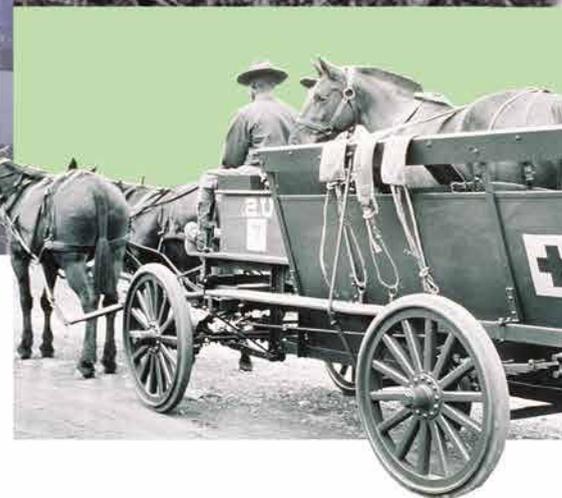


THE MILITARY VETERINARY SERVICES OF THE FIGHTING NATIONS IN WORLD WAR ONE

HISTORICAL CONGRESS

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DI STORIA DELLA MEDICINA VETERINARIA
E DELLA MASCALCIA- A.I.S.Me.Ve.M.**

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**“THE MILITARY VETERINARY SERVICES
OF THE FIGHTING NATIONS IN WORLD WAR ONE”**

Proceedings of the Historical Congress

Edited by Ivo Zoccarato, Patrizia Peila and Mario P. Marchisio



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THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE GREAT WAR ON THE SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OF MILAN

Stefano Twardzik

Abstract. In 1915, when Italy came into the war next to the powers of the Entente, the Royal High School of veterinary medicine of Milan was known as an efficient body of formation of the new recruits on their way to the profession of veterinary surgeon; but not only that: through its nursing homes for animals (mostly horses) the School fulfilled an important service for the territory. Moreover, thanks to the tireless activity of its headmaster Nicola Lanzillotti-Buonsanti, the School had become since the end of the 19th century a centre of research and scientific divulgation, concentrated in a net of close relations with other high school education centres in Milan. The "Great War" burst into this reality with obvious negative side-effects which left deep traces. About 50 among registered ones, the majority of the third and fourth year students were recalled: the fallen were three. The School organisation, the time of the development and length of the courses, the exam calendar were compressed and utterly bent to war time needs. As to the teaching body, in those days most confirmed professors of the School were over forty years old and therefore they stayed on to teach and manage the clinics and institutes; quite a few assistants however, were enlisted and also two professors: Pietro Stazzi, later headmaster of the School (since 1921) and Guido Guerrini; all teaching however, went on regularly during the whole world war.

At the time of the outbreak of the first world war in Italy, there were nine operating schools of veterinary medicine. Besides the one in Milan, they were located in Turin, Parma, Modena, Bologna, Pisa, Camerino, Perugia, and Naples. However, not considering the title-deed conferred which was of the same legal value all over the kingdom, in a few Schools (such as in Camerino and Perugia), which had derived from former schools of lower veterinary of the Pontifical State, the number and level of activated courses were poorer if compared to other schools with a stronger institutional and scientific system, such as Turin, Milan, Bologna and Naples. Moreover, from one seat to another even the institutional order might have been different, as the three schools of Turin, Naples and Milan (the last one devoid of a university that would only appear in 1924) were organs of their own depending upon the Ministry of education ("Ministero dell'istruzione"). The other schools –still included in the circuit of the Ministry of education – were connected with their own Athenaeum, with obvious fewer margins of autonomy. It was only the rules adopted by the fascist régime between 1928 and 1933 that would bring into line an institutional framework that in the previous period of sixty years of liberal Italy had been made utterly dif-

ferentiated¹; and it would only be in the thirties that schools of veterinary medicine (since 1924 Royal high Institutes of veterinary medicine²) would become university faculties. For Milan it would happen in November 1932 through the aggregation of the Institute into the Royal University (as it was called then), an act by which the veterinary School, after 140 years (it was founded in 1791), ceased to work as an autonomous establishment³. In 1915, when the Salandra government, in agreement with the King Vittorio Emanuele III, rejected the alliance treaty with the central empires and joined the war alongside the Great Powers of the *Entente*, the Royal high



Figure 1. Map of the town of Milan in 1908 (Comune di Milano, Raccolta delle stampe “Achille Bertarelli”).



