

December 7, 1939

Dr. Elliott S. Robinson, Director
Antitoxin and Vaccine Laboratory
375 South Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I am enclosing herewith
report of the Wassermann Laboratory for the
fiscal year 1939.

Very truly yours,

William A. Hinton, M.D., Chief
Wassermann Laboratory

WAH/o
Enclosures

DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES

Report of Wassermann Laboratory for the Fiscal Year 1939

The routine activities of the Wassermann Laboratory continue to increase, as is shown by Table I, which gives the number and character of the examinations for the past five years.

TABLE I

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>
Wassermann Tests	17,320	19,893	18,118	16,324	16,350
Hinton Tests	125,869	141,318	163,144	221,588	252,200
Davies-Hinton Micro-flocculation Tests	----	----	1,418	3,265	4,074
Davies-Hinton Tests on Spinal Fluids	----	----	583	3,710	5,008
Gonococcus Fixation Tests	5,100	6,524	9,814	10,363	11,134
Lange's Colloidal Gold Tests	166	126	516	543	----
Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders	28	29	25	20	29
Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control:					
(a) Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders	12	8	12	6	6
(b) Examinations for Rabies	500	342	462	302	290
(c) Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations	8	19	6	2	11
(d) Agglutination Tests for Bacillus Abortus	16,963	23,286	25,099	26,366	29,882
Totals	166,966	191,545	238,397	282,455	312,984
Expenditures	\$22,190	\$23,910	\$26,250	\$30,364	\$36,278.51*
Average Cost per Test	13.2¢	12.5¢	11¢	10.7¢	11.5¢
This increase of 8% in the cost of each test is due largely to new activities which will be described below.					

*This figure includes \$12,091.43 from Federal Funds.

The time required for the reporting of results of ganglia examination for rabies has been reduced considerably by the use of a new method of fixation. Formerly such reports were available 72 hours after the receipt of the tissue, whereas in most instances reports are now available within 24 hours.

Further routine activities included teaching and are as follows:

Graduate and Senior students from Simmons College.
Students from the Harvard School of Public Health.
Students from the second year class of Harvard Medical School.

Resumption of work on the serology of syphilis in rabbits treated with arphenamine has been made possible by the appointment of a Senior Bacteriologist.

New activities are as follows:

1) The evaluation of laboratories in Massachusetts, to determine their efficiency in the serologic detection of syphilis, is being resumed. This is in compliance with a recently enacted law which requires a blood test for syphilis in pregnant women.

2) Instruction of technicians of hospitals in Massachusetts in the method of the Rapid Winton test - a requisite for complying with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations governing blood transfusions.

Changes in personnel were as follows:

Four Junior Clerks and Stenographers were appointed and two resigned, making a net gain of two positions in this rating. Five laboratory helpers were appointed and two resigned, making a net gain of three positions in this rating. One of each of the following resigned and was replaced by a corresponding appointment: Senior Clerk and Stenographer; Laboratory Assistant; and Supervising Technician. One Senior Bacteriologist was appointed.

The Wassermann Laboratory contemplates an increase in the number of serologic tests during the coming year, principally as a result of the law requiring serologic tests for syphilis in pregnant women. The work on the serology of syphilis in rabbits is to continue. Later in the year there will be the appointment of an additional Senior Bacteriologist (as approved in the budget) who, besides assisting in the routine duties of the laboratory, will work on serological methods for detecting gonococci.

Respectfully submitted,

Amount Expended State Salaries \$18,707.08

Amount Deducted State Salaries

Delaney (One-half salary for year) 465.00

Carco (One-quarter salary for 7 mos.) 165.00

630.00

Total State Funds

\$18,077.08

Amount Expended Federal Salaries

\$8772.84

Amount Deducted Federal Salaries

793.16

Dr. Hill (One-third sal) 526.90

Hayes, A (One-third 3 mos. 95.01

G.C. Work 171.25

\$793.16

Total Federal Funds

\$7979.68

Total Salaries for State Fiscal Report

\$26,056.76

Amount of State Funds for Expenses

6,200.00

Amount of Federal Funds for Expenses

Dec. 1, 1938 thru June 30, 1939

1,018.32

This amount included all typewriters
purchased but not any new equipment, furniture
or alteration bills

July 1, 1939 thru Nov. 30, 1939

3,003.43

Total Expenditures

\$10,221.75

Total amount used to compute cost per test -

\$36,278.51