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1957-1958

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1958

GENEVIEVE O. STUART
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

During the calendar year of 1957 the Wassermann Laboratory performed 477,759 tests. Approximately 70% of the specimens were received from hospitals and institutions; 30% from private physicians. A total of 50,739 specimens were tested for premarital purposes and 37,962 for prenatal purposes. Out-of-State premarital certificates were issued to 1303 applicants.

This year one hundred and thirty-five laboratories participated in the intrastate serologic evaluation for syphilis. Eight laboratories were not approved. Fifty-two laboratories received approval for standard tests, and seventy-five for rapid tests for blood donor purposes only. Eleven technicians from participating hospital laboratories were given refresher training in the serology of syphilis.

The laboratory participated again this year in the National Evaluation of Serologic tests conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service, and tested two hundred matched samples of serum both qualitatively and quantitatively. The results showed that the performance of the Hinton test in this laboratory was satisfactory as to sensitivity and specificity.

The Laboratory cooperated with the Texas State Health Department and served as a control for the Hinton test in their State evaluation. One hundred and ninety-four tests were performed.

Experimental work on comparative Complement Fixation tests using antigen prepared from virulent treponema pallida and one prepared from

nonvirulent organisms was continued and this year six hundred and fifty-seven of these tests were performed. It was found that the antigen prepared from the protein fraction of the nonvirulent tropaenae gave satisfactory results, and other laboratories obtained similar results. Since the cost of this antigen is considerably less, it is now being used exclusively. Due to the cost and difficult technique, the use of this Complement Fixation test is limited to patients who have positive Hinton tests and no history or evidence of syphilis.

Milk samples submitted by the Massachusetts Medical Milk Commission have been tested monthly for brucella abortus agglutinins.

The program in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture for testing cattle for the eradication of brucellosis expanded beyond the facilities of this laboratory. The work was moved during the month of May to a laboratory provided by the State Division of Livestock Disease Control.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

1957-1958

Tests and Examinations

TABLE I.

Kind of Specimen		1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
		-	-	-	-	-
		1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Blood	Number of Specimens	522,434	530,229	512,403	492,586	463,099
	Tests					
	Hinton	467,977	473,048	481,056	468,420	440,354
	Quantitative Hinton	6,747	10,075	10,493	8,772	9,130
	Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	12,307	11,554	7,729	5,206	4,067
	*Brucella Abortus Agglutination	33,391	35,539	13,121	10,177	9,505
	Glanders Complement Fixation	12	13	9	11	3
SPINAL Fluid	Number of Specimens	9,843	9,369	8,872	8,307	8,692
	Tests					
	Davies-Hinton	9,843	9,369	8,872	8,307	8,692
	Globulin	4,491	4,675	3,728	3,486	2,782
	Total Protein	4,292	4,234	3,410	3,136	2,592
Rabies Diagnosis*	Number of Specimens	203	216	176	198	207
	Tests					
	Expressions	203	216	176	198	207
	Sections	188	199	153	177	185
	Animal Inoculations	195	212	166	189	202
Total Tests		541,646	549,184	528,913	508,579	477,759
Total Specimens		532,480	539,814	521,451	501,591	471,998

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control

SUMMARY

During the year 1957, 477,759 tests were performed in this laboratory. There was a decrease in the number of specimens received from private physicians for premarital, and especially for prenatal purposes. This decrease in the specimens for prenatal purposes is partly due to the discontinuance of the Rh typing by the Diagnostic Laboratory.

Experimental work on the use of Complement Fixation tests with antigen prepared from *treponema pallida* has been continued. The use of this test is restricted to specimens from patients who have so-called biologic false positive reactions.

The two hundred and seven animal heads received for rabies examination were all found to be nonrabid.

Due to the increased volume of work, the program for the eradication of brucellosis in cattle conducted in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture moved to a laboratory provided by the State Division of Livestock Disease Control.