Figure 2. The Veterinary School of Milan in Spalazzani road: the front towards the railway.



Figure 3. The “Great Courtyard” (“Gran Corte”) of the Surgical Clinic of the School.

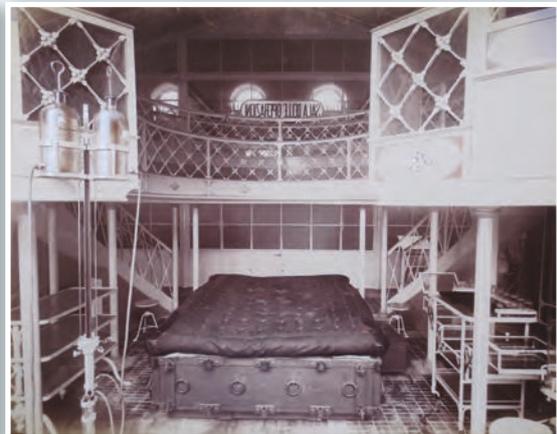


Figure 4. The Surgical operating Room with operating coach.

¹ Regio decreto legge (here after R.d.l.) 17 giugno 1928, n. 1314; R.d.l. 28 agosto 1931, n. 1227; Regio decreto (here after R.d.) 31 agosto 1933, n. 1592.

² According to R.d. 31 ottobre 1923, n. 2492, *Provvedimenti per gli Istituti superiori agrari, di medicina veterinaria e di scienze economiche e commerciali*.

³ Università degli studi di Milano, Historical Archives, Archivio proprio (Centro Apice), Carteggio articolato sul titolario, busta 121 “6A-0 – Economato, pratica generale”: statement of hand over of the administration of the School to the administration of the Royal University; the provision was later formalized by R.d. 8 marzo 1934, n. 621.

School of veterinary medicine of Milan (Regia Scuola superiore di medicina veterinaria di Milano) was already renowned as an efficient formative institution of new recruits for the veterinary profession (see *Figures 1-5*).

We should remember that the didactic regulations and the prerequisites for admission in force in those days had, by the end of a process of several decades, turned the veterinary schools into actual university institutions.

Furthermore, a decree issued in 1908 had restrained the admission to vet medical schools to solely those owning a certificate of grammar school or technical school, and so levelling the requisites of access to these institutions to those applied in universities. Much in the same way that the general university regulation of 1910 had abolished the previous ban of access from vet high schools to university faculties⁴.

The Milanese School however, carried out not just formative tasks, but also service roles for the district in which it operated: the clinics for animals (mostly horses), special courses on police and veterinary legislation, theoretic and practical lectures for veterinaries already practising, and advice on veterinary health issued to various local boards and to prefectures. Moreover, thanks to the tireless activity of its director Nicola Lanzillotti-Buonsanti (director since 1879, see *Figure 6*), the School had become a centre of research and scientific publication, innervated in a network of close relations with other different scientific institutions operating in town, such as: the Royal high School of agriculture, the Royal technical high Institute



Figure 5. Portion of the Anatomy Theatre - Anatomy classroom (Figures 2-5 images credit: University of Milan Biblioteca di Medicina veterinaria, Album foto Antonio Strazza, 1900).

