ester. If the ester were derived as sug.... its formula would be

$[C_6H_4(CO_2CH_3)_2]_4C_6H_4(CO_2H_2) + 4 = ...(...)_2CH_3)_2[C_6H_4(CO_2H_2)]_4$

but with the data we have at present, the only formula which can be used is

$$C_6H_4(CO_2CH_3)_2 \cdot (C_6H_4 \underset{CO}{\overset{CO}{\diamondsuit}} O)_1.$$
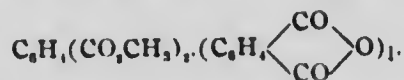
It is hoped that measurement of the rate of saponification of dimethyl phthalate or of the rate of esterification of phthalic acid or of phthalic anhydride by methyl alcohol will show whether this new ester is an intermediate stage in one or more of these reactions.

Only about 0.6 g. of this ester has been prepared as the yield is very poor. This is probably due to the barium salt becoming protected by a layer of barium sulphate and it is hoped that some method of shaking the tube may increase the yield. Further investigation of this very interesting ester is in progress.

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