

with Al_2O_3 these substances are much inferior as desiccating agents. Al_2O_3 is also more effective than H_2SO_4 . A tube filled with Al_2O_3 can be used for an indefinite period, if from time to time it is heated with a smoky flame while air, previously led through H_2SO_4 , is passed through it.

To replace the usual P_2O_5 tube used in connection with mercury pumps it appears particularly suitable, since the tube used need never be renewed. A small tube of P_2O_5 following the Al_2O_3 would serve to indicate when the Al_2O_3 needed reheating. Its uses in many investigations are obvious.

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CORRECTION.

The Connection between Electrical Conductivity and Loss of Electrons by Metals.—Dr. Falk has kindly called my attention to the fact that Sir William Ramsay, in his Faraday lecture (*J. Chem. Soc.*, **93**, 787), pointed out the connection between the ease with which metallic elements lose electrons and their properties as conductors. I regret that I should have overlooked this when writing the note which appeared in the May Journal (*THIS JOURNAL*, **34**, 664).

W. A. NOYES.

LONDON, June, 1912.

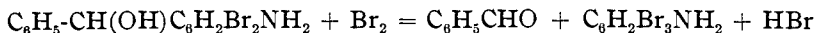
[CONTRIBUTION FROM THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF HARVARD COLLEGE.]

THE SPLITTING OF AMINOARYLCARBINOLS BY THE ACTION OF BROMINE.

BY LATHAM CLARKE AND RICHARD HARKNESS PATCH.

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It has been shown by Clarke and Esselen¹ that when 2,5-dibromo-4-aminobenzhydrol in chloroform solution is treated with bromine, a splitting takes place, whereby 2,4,6-tribromoaniline and benzaldehyde are produced:



Since the publication of the above noted preliminary paper, Clarke and Esselen have found that with aminobenzohydrols, the reaction is a general one, and an account of this research will appear in the near future in *THIS JOURNAL*.

The present writers have extended this research to aminoarylcabinols containing an aliphatic residue and also to tertiary carbinols. The latter are of especial interest, for if tertiary carbinols are split in a manner analogous to the splitting of secondary carbinols, then the color bases of triphenylmethane dyes would be broken down to substituted bromoanilines and ketones, thereby giving a method for the exact proof of constitution.

¹ *THIS JOURNAL*, **33**, 1135.