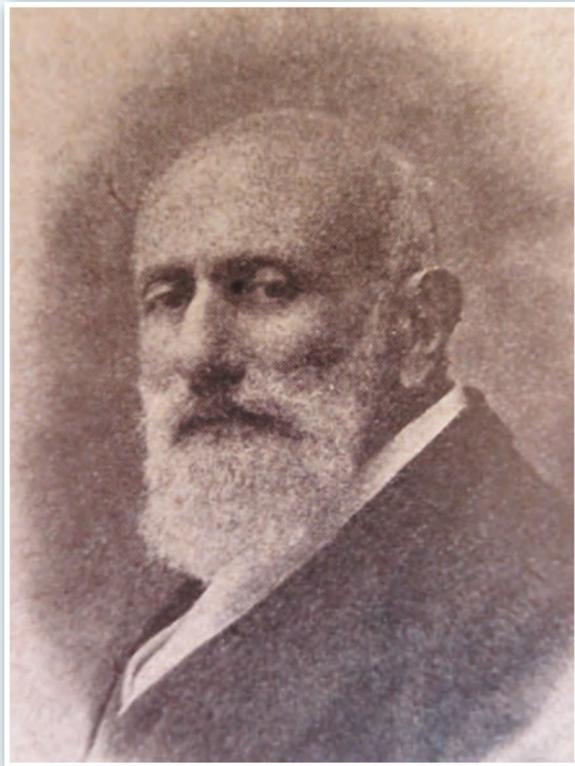


Figure 6. Nicola Lanzillotti-Buonsanti, about 1908-1913 (Photomechanic reproduction published in his obituary from "Annuario veterinario Italiano" 1924, p.230).

⁴ See respectively R.d. 29 novembre 1908, n. 770, and R.d. 9 agosto 1910, n. 796.



Figure 7. Cover of the file titled “For the War [...]”, 1915-1919 (university of Milan, Archivio SSMV, busta 142, fasc. 105).

(the future “Politecnico”), the Municipal Museum of natural history and the Hydrobiological Station annexed to the Aquarium, and the Milanese serotherapeutical Institute⁵. On such a comforting state of affairs, even if not idyllic, the Great War broke out with very negative effects that would leave a long-lasting mark. The deep change in regulations, praxis and the rhythm of life beforehand left a trace even on bureaucratic tasks such as organizing files of archives. In this way, the clerk serving in the post war period (maybe the same secretary-bursar of the School Oreste Pupilli) felt the need to put all records produced after the changes brought about by the war into a swollen dossier which, alien to ordinary headings on classification tables, was given the meaningful heading “For the War” (Figure 7).

We can start from this datum: out of 44 registered students in early 1915, most third and fourth years were recalled. For instance, during the second year of war in April 1916, out of eleven fourth and last year students, nine were in the army⁶. From a check of the students’ career registers at the School, it is clear that at least 24 of the 44 students mentioned above would sooner or later be enlisted for the three and a half war years⁷ (even if the datum is probably defective because some students who were discharged after 1915 to join other schools of veterinary medicine are taken in no account). The School’s organisation, including: the timing and duration of courses, the calendar of exams, the registration rules and also

⁵ About this, Stefano Twardzik, *Una clinica per gli animali. La Scuola di medicina veterinaria diretta da Nicola Lanzillotti-Buonsanti*, in *Milano scientifica 1875-1924*, vol. I, Elena Canadelli (editor), *La rete del grande Politecnico*, Milano, Sironi editore, 2008, pp. 161-179.

⁶ Università degli studi di Milano, Historical Archives of R. Scuola superiore di medicina veterinaria (here after Archivio SSMV), Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria, Carteggio articolato sul titolario, busta 142, fasc. 105 “Per la Guerra [...]”, sott.fasc. 12 “Pratiche riguardanti gli studenti”. There were instead eighth students recalled in subsequent december 1916.

⁷ Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Centro Apice), Registri delle carriere degli studenti, registro 205.

the level of preparation required of those recalled, were compressed and submitted as being wartime demands.

A lieutenantancy decree on September 16 1915 established that “notwithstanding the provisions in force, military undergraduates might replace the written dissertation of the degree with an oral debate on a subject chosen by the board of examiners”. Later on, through another lieutenantancy decree of September 23, it was stated that students at arms had to be registered officiously whether or not they had undergone the exams required to pass from one year course to the next one⁸.

