

length here. Bauer's modification consisted simply in substituting for the rabbit antisheep serum in the hæmolytic system, spoken of before, the normal sensitizers for sheep's blood present in the human serum. This is a very variable factor and cannot be safely relied on. The modifications of Hecht, Stern, Detre, and Tschernogubow are all open to serious objections and need not be discussed any further. The Noguchi method, on the other hand, is being largely used and is warmly advocated by those who have used it. Fundamentally it differs from the Wassermann method in substituting for the rabbit antisheep hæmolytic system, a rabbit antihuman system, thus obviating any possible source of error due to the presence of natural sensitizers for sheep's blood in human serum. The originator of this method has also prepared the various factors entering into the reaction so that they may be kept stable for long periods. It is possible by this method to use exact amounts of the various substances.

The wide field of usefulness of the two methods of serum diagnosis is constantly increasing and at the present time it is used in many clinics abroad not only for the diagnosis of syphilis primarily but also as a guide to when treatment might be discontinued or whether it should be resumed. It might be noted in this connection that under active mercurial treatment a positive reaction frequently is changed to a negative one, but again becomes positive if treatment is discontinued too soon. The test has also assumed sociological importance and it is frequently used to determine whether or not it is advisable for an individual who has had syphilis to marry or whether one who has had syphilis and is married could be advised in regard to whether or not it would be safe to have children. In a recent number of the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift*, Staathoff dilates at considerable length on the wide and varied usefulness of the Wassermann reaction. He has never obtained a negative result in active syphilis and in no case in which