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Postscript

Guru Row et al. have since found that the tetragonal phase was mainly due to the presence of LaOCI. They were led to believe that they had synthesized a new La_2O_3 phase since they obtained the same X-ray diffraction pattern with the product of the reaction of La and Pd nitrates. Unfortunately, the Pd nitrate that they used contained PdCl₂ as the main constituent. Guru Row et al. now find that many rare-earth oxychlorides, LnOCl (Ln = La, Nd, Sm, . . .), are readily prepared by the reaction

of the rare-earth oxide with PdCl₂ at 1050 K.

T. N. Guru Row A. K. Ganguli N. Rangavittal Ram Seshadri C. N. R. Rao

Solid State and Structural Chemistry Indian Institute of Science Bangalore 560 012, India