

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aluminium Oxide for Quantitative Chromatographic Analysis.

SIR,—In my article on The British Pharmacopœia, 1948, The Assay of Alkaloidal Salts, which appeared in No. 1 of your Journal, I stated that aluminium oxide for quantitative chromatographic analysis must be completely free from alkali and must give a good adsorption test. I wish now to add a more complete set of tests which I would recommend if the chromatographic method is adopted.

Aluminium oxide for quantitative chromatographic analysis should comply with the following tests:—

Neutrality: Shake 1 g. of aluminium oxide with 20 ml. of water and filter; the filtrate is neutral to litmus paper.

Adsorption: Weigh 5 g. into an Erlenmeyer flask, add 20 ml. of a 1 per cent. procaine hydrochloride solution in alcohol and set aside for 15 minutes occasionally swinging the flask. Filter through a filter of diameter 11 cm. To 10 ml. of the filtrate add 10 ml. of water and 5 drops of bromothymol blue solution and titrate to a green colour with 0.1 N hydrochloric acid; 1.90 to 2.40 ml. should be required.

Volume. Pour 10 g. into the glass tube used for the determination, keeping the tube vertical against a firm surface and allowing the aluminium oxide to fall in ten portions from a height of 1 cm. The height of the column in the glass tube should then be 12.5 to 14.5 cm. Attach the glass tube with the aluminium oxide to a suction flask and draw 10 ml. of alcohol (90 per cent.) at 390 to 410 mm. Hg. through the column. The time from the beginning of the suction until the last of the alcohol has been drawn through the column should be 2½ to 5 minutes. A further 30 ml. of alcohol (90 per cent.) is then passed through the column in the same manner; the filtrate thus obtained is used for the following tests.

Alkalinity and Acidity. To 10 ml. of the filtrate add 10 ml. of water and 5 drops of bromophenol blue solution, a yellow or green colour is produced.

Soluble Substances. Evaporate 10 ml. of the filtrate to dryness and dry at 105°C. to constant weight. The weight of the residue must not exceed 2 mg.

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry,

D. VAN OS.

The University,

Groningen, Netherlands.

NEW REMEDIES (continued from page 349)

preparations, only the maintenance dose should be used. It is supplied in packages of 30, 100 and 500 tablets containing either 0.1 or 0.2 mg. S. L. W.

Estigyn* is 17-ethinyl œstradiol, an ethinyl derivative of the naturally-occurring œstrogenic steroid α -œstradiol. Weight for weight it is claimed to be the most active œstrogenic substance known and is active when given orally. It is non-toxic in the usual therapeutic doses and is well tolerated. It is indicated in all conditions calling for treatment with œstrogens, especially hypo-ovarianism, menopausal disorders, inhibition of lactation and prostatic carcinoma. The usual dose is 0.05 mg. 3 times daily, though this may be increased to 6 times daily for inhibition of lactation. It is supplied in bottles of 25, 100 and 500 tablets each containing 0.05 mg. S. L. W.

Ethiodan* is ethyl-*p*-iodophenylundecoate, a mobile liquid used as a contrast medium for myelography, sp. gr 1.264 at 20°C., iodine in organic combination approximately 30 per cent. It is more stable than iodised oil and

[Continued on page 352