



## Formation of sulphovinic acid

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To cite this article: M.M.E. Millon (1847) Formation of sulphovinic acid, Philosophical Magazine Series 3, 30:200, 211-213, DOI: [10.1080/14786444708645642](https://doi.org/10.1080/14786444708645642)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14786444708645642>



Published online: 30 Apr 2009.



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ceding comets; and nineteen for which elliptical orbits have been calculated with some degree of probability, making the total number of periodical comets twenty-seven.

In the latter part of the paper a general account of remarkable comets is given, commencing with that mentioned by Ovid, and continued down to 1843. The author has collected together the best determinations of the orbits of periodical comets, and many particulars relating to the physical appearance of these bodies.

**XXXVII. *Intelligence and Miscellaneous Articles.***

ON NEWTON'S TELESCOPE AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN,

Sidmouth, Feb. 9, 1847.

**Y**OUR correspondent Mr. Weld charges me, in a somewhat angry tone, with having made an *unfounded* statement respecting the telescopes of Newton and Hadley. For my own justification I subjoin the extract from which I derived my information, and leave the result in the hands of Sir James South and Mr. Weld.

With respect, I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obliged,

N. S. HEINEKEN.

"The Newtonian reflecting telescope was discovered by the head, and made by the hands, of Sir Isaac Newton in 1671. Its large speculum was two inches and three-tenths in diameter; its focal length was about five inches, and magnified thirty-eight times: it is in the possession of the Royal Society. I regret to say it is in a most dilapidated condition, and its eye-glass is lost. The next of any importance was made by Hadley in 1728; its large speculum's diameter was about six inches; its focal length about sixty-three inches; it magnified 230 times; in performance it equalled the great Huygenian refracting telescope of six inches diameter and 123 feet focus. He gave it to the Royal Society. Its metal is ruined, and its tube, its stand, and other of its appurtenances are lost, &c."—*Times*.

I have extracted the above from the Magazine of Science, vol. vii. p. 36.—N. S. H.

*Note.*—We learn, on making inquiry of eminent practical astronomers, on whose judgement we can rely, that there is no foundation for the representation given in the above-cited letter to the Times newspaper. At the same time we cannot see that any blame whatever attaches to our much-respected correspondent Mr. Heineken, relying as he has done on the authority which he quotes.—*Ed.*

**FORMATION OF SULPHOVINIC ACID. BY M. M. E. MILLON.**

The author states, that some years since wishing to prepare sulphovinic acid with peculiar care, he made a mixture of sulphuric acid and alcohol in a platina crucible surrounded with ice and common salt: the acid mixture being afterwards saturated, did not yield the slightest trace of sulphovinate.

Wishing afterwards to ascertain precisely the conditions under