

A STUDY OF MANDELIN'S TEST FOR STRYCHNINE.*

BY CHARLES F. POE AND DAVID W. O'DAY.

In general, many tests have been devised for the more common poisons. Strychnine, however, is an exception. There is practically but one class of color tests for strychnine. These tests depend upon the generation of oxygen in a concentrated sulphuric acid solution of the alkaloid. For the generation of oxygen one may use manganese dioxide, cerium oxide, lead peroxide, potassium dichromate, potassium ferrocyanide, ammonium vanadate, etc. When ammonium vanadate is dissolved in sulphuric acid, the test is termed Mandelin's test.

Since the chemical tests for strychnine are rather limited, and also since the test is very important in toxicology, it is extremely important that the limitations and the specificity of the test used for the detection of this alkaloid be well known. For the reasons given, it was decided to make a critical study of the color reactions for strychnine. The investigation to be reported in this paper deals with the detection of strychnine by means of Mandelin's reagent. When strychnine is treated with Mandelin's reagent a violet-blue coloration results, which soon changes to an orange-red, and finally to a yellow.

The experimental work has been carried out with the idea of determining the following points:

- (1) Whether or not there are a large number of organic substances, other than strychnine, which will give the same reactions as strychnine with Mandelin's reagent.
- (2) Whether the organic substances giving this test can be placed in any special groups, and whether the organic group or groups responsible for this test can be determined.
- (3) Whether there are a large number of organic compounds which will interfere with the test and in what amounts they must be present for interference.

In selecting organic compounds for this study, an effort was made to include as many different groups and classes of organic compounds as were available. In the neighborhood of five hundred different organic compounds have been tested.

An ammonium vanadate-sulphuric acid solution, as a test for strychnine, was first proposed by Mandelin (1) in 1883. A few alkaloids besides strychnine will give color reactions with this reagent. According to Witthaus (2) the following alkaloids give strychnine-like reactions with this reagent: 1. Curarin gives about the same play of colors, but the appearance is very much delayed. Curarin, however, is not extracted with organic solvents in alkaline solutions. 2. Gelsemin produces a purple or red-violet color.

Self (3), in 1915, showed that yohimbine, an alkaloid obtained from the bark of *Corynanthe Johimbe*, gives the same purple with Mandelin's reagent as strychnine. However, upon dilution with water the purple color developed by strychnine changes to a beautiful rose-pink coloration, whereas with yohimbine no such color develops upon dilution.

Kundrat (4), in 1889, tested a number of alkaloids with Mandelin's reagent. He obtained distinctive colors with twenty-three of the common alkaloids. Besides with strychnine, he obtained a violet or violet-blue color with apomorphine and papaverin. We were able to confirm only a few of his tests, as will be discussed later on.

* Scientific Section, A. Ph. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.

Ef시오 Mameli (5, 6), in 1911 and 1914, made a study of the influence of certain compounds employed in therapeutics on the Mandelin color reaction. He found a number of drugs which more or less interfered with the Mandelin color reaction. Mameli does not give the exact amounts of the drugs present as impurities. However, he concluded that, on the whole, the phenols, as well as the aromatic amines with their derivatives, show the greatest tendency to interfere with the characterization of strychnine by means of the Mandelin reaction.

Preparation of Mandelin's Reagent.—One part of finely ground ammonium vanadate was dissolved in 200 parts of cold chemically pure concentrated sulphuric acid.

Preparation of Standard Strychnine Solution.—A solution was prepared in alcohol containing one milligram per cubic centimeter.

Preparation of Solutions to Be Tested.—The compounds to be tested were dissolved in the proper solvent so that one cubic centimeter of the solution was equivalent to one mg. of the compound. Care was taken in selecting a suitable solvent which would both dissolve the compound readily and would volatilize on a water-bath. Substances which were relatively insoluble were finely ground and suspended in water or other solvents. The bottle was shaken before removing a portion of the contents to insure an even suspension of the substance to be tested.

