

469. *The Acid-Base Function in Non-aqueous Solution. Part I. The Equilibria between Mono-, Di-, or Tri-n-butylamine and 2:4-Dinitrophenol in Chlorobenzene.*

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The equilibria between mono-, di-, or tri-*n*-butylamine and 2:4-dinitrophenol in chlorobenzene have been shown to be of the form, $B + HA \rightleftharpoons BHA$, where B represents a butylamine and HA represents the nitrophenol. The equilibrium constants have been determined spectrophotometrically in the temperature range 20–60°, and expressed as changes in standard Gibbs free energies, enthalpies, and entropies.

With 2:4-dinitrophenol as the reference acid and chlorobenzene as solvent, the basic strengths of these amines fall in the order, mono- < di- < tri-*n*-butylamine, when $-\Delta G^\circ$ for the above reaction is taken as a measure of the basic strength. This order is different from that found in aqueous solution. The values of $-\Delta H^\circ$ for the reactions in chlorobenzene behave in the same way. The results indicate that solvation is a factor in determining the relative strengths of the butylamines in water, and that the steric requirements of the proton or of 2:4-dinitrophenol are not of major importance.

THOUGH accurate measurements on the thermodynamics of the acid-base function of amines in water and aqueous solvents have been made,^{1,2} the information on this property in solvents other than water is still very inadequate, though there is some qualitative information about the chemical entities present in these solutions. Maryott³ has shown that the complexes formed in benzene and dioxan by various alkylammonium picrates have large dipole moments (11–12 D), and that the distance of closest approach between the positive and the negative centres is about 4.5 Å, consistently with salt formation. Infrared studies⁴ have demonstrated that if the concentrations of amine and carboxylic acid in carbon tetrachloride or chloroform are decreased below approximately $10^{-3}M$, the equilibrium type changes from a complex one between associated species to the simple form:



The structure of the compound BHA may be written as ${}^+BH \dots A^-$ or $B \dots HA$ according to whether the proton is or is not transferred. Barrow⁵ has suggested that only with proton transfer is the reaction of true acid-base type. In carbon tetrachloride solutions containing a phenol or naphthol as proton-donor, and dioxan, acetone, methyl acetate, nitromethane, or acetanilide as acceptor, the infrared spectra⁶ indicate however that the proton oscillates between two positions of minimum potential energy. Therefore it does

¹ Everett and Wynne-Jones, *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, 1941, *A*, **177**, 499.

² A. G. Evans and Hamann, *Trans. Faraday Soc.*, 1951, **47**, 34.

³ Maryott, *J. Res. Nat. Bur. Stand.*, 1948, **41**, 1.

⁴ Barrow and Yerger, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1954, **76**, 5211; 1955, **77**, 4474, 6206.

⁵ Barrow, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1956, **78**, 5802.

⁶ Nagakura and Sato, *J. Chem. Soc. Japan, Pure Chem. Sect.*, 1955, **7**, 1007.

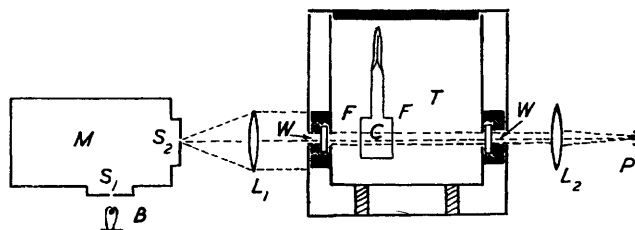
not seem possible to draw a sharp distinction between the above possibilities. Maryott's value ⁷ for the dipole moment of tribenzylammonium picrate in benzene is of the order to be expected for a molecule with charge separation, so in this system at least, there is strong evidence for proton transfer.

Bell and Bayles ⁸ have measured the equilibrium constants for the reactions between bromophenol-blue and various aromatic amines in chlorobenzene and anisole solution, and preliminary results were given for the system butylamine-2 : 6-dinitrophenol. The order of basic strength for the butylamines was found to be mono- < di- < tri-*n*-butylamine in chlorobenzene solution, and this order has also been found for the ethylamines ⁹ in ethanol-water or dioxan-water mixtures which are rich in the organic component. In the present work, the three amines, mono-, di-, and tri-*n*-butylamine, are studied in chlorobenzene solution, and for the first time both enthalpy and entropy changes are reported. In addition, some justification is attempted for the assumptions made in obtaining these thermodynamic quantities from the experimental measurements.

