

ON THE ACTION OF PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE UPON
GALLIC ACID.

BY GEORGE A. PROCHAZKA.

Mr. Stebbins* appears to have entirely misunderstood the gist of my remarks at the November meeting.

More than a year ago I experimented upon the action of phthalic anhydride upon gallic acid, with results similar to those of Mr. Stebbins. My object was to find a more economical method for the production on a large scale of gallein (and coerulein) than given in the books. The substitution of gallic acid in place of pyrogallol readily suggested itself. Subsequently I found in a synopsis by Ch. Lauth of the report on dye-stuffs, of the jury of the Paris International Exhibition of 1878, (*Monit. Teint.* 1878) that gallein was prepared by heating together phthalic anhydride and pyrogallic or gallic acid. My own results had been anticipated. My own results were never published. In making my remarks at the November meeting it was not my object to substitute a doubtful claim of originality, substantiated by experiments hid under the bushel, in place of Mr. Stebbins, but to call attention to the fact that he had been anticipated as early at least as 1878 by those European manufacturers, who had utilized the reaction in question. Mr. Stebbins does not appear to have been aware of this fact, which through a small notice had become known only to the initiated few. The very careful and detailed experiments (much more exhaustive than my own) of Mr. Stebbins, merit the widest attention, and the public owes to him a debt of gratitude for their publication.

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