COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EDITOR

A CORRECTION

Sir:

In the note on the use of ammonium acetate as a buffer [THIS JOURNAL, **54,** 1911 (1932)], the implication was made that an ordinary good grade product was suitable for this purpose. Unfortunately the matter was treated by us as a passing observation and no more experimentational work was done than that reported. Subsequently we have tested other samples of ammonium acetate. An unopened Kahlbaum sample gave a P_H of 6.93, which is close to neutrality, but other samples were very much more acid. Ammonium acetate recrystallized by dissolving the dry salt in five times its weight of methanol, adding a slight excess of ammonia (using as little water as possible), then adding an equal volume of acid-free ether, is reasonably stable and has always in our hands yielded a solution nearly neutral. In one case, however, the P_H value of a solution of crystals prepared approximately in this way was 6.85. Our original supply of ammonium acetate was therefore, by coincidence, somewhat unique in possessing the theoretically anticipated neutrality. We have not had time for a thorough study, but hope others may carry out such studies. We are regretful that a fuller experimental study was not made previous to the publication of our note.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OREGON

ROGER J. WILLIAMS
CARL M. LYMAN

RECEIVED JULY 13, 1932
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 5, 1932

A PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE STEM "XEN" OF A. W. HOFMANN'S XENYL AS BASIS FOR NOMENCLATURE OF BIPHENYL (DIPHENYL) AND ITS DERIVATIVES

Sir:

The study of condensed nuclei involving benzene has been materially aided through the employment of generic names for each particular grouping. In those cases, however, where two or more benzene rings are singly linked we have encountered an increasing difficulty in finding suitable terminology that is both clear and brief.

The name biphenyl (or diphenyl) has long been in use to designate the first step in the condensation of two benzene rings. It is only when we come to the consideration of well-known derivatives of biphenyl that we encounter a growing cumbersomeness in nomenclature.

For hydroxylated biphenyl compounds, the designations of ortho, meta and para phenylphenol are now meeting with favor over the correctly formed yet less euphonious corresponding terms ortho, meta and para hydroxybiphenyl; yet there is no reason why we should continue in use such