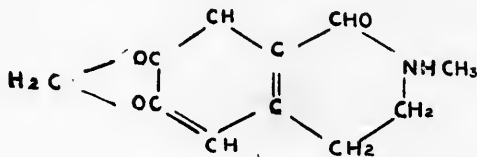


to form a definite opinion as to which is the precise constitutional formula.

The work of Schmidt and Freund has done much to clear up the constitution of hydrastin, the alkaloid of *hydrastis canadensis*, and we may be said now to have a fully formed idea of its constitution. The work which led up to the views of its formula would require a somewhat lengthy statement, which cannot be given here. One of its decomposition products (hydrastinin) has been shown to have the formula



This has been prepared synthetically, but the transformation into hydrastin has not been effected. Neither has the formation of opianic acid been completed, so that these two steps are lacking to the preparation of the original alkaloid itself.

I must mention that much of the data given here are to be found in the admirable work of Scholtz "Die Kunstliche Aufbau der Alkalöide," and those wishing to pursue the subject further will find in it references to the original papers, which contain fuller accounts of the work done in this interesting field.