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ERGOT ALKALOIDS.

Ergot Alkaloids and Their Actions. A. STOLL, Meeting Deut. Pharmakol. Gesellsch. Hamburg (9/12/28); *Klin. Wochschr.*, 7 (1928), 2223, No. 46, through *Squibb Abstract Bulletin*.

In a discussion following an illustrated lecture by Barger on the development of the ergot alkaloids and their actions, Stoll stated that amorphous ergotoxin and crystalline ergotamine appear identical in pharmacological ex-

amination, but the question of chemical identity has not as yet been solved. In spite of great similarities (same absorption spectra, etc.), there are also detectable differences, such as a difference of C_2H_4 in the formula. The conversion of ergotoxin and its derivatives (ergotinine) into ergotamine and vice versa has not been effected. Further chemical and physical-chemical data on these substances are to be obtained.—E. C.