

Note.

The Editor desires to point out that the pages of the Journal are open for the inclusion of short notes dealing with analytical practice and kindred matters. Such notes are submitted to the Publication Committee in the usual manner.

A STARCH INDICATOR SOLUTION.

After considerable experimenting with starch solutions and pastes a method was devised for preparing a compound containing starch which is very stable and

not liable to decompose readily. The indicator was required to detect the presence of nitrites in water, for use in the Hübl and Wijs determinations, and to indicate the presence of free and combined iodine generally.

It was prepared as follows:— Common household (rice) starch was boiled with about an equal weight of sodium carbonate in solution, and the resulting mixture allowed to cool. Concentrated hydrochloric acid was then added until all action had ceased and the liquid was distinctly acid. Pieces of granulated zinc were then placed in the liquid, and it was allowed to stand for about 24 hours. It was filtered when neutral.

When prepared from pure materials the solution is perfectly clear and colourless, but in most cases impurities in the starch give the indicator a yellow tinge.

A solution prepared in this way on July 8th, 1921, still (March, 1922) gives a very distinct blue colour when tested in the following manner:—The starch solution (0.1 c.c.) is placed in Nessler cylinder and diluted to 100 c.c. with distilled water. The same quantity (0.1 c.c.) of a 0.1 *N* iodine solution is then added, and the solution stirred with a glass rod.

Mucilage of Starch B.P., prepared from the same starch, when tested in the above manner, gave no reaction after keeping for 10 days, whereas the other solution still reacts after keeping for over seven months.

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