

Report of the Wassermann Laboratory
for the year 1923.

The work of the Wassermann Laboratory for the year 1923 continues to show a marked increase in the number of its tests. As will be noted from Table I, which shows the work of the Laboratory for the past five years, there were 58,453 tests for 1923 compared with 49,937 in 1922. This represents an increase of 17%. It is also satisfying to note that the efficiency of its personnel has increased as shown by an operating cost of twenty-eight cents per test for the past year as contrasted with thirty-one cents for 1922.

TABLE I.

	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923.</u>
Wassermann tests . .	31,485	36,953	42,679	47,488	56,214
Gonococcus fixation tests . . .	222	1,726	1,703	1,476	1,542
Lange's colloidal gold tests. . .	---	---	82	157	105
Diagnostic examinations for the Div. of Animal Industry					
a) Complement fixation tests for glanders	122	221	125	279	145
b) Examinations for rabies	84	166	277	482	413
c) Pathologic and bacteriologic examinations	79	64	50	55	34
	<u>31,992</u>	<u>39,130</u>	<u>44,916</u>	<u>49,937</u>	<u>58,453</u>

Besides the work shown in this table the Laboratory has co-operated as usual with many laboratories throughout the state by furnishing them with materials to aid them in their attempts to maintain a uniform standard of excellence in the performance of the Wassermann reaction.

In addition to these routine activities, the Laboratory has spent a great deal of time on an attempt to devise a means of preventing the decomposition of specimens of blood which are sent to us by mail or express. Although this study has yielded no encouraging results, our recent investigation of the Kahn precipitation test for syphilis leads us to hope that it may be substituted as a means for testing specimens of blood which are partially and in some cases greatly decomposed. Our study of the Kahn test, the Sachs-Georgi, and the Meinicke reactions has taught us that the Kahn precipitation method is almost strictly comparable in its results to those obtained in our own Wassermann reaction. Furthermore, specimens of blood which are almost completely hemolyzed thus far have given reactions when subjected to the Kahn test strictly comparable to those obtained from fresh specimens of the same blood when tested by either the Wassermann or Kahn test. If we can succeed in establishing the Kahn reaction for testing only decomposed and hemolyzed specimens of blood, we shall overcome the greatest difficulty which the Laboratory has encountered in giving reliable service to such institutions and particularly to those practising physicians who must resort to express or mail as a means of trans-

mitting specimens to us. Fully 15% of all specimens of blood sent us reach the laboratory in a condition unsuitable for the Wassermann reaction.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. Kailum
Asst. Director

Division of Biologic Laboratories.

note
sign -
he did
use
middle
initial

1) *Heavy epic septum*
2) *Retic -*

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The work of the Wassermann Laboratory for the year 1923 continues to show a marked increase in the number of tests. As will be noted from Table I, which shows the work of the Laboratory for the past five years, there were 58,348 tests for 1923 compared with 49,937 in 1922. This represents an increase of 17%. It is also satisfying to note that the efficiency of its personelle has increased as shown by an operating cost of twenty-eight cents per test for the past year as contrasted with thirty-one cents for 1922.

Note how cost conscious W&H was - see also prior reports.

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Respectfully submitted,

Table I

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	31,992	39,130	44,916	49,937	58,348

*Cost and - increased - 1922
 Control = high cost
 Kahn test - studies present & opinion that - 1920*

get 7 increase in no. of tests

*Cost per test - 1922 - .31
 " " - 1923 - .28
 lower in no. of tests - 8,516
 % of increase - .17*