EXPERIMENTAL

Chemicals.—Chlorobenzene (B.D.H.) was first distilled. It was then fractionated, and the middle fraction was dried over fresh phosphoric oxide for 2–9 days. It was then re-fractionated, and the fraction distilling at $132^{\circ} \pm 0.5^{\circ}$ was collected. An aqueous extract of a sample taken from every batch of chlorobenzene was tested with B.D.H. Universal indicator. If the pH of the extract differed from 7, the batch was discarded.

FIG. 1. The spectrophotometer.



2 : 4-Dinitrophenol was twice crystallized from alcohol, dried *in vacuo* (NaOH) for several days, and stored in a desiccator (P_2O_5): it had m. p. 112° (lit., 111.6°).

Mono-*n*-butylamine (B.D.H.) was dried (K_2CO_3) for 1 day, then fractionated, and the middle fraction, b. p. 77.0° , was collected. Di-*n*-butylamine (B.D.H.) was dried (NaOH) and then fractionated. The fraction of b. p. 158 – 159° was collected. Tri-*n*-butylamine (Imperial Chemical Industries Limited) was dried (KOH) for 15 days, and then fractionated. The fraction of b. p. 210 – 212° was collected. The purity of the three amines was checked by titration against standard acid.

Apparatus.—The glassware and optical cells were baked for at least 2 hr. at 150 – 170° before use, and left in a vacuum-desiccator over potassium hydroxide.

The Spectrophotometer.—The essential features of the spectrophotometer can be seen from Fig. 1. Light from a 30 w tungsten filament bulb, *B*, is passed through a Bellingham and Stanley direct-reading spectrometer, *M*, whose eyepiece has been replaced by a bilateral exit slit, *S*₂. The lens, *L*₁, collimates the monochromatic beam, which passes through one of four 2-litre thermostats, *T*, contained in a long rectangular trough running perpendicularly to the plane of the paper. The light is then focused on a photomultiplier tube, *P*, by the lens *L*₂. The thermostats are arranged to operate at approximately 30° , 37° , 47° , and $57^{\circ} \pm 0.05^{\circ}$. The sealed mercury-toluene regulators, stirrers, and glass-enclosed fish-tank heaters are not shown in the Figure. The tank windows, *W*, are of Perspex.

⁷ Maryott, *J. Res. Nat. Bur. Stand.*, 1948, **41**, 7.

⁸ Bell and Bayles, *J.*, 1952, 1518.

⁹ Rumpf, Girault-Vexlearschi, and Schaal, *Bull. Soc. chim. France*, 1955, 554.

The solutions whose spectra appear in Fig. 3 contained sufficient amine to effect complete conversion of the 2:4-dinitrophenol into its ionized form, and would correspond to points on

FIG. 4. Apparent extinction coefficient of 2:4-dinitrophenol at 410 m μ , $D_{410}/[C_6H_3(NO_2)_2 \cdot OH]$, in chlorobenzene solutions containing various concentrations, c_B , of amines. [The added amine is mono-*n*-butylamine for \circ , di-*n*-butylamine for \times , and tri-*n*-butylamine for \bullet . The limits of the apparent extinction coefficients are 9600, 8400, and 8400 respectively.]

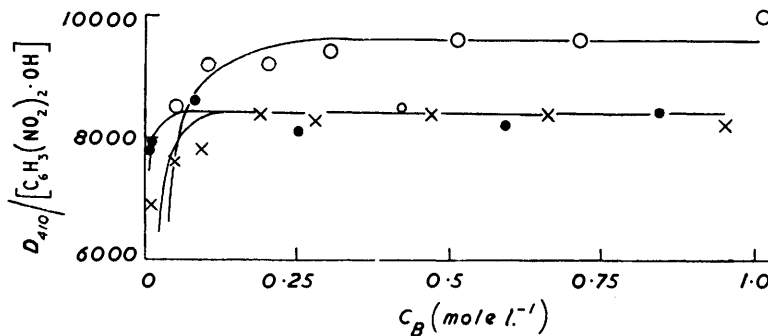


FIG. 6.