Then, starting from February 1916, and already in force for the scholastic year 1915/1916, the Ministry of education decided that undergraduate students of veterinary schools close to completing their degree might join speeded up courses for those subjects taught in the fourth year “with a power to limit the didactic development of some subjects according to the length of course”⁹. By fixing the length from 21 February to 27 April (little more than two months, while before the war classes lasted about five months), students in the army were discharged by their higher-ranking



Figure 8. - “Teachers and auditors of the war course of medicine and veterinary surgery”, in the Great Courtyard of the Surgical Clinic of the School, [May] 1915 (Photomeckanic reproduction published in “La Clinica Veterinaria”, 1915, p. 402).

⁸An analogous facility was settled for students eventually employed in factories producing war material.

⁹Decreto luogotenenziale (lieutenancy decree) 17 February 1916, n. 274.



Figure 9. The front of the new building of the “Royal high Insitute of veterinary medicine of Milan” (former R. high School) in “Città Studi”, 1927 (University of Milan, Biblioteca di Medicina veterinaria).

authorities to attend the lessons and obtain a degree.

We might state a few direct effects of such compression of the students’ training course caused by the hard war strain by skimming through the personal files of the School students who got a degree in the quinquennium 1910-1915 and in the following quadriennium 1916-1919. It strikes you immediately that the theses kept in the files of the latter period become more exiguous and that the previous differentiation of the subjects dealt with is restricted to

a definitely more limited spectrum¹⁰.

Beyond the remarkable changes in the system of students, the veterinary School of Milan, within its competence, contributed to the great course of civil mobilization required by the war. Concerning this, two episodes are noteworthy. Even before Italy joined the world war, in early April 1915 a special course of war veterinary medicine and surgery (“*medicina e chirurgia veterinaria di guerra*”) started off for 3rd and 4th year students, but mainly for “civil and military veterinary surgeons”. The course was shared out among the teachers Lanzilotti-Buonsanti, Moretti, Stazzi, Guerrini, Pirocchi and coordinated by Olinto Bertolotti, veterinary-major with the 3rd Army corps¹¹. It was quite successful: there were over fifty auditors, some of them from other Italian regions (*the group photograph, see Figure 8, shows both teachers and auditors*). The second episode concerns the relations with a renowned scientific institution, turned into a “moral” corporate body in 1896: the Serotherapeutical Institute presided by Camillo Golgi. This establishment, owing to the wartime emergency, had to increase substantially the production of immunizing serum assigned to the army “for prophylaxis and treatment of infectious diseases of soldiers, and mainly for tetanus”¹². Starting from January 1918, with the consent of the Ministry of education, the Institute was given free use of a branch of the School stables from the veterinary School of Milan in order to accommodate a

¹⁰ Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Centro Apice), Fascicoli personali degli studenti per sequenza di archiviazione (Personal students’ files according to filing sequence), buste 181-187.

¹¹ Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), Carteggio articolato sul titolare, busta 130, fasc. 61.

¹² Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), Carteggio articolato sul titolare, busta 142, fasc. 105, sott.fasc. 9 “Rapporti con l’Istituto sieroterapico”, urgent note of Lanzillotti-Buonsanti to Ministry of education, 28 October 1917, prot. 142.

portion of serum producing horses furnished by the Army which couldn't be taken into the School's infirmaries because of their increased number. This concession was also useful for the School, because its animal clinics "given the circumstances" worked "in a very restricted way"¹³, and so the veterinary School was able to use these horses for clinic demonstrations for didactic purposes¹⁴.

A memorial stone of the "alumni" of the School of Milan "who have sacrificed their promising youth to their country" was placed on the flight of steps of the main building that today still holds – but just for a short time – the Faculty of veterinary medicine of the University¹⁵. The School moved in 1927 from Spallanzani road, near Porta Venezia (see figure 1), to its new location in the large area assigned to "Città degli studi", recently completed in the eastern part of the town (Figure 9) with the monument carved here in 1930 on Pietro Stazzi's initiative¹⁶, then the director. The stone bears the names, engraved in alphabetical order, of twelve students of the School who died during the First World War (see Figure 10). In order of their birth date, not carved on the stone: Vincenzo De Rosa (1869), Ottavio Ghisi (1876), Carlo Francesco Trevisan (1876), Ulisse Carini Barbieri (1878), Arrigo Dalan (1881), Antonio Sanquirico (1885), Angelo Stropeni (1887), Luigi Lovise (1887), Pietro Pini (1888), Cesare Caldonazzo (1888), Cesare De Santis (1894), Riccardo Crotti (1898).

