and dilute potassium carbonate solution. After drying with sodium sulphate, most of the benzene was distilled off and the residue dissolved in ether. The solution was kept for some hours in a refrigerator and the pure crystals of 3,5-nitrobenzoic *o*-methoxybenzhydryl ester, m. p. 129—130°, that separated were isolated by filtration. (Found: N 6.71. Calc. for $C_{21}H_{15}N_2O_7$: 6.86.)

o-Methoxybenzophenone (10.36 g) was reduced with zinc (9.00 g) in a solution of potassium hydroxide (12.30 g) in water (6.4 ml) and ethanol (85 ml) according to the method previously used for the preparation of di-*o*-tolylcarbinol⁴. After the mixture had been boiled for 4 h, the excess of zinc was filtered off and the filtrate poured into a cold dilute sulphuric acid solution (4 l). The crude product was taken up in ether and the ether solution washed with dilute potassium carbonate solution. After drying with sodium sulphate, the ether was evaporated and the residue distilled under reduced pressure. The yield of *o*-methoxybenzhydryl, b. p. 181—182°/8 mm, was 82 % (8.50 g). The identity of the substance was established by preparing its 3,5-dinitrobenzoic ester, which was identical with the above *o*-methoxybenzhydryl compound.

o-Methoxybenzhydryl (11.22 g) and a minute quantity of *p*-toluenesulphonic acid (0.02 g) were dissolved in xylene (100 ml). When the solution was heated in an apparatus for the determination of water, an almost quantitative amount of water distilled within 10 min. After cooling, the solution was washed with a dilute sodium hydroxide solution and the solvent was distilled off. The residue consisting of colourless crystals of crude bis-*o*-methoxybenzhydryl ether was treated with ethanol and filtered. After recrystallization from ethanol, the substance (10.14 g) melted at 137—137.5°.

When the experiment was repeated without adding *p*-toluenesulphonic acid, no water distilled within 6 h.

o-Methoxybenzhydryl (13.96 g) was stirred with a cold solution of potassium bichromate (17.7 g) and concentrated sulphuric acid (15 ml) in water (85 ml). When the exothermic reaction was over and the mixture had cooled, it was extracted with ether. The ether solution was washed twice with water, twice with dilute potassium hydroxide, and finally twice with water. After drying with sodium sulphate, the ether was evaporated and the residue distilled under reduced pressure. The yield of *o*-methoxybenzophenone, b. p. 177—178°/12 mm, was 73 % (10.12 g). Its 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone, prepared according to Wild⁵, melted at 173—174° or at the same temperature at which a previously obtained sample melted.

By mistake the melting point of this substance was incorrectly reported previously⁶.

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The Estimation of Iodine in Urine

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Recently Rodger and Poole¹ have published an investigation on the determination of small amounts of iodine in urine and other biological materials. In order to get acceptable recoveries of iodine, they find it necessary to rely on a distillation method. With a dry ashing technique, slightly modified from that of Barker, Humphrey and Soley² for serum, we have obtained a recovery of 96 % of iodine in urine. Our modifications are founded on the experience that the losses of iodine will be smaller when K_2CO_3 is substituted for Na_2CO_3 in the incineration mixture³, which must have a sufficient content of carboniferous material⁴.

Technique: 1 ml 30 % $Zn(Ac)_2$ + 1 ml 0.5 N NaOH are mixed in the tubes used for incineration. The precipitates are allowed to stand about 30 min and centrifuged, the centrifugate is decanted, 1 or 2 ml of the urine and 2 ml of 4 N K_2CO_3 are added and thoroughly mixed with the precipitate.

The tubes are brought in an oven at 90°C in a declined position and their content is dry after 18—20 h. They are then incinerated in a furnace at 600°C for 3 h in a horizontal position. After cooling