

NOTE.

*Drown's Method of Determining Silicon.*¹—In the July number of this Journal, George Auchy has described a method devised by him, which will effect a more thorough dehydration of the silica than is obtained by the method usually followed. Dr. Dudley² called attention to the difficulty of dehydrating in this case at the Troy meeting of this society in 1896.

Without claiming any superiority over Mr. Auchy's method it may be of interest to describe a modification which has been in use in this laboratory for a number of years. It is not original with the author.

The pig iron or steel is weighed into a No. 4 beaker and brought into solution by the usual method as described by Blair. We then add forty cc. of concentrated sulphuric acid and evaporate to fumes on the hot plate. A leather strap about one inch broad and twenty inches long is passed under the lip of the beaker and the ends clasped between the thumb and forefinger. By a slight wrist movement the contents of the beaker are given a rapid rotary movement. The beaker can, in this way, be heated directly in the full flame of the Bunsen burner with perfect safety. Care only must be taken that the contents are kept in continual motion and that sufficient acid is present to cover the glass exposed to the flame. Under these circumstances any lumps are broken up and a thorough contact between the silica and the very hot acid is insured. In many other cases where evaporation to fumes is necessary and the tendency to bump prevents the simple boiling down of the solution, the use of a strap in this way is invaluable. As a rule, it will be found more convenient than the use of the casserole. It is also very convenient in handling hot beakers as it is adaptable to one of any size.

We perhaps run the risk of recounting what may be to some chemists an old story, but, as in our experience we have yet to visit a laboratory in which the strap was used in this way, it is but reasonable to conclude that it has not met with the attention it deserves.

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¹ This Journal, 20, 547.

² *Ibid.* 19, 105.