

# Department of Obstetrics

## The objectives, personnel and curriculum of the department of obstetrics

*H. Perry Jensen, '42*

**T**HE TERM Obstetrics is derived from the Latin, *Obstare*, which means "position" and is that branch of medicine which has to do with breeding, care during pregnancy, parturition and puerperium. The course in Obstetrics as taught at Iowa State College includes methods and care of breeding animals. This in turn resolves itself into a scientific plan of herd management.

Instruction in Obstetrics begins with general obstetrics which is offered during the junior year. This course provides a background for understanding the physiology of reproduction, normal parturition and the mechanics employed by a veterinarian in maternal and fetal dystocia.

In the senior year, the class is divided into three sections with approximately twenty men to a section, each group taking the course for one quarter. The work on the genital diseases of domestic animals consists of both class and laboratory work, the latter designed to give the student practical experience in actual examination of the genital organs of a large number of cows. In addition to the cattle provided by the department, trips are made during favorable weather to the stock yards owned by the Iowa Packing Company in Des Moines. Here animals are available in all stages of pregnancy, and many pathological conditions of the reproductive organs are observed. Reproductive organs are purchased from the plant and returned to the class room for more detailed study. Lantern slides and special charts are also provided. The aim of the course is to provide a guide to the solution of breed-

ing inefficiencies. Special attention also is given to artificial insemination.

Obstetrics was originally included in the Department of Surgery and did not become a separate department until July, 1931. Dr. F. E. Walsh was made Professor and Head of Veterinary Obstetrics and holds this position at the present time.

### **Frank E. Walsh, D.V.M.**



Dr. Walsh was born at Garner, Ia., and obtained his D.V.M. degree from Iowa State College, December 19, 1917, graduating with the class of 1918. He practiced at Britt for two years and then came to Iowa State to serve as an instructor

in anatomy. After three months service in that department, he was transferred to the ambulatory clinic in February, 1920, and served as ambulatory clinician until 1932. For a period of about two years he served as both ambulatory clinician and head of the Veterinary Obstetrics Department.

In addition to teaching obstetrics at Iowa State College, Dr. Walsh is in charge of all cattle belonging to the State Institutions of Iowa under the direction of the Board of Control. It is his duty to see that these cows maintain their high producing qualities. Information gained from the records of the herds is used for classroom study.

Dr. Walsh is a member of the A.V.M.A., Iowa Veterinary Association, Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Zeta.