Procedure of Test.—Three tests were made on each compound. For the first test one cubic centimeter of the solution to be tested was evaporated to dryness, and then tested with three or four drops of Mandelin's Reagent. If the color noted was yellow (the same color as Mandelin's Reagent), the test was termed "no reaction." In the second test one cubic centimeter of the solution to be tested and one cubic centimeter of standard strychnine solution were mixed and the test made as described above. If there was no interference, a blue-violet color resulted which soon changed to orange-red. If there was an interference in the color reaction, the colors resulting were recorded. The third test was carried out

TABLE I.—COLOR REACTIONS OBTAINED WHEN DIFFERENT ALKALOIDS WERE TESTED WITH MANDELIN'S REAGENT.

| Alkaloid. | Authors' result. | Kundrat's result. | Alkaloid. | Authors' result. | Kundrat's result. |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Aconitine | No | Cof'e-B | Nicotine | No | Darker |
| Apomorphine | Gr-bk to B-bk | V-bl to l bl | Physostigmine | No | G-Y carmine to Y-B |
| Atropine | No | R to Y | Pilocarpine | No | l O |
| Brucine | O-Y | Bl'd R | Piperidine | No | |
| Caffeine | No | No | Piperine | R-B | R-B to bk-B |
| Cinchonine | No | O tur'ng gr'nish | Quinidine | Y to l G | bl-G |
| Cinchonidine | No | O | Quinine | No | O to bl-G |
| Cocaine | No | O | Sanguinarine | Gr'nish B to dk B | |
| Codeine | Y to caramel | G to B | Scopolamine | No | |
| Colchicine | G to gr'nish B | G to cof'e-B | Sparteine | No | |
| Emetine | Gr'nish B to B | | Solanine | Gr'nish B | |
| Ergotine | No | | Theobromine | No | |
| beta-Eucaine | No | | Veratrine | B to red'sh B | B-R to R-V |
| Homatropine | No | | | | |
| Hydrastine | Red'sh B to B | | | | |
| Morphine | Gr-bk to B-bk | B | | | |

Abbreviations: No reaction, No; B, brown; bk, black; O, orange; Y, yellow; G, green; Gr, grey; R, red; l, light; V, violet; bl, blue; P, pink; L, lavender.

as above except five cubic centimeters of the solution of the organic compound were used in place of one cubic centimeter.

A number of alkaloids were first tested with the reagent. These were of the highest purity that could be obtained on the market. The results are listed in Table I. There are also recorded the results of the tests as reported by Kundrat (4). It will be noted that in nearly every case this investigator obtained color reactions. A comparison with the results which the authors of this paper obtained show a great difference. The results of Kundrat may be accounted for by the probability of his having impure compounds.

In the pages immediately following, the results of the test with the organic compound alone will be given under the different groups of organic compounds. In order to conserve space the heading will be omitted after the first group. The name of the compound will be given, and immediately opposite will be given the color reactions. In cases where no color reactions were produced, the compounds will be listed with the statement: "No color reaction."

AMINO ACIDS AND DERIVATIVES.

| Organic substances. | Color reaction. |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Diiodotyrosine | Greyish black |
| Glycyltryptophane | Traces of purple to yellowish brown |
| Leucine | Greenish yellow |
| para-Nitropheny glycine | Dirty lavender to brown |
| alpha-Phenylalanine | Greenish yellow to blue-green |
| Phenylglycine | Lavender to brown |
| Tyrosine | Dirty green to greyish black |
| Tryptophane | Traces of purple |

No Color Reaction.—Acetylphenylglycine, alpha-alanine, para-aminophenylglycine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, *d-l*-benzoylalanine, betaine hydrochloride, creatine, creatinine, edestine, ethylglycollate, glutamic acid, glycine, hippuric acid, iso-leucine, beta-phenylalanine, *d-l*-valine.

ALIPHATIC ACIDS.

No Color Reaction.—Aconitic acid, adipic acid, *d-l*-alpha-aminoacetylacetic acid, alpha-bromopropionic acid, beta-bromopropionic acid, formic acid, fumaric acid, lævulinic acid, maleic acid, malic acid—active 1, malonic acid, mesaconic acid, mucic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, tartaric acid, trichloroacetic acid.

ALIPHATIC ACID SALTS, ESTERS AND DERIVATIVES.

No Color Reaction.—Ethyl oxalate, ethyl succinate, iso-amyl propionate, iso-butyl ace-

tate, iso-butyl iso-thiocyanate, methyl iso-thiocyanate, sodium formate, sodium oxalate, succinimide, thallos formate, thallos malonate, triacetin, tributryl.

ALIPHATIC ALCOHOLS AND DERIVATIVES.

No Color Reaction.—Cetyl alcohol, dulcitol, erythritol, ethylene glycol, iso-butyl alcohol, iso-propyl alcohol, mannitol, melissyl alcohol, octyl alcohol, trichlorbutyl alcohol.

