

to ReCl_2 , minima at 45.93 and 47.54 were observed. The four minima of SnCl_4 and the two of ReCl_2 which occur at the scale readings given above, coincide with six of those observed in hydrochloric acid solutions of the minerals tested. The other six, which belong to Virginium, occur at 44.01, 44.62, 45.11, 46.22, 46.42, 47.80. *There are no corresponding minima for rhenium and tin in sulfate solutions of these minerals. None of the minima attributed to ViCl was found in the solutions of stannic chloride or rhenium chloride.*

A careful observer need not confuse the minima of Virginium with those of rhenium and tin since the minima of Virginium are in no case nearer than 2.5 cm. to the minima of these elements. In this work each of us has made ninety independent observations, sixty-three of which agree within 1 mm. each with the other; and twenty within 2 mm., while no other variation exceeds 3 mm.

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DRY DISTILLATION OF COPPER PHTHALATE DOES NOT YIELD FLUORANE

Sir:

In THIS JOURNAL, 52, 3003 (1930), Ekeley and Mattison published a paper entitled "Fluorane from the Dry Distillation of Copper Phthalate." In a recent letter to me (the senior author), L. P. Kyrides of the Monsanto Chemical Works stated that the results as described in the above paper could not be duplicated in his laboratory. I regret to say that I also am unable to duplicate them, the distillate evidently being an impure phthalic anhydride. In 1923 at my suggestion the junior author of the paper performed the experimental work. It never occurred to me to doubt the accuracy of the melting point determinations and the two sets of combustion data as reported by her, since the product she presented dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid with yellow-green fluorescence. Publication of the results was withheld until similar experiments could be performed on copper tetrachlorophthalate which seemed to point to the formation of dodekachlorofluorane, though analyses by another experimenter no nearer than within 1% of the theoretical were ever obtained. The final responsibility for the publication of the 1923 results on copper phthalate rests upon me, since I should have verified the junior author's data before publication and thus have avoided the erroneous statement appearing in the literature.

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