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to be produced the more negative the groups combined to the methene group in question. Hence,



The grounds for this assumption are the formation of a lactone, the ethoxypyrone diear boxylic ester on heating (presupposing the presence of a hydroxyl group), and also the ferrie chloride reaction and the absorption capacity for electrical oscillations of high frequency, the significance of both of which will be explained later.

The investigation of tautometic compounds is thus confined to substances which have a double bond and a hydrogen atom in a certain position relative to this bond. Many substances have been obtained which are tautometic in the sense that certain derivatives obtained by chemical reactions, and which should have been identical, have been found to differ. Such, for instance, to take a simple example, is benzamide; this substance, and other acid amides, as Tafel and Enoch show act with alkyl iodides according to two formulæ, giving in the one case oxygen derivatives or oximido esters; in the other true nitrogen esters, which may be represented by the following:

$$C_6H_5-C$$
 NH and C_6H_5-C NHC_2H_5

Here one has a compound which, like ethyl acetoacetate, is homogeneous, but whose silver salt reacts in a different manner from its sodium salt, with the same reagent.

Benzamide is a representative of compounds which far outnumber the second class of isomerides, which is more directly connected with this paper.

These are the compounds which not only yield tautomeric derivatives, but can themselves exist in two forms which can be represented by tautomeric formulæ.

On account of the extreme lability of the hydrogen atom, these isomers are much more difficult to obtain. The following table will give a résumé of these compounds:

ACETYLDIBENZOYLMETHANE. Claisen, Ann. d. Chem., 201, 25.	$C \leftarrow C (OH).CH_3 C \leftarrow CO.C_6H_5 CO.C_6H_5 a CO.C_6H_5 CO.C_6H$	HC CO.CH ₃ CO.C ₆ H ₅ CO.C ₆ H ₅ β Solid M P. 107-110°.
	Solid, M.P., 80-85.	Sond, M.F., 107-110.