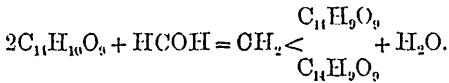


THERAPEUTIC USES OF TANNOFORM.—D. De Buck and L. De Moor (*Belgique Medicale*) report the results of a series of clinical experiments with a compound of formaldehyde with tannin, to which the name of "tannoform" has been given. This substance is formed according to the following equation :



Tannoform is prepared as follows: Five kilogrammes of tannin are dissolved in 15 kilogrammes of hot water with 3 kilogrammes of a 30 per cent. solution of formic aldehyde. To this concentrated hydrochloric acid is added as long as a precipitate is obtained (on an average from 12 to 15 kilogrammes of the acid). The precipitate is then washed in water and dried at a moderate temperature (102° to 105° C.). Tannoform is a

light, yellowish-grey powder, without smell or taste. Insoluble in water, and in the organic solvents, with the exception of alcohol, it is soluble in dilute alkaline solutions, from which it is precipitated by the addition of acid. When heated it melts in decomposing at 230° C. Among the advantages claimed for tannoform, as compared with tannin, are its tastelessness, and the facts that even in large doses it does not cause the slightest irritation of the buccal mucous membrane; that it is not dissolved in the stomach, and reaches the intestine without undergoing any change; that even in large doses it does not irritate the mucous membrane of the stomach. On the other hand, formic aldehyde is a strong protoplasmic poison. Its combination with tannin, however, is said to leave its antiseptic, drying and hardening properties intact, while making it harmless to the tissues. The au-



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