

Iowa State. According to Dr. Pearson there has been a great increase in emphasis on small animal medicine and surgery since the early 1950's and the change in popularity has been taking shape ever since.

A strong advocate of the internship programs, Dr. Pearson encourages students to take advantage of these programs to gain experience and knowledge of a wide variety of cases of clinical medicine and surgery.

One of the advancements in veterinary medicine cited by Dr. Pearson is the movement of cities to establish a central vet-

erinary hospital for animal hospitalization and major surgery. Under this arrangement individual veterinarians or group practices would maintain their own clinics for outpatient care only. One of the reasons behind this is the high cost of building construction and equipment. Several of these are now being contemplated or are already in operation.

As a recipient of the Riser Small Animal Award in 1956, Dr. Pearson has proven himself outstanding in the area of small animal medicine and surgery and an asset to the College of Veterinary Medicine and Iowa State University.

Homecoming '69 Becomes "Alex Begg Appreciation Day"

January 1, 1970, marked 43 years of continued, loyal service of Alexander "Alex" William Begg to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University.

Mr. Begg was born in Rother, Scotland, Nov. 22, 1903, and at the age of five moved to the United States to settle on a farm near Grand Junction, Iowa, with his parents and younger sisters. Here Alex attended grade and high school.

Alex graduated from high school in 1922 and entered Iowa State College majoring in animal husbandry. However, after two years he found it necessary to support himself and went to work on the Dean C. F. Curtiss farm just south of cam-pustown. He worked on a Kelly, Iowa, farm for a time before being employed by the Veterinary Clinic, Division of Veterinary Medicine on January 1, 1927. Since that time his responsibilities have included care of the small and large animals in the clinic wards, all-around dependable handyman, and a courier and messenger for the College of Veterinary Medicine (which he presently holds).

In the discharge of his responsibilities he has always been known to be unusually loyal and faithful and ready and willing to work long hours above and beyond the call of duty. He has regularly been the

first person on the job in the morning and the last to leave at night. He always observed the condition of the clinic patients before leaving at night, contacting the attending clinician in the event of problems. Often he has returned to the hospital to admit or discharge patients. He has either fed and watered the clinic patients on Sundays and holidays or supervised their care. And certainly not least of all, Alex has always been very good with animals, kind and never abusive.

Dr. Mack A. Emmerson did his customary terrific job in keeping the celebration a secret to Alex (which wasn't easy since he carries the mail to and from Dr. Emmerson's office) while informing all alums and staff members. The alums and staff members, organized by Dr. Emmerson, attempted to show their undying appreciation and gratitude to Alex on Oct. 26, at the Homecoming luncheon held at the Veterinary Quadrangle. At the proceedings Alex was presented with tickets for him and his wife to the Homecoming game with Kansas University and a portrait of himself. Dr. Emmerson then surprised Alex with a gift certificate for a colored television and a bank money order for \$2,000. To this was added a "Gentle Veterinarian" statuette presented by the Jr.



A.V.M.A., a certificate of appreciation signed by the entire staff of Stange Memorial Clinic, and a notebook filled with letters to Alex from former students, staff members and acquaintances. This entire saga could not have been better summed than when Dr. Emmerson said, "Alex, you are indeed an uncommon, common man."

Following is one of the many letters Alex received; Dear Alex:

When I read the notice of an "Alex Begg Day" it stirred a nostalgic note on an era of bygone days—namely the great depression of the '30s and my college days in Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State. It all seems like a dream now but, believe me when I say, it was very much of a reality in those days. It was difficult to keep body and soul together, work 5 hours a day and carry a full schedule but it was either that or no college.

However, there were many bright spots along the way. Everybody was in the same predicament and this produced some consolation. Misery loves company and we had both. Then there was the remarkable faculty we had belonging to a wonderful era—Dean Stange, Doctors Covault, Fowler, Benbrook, Hewitt, Bergman, Foust, Runnels, Merchant; Johnson, Smith, Whitlock and others that do not come to mind now.

Many of these names are legend in Veterinary Medicine but like Mack said "What about the uncommon common man" who seldom reaches the head lines, but does his duty day after day, week after week,

month after month, year after year and made the days a little brighter and more meaningful for those he came in contact with. He was always ready to lend a hand to faculty and student alike—was a pleasant chap to be around and mingled well with all. It was like a little bit of home away from home. We students came from a varied background of economic, social, cultural and spiritual status and to me personally he represented a little bit of all of these in a general way.

Since receiving my DVM in 1936 the veterinary profession has been very good to me—far beyond my wildest expectations. Please use the enclosed gift to further enrich your golden days which you so richly deserve. I only hope that there are a few more Alex's left in the world today to make the pathway more smooth and meaningful for students to follow. They may never know how far their goodness spreads but due to the foresight of some good people like Dr. Emmerson, the "uncommon common man" can be eulogized. May you enjoy your years ahead with pleasant memories of past associates like us.

Sincerely,
Wm. C. Glenney, DVM

We wish to express our thanks to Dr. Mack Emmerson both for his efforts in preparing this appreciation recognition and for furnishing us with this historical material and the photograph for use in our publication.