CLXIV. GLYCURONIC ACID AS A PROBABLE CONSTITUENT OF UROCHROME.

(PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION.)

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UROCHROME has been carefully prepared from human urine, in a state believed to be pure, by a method combining and modifying in some details the methods of Garrod and Weiss. The product when boiled with 10 % HCl yields vapours, which give a crimson colour with aniline acetate and therefore probably contain a furfural. Even in small traces it gives a well-marked Tollens-Neuberg reaction and also the Van der Haar [1918] modification which is claimed to be specific for glycuronic acid. In this latter test, the substance investigated is heated for one minute in a boiling water-bath with 10 cc. of a mixture of water and one-third its volume of strong hydrochloric acid, and at least 100 mg. of naphthoresorcinol, then cooled to 50° and shaken up with benzene. The separated layer of benzene is dried by shaking with anhydrous sodium sulphate and filtered, and then has a violet colour and an absorption band on the D-line. No other carbohydrate or derivative gives this test.

The above facts make it highly probable that urochrome is a glycuronic acid compound, and the question is under further investigation.

My thanks are due to Professor Ramsden for suggesting the work.

REFERENCE.

Van der Haar (1918). *Biochem. Z.* **88**, 250.