ALIPHATIC, AROMATIC AND MIXED KETONES.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| para-Amidoacetophenone | Dark brown |
| Benzalacetophenone | Greenish yellow |
| Tetramethyldiamidobenzophenone | Caramel to yellowish green |

No Color Reaction.—Acetylacetone, benzalacetone, benzophenone, methylacetophenone, methylheptenone, phorone.

MISCELLANEOUS ALIPHATIC COMPOUNDS.

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Chitin | Brown |
| Oenanthol | Greenish yellow to brownish green |

No Color Reaction.—Acetal, acetaldoxime, acetamide, acetoxime, aldehydeammonia, aminoguanidine bicarbonate, bromoform, chloral urethane, chloropicrine, dimethylglyoxime, guanidine hydrochloride, hexachloroethane, hexamethylenetetramine, iodoform, iso-butylbromide, iso-euginol, methylglyoxal, sodium bisulphite, monochlorhydrin, nitrosodiethylamine, oxamide, pinakon hydrate, propionamide, sulphonal, tertiary butyl bro-

mide, thialdine, tribromohydrin, trichloroacetyl chloride, trimethylene bromide, trional, veronal.

ANILINE AND ANILINE DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Benzanilide | Purple quickly changing to dirty light brown |
| para-Bromoacetanilide | Light caramel |
| para-Bromoaniline | Streaks of lavender to greyish brown |
| para-Nitroaniline | Light brown to red-brown |
| para-Nitrodimethylaniline | Yellowish brown |
| Nitrosodimethylaniline | Dark green |

No Color Reaction.—Aniline, ortho-bromoaniline, meta-bromoaniline, ortho-chloroaniline, meta-chloroaniline, para-chloroaniline, 1-2-4-dichloroaniline, 2-5-dichloroaniline, 1-2-4-dinitroaniline, exalgine, meta-nitroaniline, meta-nitrodimethylaniline, tribromoaniline, trinitroaniline.

AROMATIC ACIDS.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Acetylsalicylic acid | Greenish brown to green |
| Anisic acid | Greenish brown tinged with purple |
| Anthranilic acid | Yellowish green to brownish yellow |
| Arsanilic acid | Yellow to caramel |
| Benzilic acid | Purple to purplish red |
| Cinnamic acid | Yellow to brown tinged with lavender |
| Cumaric acid | Lavender to light brownish green |
| Diiodosalicylic acid | Yellowish green |
| Diphenylacetic acid | Blue-green to dark green |
| Gallic acid | Brown |
| 5-Iodosalicylic acid | Light brown to caramel |
| Mandelic acid | Dark greenish brown to brown |
| Naphthionic acid | Greenish yellow to caramel |
| Phenylcinchoninic acid | Pinkish to brown |
| Salicylic acid | Light brown to yellowish green |
| Tannic acid | Pinkish brown to light brown |

No Color Reaction.—Metanilic acid, terephthalic acid, ortho-toluic acid, para-toluic acid.

AROMATIC ACID DERIVATIVES.

No Color Reaction.—Benzamide, benzoic anhydride, cinchophen, cumarine, neocinchophen (ethyl-6 methyl-2 phenyl quinoline 4 carboxylate), nicotinic acid nitrate, meta-nitrobenzoyl chloride, paranitrobenzoyl chloride, phthalimide, ortho-tolunitrile, paratolunitrile.

AROMATIC ACID ESTERS.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Benzyl benzoate | Dark brown to brown-black |
| Phenyl salicylate | Yellowish green, blue-green to dark green |

No Color Reaction.—Butyl benzoate, ethyl benzoate, ethyl salicylate, iso-amyl benzoate, iso-amyl salicylate, iso-butyl benzoate, methyl benzoate, methyl cinnamic ester, methyl salicylate.

AROMATIC ALDEHYDES, AROMATIC ETHERS AND MIXED ALCOHOLS.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Benzhydrol | Orange-red to brownish red |
| 5-Nitrosalicylaldehyde | Dark green to blue-green |
| Piperonal | Yellow to greenish yellow |
| Salicylaldehyde methylether | Reddish purple to brown |
| Saligenin | Light purplish red to brown |
| para-Tolylaldehyde | Light purplish red quickly changing to yellow |
| Vanillin | Green-grey to grey-black |

No Color Reaction.—Anisaldehyde, ortho-bromonitrobenzaldehyde, 1-2-5-bromosalicylaldehyde, iso-phthalaldehyde, meta-methoxysalicylaldehyde, ortho-nitrobenzaldehyde, salicylaldehyde.

