

**A Chemical Investigation of Chaulmoogra Oil. I. Correction.**— Shortly after the publication of my paper on Chaulmoogra oil,<sup>1</sup> Dr. F. B. Power called my attention to certain errors contained therein. Some of these errors are due to the fact that, on account of illness, I was unable to attend to the proofs personally.

From the formula given, the calculated iodine value of taraktogenic acid would be 43.17 instead of 42.7. The weight of substance given, 0.1519 g. is wrong and should be 0.1419 g. When this correction is made the value is found to be 42.56, in fairly good agreement with theory.

In the data for the iodine number for isogadoleic acid the weight of iodine absorbed is given as 0.01356 g. This is, as a matter of fact, the iodine equivalent of 1 cc. of the thiosulfate solution used. It should be multiplied by 7.97. When this is done the iodine number as given, 78.13, is correct.

The iodine values for the lactone are unfortunately reported in grams and the "g.'s" should be deleted.

The appearance (p. 2330, line 20) of  $C_6H_{10}O_3$  for  $C_6H_{10}O$  is an inadvertence.

Dr. Power has called my attention to the fact that it is not stated that the unsaponifiable material was removed from the saponified oil before the acids were set free with a mineral acid. I had regarded this as so much the established routine in such investigations, that I neglected to mention it, as I probably should have done.

Through no direct fault of mine the name Smith, Stainistreet and Company appeared incorrectly spelled. I am, however, unfortunately responsible for the misspelling of "Taraktogenos."

Dr. Power objects to the calculation of the analysis of the silver salt of isogadoleic acid on the assumption that it had absorbed one molecule of oxygen as speculative and unwarranted. There was no intention on my part that this interpretation should stand as more than a suggestion, which is, however, quite strongly supported by the general conduct of the acid and its salts.

Dr. Power also calls attention to the danger of using any water vapor to assist the distillation of the esters, on account of the probability of hydrolysis. On general principles the criticism is doubtless justified, but in the particular procedure of the investigation, the amount of water vapor used was extremely small, and it was used only intermittently. There was no evidence of any appreciable amount of hydrolysis although it is possible that the small amount of "brown resinous substance" is to be accounted for as due to slight hydrolysis.

I take this occasion to express to Dr. Power my sincere thanks for the

<sup>1</sup> Hashimoto, *THIS JOURNAL*, 47, 2325 (1925).

interest he has shown in my work, as well as for his detailed and careful criticism of it.

CONTRIBUTION FROM  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY,  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA  
RECEIVED DECEMBER 27, 1926  
PUBLISHED APRIL 7, 1927

T. HASHIMOTO

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## NEW BOOKS

**Müller-Pouillet's Lehrbuch der Physik. Lehre von der strahlenden Energie. (Müller-Pouillet's Textbook of Physics. The Science of Radiant Energy.)** Vol. II, first half. Edited by Dr. OTTO LUMMER, with H. ERGGELET, F. JÜTTNER, A. KÖNIG, M. v. ROHR, E. SCHRÖDINGER. Friedrich Vieweg and Son, Braunschweig, 1926. xviii + 928 pp. 624 figs. and 7 plates. 24.5 × 16 cm. Price, unbound, R. M. 50; bound, R. M. 54.

Although Otto Lummer died before the publication of this book, his work had been so thorough, so the preface states, that no subsequent changes were required. His mastery of the subject, evident throughout, becomes most conspicuous in his discussion of interference. Associated with him in the preparation of certain sections were the collaborators mentioned above.

First comes a concise and stimulating review of theories of light and ether. Each main division following is similarly prefaced. The subjects include velocity of light, reflection, refraction, dispersion, geometrical optics, images, the structure and defects of the eye, optical instruments, interference and diffraction, spectrometry and microscopy. The other topics treated in the corresponding volume of the tenth edition are reserved for a second part. This shows the extent of the additions made to bring the treatment up to date.

The sections of spectroscopy, interferometry, refractometry, the camera and the ultramicroscope bear the most directly upon the chemist's problems, and are invaluable for reference. But he will find it hard to pass over the highly readable accounts of such subjects as color sensation and color blindness (by the versatile Schrödinger!), spectacles, photographic lenses, range finders and periscopes. The mathematical treatment, while apparently adequate, will seldom be beyond his comprehension. The bibliography is extensive and includes a reasonable proportion of non-German publications. A greater profusion of cuts depicting modern optical instruments would doubtless add to the value of the book.

Appearing at a time of exceptional activity in the publication of large works on physics, this book maintains and adds to the prestige of the Müller-Pouillet Lehrbuch. By its frequent use the chemist can improve his own experimentation and also add to his appreciation of a vast domain which overlaps his own at many points.

G. S. FORBES