III

BUILDINGS AND LANDS

UR Veterinary School, even as the college itself, had its beginning, so far as buildings were concerned, in a very humble way. Dr. Fairchild writes, "We had now (1879) a fully developed veterinary school but "no place to go." After some canvassing we finally discovered in the house then known as the 'President's House,' which had been vacated by President Welch (having himself built a new home called the "Gables") a small bedroom with one window which could be used as a laboratory (it was the best we could find)." This building was occupied together with botany during the college years 1879 and 1880. This building was later variously known as South Hall, Domestic Economy and Music Hall.

The second building to be occupied by the Veterinary School was also in "partnership" and Dr. Fairchild again gives us a clear idea of these accommodations in the following words:

"In March, 1881, the Veterinary Department and Department of Botany moved to North Hall. We find in the Aurora for March 1881, the following notice, 'North Hall, although not completely finished, is in running order. The botanical and Veterinary Departments have moved into it, and students in those classes enjoy the luxury of large and commodious classrooms.'"

"The main lecture room occupied the west end of North Hall, the laboratory occupied jointly by the Veterinary and Botany Departments was located in a room running along a part of the north side of second floor. Professor Bessey occupied the room facing the east and south, and Dr. Fairchild occupied a small adjoining room facing south.

"The laboratory arrangements consisted of a series of tables of triangular shape with the base next to the window, two students working on each side and one at the end. The microscopes were the Beck student microscope provided with 1/4 and 1/6 objectives. As this was at a time before bacteriology had been developed, very few accessories were
used. The work consisted in examining blood cells, normal tissues and specimens of morbid growth (pathological histology) from the practice of Dr. Fairchild and his friends and from the veterinary hospital. In Professor Bessey's room, there was a magnificent Beck binocular of immense size which was used exclusively for show purposes.

“The department of veterinary medicine, theoretical and laboratory side—and the department of botany occupied North Hall jointly from 1881 to the second term of 1885 when the Veterinary School, or the part above referred to, moved to the new building known as the “Sanitary Building” and was there joined with Professor Stalker.”

For clinical instruction, accommodations were if anything poorer than for the laboratory and class work. In order “to provide for the clinical and practical side of the veterinary work in the early days, a barn located west of the Horticultural Department was renovated, and called the veterinary hospital, for the use of Professor Stalker. This was an exceedingly unpretentious building, only a barn at best, and a poor one at that, but here the first classes received their clinical training. In 1885 the new veterinary hospital was completed at a cost of $6,000. Professor Stalker exhibited this modern hospital with pride as the latest and last word in veterinary hospital construction. Professor Stalker was furnished with one or more internes from senior students or graduate students. We now possessed the most complete veterinary school in the country.

“The classrooms were in the Sanitary Building and occupied all the first floor. This building was erected at a cost of $4,000; the first floor veterinary, the second floor laboratory and hospital for sick students. The word hospital we were not permitted to use for fear it would convey the idea of an unhealthful location and endanger the future of the college. There was one lecture room, which would accommodate about 30 students, which was used by Professor Stalker for his lectures on veterinary medicine and surgery, and Dr. Fairchild in his lectures on physiology, histology, pathology and therapeutics, time so arranged as not to conflict. In physiology were the junior class in the general course, the textbook being Martin's “Human Body.” Foster was used in advanced physiology. During the first four weeks of each year Dr. Fairchild gave lectures to the senior students in the general course on the anatomy and physiology of the brain, in the president's lecture room in the main building at 8:00 a.m.; a busy morning, four lectures in succession. Then came a general inspection every Monday and visits to sick students daily.”

The campus of Iowa State College has had many compliments because of its informality and beauty. Location of buildings had much to do with this and Dr. Fairchild gives us a sidelight on the location of the two buildings next to be occupied by the Veterinary School.

“When the $10,000 was expended in the construction of the two buildings which were to accommodate the Veterinary Department and the sick students, Professor Stalker, who accepted the position of director in locating the two buildings, insisted on close proximity, but we ob-
ected to placing sick horses and sick students too close together and insisted on the present location of what was once the college hospital. Professor Stalker was State Veterinarian. On the occasion of laying the foundation of our joint building he was called on professional business to a distant part of the state and we undertook the supervision of laying the foundation and insisted on our favorite location contrary to Stalker's directions; the workmen protested, but finally submitted and when the professor returned work was done. We arranged to have the tower end look down the hill as offering the best view of the building on approaching along the main traveled road thru the college grounds. Then we had Professor Stanton to deal with, as he could not tolerate the idea of having the rather unattractive rear end of the building facing his house; finally with a show of generosity we turned the building quarter way around, an easy thing to do, as it was exactly 40 feet square. The storm passed in a few days and no unpleasant feeling followed."

The Sanitary Building (later known as College Hospital and Music Hall) was used for lecture rooms and laboratories until "Old" Agricultural Hall was built in 1893, when veterinary medicine occupied the building with agriculture and horticulture. The clinical work, however, remained in the "old" Veterinary Hospital until 1912.

