

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK	1
II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	5
Anatomy of the vagina	5
Histology of the vagina	7
Natural defence mechanisms of the vagina	10
Changes in the vagina with age and parity	11
Physiology of the vagina	14
Biochemical activity of the vagina	19
Age-associated changes in the vagina	25
Immunologic aspects of the vagina	28
pH of the vaginal discharge	30
Vaginal flora	37
* Normal flora of the vagina	39
* Microbial flora in non specific vaginitis	46
Vaginal discharge	49
Nonspecific vaginitis	55
III. MATERIALS AND METHOD	89
IV. RESULTS	92
V. DISCUSSION	100
VI. SUMMARY	109
VII. REFERENCES	113
VIII. ARABIC SUMMARY	—