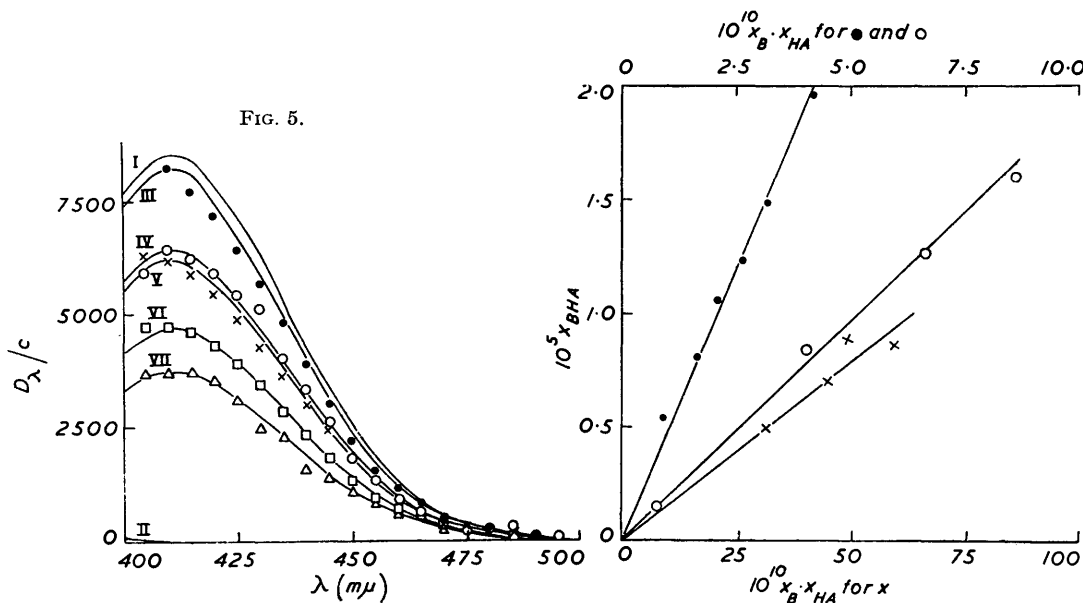


FIG. 5. A solution of di-*n*-butylamine and 2:4-dinitrophenol at different temperatures: comparison of observed spectra (plotted points) with those calculated (full curves) from the spectra of the acid and basic forms of 2:4-dinitrophenol.

I: Spectrum of 2:4-dinitrophenol, 100% basic form, from Fig. 3, curve \times . II: Spectrum of 2:4-dinitrophenol, 100% acidic form, from Fig. 3, curve \bullet . III: Calc. for 97.3% basic form. \bullet : Experimental points at 17.5°. IV: Calc. for 75.5% basic form. \circ : Experimental points at 30.5°. V: Calc. for 73.2% basic form. \times : Experimental points at 35.5°. VI: Calc. for 55.7% basic form. \square : Experimental points at 47.5°. VII: Calc. for 44.1% basic form. \triangle : Experimental points at 57.5°.

FIG. 6. Test of the equilibrium in chlorobenzene solution, $B + HA \rightleftharpoons BHA$, in which HA is 2:4-dinitrophenol and B is mono-*n*-butylamine (\times), di-*n*-butylamine (\circ), or tri-*n*-butylamine (\bullet). x_B , x_{HA} , and x_{BHA} are mole fractions at equilibrium.

the horizontal part of the curves in Fig. 4. It is seen that the wavelengths of maximum absorption, λ_a , λ_b , λ_c , in Fig. 5 agree very closely with the corresponding wavelength, λ_c , in Fig. 2. It seems justifiable therefore to suppose that in chlorobenzene solutions containing

2 : 4-dinitrophenol and amine in excess, the former is present in the ionized state. At 410 μ the difference between the extinction coefficients of the acidic and the basic form is greatest, and this wavelength is therefore used in determinations of the relative amounts of each in equilibrium mixtures in the solvent. It is convenient that the acidic form of 2 : 4-dinitrophenol does not absorb at this wavelength.

