

Possibly these nitrogenous substances might be classed by themselves as colloids. They are possibly less hydrous than the proteids or albumenoids. This table exhibits their per centage composition.

	C.	H.	N.	S.	O.
Hair	49.7	6.4	17.1	5.0	21.8
Wool	50.6	7.0	17.7	?	
Feathers.....	51.9	7.2	17.8	?	
Skin (humansole).....	50.3	6.8	17.2	?	
Oxhorn	50.7	6.7	16.2	?	
Glue	50.0	6.5	17.5	?	
Gelatine.....	50.0	6.7	18.3	?	

Formulae of the Colloids.

Gelatine	102.0	151.	31.		39
Chondrine	99.0	156.	40.		42
Keratine	230.5	381.	70.	6.	77

We learn from the characters of the colloids that some nitrogenous substances are very stable. Such are the compounds which constitute the horns and hoofs of animals, the latter constituting the raw materials for the manufacture of those important products used in the arts and called cyanides, ferrocyanides, sulphocyanides, &c. The first step in their production is the fusion of the substances rich in nitrogen with carbonate of potassa in iron vessels. Subsequent lixivation and crystallisation yield what was long known as yellow Prussiate. The essential constituent of these salts is the compound radical Cyanogen C_2N_2 as it is also of the well-known pigment called Prussian Blue. In fact the history of these compounds begins with the production of Prussian Blue about 180 years ago. Equal parts of cream of Tartar, saltpetre and ox-blood were heated together in order to produce the solution from which, by the use of green vitriol, the colour was precipitated.

EXPERIMENTS.—Production of Prussian Blue. Decomposition of mercuric sulphocyanide.

Another very interesting set of nitrogenous substances are those which are formed in dead and decomposing animal matter. These are sometimes of a basic nature, are formed in the human corpse after