

NOTES.

The Qualitative Detection of Sulphur Dioxide in Linseed Oil, Etc.—A rapid and sensitive method for detecting sulphur dioxide in various oils, by means of starch iodate paper, has been used by the writer, with success for a period of several years. Starch iodate paper is made by immersing filter paper in the following solution, and drying slowly.

100 cc. of boiling distilled water, is added to two grams of starch, care being taken to prevent lumps, then 0.2 gram of potassium iodate, which has been dissolved in 5 cc. of cold distilled water is added to the starch solution.

On testing a suspected sample of linseed oil, or other oils, which are of a high boiling point, the following is the most satisfactory method of procedure.

10 cc. of the oil is put into a test tube, about 150×18 mm. and a strip of the iodate paper, which has been slightly moistened half its length, is suspended in the mouth of the test tube. The oil is gradually heated until near the boiling point, when, if sulphur dioxide is present, it will appear instantly, by the characteristic blue reaction, at the junction where the paper has been moistened.

In the case of low boiling oils, such as washed petroleum, and coal tar oils, etc., it is most suitable to distill 100 cc. in a glass distilling bulb, using a short Liebig condenser, and placing the moistened starch iodate paper at the end of the condensing tube. The distillation should not be carried on too rapidly.

In conclusion, the writer would state that very good results were obtained in determining the presence of very slight traces of sulphur dioxide, which could not be practically determined by any other method.

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Report of the Committee on Standard Methods for the Analysis of Iron.—

At the annual convention of the Association in 1905, this committee reported a method for the determination of silicon in iron, and last year added methods for determining total carbon and sulphur. The committee now adds methods for determining graphitic carbon, manganese and phosphorus, thus including all the determinations usually made on iron in which occasion for difference between the buyer and seller is apt to arise. This report will therefore include all the methods decided upon.

We would also like to call attention to the following quotation from the report of 1905, which indicates the intentions of these methods.

"In recommending the above method, it was recognized that it is almost an impossibility to get chemists to use a standard method in their daily work. Hence the above method, as recommended, is intended primarily as a check method in case of dispute between laboratories, or as between buyer and seller.

¹ From Transactions of the American Foundrymen's Association, Philadelphia Convention May 20-24, 1907.