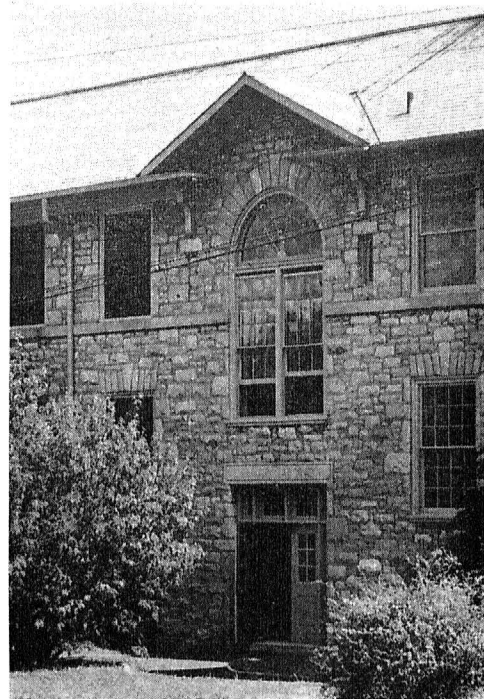


By MAURICE TRIMMER, '56



Connaway Hall, administration building for the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Behind the D.V.M.



Dan is studying to be a D.V.M. Next June he will complete a minimum of six years of intensive training in the humanities, physical sciences, general agriculture, anatomy, physiology, medicine, bacteriology, pathology, parasitology, pharmacology and surgery, and will be graduated from the University's School of Veterinary Medicine. There are 17 of these schools in the United States.

For Dan his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree will be the realization of a life-time ambition as well as the start of a professional career. As a youngster growing up on a southern Missouri farm, he not only liked animals, but was curious about what made them tick. When they were sick, he cared for them; and when a pet died, he performed an amateur autopsy to see what he could find. He didn't make any contributions to the annals of science, but he grew more certain all the time of what he wanted to be when . . .

To qualify for the School of Veterinary Medicine, or "vet school" as it's known on campus, Dan had to complete 70 hours of pre-professional college courses with at least 30 hours in residence at the

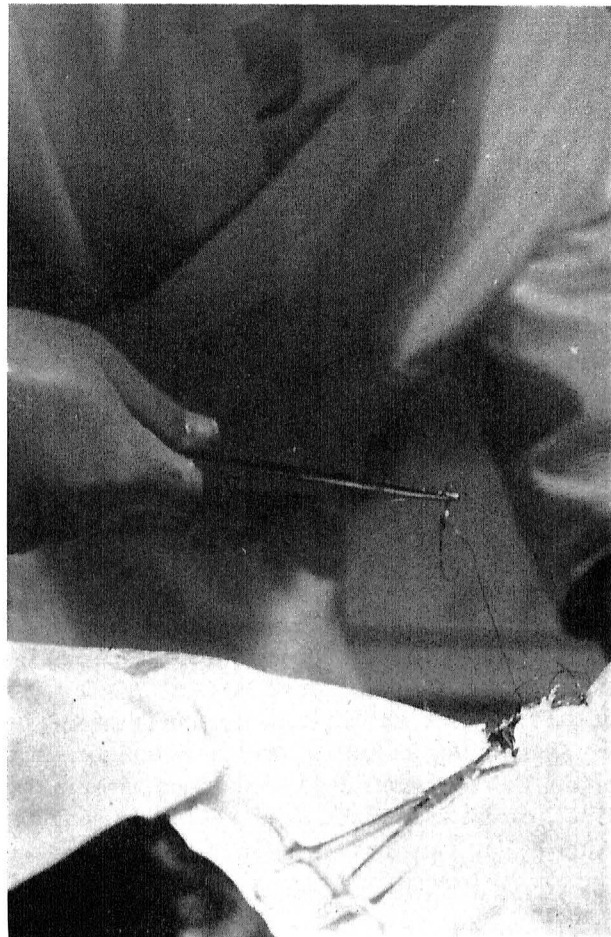
Examination of equine patient. A majority of the School's graduates go into general practice. Since 1950, the School has awarded 199 D.V.M. degrees.

Beginning their third year in the School of Veterinary Medicine, students like Dan get experience in major surgery, working with both large and small animals.

College of Agriculture. Since enrollment is limited to 30 new students each September, the school accepts only Missouri residents and preference is given to those who have completed their pre-vet studies in the University of Missouri. There are always more than 30 applicants (usually about 75), so an admissions committee, appointed by the dean, Dr. A. Holland Groth, and headed by Dr. Andrew W. Uren, interviews each applicant personally to select those "most likely to succeed." This is based on scholarship, background, seriousness of purpose and fitness for the profession. Each applicant must also take the veterinary medical aptitude test developed by psychologists and veterinarians. When Dan becomes a practitioner, he will have to get along with people as well as animals. He is already developing a professional "stall-side manner" in his regular duty in the school's hospital and clinic.

Although he has the strenuous first two years of vet school behind, Dan can still remember the hours of study, memorization and peering through a microscope. It seemed as if there were compounded names for every part of every animal, and he had to know them all. But that was only the beginning. There are no electives and the prescribed courses count up to at least 18 hours for every semester. Most of the Students' waking hours are confined to the two stone and stucco buildings in the east section of the White Campus.

