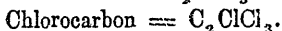


chloride, tetrachloride of carbon, superchloride of carbon, perchloruretted hydrochloric ether, and perchloruretted formene (see Gmelin's 'Handbook of Chemistry,' vol., vii., p. 355, and Watt's 'Dictionary of Chemistry,' vol. i, p. 765).

"If it becomes, as I believe it will, for some medicinal purposes, an article of the materia medica, it will require to have a pharmaceutical name appended to it, and perhaps the designation of perchloroformene, or the shorter term chlorocarbon, may prove sufficiently distinctive. In its chemical constitution, bichloride of carbon, or chlorocarbon, is analogous to chloroform; with this difference, that the single atom of hydrogen existing in chloroform is replaced in chlorocarbon by an atom of chlorine, for the relative chemical constitution of these two bodies may be stated as follows:— Chloroform =  $C_2HCl_3$



"The chlorocarbon can be made from chloroform by the action of chlorine upon that liquid; and Genther has shown that the process may be also reversed, and chloroform produced from chlorocarbon, by treating it in an appropriate vessel with zinc and dilute sulphuric acid, and thus exposing it to the action of nascent hydrogen. The most common way hitherto adopted of forming bichloride of carbon consists in passing the vapour of bisulphide or bisulphuret of carbon together with chlorine through a red-hot tube either made of porcelain or containing within it fragments of porcelain. There result from this process chloride of sulphur and bichloride of carbon, the latter being easily separated from the former by the action of potash.

The bichloride of carbon, or chlorocarbon, is a transparent, colourless fluid having an ethereal and sweetish odour, not unlike chloroform. Its specific gravity is great, being as high as 1.56, chloroform is 1.49. It boils  $170^\circ$  Fahrenheit, the boiling point of chloroform being  $141^\circ$ . The density of its vapour is 533, that of chloroform being 4.2.

Beside trying the anæsthetic effects of bichloride of carbon upon myself and others, I have used it in one or two cases of midwifery and surgery. Its primary effects are very analogous to those of chloroform, but it takes a longer time to produce the same degree of anæsthesia, and generally a longer time to recover from it. Some experiments with it, upon mice and rabbits have shown this—two corresponding animals in these experiments being simultaneously exposed, under exactly similar circumstances, to the same doses of chloroform and chlorocarbon. But the depressing influences of chlorocarbon upon the heart is greater than that of chloroform; and, consequently, I believe it to be far more dangerous to employ as a general anæsthetic agent. In a case of midwifery in