

DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES

REPORT OF WASSERMANN LABORATORY

FOR THE YEAR 1927

The routine activities of the Wassermann laboratory continue to increase as is shown by Table I below, which gives the number and character of the examinations for the past five years:

TABLE I

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1927</u>
Wassermann Tests.....	56,214	60,554	62,695	64,665	67,700
Rahn Tests.....	---	8,554	8,729	1,802	2,644
Conchococcus Fixation Tests.....	1,942	1,661	1,908	1,776	1,409
Lange's Colloidal Gold Tests.....	103	68	33	25	35
Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders.....	---	---	50	27	15
Specimens of Milk Examined for Tuberculosis.....	---	---	---	**79	46
Diagnostic Examinations for the Division of Animal Industry:					
(a) Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders.....	345	110	42	48	33
(b) Examinations for Rabies...	413	203	202	312	216
(c) Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations.....	34	54	37	33	47
(d) *Agglutination Tests for Bacillus Abortus.....	---	143	99	101	222
	<u>58,488</u>	<u>65,412</u>	<u>67,566</u>	<u>68,300</u>	<u>72,720</u>

* These examinations are included in the Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations.

** Complement Fixation Tests for Antimeningococcic Serum.

Corrected Copy

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TABLE I

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1927</u>
Wassermann Tests	56,214	60,534	62,695	64,666	67,700
Kahn Tests.....	---	2,554	2,729	1,302	2,644
Gonococcus Fixation Tests.....	1,542	1,661	1,903	1,776	1,409
Lange's Colloidal Gold Tests.....	105	88	33	25	
Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders.....	---	---	50	27	
Specimens of Milk Examined for Tuberculosis...	---	---	---	---	
				*79	
Diagnostic Examination for the Division of Animal Industry:					
(a) Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders.....	145	110	42	43	35
(b) Examinations for rabies...	413	283	282	312	511
(c) Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations.....	34	18	24	18	8
(d) Agglutination Tests for Bacillus Abortus.....	---	148	89	101	282
	58,543	65,396	67,847	68,348	72,695

*Complement Fixation Tests for Antimeningococcic Serum.

P.S. This report was corrected because in our first report we included the Bacillus Abortus tests in the Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations as well as in their own group, thus duplicating them.

In addition to the tests indicated in the Table considerable time was spent on the development of a new test for syphilis. This test which was discovered in this laboratory is different from any of the published methods and the experience at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and the Boston Dispensary with it indicates that it has marked superiority over the Wassermann test or, for that matter, the Kahn test which has found increasing use in America during the past four years. Although its superiority has been demonstrated it does not seem desirable to recommend its use in the Wassermann laboratory until hospitals and private laboratories have had more experience with it and the profession becomes more generally conversant with its value. The technique of the new test is very simple and will require less expenditure both for personnel and for materials than the Wassermann test which is not being done routinely in this laboratory. A detailed description of the test was published in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, June 16, 1927.

A new activity is listed in the Table which is the laboratory part of the Commissioner's investigation of milk suspected of being infected with tuberculosis.

The laboratory continues to show an increase not only in the number of its tests but in their value in spite of the fact that salaries have increased and the budget for the year 1927 has shown no corresponding increase. This, without doubt, has been due to a contented personnel and very little labor turnover.

Respectfully submitted,

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY

FOR THE YEAR 1927.

The activities of the Wassermann Laboratory during the past year have been confined largely to the execution of its routine work. Table I shows the following comparative figures for the corresponding ten months of this year and last:

TABLE I

	<u>1926</u>	<u>1927</u>
Wassermann Tests.....	55,295	56,141
Kahn Tests.....	372	2,182
Gonococcus Fixation Tests.....	1,464	1,127
Large's Colloidal Gold Tests.....	20	31
Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders.....	58	51
Examinations for Rabies.....	277	420
Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations.....	33	43
Agglutination Tests for Bacillus Abortus.....	27	245
	56,191	60,196

In addition to these routine activities the outstanding accomplishment of the laboratory has been the discovery of a new blood method for the detection of syphilis. Other workers in this field are in the midst of testing the method and the reports thus far available

indicate that it has a marked superiority over all of the existing methods. It also has the advantage of ease of performance and economy of supplies and materials.

The laboratory has also co-operated with the Division of Food and Drugs in testing 45 samples of milk for tuberculosis by animal experimental methods.

Very truly yours,

WAH/M

	<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Physicians</u>		<u>Institutions</u>	<u>Physicians</u>
<u>1926</u>			<u>1927</u>		
Aug.	3554	1492	Aug.	3869	1518
Sept.	3696	1641	Sept.	3884	1735
Oct.	3998	1738	Oct.	3929	1809
Nov.	3799	1844	Nov.	4128	1692
Dec.	3628	1494	Dec.	3866	1607
<u>1927</u>			<u>1928</u>		
Jan.	5647	1736	Jan.	4466	1882
Feb.	5666	1688	Feb.	5017	1796
March	4711	2172	March	5235	1893
April	5555	1842	April	5048	1960
May	5896	1858	May	4409	2044
June	4117	1895	June	4576	1700
July	5671	1561	July	4202	1590

Total Institutions	-	Aug. 1, 1926 to Aug. 1, 1927	45,936
" Physicians	-	" " " " " " " "	20,961

Total Institutions	-	Aug. 1, 1927 to Aug. 1, 1928	52,427
" Physicians	-	" " " " " " " "	21,226

Increase in Institutions for year	6,491
" " Physicians " "	265

Institutions Physicians

1926

3554

1492

Aug.

Institutions Physicians