One can easily perceive that most "alumni" had concluded their studies

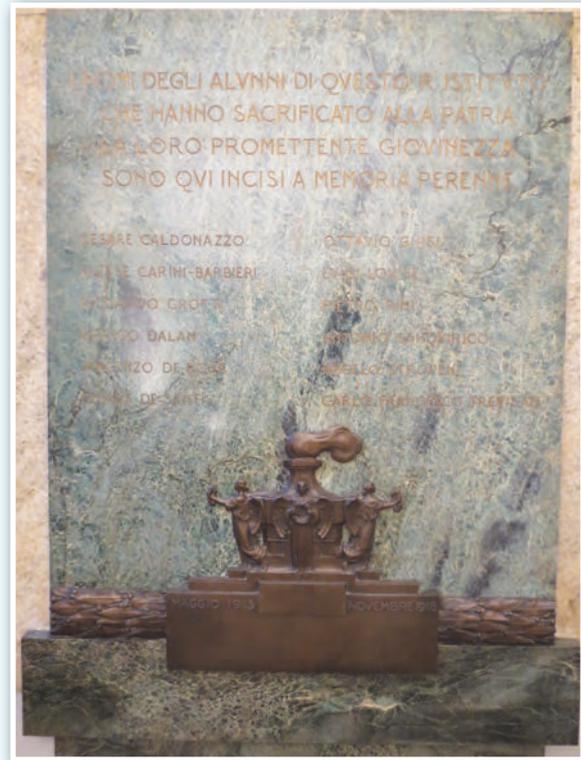


Figure 10.

¹³ *Ibidem*.

¹⁴ Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), busta 142, fasc. 105, sott.fasc. 9 "Rapporti con l'Istituto sieroterapico", Convention between the School and the Serotherapeutical institute , 9 January 1918 (articolo 4).

¹⁵ Within the start of academic year 2018/2019 (October 2018) it is foreseen the moving to Lodi (about 20 km from Milan) of the two departments which comprise the Faculty of veterinary medicine.

¹⁶ Università degli studi di Milano, Historical Archives, Archivio proprio (Centro Apice), Organi di governo, Facoltà di medicina veterinaria former R. Istituto superiore, Verbali delle sedute del Consiglio (Statements of Council meetings), registro 1, statement of 21 January 1930, p. 103.

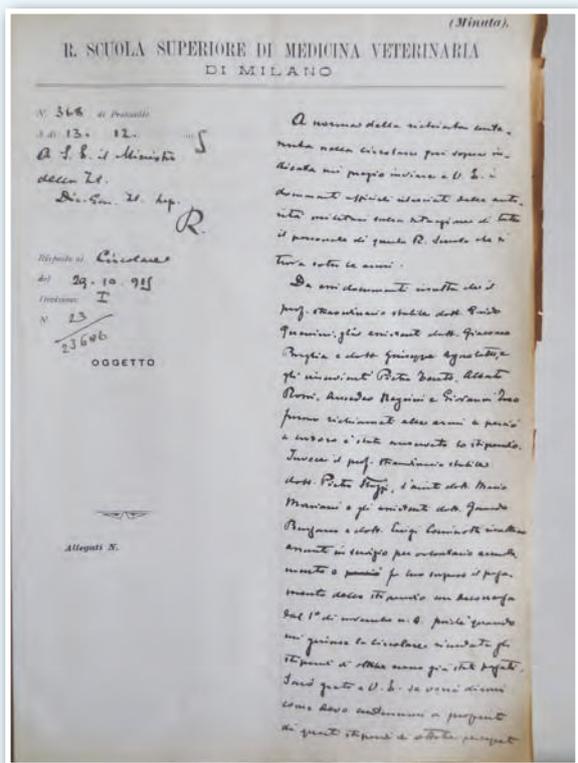


Figure 11. Note of Lanzillotti-Buonsanti to the Minister of education, about the sate of payment of salaries of the staff recalled, 13 December 1915 (University of Milan, Archivio SSMV, busta 142, fasc. 105).

