

15¢

\$5.50 A YEAR

February 12, 1955

VOL. 67, NO. 7 PAGES 97-112

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

®

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE



Waveguide

See Page 99

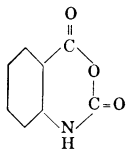
A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

Kodak reports to laboratories on:

the parent member of the isatoic anhydride series . . . tocopherol and an iron-bound policy . . . an idea for making extra copies of oscillograms

Extramural apathy

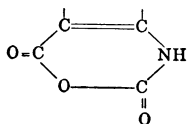
There was an inquiry from a customer as to whether we could supply isatoic anhydride:



Too frequently, perhaps, such an inquiry piques our curiosity enough to try out an idea or two. First thing we know, there is the compound, purified and in a bottle on the shelf. So we write back and tell the inquirer that we have it now, then find he doesn't really want it—just wondering if we could supply it, which is his privilege. That is how *Isatoic Anhydride* came into our list as Eastman 6975.

There, presently, one of our own chemists from another part of the enterprise noticed it and put in a requisition for a few grams. Shortly afterwards another of our laboratories wanted some. Then another internal requisition, and another. Apathetic though the rest of the world might be about *Isatoic Anhydride*, it was apparently doing us good inside.

Surely we are not alone in our interest in this echo of Baeyer's work of eighty years ago on indigo chemistry. *Isatoic Anhydride*, a creamy powder melting at 240 C with decomposition. The name, easily misread, is from *isatis*, Greek for woad. A little birdie called *Org. Reac.* has told us that the



grouping, which is characteristic of isatoic anhydrides as a class, reacts with hydrazine to make an excellent source of hydrazides of certain amino acids. Of course, what we are dis-

cussing here is only the parent member of the isatoic anhydride series and that doesn't make a particularly interesting amino acid hydrazide.

We stock some 3500 organic compounds in addition to Isatoic Anhydride. They're all in our List No. 39, available without charge from Distillation Products Industries, Eastman Organic Chemicals Department, Rochester 3, N. Y. (Division of Eastman Kodak Company).

Offer

Vitamin E is one of the principal products of one of our plants. We have never sold as much as a milligram of it in dosage form. A great deal of our production goes out in 55-gallon drums to some of the world's most honored pharmaceutical houses. A fast-growing portion goes to manufacturers of animal feeds, not on the strength of scare advertising to farmers, but of sober and practical judgments stemming from research by the millers' own nutritionists and by the state agricultural colleges.

Yet, despite mountains of data, vitamin E plays its physiological role behind a tantalizing, exasperating veil. We do whatever we can to penetrate it, and we encourage as many other qualified investigators as we can reach to join us in the endeavor.

Though pure *d-α-Tocopherol* and *d-α-Tocopheryl Acetate* are sold for investigational use as Eastman Organic Chemicals, we are pleased to announce in this case an exception from an iron-bound policy that has made it possible to build up the great collection of research organics to its present stature in the world of science. The policy says that since *all* Eastman Organic Chemicals are intended for research, none can be made available gratis, however worthy the research.

Now we say that if you are engaged in biological experiments in which vitamin E is a major variable, we shall be happy to consider sup-

plying without charge reasonable laboratory quantities of either the pure free tocopherol or its pure acetate. This material contains only the stereoisomer which occurs in nature, undiluted with associated lipids or isomers of lesser biological activity.

Inquiries and correspondence on scientific aspects of vitamin E should be addressed to Dr. Norris D. Embree, Director of Research, Distillation Products Industries, Rochester 3, N. Y. (Division of Eastman Kodak Company).

Plug

Reproduction is more to us than merely one of the basic biological functions; to us the word signifies the major market for our silver-sensitized paper. We read it literally to mean the copying of all manner of records and provide a large array of means, ranging from a little marvel of the age called the *Verifax Copier* (3 copies in 1 minute for less than 4¢ each) to simple sheets of *Kodagraph Contact Paper*.

A free plug for the latter, doubly welcome because we hadn't planted it, gladdened our eyes in a recent issue of *Electronics*. Little did it matter to us that the kind writer in his enthusiasm asserted a virtue for *Kodagraph Contact Paper* which even we have never claimed—that it requires only subdued room light instead of a proper darkroom for handling without danger of fogging. Just pleased that the fellow has a smart little scheme for using the paper in making inexpensive high-quality copies of cathode-ray tube oscillograms to include in manuals and laboratory reports.

For the details of his scheme, or for general guidance on the host of materials and methods for the photographic reproduction of intelligence, write Eastman Kodak Company, Graphic Reproduction Division, Rochester 4, N. Y.

This is one of a series of reports on the many products and services with which the Eastman Kodak Company and its divisions are . . . serving laboratories everywhere

Kodak
TRADE-MARK