

1955- ~~1956~~

WASSERMANN LABORATORY

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The number of tests performed in this laboratory still remains over the five-hundred thousand mark. Hospitals and other institutions submitted 338,026 specimens and 151,493 specimens were submitted by private physicians. A total of 53,293 tests were performed for premarital purposes and 44,914 tests for prenatal purposes. Out-of-state premarital health certificates were issued to 1359 applicants.

In the intrastate evaluation for serologic tests for syphilis seventy laboratories were approved for blood donor purposes and forty-six laboratories received approval to do standard serologic tests for syphilis. Thirteen technicians from hospital laboratories that participated in the program were given instruction in the serology of syphilis.

In the interstate evaluation conducted by the U. S. V. D. Research Laboratory two hundred matched specimens of serum were tested. The reactivity of the test as performed in this laboratory was 10 - 20% higher than that of the other author serologists participating in this evaluation. During October, Miss A. Wallace, Field Representative of the U. S. V. D. Research Laboratory visited and inspected this laboratory. Her general comments and reported observations were that the organization, routine testing procedures and conduct of the laboratory were well directed and efficient. Her recommendations were of a minor technical nature most of which in past years had been tried and found to have little or no significance on the accuracy of the testing procedures. At the request of the Director of the Serologic Laboratory of the State of Texas one hundred and one tests were performed in order to use this laboratory as a control for the Hinton test.

Instruction in the techniques of the serology of syphilis was given to resident pathologists from Boston hospitals; student technologists from the Faulkner Hospital; nurses from the Boston College School of Nursing; and students from the Harvard School of Public Health.

The program in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the eradication of brucellosis in cattle has been greatly expanded. Over 45,000 specimens of blood were tested this year. The milk ring test has been added to the routine procedures. This test is being used to reduce the number of blood tests which are more costly and more difficult.

Experimental work on the new techniques using Treponemal Pallidum antigens has been carried on this year. These techniques if found practical for clinical purposes may aid physicians in evaluating so-called biologic false positive reactions.

SUMMARY

This year 528,913 tests were performed in this laboratory, approximately the same number tested in the past five years. Over 498,000 were serologic tests for syphilis.

Of the seventy-eight laboratories evaluated for serologic tests for blood donor purposes, seventy were approved; forty-nine laboratories were sent specimens for standard tests, forty-six were approved.

One hundred and seventy-six animal heads were received for the diagnosis of rabies; all proved to be non-rabid.

The work on the brucellosis eradication program in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been notably expanded. Over 45,000 agglutination tests for brucellosis were done on specimens of blood from cattle. The milk ring test has been added to the routine in order to reduce the number of cattle to be blood tested.

A study on some of the new techniques of serologic tests for syphilis was carried on to determine if any of these tests may be used to advantage in a laboratory for clinical purposes.

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Tests and Examinations

TABLE I.

Kind of Specimen		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
		-	-	-	-	-
		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
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Blood	Number of Specimens	534,324	538,513	522,122	530,229	512,403
	Tests					
	Hinton	482,534	485,760	467,977	473,048	481,056
	Quantitative Hinton	8,286	8,990	8,747	10,075	10,498
	Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	14,457	12,641	12,307	11,554	7,719
	*Brucella Abortus Agglutination	29,039	31,116	33,391	35,539	13,121
	Glanders Complement Fixation	8	6	12	13	9
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Spinal Fluid	Number of Specimens	10,242	9,820	9,843	9,369	8,872
	Tests					
	Davies-Hinton	10,242	9,820	9,843	9,369	8,872
	Globulin	-	3,578	4,491	4,675	3,728
	Total Protein	-	2,565	4,292	4,284	3,410
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Rabies Diagnosis*	Number of Specimens	150	167	203	216	176
	Tests					
	Impressions	150	167	203	216	176
	Sections	144	161	188	199	158
	Animal Inoculations	147	163	195	212	166
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Path.& Bact. Examinations	Number of Specimens	4	-	-	-	-
	Tests					
	Animal Inoculations	3	-	-	-	-
	Cultures	2	-	-	-	-
	Smears	2	-	-	-	-
	Sections	1	-	-	-	-
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	Total Tests	545,015	554,967	541,646	549,184	528,913
	Total Specimens	544,720	548,500	532,168	539,814	521,451

*Diagnostic Examinations for Division of Livestock Disease Control