

98 Down, 2 to Go



The School had made good progress during its first quarter century but it began its second twenty-five years on a sad note. Its young, energetic dean, Dr. Leonard Pearson, had died on September 20, 1909. More than any other individual, Dr. Pearson had brought the young institution to a position of national prominence within the profession. He had established an excellent relationship with the state government, important agricultural organizations, and the University. Almost single-handedly Dean Pearson had formulated plans for the new quadrangle building, begun in 1907, and had secured funds for its construction. Through him some money had been obtained for research and the Laboratory of the State Livestock Sanitary Commission (later Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry) was located at the School. This laboratory provided a means of conducting research on horses and farm animals.

Unfortunately, with Dr. Pearson's death these important relationships were allowed to languish and the institution entered a long period during which there was very little progress. From 1910 until 1952 little substantial research was conducted, almost no physical plant improvement was undertaken, and the faculty remained small and underdeveloped. This state of affairs cannot wholly be laid at the feet of those who guided its fortunes, but it is true that two of the deans who served for the greatest number of years during this period were very conservative individuals.

The dearth of research is partly attributable to the fact that there was little money available from government, industry or foundations. Most of the federal funds for research went to land-grant colleges and universities where it was funneled into the experimental stations rather than to veterinary schools. At most institutions having both a veterinary and an agricultural school, the veterinary school was a "poor cousin." Large scale grants from government agencies such as the National Institute of Health, private foundations, or industry did not become available until after World War II. A survey conducted by Dr. C. J. Marshall, professor of medicine, in 1932, indicated that the School had only \$500 for research during that year.

These facts, plus a situation in which the faculty was not research-oriented, largely account for the state of affairs of the School of Veterinary Medicine. The fact that the School did not maintain a strong relationship with the state government, and important agricultural associations added to the problems and, as the years went on, the School became one of the weakest in the University.

The physical plant deteriorated, so that by 1952 it acted as a serious deterrent to attracting new faculty. Also, by this time the availability of horses and farm animals for clinical teaching material had dwindled to the point where the School was in serious danger of losing its accreditation. Although there were plenty of small animals (more than the small staff could adequately service) the Small Animal Hospital was in poor physical condition.

Despite this gloomy picture there were some accomplishments during this period which laid a necessary foundation for future changes. On June

8, 1915 the faculty adopted a resolution to increase the course in veterinary medicine from three to four years beginning with the academic year 1916-17. At the same time admission requirements were changed to include "at least a four year high school course or at least fifteen standard high school units or its equivalent". These changes along with the fact that World War I was in progress, with the offering of lucrative jobs in industry, led to a sharp decrease in enrollment in all veterinary schools in the United States. At Penn only eighteen students enrolled in 1916 and by 1920 this had fallen to four. The 1919 class had only three graduates. During the 1920's enrollment gradually increased so that by 1930 there were 110 students in the Veterinary School.

In 1933 admission requirements were once again increased, to include two years of algebra or one year of plane geometry, and in 1936 students applying to the School were required to have completed one year of college. In 1940 this was increased to two years.

Another forward step was the offering of graduate work. Although a graduate program in bacteriology and pathology was initiated in 1927 it was not until 1934 that a veterinarian registered for this work. This was Dr. Israel Live who had received his V.M.D. degree in microbiology in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Live is now emeritus professor of microbiology. The second veterinarian to receive a graduate degree was Dr. M. Josephine Deubler (V'38) who was awarded a Ph.D. in 1941. Dr. Deubler is now assistant professor of pathology in medicine. The development of graduate work was largely through the efforts of Dr. Evan L. Stubbs who was professor of pathology and is now emeritus professor.

In 1910 the total faculty numbered twenty-nine with thirteen of these coming from the Medical Department or other schools in the University. Of the remaining sixteen members who had veterinary degrees, only three were graduates of other veterinary schools. This trend to inbreeding of the faculty would continue for many years. By 1935 when the School entered its second half-century there were thirty-three on the faculty and by 1951 the total faculty numbered fifty-six.

When Dean Leonard Pearson died in 1909, Dr. Louis A. Klein (V'97) became dean and served until 1930 when he was succeeded by Dr. Harold E. Bemis. Within less than one year Dean Bemis died and he was followed by Dr. George A. Dick (V'04) who held the office until 1946. Both Dr. Klein and Dr. Dick gave many years of unselfish service to the School but neither was able to generate the support needed to foster a healthy growth of the institution.

In 1946 Dean Dick was succeeded by Dr. Raymond A. Kelsner who was dean until his sudden death in 1952. During the few years of Dr. Kelsner's deanship the fortunes of the School began to improve, setting the stage for the phenomenal development that was soon to begin.

We will conclude our discussion of the years 1910-1952 in the next issue of *Bellwether*.