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1959-1960

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1960

GREVILLE O. STUART
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

During the calendar year 1959 the Wassermann Laboratory performed 484,674 tests, an increase of 16,069 over the previous year. A total of 49,405 specimens were tested for premarital purposes, and 37,347 for prenatal purposes. Out-of-State premarital certificates were issued to 1210 applicants.

The intrastate evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis was conducted for one-hundred and thirty-two laboratories. Sixty-nine of these laboratories applied for approval to perform tests for blood donor purposes, and sixty-three for approval of standard tests. Only nine laboratories were unable to obtain the required standard of performance.

The Wassermann Laboratory participated again this year in the National Evaluation of Serologic tests for syphilis conducted by the U. S. Public Health Service. Qualitative and quantitative Hinton tests were performed on two-hundred matched samples of serum. In this evaluation, the laboratory obtained an excellent rating for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of tests.

The laboratory served as control for the Hinton test in the Texas State Health Department intrastate evaluation of serologic tests, and tested two-hundred and seventy-two specimens.

The study in cooperation with the Division of Venereal Diseases on the use of the Reiter Protein Complement Fixation test on specimens from

patients who present diagnostic problems due to positive reagin tests was continued. This year one-thousand, four-hundred and fifty tests were performed in this study.

Seven-hundred and nine tests were performed on the two-hundred and fifty-five specimens that were examined for rabies. Six bats were examined this year. All of these specimens were found to be nonrabid.

Conferences, demonstrations, and practical work in the serology of syphilis were given to resident-pathologists from Boston hospitals, students from the Harvard School of Public Health, and hospital technologists. Fourteen individuals were given this instruction.

Milk samples submitted by the Massachusetts Medical Milk Commission have been tested monthly for *Brucella Abortus Agglutinins*.

It is recommended that the fluorescent antibody test for rabies be added to the routine procedures in this laboratory. This method has proven to be accurate. It would also expedite the diagnosis. Funds should be made available for the purchase of equipment used in this procedure.

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

Tests and Examinations

1959-1960

TABLE I.

Kind of Specimen		1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
		-	-	-	-	-
		1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Blood	Number of Specimens	512,453	492,586	463,099	453,653	466,275
	Tests					
	Winton	481,056	466,420	440,364	434,302	452,846
	Quantitative Winton	10,496	8,772	9,130	9,356	10,007
	Davies-Winton Micro Flocculation	7,719	5,206	4,067	4,867	5,352
	*Truella Abortus Agglutination	13,121	10,177	9,503	4,565	65
	Glanders Complement Fixation	9	11	3	3	3
Spinal Fluid	Number of Specimens	8,872	8,807	8,692	9,175	9,769
	Tests					
	Davies-Winton	8,572	8,307	8,692	9,175	9,769
	Globulin	3,728	3,486	2,782	2,979	3,114
	Total Protein	3,410	3,136	2,592	2,753	2,777
Rabies Diagnosis*	Number of Specimens	176	196	207	229	255
	Tests					
	Impressions	176	196	207	229	255
	Sections	152	177	185	194	204
	Animal Inoculations	166	189	202	222	250
Total Tests		520,913	502,679	477,759	468,605	484,674
Total Specimens		521,451	501,591	471,998	462,457	478,299

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control

SUMMARY

The Wassermann Laboratory performed 404,674 tests this year—a slight increase over last year.

One-hundred and thirty-two laboratories participated in the intrastate evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis. Only nine failed to meet the standard requirements.

The Wassermann Laboratory participated in the annual National Serologic Evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis, and obtained an excellent rating for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of tests.

Two-hundred and fifty-five specimens (animal heads) were examined for rabies. Six bats were included in this group. All proved to be nonrabid.