

not present in the non-pregnant individual. If now the serum or plasma of a pregnant woman is added to peptone prepared from human placental tissue and the mixture observed by the optical method, the initial rotation changes, while with serum from a non-pregnant woman, the initial rotation remains unaltered. As this phenomenon could be detected as early as the first month of pregnancy, the procedure promises to be of great value in the differential diagnosis between extra-uterine pregnancy and tumors of the adnexa. It may, perhaps, be added that this ingenious method apparently does not remove all the difficulties and doubts which surround the early diagnosis of pregnancy, for recent investigations seem to show that a positive reaction may also be obtained under other conditions than pregnancy.

The booklet may be recommended as a very readable, stimulating summary of a large number of investigations by Abderhalden and his pupils.

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Methods for Sugar Analysis and Allied Determinations. By ARTHUR GIVEN, B.S. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1912. Pp. 75. Price \$2.00 net.

According to the preface, this book has been made, because, as the result of ten years' experience, the author has found that "it has become increasingly evident that the present methods as given in many of the books on sugar analysis and in the A. O. A. C. methods are not sufficiently explicit as to the proper method for a particular case, thereby confusing the novice, and making it difficult to secure uniform results. . . ."

The methods presented by the author are those which he, "from long practise on a very large variety of substances, considers to be best adapted for the purposes in hand."

In its limited range of seventy-five pages the book endeavors to cover the analysis of sugar-cane, cane-sugar and beet-sugar and their derived products, maple-sugar and maple-syrup, honey, commercial glucose, dextrin,

starch, condensed milk, milk chocolate, etc. A few tables and illustrations are scattered through the text.

There is undoubtedly room on the shelf of many an analyst for a work which shall give tested and tried methods for the analysis of sugar and allied, saccharine, products. The author has brought together some material of value for this purpose; there is however—in spite of his conviction—room for considerable doubt as to whether his choice of methods would always commend itself to the approval of other experienced analysts.

In discussing the determination of sucrose in raw sugars, the use of Wiley's correction factor is recommended to obtain "the true polarization in sugars polarizing over 90°," if the temperature of polarization varies from 20° C., and then the author goes on to state that such correction is not applicable "where the reducing sugars exceed 3 per cent., as differences in temperature affect the reducing sugars more strongly than sucrose."

It would be interesting to learn why and how this arbitrary limitation of 3 per cent. has been decided upon by the author, and how he would obviate the disturbing influence of the precipitate-error in clarification which tends to offset the reduction in the specific rotatory power of sucrose caused by an elevation of temperature above the temperature at which the polariscope has been graduated.

The concise, not to say terse, manner of expression employed in the book is a good feature, yet a few additional words of explanation would not have been out of place in several instances, for example in giving the formula to be used in the Clerget method (p. 11). The novel way of printing the names of several of the more common sugars (p. 36) is apt to introduce more confusion in this already troublesome issue and the data given in that table are not always correct—thus, f. i. raffinose is hydrolyzed by invertase into d-fructose and melibiose, and not into d-glucose and d-galactose, as stated. Hydrolyzation of raffinose into d-galactose and sucrose is effected by emulsin.

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