Extinction Coefficients in Chlorobenzene Solution.—It was found that the apparent extinction coefficient of 2 : 4-dinitrophenol in the presence of mono-, di-, and tri-*n*-butylamine reached a limit as the concentration of amine in the solution was increased. This is shown in Fig. 4 where the values of the extinction coefficients at 410 μ , ϵ_{410} , for the three amines at this limit are indicated.

The actual nitrophenol concentrations were varied in making up the solutions for Fig. 4. The same limit of extinction coefficient is reached whatever the nitrophenol concentration, and so Beer's law must be obeyed.

Variation of Absorption Spectrum with Temperature.—The calculation of ΔH for the reaction between 2 : 4-dinitrophenol and the butylamines depends on the assumption that, as the temperature changes in solutions containing these components, the resultant changes in absorption spectrum are due solely to an alteration in the relative concentrations of the species BHA and

TABLE I. *Experimental results for the equilibria in chlorobenzene:*

$2 : 4-(\text{NO}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\cdot\text{OH} + \text{B} \rightleftharpoons 2 : 4-(\text{NO}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\cdot\text{O}\cdot\text{H}\cdot\text{B}$,

where X_B and X_I are the stoichiometric mole fractions of B and 2 : 4-dinitrophenol present in the equilibrium solutions. The values for D_{410} are mean values.

Mono- <i>n</i> -butylamine				Di- <i>n</i> -butylamine				Tri- <i>n</i> -butylamine			
$10^5 X_B$	$10^5 X_I$	Temp.	D_{410}	$10^5 X_B$	$10^5 X_I$	Temp.	D_{410}	$10^5 X_B$	$10^5 X_I$	Temp.	D_{410}
145.9	0.711	19.0°	0.52	1.407	0.725	20.5°	0.17	2.968	3.616	18.0°	1.51
		20.5	0.50			30.0	0.09			19.5	1.44
		30.0	0.43			35.5	0.07			31.5	0.95
		35.5	0.37			47.0	0.04			36.5	0.80
		47.0	0.25			2.802	2.872			19.5	0.83
241.7	1.095	57.0	0.16	3.667	5.750	20.0	0.85	5.785	1.803	57.5	0.34
		19.0	0.91			30.0	0.58			21.0	1.12
		20.5	0.90			35.5	0.45			31.5	0.85
		30.0	0.77			47.0	0.27			36.5	0.73
		35.5	0.70			57.0	0.16			48.0	0.46
155.9	1.244	47.0	0.56	3.667	5.750	18.5	1.60	5.801	3.563	57.5	0.30
		57.0	0.41			19.0	1.58			18.5	2.12
		15.5	0.97			30.5	1.12			31.5	1.32
		18.0	0.95			35.5	0.97			36.5	1.22
		22.0	0.85			36.5	0.95			48.0	0.84
115.3	1.087	24.5	0.79	6.375	2.564	47.0	0.62	4.055	1.306	57.0	0.56
		47.0	0.45			48.5	0.55			18.0	0.73
		57.0	0.28			57.0	0.39			18.5	0.75
		21.1	0.678			22.8	1.078			19.0	0.78
		24.0	0.668			24.5	1.05			31.5	0.50
8.056	1.348	29.5	0.587	6.375	2.564	37.0	0.710	7.877	6.569	36.5	0.44
		30.0	0.572			48.0	0.456			47.0	0.27
		47.1	0.305			56.7	0.310			57.5	0.19
		57.0	0.180							57.5	0.19
										18.5	0.98
										19.5	0.98
										31.0	0.70
										36.5	0.63
										47.0	0.45
										57.0	0.29
										18.5	0.48
										19.5	0.46
				31.0	0.36						
				36.5	0.32						
				47.0	0.21						
				57.0	0.14						