Connaway Hall, named after the late Dr. J. W. Connaway, is a two-story stone building. Dr. Conna-



way was chairman of the old Department of Veterinary Science for many years. It houses the executive offices, the anatomy department, bacteriology and parasitology department, pathology department and the diagnostic laboratory. A one-story wing contains the autopsy room, three isolation wards for small animals and a room for laboratory animals.

The library is also in Connaway Hall, and there are many books and periodicals on veterinary medicine and related subjects in this second floor room.

The other main building is the hospital and clinic, where Dan now spends most of his time. It is a plain one-story structure which the school hopes soon to replace with funds appropriated from the recently-voted bond issue. The departments of medicine and surgery, and physiology and pharmacology are here, along with facilities for medical and surgical treatment and hospitalization of large and small animals.

Animal owners from Columbia and the neighboring area bring their ailing pets and livestock for examination and treatment. If the patient requires surgery or extended treatment, it is "put to bed"



Small animal patient being prepared for surgery in Veterinary Clinic.

in a stall or kennel. Those brought in by owners are treated by clinicians and upperclass students. The clinic doctors discuss unusual cases with the students like Dan, who not only hear what the problem and treatment are, but see it actually done under practical conditions.

Dan and his classmates do more than observe and study, however. They take part in all the regular functions of the clinic from receiving to surgery, and in surroundings very similar to any human hospital. Divided into small groups, each with a staff adviser, they work alternately for a week or more with poultry, clinical pathology, autopsy, receiving, pharmacy, small animals, large animals, x-ray, hospital and night duty. Although those on night duty are specifically subject to call, in an emergency any student is considered to be ready to help.

Most Students Are Married

Since a large percentage of the students are married (27 out of 29 in one class), they don't do much traveling over the weekends or socializing at night and can be reached easily. Dan joined the inner circle two summers ago. His wife Linda majored in chemistry at the University and is helping the family budget by working in the University Hospital laboratory. She enjoys Dan's accounts of his daily experiences in the clinic, except for the details of a surgical operation. After he gets past the description of the first incision, she usually remembers a radio program she just "has" to hear.

Part of Dan's surgical experience has been in the small animal division, which includes an examining and treating room, surgery room, kennel room, wash and clip room and a separate pharmacy. The facilities are limited in comparison to what the staff would like to have for the students, but it is hoped the new hospital will provide new conveniences and more modern equipment.

Every precaution is taken by students and doctors to make surgical treatment as safe and painless as is medically possible. The room is gleaming white enamel and stainless steel; and sterilized instruments, white gowns and rubber gloves are SOP. An anesthetic such as nembutal or ether is administered according to the condition and size of the animal. Antibiotics and blood transfusions are ready when needed. X-rays are taken of broken bones before and after the operation.

Section for Large Animals

The large animal section is similar to the above, only on a larger scale of course. The heavy-duty operating table can hoist up to a two-ton animal on to its rugged frame. Cows, horses, pigs and sheep are kept in individual stalls during their treatment and convalescence if necessary. The school also maintains a research farm of 60 acres four miles north of Colum-

bia for work in animal and poultry diseases. There is also a 15 acre research area with several small barns near the school. Senior students are required to accompany staff doctors on their calls to farms for treatment of the stock right on the farm.

Students are assigned to every phase of veterinary work not only to develop skills for later practice but to help them to decide what phase of veterinary medicine to choose after graduation. It is for this same purpose the school brings in visiting lecturers from time to time to discuss future problems, both as veterinarians in particular and professional men in general. Speakers include insurance men, government officials, civic leaders, educators, industrial representatives, bankers and lawyers, as well as veterinarians.

Uncle Sam's Plans Come First

Dan's first two years after graduation have already been planned for him by the Army, in which he is a reserve officer. He will have more time then to decide whether he would like to go into general practice, dairy cattle, poultry, government service, public health, research or any of the other many opportunities for D.V.M.'s. Right now he has his eye on a farm practice in his home county. Although most of the school's graduates do go into private practice, others have had marked success in various positions. Some entered institutional work as teachers and researchers. One graduate is on the staff of the Mayo Foundation at Rochester, Minnesota, and another has found an interesting assignment in the government's foreign service.

When Dan graduates next June, he will be in the eighth graduating class since the school awarded its first degree in 1950. Although veterinary medicine had been taught at the University of Missouri since 1884, it was not until 65 years later, in 1949, that the Board of Curators acted to create a School of Veterinary Medicine. Faculty members, under the leadership of Dean Groth, have combined extensive and important work in research with the responsibilities of undergraduate teaching, clinical service and the larger administrative tasks of a four-year professional school.

Will Join National Association

Upon graduation Dan will become a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the profession's national organization, which has a student chapter at the school. He will join one of the world's oldest professions, veterinary medicine being mentioned in an Assyrian record believed to be more than 4,000 years old. Before he starts his practice, he will have to be licensed by the examining board of the state in which he will practice.

Then, thanks to his training at the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine, he will be ready to realize his boyhood ambition.