AROMATIC AMINES AND DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Acetyl-para-anisidine | Dirty greenish grey |
| Acetylphenetidin | Greenish brown |
| meta-Acetylidine | Pinkish brown to grey |
| meta-Anisidine | Greenish brown to caramel |
| ortho-Anisidine | Greenish yellow with tinge of purple |
| ortho-Benztoluid | Reddish purple to dirty grey |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| para-Benztoluid | Old rose to pinkish brown |
| ortho-Phenetidine | Dirty bluish purple |
| para-Phenetidine | Brown with streaks of purplish blue |
| Phenyl-beta-di-phenylamine | Brownish yellow to caramel |

No Color Reaction.—Para-anisidine, 1-2-4-xylidine, 1-3-4-xylidine.

BENZENE AND TOLUENE DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Azoxybenzene | Greenish brown to reddish brown |
| Styrole | Greyish green |

No Color Reaction.—Para-bromochlorobenzene, ortho-bromonitrobenzene, chloramine, metachloronitrobenzene, ortho-chloronitrobenzene, para-chloronitrobenzene, para-chlorotoluene, orthodichlorobenzene, 2-5-dichloronitrobenzene, iodosobenzene, iso-propylbenzene, ortho-nitroacet-meta-xylidide, meta-nitrotoluene, ortho-nitrotoluene, para-nitrotoluene, mesitylene.

BENZOIC ACID DERIVATIVES.

No Color Reaction.—Meta-aminobenzoic acid, para-aminobenzoic acid, meta-bromobenzoic acid, ortho-bromobenzoic acid, para-bromobenzoic acid, meta-chlorobenzoic acid, ortho-chlorobenzoic acid, para-chlorobenzoic acid, para-mercurichlorobenzoic acid, ortho-nitrobenzoic acid, meta-nitrobenzoic acid, para-nitrobenzoic acid.

CRESOL AND CRESOL DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5-Benzalmino-2-cresol | Greenish black to greyish black |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|

No Color Reaction.—Meta-cresol, ortho-cresol, para-cresol, 3-5-dibromo-ortho-cresol, tetrabromo-*o*-cresol.

GLUCOSIDES.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Aesculin | Purple to dirty brown |
| Amygdalin | Yellowish green |
| Arbutin | Brown with tinge of purple to brown-black |
| Salicin | Reddish violet to purple |

HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS.

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Antipyrine | Dark blue-green to light green |
| Isatin | Brown |

No Color Reaction.—Acridine, dimethylpyrone, furoic acid, 6-nitroquinoline, oxyquinoline, quinaldine, skatole.

HYDROAROMATIC COMPOUNDS.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>d-l</i> -Camphor (natural) | Dark brown |
| Carvene | Light brownish yellow to brown |

No Color Reaction.—*d*-Borneol, *d-l*-camphor (synthetic), camphoric acid, camphorsulphonic acid, carvenone, limonene, menthol, quercite, terpinol, terpinyl acetate.

NAPHTHALENE AND ANTHRACENE DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Acet-alpha-naphthalide | Grey-black |
| Acet-beta-naphthalide | Dirty green to greenish brown |
| Alizarin | Reddish purple to blood-red green |
| alpha-Naphthylamine | Dark green to bluish black |
| beta-Naphthylamine | Greenish brown to brown |
| alpha-Naphthylamine azobenzene | Purple and greenish black |
| beta-Naphthalene-sulphonic acid sodium salt | Grey-green to grey-black |
| beta-Naphthalene-sulphonic acid | Dark grey to grey-black |
| beta-Naphthol | Dark brownish green to brownish black |
| beta-Naphthylamine | Dark grey to brownish black |
| alpha-Naphthyl iso-cyanate | Green to dark green |
| Nitroso-beta-naphthol | Green to brownish green |

No Color Reaction.—Alpha-bromonaphthalene, 1-5-dinitronaphthalene, naphthalic anhydride, naphtholmethyl-alpha-ether.

