

DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES

REPORT OF WASSERMANN LABORATORY

FOR THE YEAR 1924

The work of the Wassermann Laboratory for the year 1924 continues to show an increase over that of previous years. Table I which shows the routine work performed during the past five years indicates the extent and the distribution of the tests. It will be noted that the Wassermann examinations have been increased by 7%; and that Kahn tests and agglutination tests for contagious abortion in cattle have been added to the routine procedures. The total increase in these three kinds of tests more than makes up for the slight decrease in some of the other examinations, particularly in that for rabies.

TABLE I

	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>
Wassermann Tests.....	31,485	26,953	42,679	47,488	56,214	60,524
Kahn Tests.....	---	---	---	---	---	2,554
Concoccus Fixation Tests.....	222	1,726	1,703	1,476	1,542	1,661
Lange's Colloidal Gold Tests.....	---	---	82	157	105	88
Diagnostic Examination for Dept. of Animal Industry						
(a) Complement Fixation Tests for Clanders..	122	221	125	279	145	110
(b) Examination for Rabies.....	64	166	277	462	413	263
(c) Pathologic & Bacteriologic Examinations..	79	64	50	55	34	34
(d) Agglutination tests for Bacillus Abortus....	---	---	---	---	---	148
	31,992	29,130	44,916	49,937	58,453	65,412

In our report of last year the hope was expressed that the Kahn test might be serviceable in replacing the Wassermann test in those instances where the specimens of blood were received in a hemolyzed condition. This hope has largely been fulfilled. Our experience with this reaction would indicate that it is not quite so reliable as the Wassermann test, particularly in that it seems to give false positive results occasionally in pregnancy and very infrequently in other cases where the clinical data do not support a diagnosis of syphilis.

Besides the routine activities of the Laboratory, considerable effort has been spent on the investigation of the use of Silversan as a curative agent in rabies and in attempts to cultivate its virus. Also, some experimental work is being carried on with the hope of learning more about the nature of the anti-bodies in those complement fixation tests which are being routinely made in this laboratory. Besides these accomplishments in investigation, statistical data have been assembled on the incidence of positive, doubtful and negative Wassermann reactions in cancerous, tuberculous and feeble-minded individuals.

The esprit de corps of our ^{the laboratory} personnel during the past year has been exceptionally fine, which has resulted in increased efficiency and economy. The latter has been demonstrated by a total increase of nearly 12,

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in the number of examinations on a total expenditure of 7%
over that of last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Asst. Director, Division of Biologic Laboratories

\$ 12,500 - 25

11,800 - 24

\$ 700 - Increase in 1925

5910

TABLE I (1924 to November 1st)

	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>
Wassermann tests	31,485	26,953	42,679	47,488	56,214	60,524 ✓
Kahn tests	---	---	---	---	---	2,554 ✓
Gonococcus fixation tests	222	1,726	1,703	1,476	1,542	1,661 ✓
Lange's colloidal gold tests	---	---	82	157	105	88 ✓
Diagnostic examinations for the Dept. of Animal Industry						
(a) Complement fixation tests for glanders	122	221	125	279	145	110 ✓
(b) Examinations for rabies	84	166	277	482	413	283 ✓
(c) Pathological & Bacteriological Examinations	79	64	50	55	34	³⁴ -20
(d) Agglutination tests for Bacillus Abortus	---	---	---	---	---	148
	31,992	39,130	44,916	49,937	58,453	65,536 65,412