



The veterinary class which graduates in December is unique in several ways. It is the first time in the history of our division that two classes have graduated in the same calendar year. It is the first class to graduate under the new Army Specialized Training Program. It is also the first time since the last war that members of a graduating class could not definitely formulate future plans. With the changes made by the war in mind, we approach graduation with less reluctance than did members of former classes.

At the time of graduation, some of us will probably be commissioned; others will receive a "Certificate of Graduation." This, as we now understand it, states that we have served in the Army of the United States and have been discharged so that we might engage in an essential occupation. It is equal to an honorable discharge in the eyes of service organizations. Under either condition we must make short term plans.

For those of us who do not enter the army, there are a variety of positions waiting to be filled. The Bureau of Animal Industry has openings for Junior Veterinarians, some states are falling behind in their cattle testing programs, practitioners would like to hire assistants, and there are localities where the need of a veterinarian is acute. The question today is, "What shall I plan to do in lieu of my status in the army?"—not, "Can I earn a living and be of value after I graduate?" as it was ten years ago.

Verification of the figures on livestock losses would show that the statement, "If half of the livestock which died each year were saved, there would be no trouble for the United States to feed the world," is quite true. In this sentence lies a challenge to the veterinarian and the livestock producer. The graduates of this quarter should keep in mind that we will be in "the service" either as practicing veterinarians or as lieutenants in the army. The number of veterinarians in the field is being decreased but they are faced with the problem of caring for increased numbers of livestock which will be used as food for the world. They must also be ready to identify and control any exotic diseases that may be introduced through increased foreign trade.

Our work will be where we are most needed. The public is well informed of the need for trained men in civilian occupations and we can be assured that the young veterinarian in a new community will not be looked on with resentment because he is not in the army.