

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES
WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION
TABLE I. -- TESTS AND SPECIMENS

1962 - 1963

Kind of Specimen	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	63
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	64
Number of Specimens	453,053	466,275	463,501	471,118	474,749	
Tests						
Hinton	434,382	452,248	449,313	454,682	457,022	
Quantitative Hinton	9,356	10,007	9,581	10,027	10,143	
Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	4,887	5,352	4,595	6,402	6,034	
Glanders Complement Fixation	3	3	12	5	11	
*Brucella Abortus Agglutination	4,505	65	-	-	-	
RICE - Qualitative	-	-	-	-	201	
RICE - Quantitative	-	-	-	-	738	
Spinal Number of Specimens	9,175	9,769	9,217	8,974	9,150	
Fluid Tests						
Davies-Hinton	9,175	9,769	9,217	8,974	9,150	
Globulin	2,979	3,144	2,596	2,600	1,801	
Total Protein	2,753	2,777	3,488	3,572	2,538	
Rabies Number of Specimens	239	255	259	299	376	
Diagnostic Tests						
Impressions	239	255	259	299	376	
Sections	194	204	189	215	207	
Animal Inoculations	222	250	255	291	370	
Total Tests	466,605	481,674	479,507	487,088	489,193	
Total Specimens	462,457	476,299	472,977	480,391	484,277	

*Diagnostic examinations performed for the Division of Livestock Disease Control.

1962-1963

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY
TABLE XVII - SPECIES
January 1, 1962 - December 31, 1962

WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION

<u>TESTS:</u>	<u>Positive Results</u>	<u>Total Specimens</u>
Hinton	4,938)	
Quantitative Hinton	4)	
Davies-Hinton Micro Flocculation	46)	
Glanders Complement Fixation	0)	474,749
RICF - Qualitative	275)	
RICF - Quantitative	0)	
<u>SERIAL FIELD:</u>		
Davies-Hinton	67)	
Globulin	0)	9,150
Total Protein	0)	
<u>RABIES:</u>		
Impressions	0)	
Sections	0)	373
Animal Inoculations	1)	
Total Wassermann Laboratory Section Specimens:		484,277

"We do not tabulate the results of Quantitative Hinton tests."

1962-1963

DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASSERMANN LABORATORY SECTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1963

Albert E. Sylvia, Assistant Director

During the calendar year 1962, the Wassermann Laboratory Section performed 459,193 tests while processing 484,277 specimens--an increase of two thousand over the previous year. A total of 48,553 specimens were tested to comply with the premarital law, and 42,524 to comply with the prenatal law. Out-of-State premarital certifications were issued to one thousand four hundred and twenty-five applicants.

The interstate evaluation of serologic tests for syphilis was conducted for one hundred and forty-eight laboratories. Fifty-one of these laboratories applied for approval to perform tests for blood donor purposes, and eighty-three for approval to perform standard tests. Fourteen laboratories failed to meet the required standards 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, and Hinton tests were performed on two hundred serum samples. In this Federal program the Laboratory received an excellent rating for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility of results of tests.

The Laboratory served as control for the Hinton test in the Texas State Health Department interstate evaluation of serologic tests, and two hundred and forty-six specimens were tested.

Nine hundred and fifty-five tests were performed on three hundred and seventy-eight specimens that were examined for rabies. Two cases of confirmed rabies in bats have occurred during the past fiscal year. The first occurred in Woburn on August 25, 1962 when a 10-year-old boy was bitten on the hand. The second occurred in Sharon on May 9, 1963 when a bat bit a 5-year-old boy on the great toe. Both of these cases were confirmed by CDC.

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

All hospitals, laboratories, blood banks, etc. referring blood and spinal fluid specimens for syphilis serology to the Wassermann Laboratory Section were advised in September, 1962, of a curtailment of services by the Wassermann Laboratory Section. The notice stated that only premarital, prenatal, and referred specimens would be accepted by the Wassermann Laboratory. The curtailment did not affect specimens from physicians. The aforementioned edict has not, as yet, appreciably decreased the work load of the Wassermann Section.

Effective on January 1, 1963, the Wassermann Laboratory Section changed its terminology in reporting the results of syphilis serology to comply with recommendations of the U. S. Public Health Service, Venereal Disease Research Laboratory. A notice of the above change was sent to all laboratories and physicians in the Commonwealth.

The task of preparing and mailing culture outfits to physicians, boards of health, etc. was consolidated into one area, known as the Shipping Room. This consolidation has increased the efficiency of the operation to a great extent.

The removal of brains from animal heads waiting place has been relocated to an improvised room in the basement which is used for this purpose alone, separating it from all other laboratory activity.

An investigation regarding complaints of a commercial lot of Hinton Indicator was carried out at the laboratory; however, no significant differences in reactivity levels could be detected in the aliquots tested.

The issuing of daily reports of all positive Hintons to the Division of Communicable Diseases was started in May. Also, quantitative Hinton tests are automatically performed on all positive qualitative tests. According to Dr. Elizabeth Small of the Venereal Diseases Division, this service has greatly facilitated their case finding efforts. The names of all reactive Hintons are now furnished to the Division of Communicable Diseases which has enabled the Division to relocate former syphilitics that they had lost track of.

During the past year the Wassermann Laboratory has participated in "Workshops" conducted to help serologists and technicians in the State to become more proficient in syphilis serology.

It is expected that during the coming year Fluorescent Antibody Technics will be employed in the diagnosis of both syphilis and rabies.

Also planned is an investigation by the Assistant Director into ways of preventing hemolysis of so many blood samples without interference with the diagnosis of syphilis.