

reaction I will outline very briefly the method of making the Wassermann reaction, which I have followed in a series of approximately one hundred and forty cases with exceedingly satisfactory results. For antigen I have used a dried extract of syphilitic foetal liver extracted with ether, and a suspension of well washed sheep's corpuscles and 1 c.c. of this emulsion in 1 c.c. of normal salt solution being used; 0.2 c.c. of the serum or cerebrospinal fluid to be tested and 0.1 c.c. of normal guinea pig serum as alexin. This mixture is put in the thermostat for one hour at 37° C., then taken out, and 1 c.c. of a five per cent. suspension of well washed sheep's corpuscles and 1 c.c. of rabbit antishoop sensitizer in the strength of three minimal hæmolytic doses is added. The tubes are again put in the thermostat, and read finally at the end of one hour or when hæmolysis is complete in the control tubes.

In a rapid review of the literature I have been able to find recorded the results in over ten thousand cases examined by the Wassermann method, and the results on the whole have been thoroughly satisfactory. A positive reaction is obtained in a high percentage of cases of syphilis and not in other conditions, with the exception of certain of the trypanosome infections and in some cases of leprosy. Mûch and Eichelburg (33) stated to have obtained positive results in scarlet fever, and certain other workers assert to have obtained similar results. Jochmann (34), Meier (35), and Hoehne (36), on the contrary, obtained negative results in scarlet fever, and after some personal experience I am decidedly of the opinion that the reaction does not occur in scarlet fever.

In regard to the results in primary syphilis, from ninety to one hundred per cent. of cases give positive results when the serum is examined, about ninety per cent. active secondary cases, and from forty to eighty per cent. of tertiary cases are also positive, the variation depending upon whether or not the case is active or latent. In the parasyphilitic diseases, Plaut (37) in an examination of the blood in 186 cases of general paralysis