

Summary.

1. *o*-Benzoyl-benzoyl chloride has been prepared by the action of phosphorus pentachloride on the acid. Its m. p. is 59–60° while that obtained by previous investigators melted about 70°. Possibly their chloride had been affected by moisture.

2. *o*-Benzoyl-benzoyl chloride has also been prepared by the action of thionyl chloride on the acid. It is identical with the product obtained by the previous method. It had previously been described as a thick oil which would not solidify and was thought by Meyer to be an isomer of the other.

3. *o*-Benzoyl-benzoyl cyanide has been prepared by the action of mercuric cyanide on the acid chloride obtained by each of these methods. The same product is obtained.

4. The experiments described give no evidence of a necessity for tautomeric formulas for *o*-benzoyl-benzoic acid.

The preparation of the esters is being repeated in this laboratory and the results will be published very shortly.

These experiments were carried out under the direction of Professor F. B. Allan.

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CORRECTION.

On page 391 of the February issue read "*p*-nitrophenylhydrazone" and "*p*-nitrophenylhydrazine" instead of "*p*-nitrophenylsemicarbazone" and "*p*-nitrophenylsemicarbazine."

NEW BOOKS.

Elements of Physical Chemistry. By HARRY C. JONES, Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Johns Hopkins University. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1915. Pp. xiv + 672. Price, \$4.00.

With a comparative page increase of about 20%, this fourth edition retains most of the characteristics of the first edition of the work, which appeared in 1902. "Considerable new matter has been incorporated in the fourth edition of this work. Since the book is now large enough for the purpose which it was meant to fulfill, this has been done in the smallest space possible. The new material has, for the most part, been inserted at the ends of the several chapters, to avoid, as far as possible, destroying the plates." This quotation from the author's preface points to a conservatism which embraces general viewpoint as well as choice, arrangement and treatment of subject matter. The style is pleasing, the literature references are copious and the mechanical production of the book is excellent.

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