

## Spectra of Superoxide Ion Solutions : A Correction

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IN an earlier communication,<sup>1</sup> ultraviolet and electron spin resonance absorption spectra were reported for pyridine and dimethylformamide solutions containing the ionic species  $O_2^-$ , prepared and identified polarographically. Further investigations of these solutions have shown no detectable e.s.r. signal at 300°K under comparable instrumental conditions, and the signals originally observed have now been traced principally to the detection at high gain of a small contamination of the particular cavity used. Inability to detect the signal at 300°K confirms observations of Maricle and Hodgson<sup>2</sup> who further find a strong

resonance absorption at 77°K for  $O_2^-$  in dimethylformamide. This has now also been observed for the currently prepared solutions at 77°K. It appears likely that the inability to observe a signal at 300°K is due to excessive line broadening.

A printing error also occurred in the earlier communication and the ultraviolet absorption recorded in pyridine solution should have been described as a band of high intensity with  $\lambda_{\max}$  below 3400 Å (above 3.75 eV) and a further weaker band with  $\lambda_{\max} = 4425$  Å (2.80 eV).

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<sup>1</sup> W. Slough, *Chem. Comm.*, 1965, 184.

<sup>2</sup> D. L. Maricle and W. G. Hodgson, private communication.