

April 11, 1933

Dr. Harry Lee Barnes, Supt.  
Rhode Island State Sanatorium  
Wallum Lake, Rhode Island

My dear Doctor Barnes:

The figures for the incidence of positive blood tests for syphilis in tuberculosis a couple of decades ago are so high that I have had occasion to doubt them. Our figures for Massachusetts during the same time were from 5% to 14%, depending very largely upon the clientele of the institution. If you have any easily available recent figures on the incidence of positive blood tests for syphilis in your institution, I shall be greatly obliged if you will send them to me. A short note explaining the social status of the patients would be helpful. I am also interested to know whether the population at your institution is of both sexes--and if so, what the proportion of one to the other is. If there is a large proportion of Negroes in your institution, I should appreciate your letting me know.

I am writing to the superintendents of several other carefully selected institutions, and as soon as I receive replies from them I shall be only too glad to submit to you the results of the inquiry as a whole.

Very truly yours,

Wm. A. Hinton, M.D., Chief  
Wassermann Laboratory

WAH:RT