

NOTE.

The Diphenylamine Reaction.—In a recent paper,¹ E. M. Harvey has pointed out the various factors affecting this delicate "nitro" and "nitroso" reaction, among others calling attention to the important rôle played therein by the presence of a varying amount of water. My experience with the diphenylamine reaction in the course of a research² on pseudo-muscarine or "synthetic muscarine," *i. e.*, the nitrous acid ester of choline, fully substantiates the important influence attributed to the amount of water present. In testing the chloroplatinates there concerned, the following procedure consequently proved satisfactory and supports the contention. A small amount of the chloroplatinate is crushed and stirred into 10 drops of the reagent (diphenylamine in conc. sulfuric acid) contained in a small porcelain dish, and the mixture is then heated slightly and allowed to cool. Thereupon the mixture is stirred with a thin glass rod which has been moistened with water (but not dripping-wet), and this procedure repeated until the dark blue color of the reaction suddenly appears. It will be noted that the repetition of said stirring (*i. e.*, successive addition of minute amounts of water) after the color has appeared, will at times immediately cause the color to vanish. With this method there is but little danger of missing the concentration favorable for the reaction, but in tests with negative results it seems advisable to repeat several times before drawing conclusions.

ALBERT B. WEINHAGEN.

THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE,
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.

NEW BOOKS.

"Anleitung zum Nachweis, zur Trennung und Bestimmung der reinen und aus Glukosiden usw. erhaltenen Monosaccharide und Aldehydsäuren." By DR. A. W. VAN DER HAAR (Utrecht). Gebrüder Borntraeger, Berlin, 1920. xvi + 345 pp, 14 fig. 16.5 × 25.5 cm. M. 64.

Dr. van der Haar, well known for his researches upon saponins and other glucosides, gives in the present volume practical details for identifying, separating and estimating the various monosaccharides and aldehydic acids obtained in the investigation of glucosides, gums, hemicelluloses and other plant materials. In publishing these results of his laboratory experience, he has rendered the students of plant and sugar chemistry a most valuable and unique service. There are, to be sure, other excellent works upon the glucosides, such as the theoretical treatise by Armstrong and the descriptive account by Euler and Lundberg in Abderhalden's *Biochemisches Handlexikon*, but no laboratory book upon the glucosides has hitherto appeared which gives the student explicit information

¹ Harvey, *THIS JOURNAL*, 42, 1245 (1920).

² *Ibid.*, 42, 1670 (1920).