1949

Editorially Speaking

Donald Fuller

Iowa State College

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CLASS OF '49

This June, Iowa State College graduated the largest class of veterinarians since the close of the war. As was the case with several other veterinary colleges in the United States, there was no graduating class in 1948.

The majority of these 65 men are World War II veterans; their average age is 27 years—several years older than the graduating veterinarian of pre-war times. It required courage, determination and sacrifice for these men to return and complete their professional training. In spite of the fact that their college education was financed by the G. I. Bill, theirs has not been an easy task. Many of the men are married and have families; they are already accustomed to responsibility. They enter their chosen vocation as mature men, a fact which will not only benefit themselves but also the whole veterinary profession.

These new veterinarians are entering a career in which opportunities are currently plentiful, if the numerous requests for veterinarians received by this college can be taken as a criterion. Contrary to the opinion of some alarmists, we believe opportunities will continue to exist in the future. An expansive and progressive livestock industry requires that veterinary service keep pace with it. The demands upon this industry, in its function of feeding and clothing the nation, have been tremendously increased in recent years and are not likely to soon diminish. In addition, our veterinary colleges desperately need qualified instructors; laboratories need research workers; and the various government agencies dealing with animal and public health have repeatedly stated their need for more veterinarians. In view of the foregoing facts we find it hard to believe that our profession will soon be overcrowded.

We extend our best wishes for success to the Class of '49. In the words of an old Scottish toast:

"Lang may your lum reek
And may the moose ne'er leave
your mea' poke
Wi' a tear in 'is ee."*

... Donald Fuller

* "Long may your chimney smoke,
And may the mouse never leave your meal sack
With a tear in his eye."