



DR. LOWERY LAMON LEWIS

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Lowery Lamon Lewis, D. V. M., Dean Emeritus of the Oklahoma A. and M. College at Stillwater, died at his home in Stillwater, September 26, 1922.

Dr. Lewis was born near Newport, Tennessee, September 3, 1869. He moved from Tennessee with his folks when he was ten years old to what is now Celicia, Texas. This, being in 1879, brought him in direct contact with the western frontier. He received a B. S. degree in 1893 and an M. S. degree in 1894 from Texas A. and M. College, and the Degree of D. V. M. from Iowa State College in 1896. In reference to his work as a graduate student at Ames, Iowa, one of his professors, Dr. Herbert Osborn, now of the University of Ohio, recently spoke to me of him as follows: "At one time L. L. Lewis was the only student in a regular two year course. I admired his work. He was very earnest, very agreeable, and without question a very creditable student; he was held in high esteem by all his teachers. As a student he was a mature man, serious in mind."

In 1896 he was appointed to the Professorship of Veterinary Medicine at the Oklahoma A. and M. College. During the year, 1903, seven years after becoming connected with this college, he married Georgiana Holt of Topeka, Kansas, who was also a teacher in the college. Two children, a boy, Lea, and a girl, Ruth, now nearly grown, were born to them.

The career of this able and distinguished man was the greatest of any man ever connected with the College. His connection with the College dates back to within five or six years of its founding, and lasts through its various stages of growth when political upheavals were frequent. It is related that on a certain morning following a change in state politics, a colleague of his was unceremoniously relieved from duty. The authorities stated that there was no question concerning the man's qualifications or efficiency but it so happened that a man of a "preferred" political belief has succeeded him. Dr. Lewis lived through all of the political storms of his day without being stricken although he was frequently not far from their pathway. In this connection he developed into a sort of a bewitched being, as was said of George Washington by the Indians, after they had failed so many times to "get his goat." (Language of later

coinage and frequently used by Dr. Lewis). At one Board Meeting, Dr. Lewis was ostensibly called upon the "carpet" to be "fired." One of the members of the Board with a stern countenance and in an austere manner informed him that they were ready for him to say something if he had anything to say. It was apparent to Dr. Lewis that his connection with the College had been severed and that now he was to receive his dismissal in a verbal manner. After he informed them that he knew of nothing to say, they surprised him by furnishing him with information to the effect that on account of their high esteem for him and for his ability as a Professor in the Institution, they had substantially increased his salary.

Dr. Lewis passed through what might be called a "frontier college life." On one occasion while State Veterinarian he was driving an exceedingly head-strong, tough-mouthed horse. The animal did not seem to particularly observe objects in front of him but looked backward at the driver, which he used as a chauffeur. Dr. Lewis's patience became overtaxed and, to use his own words, "I noticed a big oak tree straight ahead in the timber trail on which I was driving and concluded that I would undertake to teach the horse the lesson of looking out a little for himself instead of relying wholly upon the driver, so I just held him on a direct line with the tree. Sure enough, just as I expected, he paid no attention to the tree, but seemed to use all of his attention in drawing the road wagon with his mouth by means of the lines and bit as was his continual habit, and when he came to the tree he slammed full force headlong against it. Considerable relief was afforded on the remainder of the trip. This cranial jolt caused him to use his own eyes for a while after he found the driver could not be depended upon to keep him in the clear."

William E. (Pussyfoot) Johnson, now international worker for prohibition and representative of the World League against Alcoholism, was one of the outstanding characters of the territorial days in Dr. Lewis' estimation. "Pussyfoot," as Mr. Johnson was generally designated, frequently obtained the laboratory services of State Veterinarian Lewis for the official analyses of "white mule." In this connection Dr. Lewis later gave on several occasions the following brief description and story of "Pussyfoot." "He was really a most unique character. He was absolutely fearless and somewhat deaf. If perchance he entered a "blind tiger" to obtain evidence against the proprietor and was summarily ordered out under a threat of death penalty if he

lingered, he might likely as not walk somewhat on tip toe (pussy-foot) up to his late advisor and with his hand cupped behind an ear courteously ask in a most genteel manner for another privilege of having repeated that of which he (supposedly) did not get an audible understanding. Meantime he generally obtained all the desired samples for legal evidence. He always went around armed. I particularly remember him in full dress at a dance one evening with two big six shooter pistols in his hip pockets. They did not seem to interfere with his dancing particularly, because he was so accustomed to wearing them that he felt more at ease under arms than in a dress suit. The only handicap was that they straight jacketed him to the extent of preventing him from sitting down to rest between dances." "In speaking of guns," said Dr. Lewis, "this reminds me of the earlier rules existing at the College. For instance, we had a faculty rule that all male students on matriculating should disarm and place all firearms and other weapons in a special depository for safe keeping."

The fine lovable disposition of his father was profusely apparent in Dr. Lewis, and the advice that might be obtained from the latter was clearly of the paternal brand. A frontier life did not change young Lewis and place its wild and wooly stamp on him as much as he changed the character of the frontier and placed his stamp on it. Especially is his stamp noticeable throughout Oklahoma, wherever Alumnae of this institution, and his associates may be found. Dr. Lewis was a member of the Iowa State Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a charter member of the Oklahoma A. and M. College Chapter and its president for one year. He was an honorary member of the Oklahoma A. and M. College Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, a member of the American Veterinary Association, a member of the American Bacteriological Society, and a charter member of the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

Some of his more important writings are as follows: *Glanders, Texas Fever and Symptomatic Anthrax*, June, 1897; *Directions for Using Vaccine for the Prevention of Blackleg*, March, 1903; *Disinfecting Power of Coal Tar Dips*, May, 1904; *Tuberculosis in Hogs*, May, 1904; *Bacteriological Examination of Water from Ponds, Tanks and Cisterns*, June, 1905; *Tubercule-Forming Bacteria of Legumes*, December, 1905; *Common Parasites of Domestic Animals*, June, 1902; *Bacteriology of Milk*, May, 1899; *Testing Dips as Lice Killers*, June, 1906; *A Study of the Bacterial Content of Cream*, June, 1907; *Texas Fever*, June,

1908; Artificial Insemination, May, 1911; Hog Cholera, December, 1914; Immunising Against Hog Cholera, July, 1918; The Value of Gaseous Disinfectants, June, 1907; The Use of Artificial Impregnators in Horse Breeding, March, 1906; The Cattle Tick, July, 1908; The Vitality of Reproductive Cells, December, 1911; Elementary Agriculture, Lewis and Ferguson.

His various titles while in connection with the Oklahoma A. and M. College were as follows: Professor of Veterinary Medicine and State Veterinarian, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1896-1899; Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Zoology, and Experiment Station Veterinarian, *ibid.*, 1899-1900; Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Zoology, Experiment Station Bacteriologist and Veterinarian, *ibid.*, 1900-1913; Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Zoology, Experiment Station Bacteriologist and Veterinarian, Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine, Dean of School of Science and Literature, Acting Director of Experiment Station, *ibid.*, 1913-14; Professor of Zoology, Experiment Station Bacteriologist and Veterinarian, Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine, Dean of School of Science and Literature, Acting President, *ibid.*, 1914-1915; Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Zoology, Experiment Station Bacteriologist and Veterinarian, Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine, Dean of School of Science and Literature, *ibid.*, 1916-1921; Professor of Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Zoology, Experiment Station Bacteriologist and Veterinarian, Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine, Dean of School of Science and Literature, and Dean of the Faculty, *ibid.*, 1921-1922.