, additional work is constantly being required in the veterinary curriculum itself. This would be made possible by having all of the non-divisional courses now required, fall in the pre-veterinary years. However, it is also hoped that during these 2 pre-veterinary years some time could be devoted to broadening the students education outside of the purely scientific realm.

Many of the fields into which we go do not require of us only our scientific knowledge. It is only natural and befitting for men in our profession to enter into civic activities. Many veterinarians find themselves serving on city councils, school boards and similar groups. It would indeed behoove the profession for these men to have a broader educational background than that which is now afforded. Would it be possible to include in the pre-veterinary work more courses which would yield to us some of the fundamental principles of public speaking, writing, business, office management, bookkeeping, government and others?

The beginning of just such a program as this was instituted some years ago when a course in business law was added to the veterinary curriculum. Business law is indeed a study in itself, but the few fundamental principles of this subject that are gained in the course have proven valuable to many graduates, especially during the first few years of building up their own practice.

Obviously, a thorough knowledge of these new subjects mentioned above, would be impossible to obtain even if the entire additional year were devoted to just one of them, but any time allotted would be of value if only the fundamentals were gained. Would it be possible to construct a special course that would include the principles of such diversified subjects?

—V.H.A., H.J.M.

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