

11-15

*Wassermann Lab.  
Activities  
1. Diseases*

January 30, 1931.

Dr. Benjamin White, Director,  
Antitoxin & Vaccine Laboratory,  
375 South St.,  
Jamaica Plain,  
Mass.

Dear Doctor White:

I am enclosing a brief statement of the activities of the Wassermann Laboratory together with other items requested in Doctor Bigelow's memorandum of January 24th.

I have specifically omitted the matter of directions for submitting specimens which are handled by the Division of Animal Industry inasmuch as this material is selected by that Division and its animal inspectors in such a way as to tie up best with the communicable diseases with which they deal.

Very truly yours,

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

WAH/M

## SERVICE OF WASSERMANN LABORATORY

Year ending November 30, 1930.

Personnel - twelve.

Salary appropriation - \$16,500.00

Expense appropriation - \$5,700.00

Number of tests done - 132,418

The Wassermann Laboratory, though originally established to perform serum tests for syphilis only, now conducts the following types of diagnostic service:

1. Wassermann and Kahn tests.
2. Lange's colloidal gold tests.
3. Gonococcus fixation tests.
4. Examinations for rabies.
5. Complement fixation tests for glanders.
6. Serum tests for bacillus abortus in cattle.
7. Pathologic and bacteriologic examinations to determine the cause of illness or death in domestic animals.

There is done also a certain amount of research work associated with these different types of examinations.

For diagnostic tests for syphilis, which include the Wassermann reaction on blood and spinal fluid and in special instances only the Kahn test on blood, service and containers are obtained through the local boards of health in the case of practicing physicians, and directly from the Wassermann Laboratory by institutions. Special outfits for this purpose are obtainable by physicians from the local boards of health and should be used in submitting specimens for any of these tests.



All of the other examinations are made in co-operation with the Division of Animal Industry, from whom directions for service must be obtained. We do mention, however, that specimens for the diagnosis of rabies should be sent, preferably by messenger, packed in ice without the addition of any chemical preservative which would make it impossible for the Laboratory to perform the necessary diagnostic tests. The animal's head only is needed.

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January 28, 1951.

Dr. Benjamin White, Director,  
Antitoxin & Vaccine Laboratory,  
375 South St.,  
Jamaica Plain,  
Mass.

Dear Doctor White:

I have your letter of January 26th with enclosures.

It will require some time to gather the data requested by Doctor Bigelow, but you may rest assured that we will do so as quickly as possible and will try to forward it to you within the next day or two.

Very truly yours,

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

WAH/M





*Division of  
Biologic Laboratories*

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Department of  
Public Health*

*Antitoxin and Vaccine Laboratory  
375 South Street, Jamaica Plain  
Boston 30, Mass*

January 26, 1931

Dr. William A. Hinton,  
Wassermann Laboratory,  
240 Longwood Avenue,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Doctor Hinton:

I am enclosing a memorandum from Dr. Bigelow regarding a pamphlet on Services by the Department. Could I ask you to prepare for me a statement concerning the Wassermann Laboratory. This statement should include the expenditures for 1930 for expenses and salaries; should describe in some detail the work done at the laboratory and should have explicit directions for the sending of various specimens or other material.

Yours truly,

*William Hinton*  
Director

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Expenditures, 1929—\$2,332,109

Employs about 250 persons in offices and laboratories and 750 in the five institutions.

1869—State Board of Health, the first in the United States.

1914—Department of Public Health.

### DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES—Expenditures, 1929—\$121,970

Through the District Health Officers, gives to local boards of health, school committees, physicians, and lay organizations and individuals, advice and assistance in the control of epidemics, the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease, and the unifying of practice. Particular attention is given to diphtheria prevention, rabies, typhoid carriers, infantile paralysis, milk supplies, venereal diseases, and the communicable diseases of childhood, over 100,000 cases of which are reported each year.

