1950

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Dr. Ipsen

Subject: Annuel Report
1950-1951

From: Dr. Hinton

Date: August 13, 1951

I am enclosing the Annual report of the Wassermann Laboratory for the year 1950-1951.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

Wm. A. Hinton, M. D., Chief

The most noteworthy event in the Wassermann Laboratory during the year 1950-1951 was a precipitous cut in U. S. Venereal Disease funds which caused curtailment in essential activities. The Wassermann test and quantitative Hinton and Kahn tests had to be completely eliminated except for a relatively few quantitative Hinton tests performed for venereal disease clinics subsidized by the state. Besides drastically cutting the budget our financial position was further weakened by the sudden necessity of testing blood for the armed forces. Two junior clerk-typists were forced to resign November 30, 1950 because of lack of funds. The salaries of seven employees, one junior bacteriologist, four laboratory assistants, one senior clerk, and one junior clerk, had to be transferred to the pay roll of the Biologic Laboratory. In April, 1951, 6580 was transferred to the Wassermann Laboratory from a U. S. Syphilis Control Project which made it possible to reemploy the two clerks temporarily and purchase some necessary supplies. The seven workers are still on the Biologic Laboratory pay roll.

NB

In the program within the Commonwealth for evaluating the performance of serologic tests for the detection of syphilis, specimens were sent to fifty-seven laboratories in connection with the testing of blood for transfusion purposes and to thirty-one institutions seeking approval for performing standard serologic tests for syphilis. At present there are one hundred and ten institutions approved for testing blood for transfusion purposes and thirty-seven institutions approved for performing standard serologic tests for syphilis.

Based on the results of the evaluations by the United States Public Health Service for the past three years plans are being made to improve the efficiency of our service by substituting cardiolipin and lecithin for beef-heart extract in the preparation of indicator (antigen) for the Hinton test. The results obtained both by the United States Public Health Service and the Red Cross Blood Bank indicate that this change will greatly improve the quality of the laboratory's work in the serologic detection of syphilis.

The performance of tests for the determination of total proteins and globulin in spinal fluids should also be added to the routine tests performed in the Wassermann Laboratory.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

Tests and Examinations

Kind of Specimen		1946	1947 48	1948 47	1949 50	1950 51
Blood	Number of Specimens	541,108	564,765	517,683	519,668	539,398
	Tests					
	Hinton	426,954	457,747	446,727	438,820	472,986
	Rapid Hinton	3,704	---	---	---	---
	Hinton-Titr.-Penicillin	14,033	9,086	9,820	13,247	14,115
	Kahn Titr.-Penicillin	14,033	9,086	9,483	13,247	13,549
	Davies-Hinton Micro Flac.	9,130	10,091	11,398	14,693	14,147
	*Bacillus Abortus Appl.	23,849	26,956	24,424	24,330	24,895
	*Glanders	15	9	33	10	12
	**Blood Grouping	4,156	---	---	---	---
	**Rh Typing	4,156	---	---	---	---
	**Blood Bank Hintons	8,698	30,876	25,281	28,568	7,443
Spinal Fluid	Number of Specimens	12,439	13,908	14,732	13,068	11,094
	Tests					
	Wassermann	13,143	11,729	9,883	9,950	8,038
	Davies-Hinton	12,439	13,908	14,732	13,068	11,094
Rabies Diagnosis*	Number of Specimens	186	213	194	192	189
	Tests					
	Impressions	186	213	194	192	189
	Sections	179	201	184	180	180
	Animal Inoculations	177	191	184	172	181
Path. & Bact. Examinations*	Number of Specimens	2	-	10	2	6
	Tests					
	Animal Inoculations	2	-	4	-	20 4
	Cultures	-	-	5	1	2 5
	Smears & Impressions	1	-	3	1	-
	Sections	-	-	5	-	1 1
						25
	Total Tests	567,714	560,093	550,560	566,685	566,574
	Total Specimens	553,735	535,886	530,619	532,930	542,647

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control
**Tests for State Blood Bank.