

1941

December 10, 1941

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

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Enclosed herewith is the report of
the Wassermann Laboratory for the fiscal year
1941.

(see attached)

Very truly yours,

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

WAH:O
Enc.

MEMORANDUM

•Subject:- Annual Report

To:

From: Dr. Jahnmauh

Date: Nov. 18, 1941

Will you please submit to my office by December 12, 1941, your preliminary annual report, giving a brief summary of the major activities of your Division during the past year and a brief statement of the more important new activities which you contemplate during the coming year.

Your report should include a list of the publications of your Division and a list of the rules and regulations promulgated during the past year which pertain to the work of your Division. 

I quote the following extracts from a communication from the Chairman of the Commission on Administration and Finance:

"A number of reports submitted to the printing office include much unnecessary detail, such, for instance, as names and classifications of employees and details of changes in the clerical and administrative forces There is no provision in the law which requires the publication of the names of employees in the department. The only name which should appear is that of a Department head."

"Will you please advise division heads and others in your department responsible for the preparation of reports that the statute requires only a 'brief summary' of the year's activity."

In preparing your preliminary annual report and also your final report, will you please keep in mind the instructions quoted above.



DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES
Report for Wassermann Laboratory
For the Fiscal Year 1941

The following table presents in statistical form the routine activities of the Wassermann Laboratory and shows the increases in the number of major examinations during the past two years:

TABLE I

Specimens received and results of tests during fiscal year 1941

		BLOODS	SPINAL & OTHER FLUIDS	RABIES	PATH. & BACT. SPECI- MENS	TOTALS	1940 TOTALS
		426,277	11,057	265	2	437,601	356,392
HINTON	Neg.	356,952					
	Pos.	19,659					
	Dbt.	4,678					
	Uns.	16,473				391,772	306,423
DAVIES- HINTON MICRO- FLOCCULATION	Neg.	4,259					
	Pos.	105					
	Dbt.	62					
	Uns.	180				4,606	4,576
G.C. COMPLE- MENT FIXATION	Neg.	988					
	Pos.	194					
	Dbt.	59					
	Uns.	32				1,273	9,346
BACILLUS ABORTUS	Neg.	24,092					
	Pos.	1,985					
	Dbt.	3,225					
	Uns.	296				29,598	30,682
GLANDERS	Neg.	22					
	Pos.	1					
	Dbt.	1				24	23
WASSERMANN	Neg.		8,897				
	Pos.		896				
	Dbt.		233				
	Uns.		1,031			11,057	11,798
DAVIES- HINTON	Neg.		6,911				
	Pos.		1,222				
	Dbt.		156				
	Uns.		135			8,424	6,222
SEARS & IMPRESSIONS	Neg.			233			
	Pos.			16	1		
	Uns.			16		266	307
PARAFFIN SECTIONS				251		251	297
ANIMAL INOCULATIONS				225	1	226	242
CULTURES					1	1	4
TOTALS for 1941		427,273	19,481	741	3	447,498	
TOTALS for 1940		351,050	18,020	843	7		369,920

Expenditures for routine activities and tests performed in 1941: \$49,617.40 *
 Average Cost per test: 11¢

*This figure includes \$26,399.85 Federal Funds

Additional routine activities performed by the laboratory included the following:

(1) Laboratory demonstrations and instruction to graduate and senior students from Simmons College, and to second year students from Harvard Medical School and Dental Schools.

(2) Continued work on the serology of syphilis in rabbits treated with arsphenamine.

(3) Evaluation of laboratories in Massachusetts to determine their efficiency in the serologic detection of syphilis, in compliance with State and Public Health laws and regulations. Approximately four hundred different sera have been sent out for testing. Thirty-six institutions have now been approved for testing blood for blood donors, and sixteen institutions for performing routine serologic tests for syphilis. As well as sending specimens to those laboratories seeking approval, we are continuing to send specimens to those laboratories already approved, in order to be sure that they maintain a satisfactory rating in the performance of these tests. As an adjunct to this service, seventeen technicians and one doctor from institutions in Massachusetts were given instruction in the technique of the Rapid Hinton test.

Among new activities may be listed the following:

(1) The performance of serologic tests for syphilis on all draftees for the Selective Service System. A total of 68,363 tests were done during the year for this group. NB

(2) The performance of serologic tests for syphilis on members of the Massachusetts National Guard. We performed tests on 8,484 specimens in this group. NB

(3) The performance of serologic tests for syphilis on persons applying for marriage licenses in Massachusetts, a service that has been in operation since November 1, 1941, in response to the new law (Chapter 301 of the Acts of 1941) requiring a medical examination and a blood test on all persons in the above category. The application of this Act in Massachusetts will result in a great many more specimens being submitted to this laboratory by physicians and institutions. (This increase will, however, be offset to some extent by the establishment of a laboratory to test specimens of blood on those individuals who are being inducted into the Army.)*

(4) Blood test

A service discontinued since February, 1941, has been the complement fixation test for the detection of gonorrhea. This action was taken because it was felt that the test as done at that time was unreliable for such purposes as affect the public health.

Changes in personnel during the year were as follows:

(1) One Senior Bacteriologist resigned and one was appointed (provisional, pending Civil Service examination).

* Not true, as lab. has not been in operation (1/8/42)

NB

(2) One Supervising Laboratory Technician resigned and one was appointed (provisional, pending Civil Service examination).

(3) One Laboratory Assistant resigned and one was appointed (provisional, pending Civil Service examination).

(4) Five Laboratory Helpers resigned and five were appointed. Two temporary Laboratory Helpers resigned and four were appointed. One Laboratory Helper was granted a leave of absence for military service.

(5) Two permanent Junior Clerk-Stenographers resigned and five were appointed. Two temporary Junior Clerk-Stenographers were appointed and two resigned.

The laboratory, in addition to continuing the performance of the routine activities outlined, is conducting a critical re-investigation into the reliability of the complement fixation test for gonorrhea. This is being done at the urgent request of a small group of internists in our Boston hospitals who have expressed a need for this test as an aid in diagnosis in selected cases.

Respectfully submitted,

December 10, 1941

Expenditures - Dec. 1940 through Nov. 1941

State 6,000.00

Fed'l Scientific
" 7,208.75
1,493.09 Sup. & Equip.
14,701.34

Fed'l Salaries 17,698.51

State " 17,217.55
\$ 49,617.40

No. of tests 447,498) ^{.11 per test} \$ 49,617.40
447498
486760
447498

	21076.51	
-	<u>1723.00</u>	(all Keedy)
	19303.51	
-	<u>1605.00</u>	(1/2 Hill)
	<u><u>17698.51</u></u>	<u>Fed'l Salaries</u>

	18188.09	
-	<u>590.54</u>	(2/3 Delaney & Harrington)
	17597.55	
-	<u>380.00</u>	(1/3 Carco)
	<u><u>17217.55</u></u>	<u>State Salaries</u>