

To a mixture of 25 Gm. of propiophenone diethyl acetal with 10 Gm. of pyridine, 10 Gm. of acetyl chloride was slowly added with stirring, the mixture being chilled with ice and salt. The odor of pyridine disappeared, the contents of the flask becoming a pasty white mass. After standing fifteen minutes, a slight excess of pyridine was added, and the reaction was allowed to stand over night. Ether was then added and the flask contents were filtered, washing the precipitated pyridine hydrochloride with ether. The filtrate was distilled, removing in order the ether, ethyl acetate and pyridine. The liquid remaining in the flask was distilled under reduced pressure, practically all passing over at 105° under 19 mm. pressure. The yields on two successive runs were 83.6% and 92.8% of the theoretical.

The product was a colorless aromatic liquid, immiscible with water, and readily hydrolyzed by acids, yielding the original ketone. It developed a pale yellow color when boiled for some time at atmospheric pressure. It instantly decolorized a solution of bromine in carbon tetrachloride. A determination of its molecular weight by the freezing-point method in benzene gave a value of 161. (Calculated for $C_9H_9C(O \cdot C_2H_5):CH \cdot CH_3$ was 162.) The boiling point under varying pressure was: (12 mm. = 95-96°), (16 mm. = 100-101°), (19 mm. = 105°) and (760 mm. = 220-221° corr.). At 25° the refractive index lay between 1.5207 and 1.5210, and the specific gravity at 25°/4° was 0.95441.

In attempting to convert this compound into racemic ephedrine, some difficulties were encountered which have not as yet been overcome, but the investigation is to be continued.

SUMMARY.

1. In attempting to synthesize ephedrine by a new method, a new compound was produced, propiophenone diethyl acetal, the physical constants of which were determined.
2. This acetal was converted into an unsaturated compound, also new in the literature, 1-phenyl-1-ethoxy-propene-1, the physical constants of which were also ascertained.
3. Work will be continued on converting this unsaturated compound into ephedrine.

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SCHEELE SESQUICENTENNIAL.

German apothecaries held a Scheele memorial meeting in cooperation with the Society for the History of Pharmacy, in Stralsund, May 17th. Carl Wilhelm Scheele was born in Stralsund, December 1742; he died in Köping, May 1786. Swedish apothecaries participated in the memorial meeting; the addresses of the occasion included one on Scheele—the man, and another as the scientist. Scheele was employed for a number of years in the Apotek which he acquired in 1776, and here he died ten years later. Observation, experimentation and sacrificing devotion gained for him surpassing eminence.