

July 27, 1940

Dr. V. Gerard Ryan
The Austin Riggs Associates
Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Ryan:

As Dr. Hinton has not as yet returned to this laboratory following his accident last February, I shall take this opportunity to answer your question concerning the spinal fluid Wassermann reports.

At this laboratory we do a titration in which the amounts of spinal fluids are as follows: 2 c.c., 1 c.c., .8 c.c., .6 c.c., .4 c.c., .2 c.c., .1 c.c., using a constant amount of antigen, antibody and sensitized cells. An interpretation of the degree of No Hemolysis is represented by numerals 5, 4, 3, 2, 1; 5 meaning no hemolysis whatsoever, and 1 meaning almost, but not quite, complete hemolysis. In a series of numbers expressing the answer to a test of a spinal fluid, whenever a "0" occurs it signifies there was insufficient spinal fluid to perform the test in that particular dilution. From the report which you quoted, it was seen that there was about 1 1/2 c.c. of spinal fluid and the test was therefore run on 1 c.c. and .6 of a c.c. The other two tubes were represented as "0" merely because there was no more spinal fluid.

Dr. Hinton has been notified of the contents of your letter and I feel sure that he quite agrees with your plan of treatment.

Very truly yours,

A. M. Hall, M.D., Senior Bacteriologist
Wassermann Laboratory

AMH/JS

THE AUSTEN RIGGS ASSOCIATES
STOCKBRIDGE MASSACHUSETTS

AUSTEN FOX RIGGS, M.D.
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
HORACE K. RICHARDSON, M.D.
ROBERT B. HIGDEN, M.D.
CHARLES H. KIMBERLY, M.D.
HAROLD F. CORSON, M.D.

July 22, 1940

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT
TELEPHONE STOCKBRIDGE 10
NEW YORK OFFICE
109 EAST 87TH STREET
TEL. RHINELANDER 4-3030

Doctor William A. Hinton
Wassermann Laboratory
25 Shattuck Street
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Doctor Hinton:

2-ryl cc, 8 cc
At this time I am requesting an interpretation of the spinal fluid report done on Anna May Page of Pittsfield recently. The House of Mercy Hospital, where the lumbar puncture was done, reported that the Hinton was negative but that the Wassermann reaction was positive "0502". I know that this refers to dilutions but I have never before seen such a report.

The clinical history only moderately suggests lues; the spinal fluid showed 2 mononuclears and a total protein of 45. The presenting complaint was nervousness and convulsive seizures.

My present plan is to put this girl on anti-convulsant therapy and to repeat the test in a month or six weeks.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for any courtesy that you may render me in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

V. Gerard Ryan
V. Gerard Ryan, M. D.

P.S. It is perhaps not inappropriate to remark that several of the Wassermann reports which I have received have arrived in unsealed envelopes.

— Taken
care of