1999

Causerie

Eric S. Vymyslicky
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian
Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Veterinary Medicine Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol61/iss2/1

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Only time can tell how history will remember the twentieth century for veterinary medicine. One thing, however, is already apparent today: the only true constant in veterinary medicine this century has been change.

We have been fortunate enough to benefit from an explosion in technology and information; the profession has come a long way since its infancy in the late 19th century. It would be impossible to list all the accomplishments we’ve seen in just one issue of the ISU Veterinarian, much less an entire library filled with volumes of research. According to Dr. Kenneth Bartels, one of our 1999 Stange Award Recipients, “the volume of medical knowledge today doubles every 6 months.” It would seem impossible to keep up with such rapid innovation, but it can be safe to say that as veterinarians, we are ever-vigilant in using whatever methods possible to improve the lives of both animals and people.

Frequently, however, we are so busy looking to the future and so eager to improve upon old standards of care, that we forget about our past and our history. This issue was put together with some interesting historical articles and pictures simply to offer a brief look back at how far we have come, both at this university and in the veterinary profession as a whole.

As the oldest veterinary school still in existence, Iowa State University certainly has a rich history. On the front cover we see the “Sanitary Building,” which was built in 1890 on the campus of Iowa State College. It was the first building constructed here for the exclusive use of the veterinary school, even before the infamous “Quadrangle” was built in the mid-1910’s. On the second floor of the Sanitary Building was the student infirmary. Join us now as we take a short look back at veterinary medicine at Iowa State University.

But what will the next one hundred years have in store for us and for all the medical sciences? If we knew right now, we probably wouldn’t believe it - just as the first veterinary class of the 20th century would not have believed all the advances that were about to unfold before them.