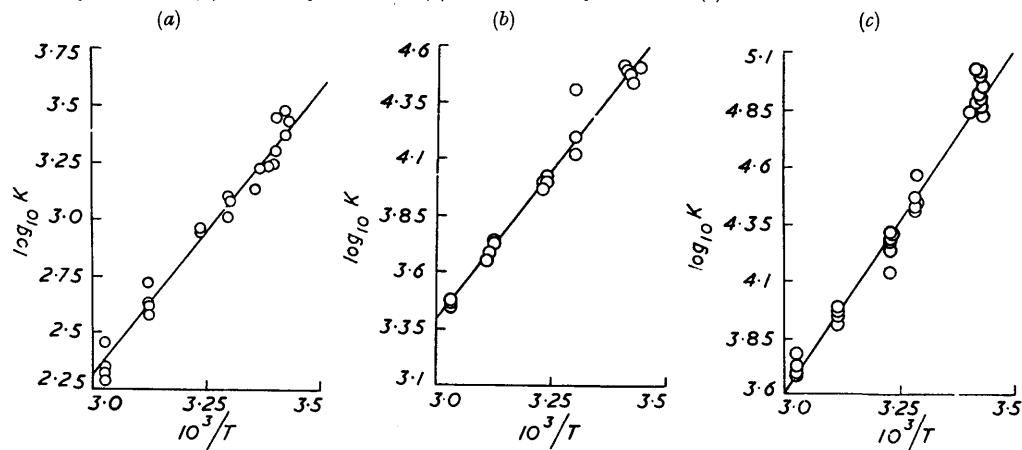
HA. The free amine does not absorb light in the spectral region concerned, so it remains necessary to show that no species are produced other than those accounted for by the chemical equation.

The point is partly met in Fig. 6 where the form of the equilibrium constant is demonstrated,

but, in addition, we have measured the absorption spectra of a solution containing di-*n*-butylamine and 2 : 4-dinitrophenol over a range of temperature, and the results are plotted in Fig. 5. The reaction is exothermic and, as the temperature of the equilibrium mixture is increased, the characteristic absorption due to the ionized form of the nitrophenol decreases in intensity. This is due to displacement of the equilibrium (1) towards the reactant side. It is seen that the experimental points can be reproduced quantitatively by the curves, which have been calculated for the stated degrees of conversion of 2 : 4-dinitrophenol into its ionized form. If any light-absorbing species other than BHA of equation (1) were produced reversibly as the temperature increased, such agreement would not be expected. Any irreversible reaction would be detected by the method we have adopted for measuring the optical densities over a temperature range. This has been described under *Solutions*.

Form of K at Constant Temperature.—The optical density of solutions containing 2 : 4-dinitrophenol and amine was measured over a range of temperatures to yield the results reported below for the dependence of $\log K$ on temperature. The optical density of each solution was interpolated at 25° from these results, and expressed as mole fraction of complex, x_{BHA} . This

FIG. 7. The relation between $\log_{10} K$ and T^{-1} , where K is the equilibrium constant (mole fraction scale) for the equilibrium, $\text{B} + \text{HA} \rightleftharpoons \text{BHA}$, in which HA is 2 : 4-dinitrophenol, and B is mono-*n*-butylamine in (a), di-*n*-butylamine in (b), and tri-*n*-butylamine in (c).



has been plotted against the product of the mole fractions of the 2 : 4-dinitrophenol and amine, $x_{\text{HA}} \cdot x_{\text{B}}$, in each corresponding solution at equilibrium, and yields the set of linear graphs shown in Fig. 6. This is evidence that the equilibrium constant is of the form,

$$K = x_{\text{BHA}}/x_{\text{B}} \cdot x_{\text{HA}}$$

and hence that (a) the equilibrium studied is of the type (1) and (b) the activity coefficient quotient either is unity or remains constant over the range of concentration used. The concentrations are so low that we consider it likely that the quotient is unity.

Variation of Equilibrium Constant with Temperature.—In Figs. 7a, b, c, are shown the graphs of $\log K$ against T^{-1} where the lines drawn are obtained by the method of least squares. The ΔG° values at 25° are calculated by interpolation, and ΔH° and ΔS° from the slope. The results obtained are presented in Table 2, in which the estimated probable errors (*i.e.*, 0.67 times the standard errors) are obtained by applying standard statistical procedures to the probable errors of the slopes and intercepts of the lines drawn in the Figures.

