

ON A CERTAIN CRYSTALLINE BODY OBTAINED ON THE PROLONGED DIGESTION OF GELATINE.

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In course of a study of the products of tryptic digestion of gelatine the writer demonstrated the formation of prolin.¹ While preparing a large quantity of prolin recently a crystalline substance was obtained which differed in its properties from the body sought. This substance is soluble in absolute alcohol and readily crystallizes from its solution in this solvent. It is precipitated by phosphotungstic acid, but is not precipitated by iodide bismuth-iodide potassium. Thus far an insoluble platinum salt has not been obtained; nor has a salt been formed with copper oxide. A picrate was prepared by means of an alcoholic solution of picric acid. The substance tastes strongly bitter and gives a pronounced test for pyrrol. The melting point of the pure substance is 182°–185° C., and of the picrate, 165°–167° C. The elementary composition is as follows: C = 53.98 %; H = 6.67 %; N = 18.51 %; O = 20.84 %. The calculated formula is $C_7 H_{11} N_2 O_2$. C = 54.19; H = 7.09; N = 18.09; O = 20.63 %. The formula calculated for $C_7 H_{10} N_2 O_2$ is C = 54.55; H = 6.49; N = 18.18; O = 20.78 %. A nitrogen estimation of the picrate gave 18.58 %. As calculated for $C_7 H_{10} N_2 O_2$. $C_6 H_2 (NO_2) OH$ the nitrogen is 18.27 % and as calculated for $C_7 H_{10} N_2 O_2$. $2C_6 H_2 (NO_2)_3 OH$ it is 18.30 %.

Hence it is probable that the composition of the substance is $C_7 H_{10} N_2 O_2$, and that it is in some way related to prolin. Further investigation into the nature of this body is in progress.

¹ *Zeitsch. f. physiol. Chem.*, 1903, xli, 99.