LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Melting Point of Amidone Picrolonate

SIR,—In the monograph on amidone hydrochloride, appearing in the Supplement to the British Pharmaceutical Codex 1949, the picrolonate is prepared for purposes of identification and its melting point given as being about 160° C. *New and Nonofficial Remedies* (1951 Edition) gives, under methadone hydrochloride, the melting point of the picrolonate as 160° to 162° C.

It has been found in our laboratories that amidone sometimes gives a picrolonate of m.pt. 178° to 180° C. when prepared according to the B.P.C. monograph. There is little doubt that the salt exists in two forms of which the higher melting is the more stable for, in our experience, it is very difficult to prepare amidone picrolonate of m.pt. 160° C., after the high melting form has been obtained in a laboratory.

G. E. FOSTER.

Wellcome Chemical Works, Dartford, Kent.

G. F. HALL.

Standards Department, Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd., Nottingham.

October 9, 1952.

ABSTRACTS (*continued from page* 1087)

BACTERIOLOGY AND CLINICAL TESTS

Antibiotics, Tests for Sterility. D. Videau. (*Ann. pharm. franç.*, 1952, **10**, 204.) Except in the case of penicillin, for which a suitable inactivating agent is available, elimination of the antibiotic is necessary in testing for sterility. In the following method, aureomycin was separated from micro-organisms by centrifuging and washing. 15 g. of aureomycin was dissolved as completely as possible in 50 ml. of sterile water, any undissolved aureomycin being separated by decantation. 5 ml. of the solution was added to each of 10 centrifuge tubes, each containing 1 ml. of a sterile 3 per cent. suspension of kaolin in water. The tubes were centrifuged for 15 minutes the speed being gradually increased to 5000 to 6000 r.p.m. and maintained for 5 minutes. The supernatant liquid was removed with a pipette and bulb and replaced with sterile water, the centrifuging and washing process being repeated twice and the deposit finally suspended in 1·5 ml. of water. To ensure great dilution of any remaining antibiotic the contents of the centrifuge tubes were used to inoculate large volumes of media-tubes containing 50 ml. of meat-liver broth for ærobic and anærobic culture and flasks containing 100 ml. of Sabouraud-Langeron medium. Tubes and flasks were examined for growth after 5-days' incubation at 37° and 10 days' at 25° C. The method was effective in detecting the presence of bacteria, yeasts and fungi in aureomycin, and could be applied to other antibiotics. G. B.