

Spurting in Cupellation.—Dr. H. G. Torrey, of the N. Y. Assay Office, writes to the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, under date of February 26, that a comparative test of old and new cupels has been made with reference to their liability to spurt and thereby cause loss in the muffle. The test was made on 1,000 each of cupels less than one week old and about one year old. "In each case the number of cupels that spurted was the same, being only about one per cent. * * * The result of all the different experiments [which we have made] is that the spurting is due not to moisture, but to the escape of gas arising from the decomposition of impurities remaining in the cupel, and that this gas not only takes time but a high heat to expel."

A Substitute for Hydrogen Sulphide is found by Schiff and Tarugi in thioacetic acid made by acting on glacial acetic acid with phosphorus pentasulphide. The solution, for students' use, is made by dissolving the acid in a slight excess of dilute ammonia, and is given out in bottles having a pipette holding about two cc. thrust through the cork. About one-half to one gram of substance, dissolved in hydrochloric acid, is treated, while hot, with one and one-half to two cc. of a thirty per cent. solution of the above ammonium thioacetate. The sulphides are completely separated; even arsenates are completely decomposed. *Ber. d. chem. Ges.*, **27**, 3437.