before the outbreak of the war: in fact they had received their certificates between 1898 and 1914¹⁷. Except for the last two former alumni listed above, all were in service as veterinary officers of the veterinary corps¹⁸. The last two who died were instead young students enrolled at the School of Milan: Cesare De Santis, born in Lucera (Foggia) on 18 July 1894, enrolled 6 November 1913 (serial number 1002), second lieutenant of infantry, “died in Oslavia on quota 188 on 24 January 1916”¹⁹, was officially registered to the third year (1915/1916) and had passed four exams in 1914.

Riccardo Crotti, born in Crema on 4 May 1898, enrolled “with effect” since November 1916 (serial number 1046), “aspirant officer in an infantry regiment”, fallen “under enemy lead” on 24 October 1917²⁰ (probably during the defeat of Caporetto). At the

time of his death he was automatically registered for the second year. As for the teaching staff, among professors “in charge”, “extraordinary”

¹⁷ With the exception of Vincenzo De Rosa, born in 1869 and evidently career military man, who had got the degree already in 1894; Pietro Pini, instead, enrolled on 20 October 1907, interrupted the studies between 1909 and 1914, and at the end graduated on 6 November 1916. Data concerning these twelve students are taken from Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Centro Apice), Registri delle carriere degli studenti (Career students’ registers), registri 205-206.

¹⁸ See *L’inaugurazione della Lapide ricordo ai veterinari caduti in guerra* (Pinerolo, Cavalry School, 22 May 1932), in “La Clinica veterinaria”, 1932, pp. 431-433.

¹⁹ Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), Carteggio articolato sul titolario, busta 142, fasc. 105, sott.fasc. “Pratiche riguardanti gli studenti”, letter of Lanzillotti-Buonsanti to the Ministry of education, 3 March 1916, n. 533. See pictures of the veterinary students who died in the Great War, in M.P. Marchisio, “The Italian Army Veterinary Corps during World War One”, in this volume.

²⁰ From obituary published in “La Clinica Veterinaria”, 1917. See also Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Centro Apice), Registri delle carriere degli studenti, registro 206, matricola 1046.

professors and “ordinary” professors (full professors), just two out of the total teaching staff were recalled in May 1915 which, excluding assistants and “helpers”, numbered twelve people. Instead, recalled assistants or volunteers were more numerous, as one can read in an enlightening note by the head of the School in December 1915 addressed to the Ministry of education: Giacomo Braglia, Giuseppe Agnoletti, Mario Mariani (“helper”), Gerardo Bussano, Luigi Cominotti (see *Figure 11*). This seems quite logical after all, given their younger age. There were even quite a few recalled people (not volunteers) among the service and subaltern staff. An interesting letter from 27 January 1917, written by Lanzillotti-Buonsanti directly to “His Excellency war Minister” – at the time Paolo Morrone – testifies effectively of the benefits supplied to the Italian Army by veterinary service men, despite a few rhetoric admissions due to the circumstances: “Eccellenza,

Durante il periodo della presente guerra ho avuto spesso occasione di vedere e conferire con i miei ex allievi del Corpo Veterinario Militare, i quali, nei periodi di congedo, hanno voluto ricordarsi del loro vecchio maestro, e da essi seppi con grande compiacimento, con quale abnegazione e con quanti frutti i veterinari militari italiani abbiano data tutta l'opera loro a vantaggio della Nazione.

[...] In verità per chi tenga dietro a quanto si va pubblicando in Italia ed all'estero sulle funzioni dei veterinari per la guerra, è facile dedurre come il Corpo veterinario italiano sia alla testa di tutti gli altri corpi veterinari degli Stati alleati e di quelli nemici. Difatti in Italia, a differenza della Francia e di altri Stati, la rogna, l'indispensabile appannaggio dei grandi agglomerati di animali, si mantenne in limiti ristrettissimi, eppoi fu domata e vinta in breve tempo. La morva, che in Russia, in Austria e in Germania fece strage, da noi fu completamente soffocata nei primi attacchi. Né meno buoni risultati si ottennero nel campo della ispezione delle carni, per cui da noi non si ebbero a verificare danni ai consumatori, mentre presso altri eserciti si ebbero casi di avvelenamento e di morte per l'uso di carni provenienti da animali ammalati (Germania)”²¹.

