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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1957

GENEVIVE O. STUART
SENIOR SEROLOGIST

During the calendar year of 1956 the Wassermann Laboratory performed 508,979 tests. Approximately two-thirds of the specimens were received from hospitals and institutions and one-third from private physicians. A total of 54,446 specimens were tested for premarital purposes and 46,115 for prenatal purposes. Out-of-state premarital health certificates were issued to 1,308 applicants.

This year 137 laboratories took part in the intrastate evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis. Fifty-one laboratories obtained approval for standard tests and 75 were approved for rapid tests for blood donor purposes only. Ten technicians from participating hospitals were given refresher training in the serology of syphilis.

The laboratory participated in the National evaluation conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service. As in the past the series consisted of 200 matched samples of serum. The results showed that this laboratory still maintained its high degree of efficiency.

This laboratory also took part in a survey conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service involving the testing of 1500 sera for evaluation of original serologic methods and treponemal tests. The results of this evaluation are not yet available.

At the request of the Director of the Serology Laboratory of the State of Texas, 195 specimens were tested in order to use this laboratory as a control for the Kinton test.

Demonstrations, conferences, and practical work in the serology of syphilis were given to student technologists from the Faulkner Hospital, resident pathologists from Boston hospitals, nurses from the Boston College School of Nursing, and students from the Harvard School of Public Health.

The program of testing of cattle for the eradication of brucellosis in the State has greatly expanded. This work is being conducted in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Over 100,000 specimens of blood and 12,000 specimens of milk were tested this year.

Experimental work on the *Treponema Pallidum* Complement Fixation Test using virulent *treponema* as antigen has been done on over 300 specimens of blood. The results compare favorably with those obtained at the U. S. Venereal Disease Research Laboratory. Before definite conclusions are drawn, it is recommended that this test should be studied further in this laboratory. It may prove helpful to physicians who have received a report of a positive Hinton test where there has been no clinical evidence or history of syphilis.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

Tests and Examinations

TABLE I.

Kind of Specimen		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
		-	-	-	-	-
		1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Blood	Number of Specimens	538,513	522,322	530,229	512,403	492,586
	Tests					
	Hinton	485,760	467,977	473,048	481,056	463,420
	Quantitative Hinton	8,990	8,747	10,075	10,498	8,772
	Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	12,641	12,307	11,554	7,719	5,206
	*Brucella Abortus Agglutination	31,116	33,291	35,539	13,121	10,177
	Glanders Complement Fixation	6	12	13	9	11
Spinal Fluid	Number of Specimens	9,820	9,843	9,369	8,872	8,807
	Tests					
	Davies-Hinton	9,820	9,843	9,369	8,872	8,807
	Globulin	3,578	4,491	4,675	3,728	3,486
	Total Protein	2,565	4,292	4,284	3,410	3,136
Rabies Diagnosis*	Number of Specimens	167	203	216	176	193
	Tests					
	Impressions	167	203	216	176	193
	Sections	161	183	199	158	177
	Animal Inoculations	163	195	212	166	189
Total Tests		554,967	541,646	549,184	528,913	508,579
Total Specimens		548,500	532,368	539,814	521,451	501,591
			480			

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control