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78 EAST CONCORD STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

February 25, 1941.

Dr. William Hinton,
Director, Wassermann Laboratory,
300 Longwood Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Dr. Hinton:

I have read in the recent number of the New England Journal of Medicine a letter by Commissioner Jakmauh stating that the Wassermann Laboratory is going to discontinue the performance of the gonococcus complement fixation tests after March 1, 1941. The reasons given are that there is a rapidly increasing burden of work at the Laboratory and the questionable value of the test.

With the first reason I have nothing to say in opposition. However, when the statement is made that the test is of questionable value, I believe that it is only fair to the medical profession that the evidence should be submitted to support it. Since this statement is at variance with the opinion of a great many careful investigations of the subject, I should like to be informed of the evidence upon which this statement is based.

I have also written to Dr. Jakmauh, the Commissioner of Public Health, requesting him to supply me with the information that was submitted by the Public Health Council to support their recommendation and action.

Sincerely yours,

Chester S. Keefer

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