The letter shows the earnest and direct approach the old director of

²¹ “Your Excellency, / During the present war I have often met and spoken to my former students of military vet corps, who when on leave have wished to meet their old professor and so I was pleased to learn from them with how much self-denial and how successfully had they operated to the advantage of the Nation. [...] Indeed, for people who keep reading whatever is published both in Italy and abroad, it's easy to infer that the Italian Veterinary Corps is at the head of all the other veterinary corps, both of the allied and the enemy forces. In fact in Italy, unlike in France and other States, the mange, the basic annuity of the big agglomerations of animals, was kept in quite restricted limits and later it was put down and defeated before long. Glanders, which caused havoc in Austria and Germany, at home was completely smothered at the beginning. Nor less good results were obtained in the field of meat inspection, so that in our country there were no damages for consumers while among foreign armies there were poisoning and death cases owing to ingestion of meat originated from sick animals (Germany)”. See Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), Carteggio articolato sul titolario, busta 142, fasc. 105, sott.fasc. 5 “Professori”, 27 January 1917, prot. 340.

the School (born in 1846 at Ferrandina, Basilicata) used to address the government representative in charge, complaining about the unease of the military veterinaries “for reasons of roll staff”²², which showed the real purpose of the letter:

*“Ma chi, come me, si è costantemente mantenuto in contatto con coloro che formano questo benemerito corpo tecnico del nostro Esercito, non ha potuto fare a meno di rilevare un certo sconforto e un certo disagio che si nota in tutti per le condizioni di carriera che gli sono riservate. Mi si è detto che, consapevoli di un tale stato di cose, codesto R. Ministero e l’Intendenza Generale, hanno più volte fatto proposte di miglioramenti di organico ed io mi faccio ardito di supplicare V.E. perché si degni [di] dare corso a detti miglioramenti”*²³.

Just as Italy was about to join the war, enlistments reached those born in 1874-1875, who were 40 years old²⁴. The majority of the established professors of the School were over forty years old, meaning that they stayed on to teach and manage the clinics and laboratories, like the director Lanzillotti-Buonsanti who, at almost seventy years of age, was a “professore ordinario” of pathology and clinical surgery but also giving a course of veterinary legislation. And so were Giampietro Moretti, born in 1852, an “ordinario” of pathology and medical clinic; Angelo Pugliese, born in 1866, an “ordinario” of experimental physiology; and Luigi Varaldi, born in 1861, who died shortly after Italy’s entrance into the war (13 July 1915)²⁵, an “ordinario” of descriptive anatomy (after a few months’ gap, in 1916 the course was entrusted to Attilio Antonini with a temporary appointment “in charge”).

Furthermore, professors in charge of temporary teaching appointments were added to this group. With the exception of Achille Trinchera, a senior teacher of obstetrics and podiatry, and Angelo Izar, a junior teacher at the Technical high Institute, they were also all teachers at the Agrarian high School (the future Agrarian Faculty): Antonio Pirocchi (zootecnics), Ugo Brizi (botany),

²² Ibidem, covering message of the letter to the war minister, addressed from Lanzillotti-Buonsanti to acting colonel chief of the Inspection veterinary office of the War Ministry, E. Plassio, 27 January 1917, prot. 341 (at that time, the chief of the office was Antonio Cattani).

²³ “But someone, like me, who had always kept in touch with those belonging to this well-deserving technical corps of our Army, could never help pointing out a certain degree of dejection and discomfort for the career conditions given to them. I have been told that being aware of this state of affairs, this Royal Ministry and the General Intendancy have often suggested improvement of the organic system and I dare to beseech your Excellency to attend to such improvements”.

