

tions of this reaction to all the non-polar inorganic halides and will be reported as rapidly as possible.

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RECEIVED OCTOBER 22, 1932
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 13, 1932

THE ACTION OF NITROUS ACID ON PHENYL- α -(β -NAPHTHOL)-AMINO-METHANE. A CORRECTION

Sir:

In a recent paper [Ray, THIS JOURNAL, 54, 295 (1932)] it was reported that phenyl- α -(β -naphthol)-aminomethane on treatment with nitrous acid gave an aliphatic diazo compound. Subsequent work, the details of which are soon to appear, has shown that the reaction is much more complex than was originally supposed. The compound in question is not an aliphatic diazo compound but an N-nitroso derivative of a heterocyclic compound.

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RECEIVED OCTOBER 31, 1932
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 13, 1932

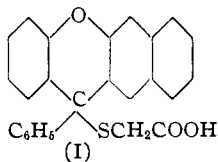
THE ACTION OF SODIUM IN LIQUID AMMONIA ON DERIVATIVES OF OPTICALLY ACTIVE TRIARYLMETHANES

Sir:

In view of a recent publication by Ashley and Shriner [THIS JOURNAL, 54, 4410 (1932)] on an attempt to prepare an optically active salt of the type $\left[\begin{array}{c} R_2 \\ R_1 : \overset{\ominus}{C} : R_3 \end{array} \right] Na^+$ it seems advisable to place on record certain experiments which have been conducted in this Laboratory, and which were reported to the Society at its meeting in New Orleans, March 28-April 1, 1932.

In recent publications from this Laboratory a method has been described for preparing certain derivatives of optically active triarylmethanes. Investigations of such optically active compounds led us to believe that a study of their behavior toward sodium in liquid ammonia should be of special interest. For this purpose 12-phenyl-12- β -benzoxanthene-thioglycolic acid (I), m. p., 187-188°, has been prepared.

The pure *levo* modification of this compound (m. p. 184-185°) prepared by repeated crystallization of its brucine salt gave $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ in acetone -48.5°. This material in liquid ammonia was treated with metallic sodium



in the absence of oxygen. The deep orange-brown sodium triarylmethyl so formed was allowed to react with a slight excess