Over 35,000 specimens examined in the Diagnostic Laboratory. Fifteen subsidized venereal disease clinics. \$15,000 worth of arsenicals distributed. Diagnostic service in meningitis and anterior poliomyelitis, the latter in co-operation with the Harvard Infantile Paralysis Commission.

### DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS—Expenditures, 1929—\$1,702,262

Through nurses, checks the follow-up of all reported cases of tuberculosis in the State. Through the Chadwick Clinics in the schools 30,000 children were examined for tuberculosis and 10 per cent were found to have either the disease in the adult or the juvenile form or to be "suspicious." From this group will come 80 per cent of the deaths in the next ten to twenty years unless special opportunities are given. This program is aimed at reducing the death rate in the age group 15-39, where tuberculosis is still the most killing disease.

Subsidy—(\$245,000) to Cities and Towns for hospitalizing the tuberculous.

Sanatoria—Rutland, 400 beds serving 697 patients with pulmonary tuberculosis.

North Reading and Westfield, 500 beds, serving 985 children with tuberculosis as part of the school clinic program.

Lakeville, 200 beds, serving 346 patients with bone and joint tuberculosis.

### DIVISION OF CHILD HYGIENE—Expenditures, 1929—\$80,467

Distributed 2,800,000 pamphlets ranging from prenatal letters to nutritional material for the adolescent.

Through the staff—physicians, nurses, nutritionists, dental hygienist, and health educators—the Division demonstrates, organizes, or advises as to maternal and infant hygiene, pre-school clinics, summer round-up of children about to enter school (in 195 towns examining 12,864 children and correcting 5,765 defects), school medical and nursing service, dental hygiene, nutrition programs, etc.

The Division of Administration handles administrative detail, such as personnel, records and accounts—Expenditures, 1929—\$36,247. In addition, special investigations entailed an expenditure of \$4,209.



## **DIVISION OF ADULT HYGIENE—Expenditures, 1929—\$62,330**

This most recently organized Division is an outgrowth of the cancer program. The Pondville Hospital (\$192,678) served 736 patients in all stages of cancer in 90 beds. Complete resources for the adequate diagnosis and treatment of cancer are available. There are State-aided cancer clinics in 17 cities and towns over the Commonwealth, serving in the last two years about 5000 people, of whom 1000 had cancer.

Cancer education included 200,000 pamphlets, 3,500 newspaper articles, 75 lectures and 20 broadcasts, and the organization of local cancer education committees. Exhaustive studies as to the prevalence of and resources for all chronic diseases are being made, that our program may be soundly expanded.

## **DIVISION OF BIOLOGIC LABORATORIES—Expenditures, 1929—\$123,219**

Vaccines and sera are produced and distributed free for the treatment or prevention of such diseases as smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, pneumonia and meningitis. About 70,000 ampoules of a prophylaxis against ophthalmia in the newborn were distributed. Over 75,000 Wassermann tests were performed. For the Division of Animal Industry of the Department of Conservation, dogs' heads are examined for rabies, and other examinations are made for contagious abortion, anthrax, glanders, etc.

## **DIVISIONS OF SANITARY ENGINEERING—Expenditures, 1929—\$82,083**

and

## **WATER AND SEWAGE LABORATORIES—Expenditures, 1929—\$47,461**

The most important single activity is the supervision of the public water supplies which serve 96 per cent of the people. Due to the drought not a few emergency situations arose. These Divisions also supervise sewage disposal, industrial waste, bathing places, and the quality of water for ice and shellfish production, offensive trades, and the like. Significant experimentation in these fields is carried on and there are many special investigations each summer.

## **DIVISION OF FOOD AND DRUGS—Expenditures, 1929—\$71,857**

The administration of the pure food and milk laws is the responsibility of this Division. Through the supervision of pasteurizing plants the public is enormously protected. Fraud and adulteration are rigorously prosecuted.

Also each summer there are special legislative investigations and building programs.