In "Old" Agricultural Hall two lecture rooms on the northwest corner of the third floor and three office rooms, across the hall from these, on the southwest part of the same floor, were occupied by the Veterinary Division. The only laboratory space available even then (1893-1912) was one room in the southwest corner of the fourth floor. About one-half of this was partitioned off for Experiment Station work.

The "Old" Veterinary Hospital in which Dr. Stalker took so much pride was to be "added to," but the addition was never secured. Many of our alumni will undoubtedly remember the door to the south on the second floor. Records indicate that it was Dr. Stalker's plan to build another building south of the Veterinary Hospital and connect them by means of a bridge at the second floor level. The old veterinary hospital became wholly inadequate as soon as the clinics began to develop materially. The rapid advance of the knowledge of sanitation also made the building undesirable from a sanitary point of view. The operating, where the use of a table was inadvisable, had to be done out of doors. The daily care of the "in cases," except in the most severe weather, had to be given out of doors. It was not an easy task to keep students interested in a subject when they were standing in snow and mud, with "goose flesh" on the bare arms of those who were supposed to assist.

The old hospital also contained the dissecting rooms, which were the scene of many "a class scrap." Undoubtedly the classes of 1907 and 1908 will always remember one of them. Dissecting work was not begun in the fall semester until cold weather set in, because fresh material was used and it would not keep fresh long during warm weather. All material is carefully preserved at present and anatomical stud-
les can be carried on in the summer equally as well as in the winter.

Somehow the impression was gained that there existed at one time a feeling that the veterinary students were a "different kind of animal" from the rest of the student body, that they did not care for the same things, that their ideals were at variance, and that for these reasons they did not need the same accommodations and comforts as other students. It is reported that the question was raised in faculty meeting on one occasion as to why the veterinary students were not so refined as the others. Dr. Stalker replied that it must be the influence of the head of the department. Whether or not such ever was the case, happily it can be said now that it is generally realized that although there always has been a fine "esprit de corps" among the veterinary students (it is hoped there always will be) they come from the same homes, the same schools, the same churches, the same towns, cities and farms in the same states as those in the other divisions of this and other colleges. No, the difference was not in the student, but in what somebody else thought the student was going to be. Dr. Stalker referred to the cause in some of his reports. Dean McNeil did much to correct it by increasing standards and the present dean and faculty have been making every effort to remove the handicap. Only time, however, could correct the situation. The whole difficulty arose out of the slowness of states in developing good veterinary schools in the early years, thus permitting empirics to become what many considered the veterinary profession.

Some may wonder what all this has to do with buildings. The answer is much the same as to the question what has the home to do with the training of young people. When in the spring of 1912 the old unsanitary buildings were vacated and we moved into the new buildings, the attitude and morale of our student body changed so noticeably that it was a matter of comment by members of the staff. It is but natural for any normal human being to react to the character of his or her surroundings. This improved condition has now existed for 17 years and shows every indication of continuing.

The present buildings are "fireproof" and built with a view to cleanliness. The original plan carried six buildings connected by corridors arranged around an open court. Lack of funds made it necessary to leave off one building. The present buildings have served the purpose admirably, but "history repeats itself," and they are now being outgrown. A new clinic building has been planned and one wing has been completed.

The Research buildings are located about one mile south of the campus on a 60-acre farm. This should be a "well balanced" institute as practically the entire plant was constructed out of balances left in some fund. In fact no request has been made of the Legislature by the Board of Education for capital improvements (lands or buildings) for the Division of Veterinary Medicine since 1909. The wing of the new clinic building was built with a balance left in a small building fund after urgent requests had been made for more work on diseases of cattle
by the State Dairy Cattle Breeders' Association. The research farm was purchased with some of the balance remaining in the operating fund when the serum plant was closed. Two of the stables were built from the same fund. The Laboratory Building was built in 1927 from the balance remaining in the contingent fund in the hands of the State Budget Director. The State Dairy Cattle Breeders' Association was of great help to us in securing this building. The late Senator E. L. Hogue (budget director), being a large land owner, was much interested in the control of animal diseases and very kindly approved of the use of the funds for that purpose.

It was agreed that the buildings erected in 1913 should be taken down and the material, or as much thereof as possible, used in the construction of the new laboratory. This was done with the result that we secured an unusual "amount" of building with the comparatively small appropriation of $25,000. This is the first laboratory building designed and built for veterinary research in the state of Iowa. We had an organized research department 14 years before we could secure a satisfactory building in which to carry on the work. Following is an inventory at the present time.

Buildings:

Main veterinary buildings $150,000.00
Wing of new clinic building 25,800.00
Research laboratory 25,000.00
Other buildings for research (8 stables, etc.) 18,376.00

Total buildings $220,176.00

Land:

Land (research farm) 22,000.00
Equipment—furniture etc. 88,208.00

Total Investment $330,384.00

IV.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE OF STUDY

Here is a question as to which one has received the most attention in the past, by those interested in medical education (human and veterinary), entrance requirements, or the content of the course of study pursued after the student has entered.

The entrance requirements to the Division of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State College from 1879 to 1888 were: 16 years of age, knowledge of reading, orthography, grammar and arithmetic. In 1888, human physiology and history were added to the list. These requirements continued in force for 10 years. In 1899 algebra was added,