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DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES

Report of Wassermann Laboratory

for the Year 1928

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>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1927</u>	<u>1928</u>
Wassermann Tests	60,534	62,695	64,665	67,700	75,471
Kahn Tests	2,554	2,729	1,302	2,644	2,692
Conococcus Fixation Tests	1,661	1,903	1,776	1,409	1,860
Lange's Colloidal Gold Tests	86	33	25	35	27
Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders	---	50	27	15	37
Specimens of Milk Examined for Tuberculosis	---	---	---	46	21
			*79		
Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Animal Industry:					
(a) Complement Fixation Tests for Glanders	110	42	43	33	44
(b) Examinations for Rabies	283	282	312	510	546
(c) Pathologic and Bacteriologic Examinations	18	24	18	21	24
(d) Agglutination Tests for Bacillus Abortus	148	89	101	282	322
Diagnostic Examinations for Lakeville State Sanatorium:	---	---	---	---	5
	65,396	67,847	68,348	72,695	81,549

*Complement Fixation Tests for Antimeningococcic Serum

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Table I on the preceding page shows a 13.2 per cent increase over that of the preceding year in the output of the routine work of the laboratory for the year 1928. On the basis of a test as the unit of output, the cost in 1927 was 24.5 cents and in 1928 was 25 cents. This reduction in cost per test has been accomplished with the same number in personnel, and in spite of a salary expenditure of \$13,723.34 for 1928 as compared with \$12,490.91 for 1927. In other words, on the basis of the reclassification of personnel, with the consequent salary increases amounting roughly to 10 per cent, the output was increased over 13 per cent. Certainly, for this laboratory, the salary increase appears to be fully justified.

In addition to these routine activities, many tests, both practical and experimental, have been made with Hinton's Glycerol Cholesterol Agglutination reaction for syphilis. These reactions have been done on selected institutional groups with the hope of finding the value of the reaction in syphilis, as well as its limitations (if there be any) in the presence of other diseases which might influence its accuracy, before recommending its substitution by the Department of Health for the Wassermann test which is more expensive and less accurate, as indicated below.

Comparative studies elsewhere have demonstrated that this reaction is superior to the Wassermann or Kahn, not only in the diagnosis of syphilis but also as a guide in the treatment of the disease. The reaction has already been adopted as a routine procedure in the Massachusetts General Hospital and the

Boston Dispensary. A number of other institutions in Boston and elsewhere are now using it, either on a practical or on a trial basis.

At the Commissioner's request, a pathological diagnostic service for the Lakeville State Sanatorium has been begun.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the peak of our laboratory output has been reached with its present personnel. There is no longer an adequate factor of safety for the conduct of the bulk of its work, which work requires that it be done from day to day rather than that part of it be deferred for the inevitable less busy days. Therefore, provision should be made for the employment of an additional full time assistant at a beginning salary of \$900 per year.

Respectfully submitted,

WAH:MBS