PHENOLS AND PHENOL DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Acetyl-meta-amino-phenol | Greenish brown to olive green |
| Acetyl-para-amino-phenol | Dirty green to greenish brown |
| para-Aminophenol | Greenish blue to dark blue |
| para-Benzalmino-phenol | Dirty grey-black |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ortho-Chloromer- curiphenol | Green to dark green |
| 2-4-Dinitrophenol | Green to greenish yellow |
| meta-Nitrophenol | Dark blue-green to tan |
| para-Nitrophenol | Dark bluish green |

No Color Reaction.—Anisol, ortho-brom-anisol, para-bromanisole, para-bromophenol, ortho-chlorophenol, para-chlorophenol, 2-4-dichlorophenol, 2-3-dinitrophenol, 2-6-dinitrophenol, para-nitroanisole, ortho-nitrophenol, phenetole, tribromophenol, trichlorophenol.

POLYHYDRIC PHENOLS AND OTHER PHENOL DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Benzoylthymol | Pinkish brown to dark brown |
| Carvacrol | Light brownish yellow to brown |
| Catechol | Green to dark green |
| Orcinol | Light caramel to brown |
| Phloroglucinol | Green to blue-green |
| Pyrogallie acid | Brownish black |

No Color Reaction.—Dimethylhydroresorcinol, picric acid, thymol, xylenol.

SUGARS.

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| Rhamnose | Yellow to light blue-green |
|----------|----------------------------|

No Color Reaction.—Arabinose, galactose, glucose, lactose, levulose, *d*-mannose, melizitose, raffinose, sucrose, xylose.

THIOUREA AND THIOUREA DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Allyl thiourea | Greenish yellow |
| <i>d-l-n</i> -Butyl thiourea | Yellow to orange-pink |
| Diphenyl thiourea | Dark green to dirty grey-brown |

No Color Reaction.—Thiourea.

TOLUIDINE AND TOLUIDINE DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Acetyl-ortho-toluidine | Light lavender-pink to dirty green |
| Acetyl-para-toluidine | Pink-lavender to dirty pink |
| Toluidine | Yellowish brown |

No Color Reaction.—Acetyl-ortho-methyltoluidine, acetyl-para-methyltoluidine, 1-2-3-nitrotoluidine, 1-2-4-nitrotoluidine, 1-3-4-nitrotoluidine, ortho-toluidine.

UREA DERIVATIVES, URIC ACID AND URIC ACID DERIVATIVES.

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Ipral (calcium ethyl-isopropyl barbiturate) | Yellow to yellow-green |
| Peralga (amidopyrine diethyl barbiturate) | Brown to green |
| Phenylethylbarbituric acid | Yellow to light green |
| Thiobarbituric acid | Light blue-green |
| Uric acid | Greenish yellow |

No Color Reaction.—Amytal (iso-amylethylbarbituric acid), acetylmethylurea, allantoin, alloxantin, barbital, barbituric acid, biuret, dibromobarbituric acid, guanine hydrochloride, urethane.

MISCELLANEOUS AROMATIC COMPOUNDS.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Allylphenylthiocarbamide | Light purple quickly changing to light grey |
| para-Amidazobenzene | Green to brown |
| Benzil | Green |
| Benzoin | Brown to dark green |
| Benzylphenylhydrazine hydrochloride | Streaks of pinkish lavender to yellow |
| 2-4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine | Greenish yellow |
| Fluorene | Blue-green to dark green |
| Isoamylphenylhydrazine | Dirty purple quickly changing to brown |
| meta-Nitrobenzhydrazide | Yellow to yellowish green |
| para-Nitrophenylhydrazine | Light greenish brown |
| Phenanthrene | Bluish green to dark green |
| Phenanthrenequinone dioxide | Dirty violet-blue to reddish brown |
| Phenolphthalein | Orange outlined with purple-red |
| meta-Phenylenediamine hydrochlorate | Yellowish brown |
| Phenylhydrazine hydrochloride | Blue-green |
| Tetrabromophenolphthalein | Purple to brown |
| Thymolphthalein | Purplish red to brown |
| Triphenylguanidine | Purplish blue streaks with green to brown |
| Triphenylmethane | Brown with traces of purple |

No Color Reaction.—Diphenyl, nitrobenzyl chloride, para-toluquinoline sulphate, para-toluthioquinanthrene.

MISCELLANEOUS COMPOUNDS—NOT GROUPED

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Abietic acid | Brown | Rheumatine | Brownish green to green |
| Amarine | Greenish blue to greyish black | Salvarsan | Purplish black |
| | | Saponine | Caramel to dark brown |
| | | Thiosemicarbazide | Light blue-green |
| | | Turmeric | Yellow and pink-purple to brown |

No Color Reaction.—Allyl thiocarbamide, santonin.

