

covery then set in and after a few hours the dog was apparently normal. There was no evidence of narcotic or sedative action. The effect was so different from that predicted on the basis of structural analogy that a possible specific effect of the imide grouping suggested itself, in spite of the fact that the dialkyl-homophthalimides are claimed to be hypnotics. Dr. Kamm<sup>9</sup> informed the writer that he had observed practically the same symptoms after administering the sodium salt of camphoric-imide intraperitoneally to mice.

### Summary

Two tetra-alkyl-succinimides were prepared from the corresponding acids obtained by heating the azo-dialkyl-acetonitriles with sulfuric acid. When tested pharmacologically these two derivatives, in spite of certain structural analogies to a number of well-known hypnotics, were found to be quite toxic, the main symptoms being muscular incoördination and convulsions, without any evidence of sedative action.

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### NOTE

**The Dissociation of Benzopinacol Derivatives.**—In view of the fact that Löwenbein<sup>1</sup> has just published the statement that tetraphenyldicyanoethane dissociates, when heated, we would like to make a preliminary announcement regarding this substance.

Our work on the action of metallic sodium on aromatic aldehydes, ketones and esters<sup>2</sup> led us to anticipate that other groups, in addition to ONa and OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>,<sup>3</sup> when linked to a tetraphenylethylene group would produce compounds capable of dissociation into trivalent carbon radicals. In CN and OCOC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> it appears that we have found such groups. Tetraphenyldicyanoethane and the dibenzoyl derivative of benzopinacol develop an appreciable color when heated to about 150°. In molten naphthalene the color of the cyanide is an intense pink which disappears upon cooling and reappears when the solution is heated again; the dibenzoyl compound becomes yellow or orange when heated.

We are now engaged with the study of the anisyl and naphthyl analogs of these compounds; the latter we expected might dissociate at a lower temperature than the corresponding phenyl derivatives.

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<sup>9</sup> Dr. Oliver Kamm, private communication.

<sup>1</sup> Löwenbein, *Ber.*, **58**, 606 (1925).

<sup>2</sup> THIS JOURNAL, **46**, 2560 (1924); **47**, 229 (1925).

<sup>3</sup> Schlenk and Weickel, *Ber.*, **44**, 1184 (1911). Schlenk and Thal, *Ber.*, **46**, 2841 (1913). Wieland, *Ber.*, **44**, 2550 (1911).