

Report of the Wassermann Laboratory
for the year 1921.

The general character of the work and the number of personnel of the Wassermann laboratory have not changed during the past year. There has been, however, a noteworthy increase in the number of tests, as indicated by the following table:--

	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>
Wassermann tests.....	25,497	28,524	27,534	31,485	36,953	42,679
Gonococcus fixation tests.....	---	---	---	222	1,726	1,705
Lange's Colloidal gold tests.....	---	---	---	---	---	82
Diagnostic examinations for the Div. of Animal Ind.						
a) Complement fixation tests for glanders.....	385	1,320	646	122	221	125
b) Examinations for rabies.....	47	37	31	34	165	277
c) Pathologic and Bacteriologic examinations.....	10	3	45	79	64	50
TOTAL.....	26,539	29,924	28,266	31,992	39,130	44,916

It is to be noticed particularly from this table that the total number of tests for each succeeding year has shown an increase except for 1918. This was undoubtedly due to the pandemic of influenza which occupied largely the attention of medical men. In fact, the Wassermann laboratory cooperated in an experimental work designed chiefly to determine the value of influenza vaccine as a prophylaxis against this disease.

Lange's colloidal gold test was added because of insistent requests from the State Approved Venereal Clinics to furnish a more complete examination of spinal fluid for the "discharged cases" of

treated syphilis and the diagnosis of neurosyphilis.

The increase in the number of Wassermann tests (15 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) with the present personnel has been possible only by a high degree of efficiency on the part of the individual workers. This is likewise true of the diagnostic tests for rabies which show an increase of 57%. These two classes of examinations constitute approximately 90% of the laboratory's work.

The requests for complement fixation tests for glanders have decreased owing to the slight prevalence of this disease. The peak of the crest reached during 1917 was due, undoubtedly, to the fact that thousands of mules and horse were brought into the state by the United States Army.

In addition to the above, a statistical investigation has been carried on in connection with 10,431 cases of pregnancy, which were consecutive admissions to four large institutions, and it, therefore, represents an analysis of the incidence of syphilis amongst married women. Three and three-quarters percent (3 $\frac{3}{4}$ %) gave a positive reaction and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % a doubtful reaction, leaving 93% showing no evidence of syphilis as indicated by the Wassermann test. There was a variation in the age groups, the incidence of positive reactions being slightly larger in the younger than in the older women. A marked difference was noted in the incidence of positive reactions (syphilis) among the various racial groups showing as low as 0.9% among Greeks and 33% among Negroes. A detailed account of this investigation is being prepared for publication in one of the current medical journals.

Respectfully submitted,