

NOTE.

A Device to Aid in Freeing a Precipitate from Mother Liquor when Filtering by Suction.—In using a Büchner funnel and filtering by suction, it often happens that cracks will form in a bulky precipitate and break the vacuum. Even if the precipitate is fairly compact it is often difficult to remove a very considerable part of the mother liquor. Both of these difficulties may easily be obviated if, after the precipitate appears fairly dry on the filter, one fastens over the top of the Büchner funnel a piece of thin sheet rubber, held in place by a rubber band. The suction within the flask draws the rubber down until it presses firmly over the sides of the funnel and over the top of the precipitate. The efficiency of this method may be noted by the renewed dropping of liquid from the funnel. The surface of the rubber may now be tightly pressed with a pestle or with the hand without fear of either breaking the filter paper beneath or of contaminating the precipitate.

I find that one can easily get a pressure equivalent to 745 mm. of mercury when the barometer stands at 760 mm., and that under such pressure a precipitate becomes as dry—or drier—than it would be if it were removed from the funnel, folded in cloth, and pressed in a “beef-juice” press. The sheet rubber can be easily washed and used repeatedly.

ROSS AIKEN GORTNER.

DIV. OF SOILS, UNIV. FARM.
ST. PAUL, MINN.

NEW BOOKS.**Annual Tables of Constants and Numerical Data, Chemical, Physical and Technological.**

Published under the auspices of the International Association of Academies and under the direction of an international commission appointed by the VII International Congress of Applied Chemistry. Volume III, for the year 1912, LII + 595 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1914. Price, paper, \$6.40 net, \$6.94 postpaid; cloth bound, \$7.20 net, \$7.76 postpaid.

The third volume of these indispensable tables exhibits several features not found in the previous volumes. In certain chapters alphabetical lists of substances for which data are recorded add to the convenience of the tables. A general index of technical substances for the whole volume has also been added. For every five volumes it is proposed to publish a general index of all substances for which data of any kind are recorded. The following chapters of the present volume have been issued also in the form of separates: Spectroscopy, radioactivity, electricity, magnetism and electrochemistry, metallurgy and engineering, mineralogy, and biology. At the end of Volume III tables of errata for the first three volumes are presented. Attention may be called again to the importance of notifying the editor of errors in each volume. Postal cards for this purpose are bound with each volume. Every investigator should make it his duty to

verify the record of all data determined by him and to notify the editor of any errors which appear.

The war in Europe can not fail to interfere with all international undertakings of the character of these tables and upon the countries not directly involved, and especially upon this country, will fall the duty of carrying on this work without interruption. The chemical and physical societies of American should increase as much as possible their financial support to this extremely important work and should take all necessary steps to prevent its interruption. It is to be hoped that the Secretary's office will be removed as soon as possible to a neutral country whose mail service can be depended upon and that he will receive all the support, financial and otherwise, which the present crisis renders necessary.

E. W. WASHBURN.