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REPORT OF THE WASSERMAN LABORATORY
for the Year 1922

The work of the Wasserman Laboratory for the year 1922 was characterized by a marked increase in the number of tests, and by the trying conditions under which the work was accomplished. Seven employees have resigned during the past fourteen months: its entire personnel consists of only nine workers. The execution of our regular tests at an increased rate, and the training of new personnel at the same time, has been difficult. The accomplishment of this task was possible through the fine effort of our assistant bacteriologist, Miss Stuart, who has served during the past year without vacation. Furthermore, we have had difficulty in obtaining even untrained workers of suitable calibre at the salaries which we were authorized to offer. Unless our salaries are made comparable with those given for similar duties in other institutions the work will suffer. This of course would be regrettable, when it is considered that the diagnostic procedures of this laboratory are concerned with the control of several important public health diseases, of which I will mention only syphilis and rabies.

Syphilis alone costs the Commonwealth millions of dollars. Its effects help to fill our municipal and state hospitals, our criminal institutions, and our public and private

institutions for the insane, the feeble-minded, and the delinquent. This laboratory cooperates fully with all these, and with the physicians of the Commonwealth, in trying to control this great human scourge. This work cannot be done efficiently or reliably with an inferior personnel.

For the past year and a half rabies has been very prevalent among dogs of Massachusetts. The control of this dread disease is possible very largely through the diagnostic procedures carried on in this laboratory. 1922

Apart from the establishment of positions of sufficient importance to reliably carry on the work of the laboratory, it is also necessary to add an additional stenographer. During the past three years the work has grown from 39,130 to 49,937 tests per year. At the present time an illness of even a few days would seriously handicap the mailing of medical reports to physicians and institutions. The appointment of an additional stenographer is therefore an emergency.

The following table gives a detailed summary of the work and shows its increase during the past five years:

	<u>1918</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>
Wasserman tests...	27,534	31,485	36,953	42,679	47,488
Gonococccous fix- ation tests.....	--	222	1,726	1,703	1,476
Lange's colloidal gold tests	--	--	--	82	157
Diagnostic ex- aminations for the Div. of Animal Industry					
a) Complement fix- ation tests for glanders	646	122	221	125	279
b) Examinations for rabies	61	84	166	277	482
c) Pathologic and bacteriologic examinations	45	79	64	50	55
TOTAL . . .	28,286	31,992	39,130	44,916	49,937

Respectfully

Examinations by the Wassermann Laboratory.

	<u>1915</u>	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>
Wassermann tests... 6,492		25,497	28,524	27,524	31,485	36,953	42,679	47,488
Gonococcus fixation tests.....	--	--	--	--	--222	1,726	1,703	1,476
Lange's colloidal gold tests	--	--	--	--	--	--	82	157
Diagnostic examinations for the Div. of Animal Industry								
a) Complement fixation tests for glanders	--	985	1,330	646	122	221	125	279
b) Examinations for rabies	--	47	67	61	84	166	277	482
c) Pathologic and Bacteriologic examinations	--	10	5	45	79	64	50	55
TOTAL	6,492	26,539	29,924	28,236	31,992	39,130	44,916	49,957