The color reactions for the tests, where an equal amount of impurity and also those where five times the amount were added to the strychnine, were recorded, but the listing of these would require too much space. Therefore, only those where the violet-blue was completely masked will be given. Reference can be made to the list of substances previously given to obtain the names of the compounds which did not completely cover up the strychnine test. Many of these gave no interference, while others gave more or less interference.

Organic compounds which completely covered up the strychnine test when present in equal amounts:

Acetylsalicylic acid, 5-iodosalicylic acid, salicylic acid, beta-naphthol, pyrogallic acid, diphenyl thiourea, and amarine.

Organic compounds which completely covered up the strychnine test when present in amounts five times that of the strychnine:

Apomorphine, colchicine, tryptophane, benzalacetophenone, acetylsalicylic acid, diiodosalicylic acid, diphenylacetic acid, gallic acid, 5-iodosalicylic acid, salicylic acid, tannic acid, 5-benzal-amino-2-cresol, acet-beta-naphthalide, acet-alphanaphthalide, alpha-naphthylamine, beta-naphthalenesulphonic acid, beta-naphthol, beta-naphthylamine, acetyl-meta-aminophenol, acetyl-para-aminophenol, para-aminophenol, para-benzalaminophenol, ortho-chloromercuric-phenol, catechol, orcinol, phloroglucinol, pyrogallic acid, allyl thiourea, diphenyl thiourea, tolidine, thiobarbituric acid, amidazobenzene, phenylhydrazine hydrochloride, triphenylguanidine, abietic acid, amarine, rheumatine, and thiosemicarbazide.

From a study of the preceding data, we find that there are a number of organic compounds which give various shades of violet, lavender or purple, which might be mistaken for the strychnine test.

In general, the compounds giving a similar strychnine test do not belong to any definite group of organic compounds, nor does any special group seem to be responsible for the characteristic test. However, the characteristic test was not given by any of the aliphatic compounds tested.

There were very few organic compounds which completely covered up the strychnine test when present in small amounts, but when present in amounts five times greater than the strychnine, we find many interferences. Of course, in a carefully conducted examination for strychnine most of the foreign organic substances will be removed by means of different organic solvents.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. A large number of organic compounds have been tested with Mandelin's Reagent. A number have been found to give color reactions similar to strychnine.

2. The interference of organic compounds with Mandelin's test for strychnine have been determined when present in small and large amounts.

3. In toxicological work too much dependence should not be placed in the color reactions for strychnine. The test should be checked by the crystalline form, taste and physiological action.

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER.

A POTENTIOMETRIC ASSAY OF CINCHONA.

BY JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR.*

INTRODUCTION.

The assays of cinchona bark and its preparations have been studied comprehensively by various investigators. A very complete survey of the various methods of evaluating this drug is given by Dubreuil (1). This investigator favors the iodometric method of estimating the alkaloidal residue, as he claims it gives the most satisfactory results. McGill (2) applied electrical titration methods to the assay of this drug and obtained concordant results. The same method was applied to nux vomica and belladonna by McGill and Wagener (3) with an equal degree of success. In this work McGill and his associates (4) were able to eliminate the shaking out process. Very recently Maricq (5) applied the potentiometric titration to the estimation of alkaloidal residues. An excess of a solution of mercuric hydrogen iodide is added and the alkaloid is precipitated with the liberation of an equivalent quantity of hydrogen iodide. In a portion of the filtrate the hydrogen iodide is estimated potentiometrically using a mercuric chloride solution.

In a previous communication to THIS JOURNAL, the author (6) showed that it was possible to determine the quantity of alkaloid present in a solution, the hydrogen-ion concentration of the solution having been determined. From this datum the amount of alkaloid present was calculated.

It is the purpose of this present investigation to apply this method to the evaluation of cinchona alkaloid residues.

EXPERIMENTAL.

Method of Preparing Graph.—In the Pharmacopœial assay of cinchona bark the final extraction of alkaloids represents 4 Gm. of drug. A drug containing 7 per cent of alkaloids would yield 280 mg. of alkaloids. Using 0.0309 as the volumetric equivalent of these alkaloids in terms of 0.1*N* acid, 9.06 cc. of acid would

* Scientific Section, A. PH. A., Baltimore meeting, 1930.