

The sulphited lac resin has a higher iodine value and there is also a definite increase in its saponification value. From the practical point of view the coatings of sulphited lac on baking, yield films which possess greater adhesion, flexibility and hardness while even air-dry films resist dilute alkalies, acids and ordinary solvents.

Shellac is used considerably as a thermo-plastic binder in plastic moulding; the incorporation of fillers by the "dry" hot process consumes considerable power in grinding and mixing operations and the employment of alcohol for this purpose is expensive. It is suggested that the aqueous dispersions of lac in sulphurous acid offer a suitable and inexpensive medium in which fillers and fibres can be intimately incorporated. The sulphited lac is coagulated or caused to precipitate on to the filler, thus

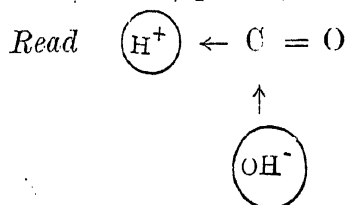
ensuring an extremely uniform distribution of the binding material. It should, however, be added in this connection that this principle has long been adopted in the course of the work carried out at the Indian Institute of Science, employing aqueous dispersions of lac in sodium carbonate which are often bleached with hypochlorite, when a pigmentation of the moulding powder is desired.

But the great merit of sulphited lac from the point of view of moulding appears to be the fact that the product is brought to an advanced stage of polymerisation; and its softening point is raised to about 130° C. The time of "after curing" is therefore shortened and the additions of accelerators are found to be unnecessary.

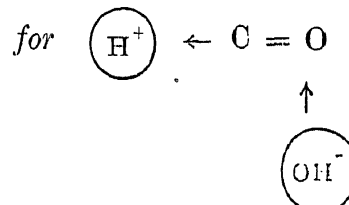
M. S.

Errata.

- (1) Vol. IV, No. 9, p. 650, under the rational constitution of formic acid,



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- (2) On page 767, under 'Recent Advances in Sanitary Science,' line 1' (first column) should read thus: "The following is the *abstract* of an address.....".