²⁴ See Mario Isnenghi, Giorgio Rochat, *La Grande Guerra, 1914-1918*, Milano, Sansoni, 2004, p. 273; Nicola Labanca, *L’esercito italiano*, in Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Jean-Jacques Becker (editors), *La prima guerra mondiale*, vol. I, Torino, Einaudi, 2007, p. 224 (orig. title *Encyclopédie de la Grande Guerre 1914-1918*, Paris, Bayard, 2004).

²⁵ Died “after long and painful illness”, as we can read in his obituary published in “*La Clinica Veterinaria*”, 1915, p. 635.

Angelo Contardi (chemistry), Felice Supino (zoology, physiology and comparative anatomy). The last of these names was also director of the Biology and applied hydrobiology Station at the Municipal Aquarium of Milan. Among the professors “in charge”, two were young enough to join the Army: Contardi and Izar. The former, however (born in 1877), was relieved as certified by the director “indispensable for the right functioning of the office” and “utterly irreplaceable”²⁶, despite belonging to the senior contingents of the Army; while the latter, born in 1881, was rejected in February 1916 as the only support of a widowed mother.



Figure 12. Pietro Stazzi, about 1940-1948 (Photomechanik reproduction published in his obituary from “La Clinica veterinaria”, 1960, p. 94).

A few words about enlisted professors. Pietro Stazzi, born in 1877 in Soncino (Cremona), an “extraordinary professor” since 1908 after winning the first post for the chair of hygiene and veterinary police in a competitive examination published in Italy. He was also in charge of the course of the inspection of animals for slaughter and, as an enlisted volunteer, revealing his support of the choice for armed intervention. During almost the entire conflict, as captain veterinary he was employed at the Bacteriological veterinary Laboratory of Verona (discharged later with the rank of Major). Over the three academic years of the war’s duration, he was allowed to travel from Verona to Milan for two days a week to give lessons, so that his courses went on without a break. After the war, with Camillo Terni he became joint manager of the Experimental Station for infectious diseases of livestock, founded in 1907²⁷. Whilst in October 1921, he succeeded Lanzillotti-Buonsanti in the head office of the veterinary School²⁸ (*regretfully, his photographic portrait in Figure 12 shows him later on in his sixties*).

Guido Guerrini, born in 1878 in Bologna, was an “extraordinary professor”

²⁶ According to Decreto luogotenenziale 4 ottobre 1916, articolo 5.

²⁷ It will become the future Zooprofilattico Institute of the Lombard provinces, now of Lombardy and Emilia Romagna. In those days, the Station was located in Stoppani road, near the School of veterinary medicine.

²⁸ About Pietro Stazzi see also Giuseppe Armocida, Bruno Cozzi, *La medicina degli animali a Milano. I duecento anni di vita della Scuola veterinaria*, Milano, Edizioni Sipiell, 1992, pp. 120-122.

of general pathology and pathological anatomy since 1911. He was also in charge of histology and came from the University of Naples, where he had been a qualified lecturer ("libero docente") of general pathology within the Faculty of medicine and surgery. "Recalled to arms" in June 1915, as a doctor, unlike Stazzi and the assistants enrolled in the veterinary corps of the army, he was summoned to enter the medical corps, but in what role it is uncertain for the first two years of the war. We know however that starting from autumn 1917 he was in charge of the management of a field hospital in a direct war zone until the end of 1918. While on a leave of absence, in early 1917, he was able to give the course of pathological anatomy and of histology; while during the previous years the supply teaching post was given to Camillo Terni (a well-known hygienist who in 1926 would take charge of the Serotherapeutical Institute of Naples), and the lessons of histology would be granted to Angelo Pugliese²⁹. In conclusion, all activated classes in the School of Milan continued more or less regularly until the end of the war.

All of this in spite of the hardships of organisation, the recall to war zone of two prominent professors, four assistants and one helper, the worsening of alimentary conditions for those left behind and the gaps among the minute students' population caused by ever growing enlistment.

A clear instance of the soundness of this training institution and of the constancy of all the people of different qualifications who worked there.

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²⁹ See Università degli studi di Milano, Archivio SSMV (Biblioteca della Facoltà di medicina veterinaria), Registri delle lezioni, buste 148-149.

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