DISCUSSION

It is evident from Table 2 that if $-\Delta G^\circ$ for the reaction (1) between a set of amines, B, and 2 : 4-dinitrophenol, HA, is taken as the measure of the strength of the bases, then for mono-, di-, and tri-*n*-butylamine the strengths in chlorobenzene increase in this order. This is in marked contrast to the behaviour of aliphatic amines in water,^{1,2,10} and the

¹⁰ N. F. Hall and Sprinkle, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1932, **54**, 3469.

simplest interpretation, following Trotman-Dickenson,¹¹ is that in aqueous solution solvation of the aminium ions is greater for those ions carrying the most hydrogen atoms and the fewest alkyl groups. The solvation of the ions is also assumed to be greater than that of the free amines in solution. The basic strengths in chlorobenzene increase in the manner predicted by the known inductive effect of the alkyl groups, leading to an increase of the electron-density on the nitrogen atom with the number of alkyl groups attached. We notice that in both chlorobenzene and aqueous solution the enthalpy changes are high and negative, indicating proton-transfer, and that they could lie in the sequence which would result if the energy of reaction in both solvents were largely determined by the electron-density on the nitrogen atom. Hence it seems that the contribution of solvation energies to the ΔH° values in water and in chlorobenzene is small. The entropies of solvation however will depend, not directly on the strength of binding of the solvation shells, but on their influence on the freedom of movement of the interacting entities. The ΔS° values for the reaction between mono-, di-, and trimethylamine and the hydroxonium ion in water are ¹ 4.7, 9.5, and 15.2 cal. deg.⁻¹ mole⁻¹, and, because the equilibrium is of the type, $AH + B \rightleftharpoons A^- + BH^+$, these values

TABLE 2. Thermodynamic functions for the equilibria at 25° in chlorobenzene:

$$2 : 4-(NO_2)_2C_6H_3 \cdot OH + B \rightleftharpoons 2 : 4-(NO_2)_2C_6H_3 \cdot O \cdot H \cdot B.$$

Amine, B	$10^{-3} \partial \log_{10} K / \partial T^{-1}$	$\log K$	ΔG° (kcal. mole ⁻¹)	ΔH° (kcal. mole ⁻¹)	ΔS° (cal. deg. ⁻¹ mole ⁻¹)
Bu ⁿ -NH ₂ ...	2.64 ± 0.06	3.23 ± 0.24	-4.39 ± 0.33	-12.1 ± 0.3	-25.8 ± 1.5
Bu ⁿ ₂ NH ...	2.56 ± 0.03	4.31 ± 0.12	-5.87 ± 0.16	-11.7 ± 0.2	-19.7 ± 0.7
Bu ⁿ ₃ N	3.09 ± 0.05	4.68 ± 0.19	-6.37 ± 0.26	-14.1 ± 0.2	-26.0 ± 1.2

do not depend on the concentration scale chosen. The roughly constant difference of 4 cal. deg.⁻¹ mole⁻¹ in these equilibria has been ascribed to the effect of solvation.² In chlorobenzene solutions of the butylamines, values of ΔS° for the reaction (1) (mole fraction units being used) are large and negative (Table 2). The three values all lie within a range of 4.5 cal. deg.⁻¹ mole⁻¹, which is only just outside the limits of experimental error, and there is no consistent change from mono- to di- to tri-*n*-butylamine.

Brown¹² has suggested that competition between inductive and steric factors accounts for the low basic strengths of 2 : 6-di-*tert*-butylpyridine, and possibly of *o*-methyl- and *o*-*tert*-butyl-aniline. If steric factors were of importance in determining the basic strengths of the butylamines, the effect should be greater in the present systems in chlorobenzene where there is association with 2 : 4-dinitrophenol, than in water where dissociation takes place. If steric factors predominated, tributylamine would therefore be even weaker in relation to mono- and di-butylamine in chlorobenzene as solvent than it is in water. The fact that we find the reverse indicates that steric factors are not of determining importance in the systems discussed in the present work.

The results of Hall¹³ on the electromotive force of cells containing a wide variety of bases in various organic solvents led to the conclusion that solvation effects "are not important enough to cause major disturbances in the order of base strengths" in non-aqueous solvent as compared with the order in water. The present work demonstrates that, though the effect may be small in comparison with that of major structural changes in the molecule, it is more important than the simple inductive effect accompanying the exchange of a hydrogen atom for an alkyl group on a nitrogen atom.

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¹¹ Trotman-Dickenson, *J.*, 1949, 1293.

¹² Brown, *J.*, 1956, 1248.

¹³ H. K. Hall, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 1956, 60, 63.