Organometallic compounds of group VIII elements

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UMI®
ORGANOMETALLIC COMPOUNDS
OF GROUP VIII ELEMENTS

by

Myrl Lichtenwalter

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate Faculty
for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
Major Subject - Organic Chemistry

Iowa State College
1938
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INTRODUCTION

The paucity of information in regard to the organometallic compounds of the group VIII elements makes a study of these compounds highly desirable. The ready availability of iron, cobalt, nickel, and their inorganic compounds, makes the preparation of their organometallic derivatives of particular interest. This thesis was undertaken in an effort to prepare some typical organometallic derivatives of the group VIII elements and to determine some of their properties. Greatest attention was centered on attempts to prepare organoiron compounds, as iron is the cheapest of all the metals.
HISTORICAL

The first organometallic compound of the group VIII elements to be prepared was trimethylplatinum iodide. This compound was prepared by Pope and Peachy (1) through the action of an ether solution of anhydrous platinic chloride on a cold ether-benzene solution of methylmagnesium iodide. A considerable excess of methylmagnesium iodide was required, about twice as much as is indicated by the following equation:

\[ \text{PtCl}_4 + 3 \text{CH}_3\text{MgI} \rightarrow (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{PtI} + 2 \text{MgCl}_2 + 2 \text{MgI}_2 \]

Trimethylplatinum iodide is a bright yellow crystalline powder, freely soluble in hot benzene or chloroform. It is readily soluble in cold ethyl bromide or methyl iodide. It is insoluble in water and very sparingly soluble in ether, alcohol, acetone, or light petroleum ether. It crystallizes in hexagonal plates which apparently belong to the cubic system. The substance is not attacked in the cold by iodine or bromine, nor by concentrated acids or alkalis. Concentrated nitric acid dissolves it slowly on heating and on evaporating the solution a white residue which explodes on further heating is obtained. Trimethylplatinum iodide decomposes gradually on heating in a melting point tube and decomposition

(1) (a) Pope and Peachy, J. Chem. Soc., 95, 571(1909);
appears to be complete at 250°C. On heating in an open flame the compound burns with a smoky, lurid flame, leaving a residue of metallic platinum.

With trimethylplatinum iodide for a starting material, Pope and Peachy (la) prepared a series of trimethylplatinum compounds. Diamminotrimethylplatinum iodide was prepared by heating trimethylplatinum iodide with a mixture of benzene, alcohol, and concentrated ammonium hydroxide. This compound is a white, crystalline material, slightly soluble in water, moderately soluble in benzene or ether, and dissolves very readily in alcohol, ethyl acetate, or acetone; it is practically insoluble in chloroform or light petroleum ether. It yields free ammonia on heating with potassium hydroxide.

Trimethylplatinum hydroxide was prepared by boiling a solution of trimethylplatinum iodide in moist acetone with silver hydroxide. This compound forms colorless transparent plates which are fairly soluble in ether, alcohol, acetone, ethyl acetate, chloroform, or benzene. It is insoluble in water, alkalis, or light petroleum ether. It is not attacked in the cold by mineral acids.

Trimethylplatinum sulphate, $\left[\left(\text{CH}_3\right)_3\text{Pt}\right]_2\text{SO}_4\cdot2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, was prepared by boiling equivalent quantities of trimethylplatinum iodide and silver sulphate in moist acetone-benzene solution. This compound forms small, colorless, rectangular plates. It is readily soluble in water, alcohol, or acetone, but practically insoluble in benzene, light petroleum ether, ether, or
chloroform. The substance contains two molecules of water of crystallization which it retains on heating to 100°C.

Trimethylplatinum nitrate was prepared by the action of hot concentrated nitric acid on trimethylplatinum hydroxide, and also by the action of barium nitrate on an aqueous solution of trimethylplatinum sulphate. This compound forms colorless, crystalline plates which are readily soluble in water. The compound was found to be so highly deliquescent that no analysis was attempted.

Trimethylplatinum chloride was prepared by precipitating an aqueous solution of the nitrate or sulphate with potassium chloride or by dissolving the hydroxide in alcohol and evaporating to dryness after addition of hydrochloric acid. The chloride is practically insoluble in water, dissolves very sparingly in acetone, alcohol, or ethyl acetate, and is moderately soluble in benzene or chloroform. The substance crystallizes from chloroform in colorless, rhombic dodecahedra, which belong to the cubic system. Powder photographs of trimethylplatinum chloride indicate a body centered cubic lattice (2).

Potassium trimethylplatinocyanide was obtained in an impure form by adding potassium platinocyanide to an aqueous solution of trimethylplatinum nitrate. This substance was found to be insoluble in water and the usual organic sol-

vents with the exception of acetone and alcohol, in which it dissolved freely; but on evaporation of its solutions it remained as an amorphous, resinous film of a greenish-yellow color.

None of the compounds of trimethylplatinum prepared by Pope and Peachey (1a) were characterized by melting points. They underwent decomposition on heating without melting. Pope and Peachey (1a) gave no yields of products in the various transformations described by them.

Menzies (3) obtained seven and one-half grams of trimethylplatinum iodide from twenty grams of chloroplatinic acid by a modification of the method of Pope and Peachey (1a). As he was unable to dissolve anhydrous platinic chloride in dry ether, he dissolved the salt in the minimum quantity of absolute alcohol and added this solution to a large excess of methylmagnesium iodide.

Starting with trimethylplatinum iodide, Menzies (3), and Menzies and Wiltshire (4) prepared a series of chelate derivatives of trimethylplatinum with β-diketones and β-ketonic esters. The chelate derivatives of trimethylplatinum with acetylacetone, dipropionylmethane, and ethyl acetoacetate are white crystalline substances soluble in organic solvents. Trimethylplatinum benzoylacetone was prepared only in an impure form. These compounds were prepared by the reaction of tri-

(4) Menzies and Wiltshire, ibid., 21(1933).
methylplatinum iodide with the corresponding chelate derivative of thallium. The compounds do not have definite melting points but do have rather definite decomposition points.

Phenylplatinum bromide results by the action of phenylmagnesium bromide on an ether solution of dehydrated bromoplatinic acid (5).

No organoplatinum compound is formed by the action of the nascent ethyl radical, produced by electrolysis of the \( \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Na/Zn(0}_2\text{H}_5\text{)}_2 \)-system, on a platinum anode (6). Oil drops are formed at the anode, but these are probably due to polymerization of the ethyl radical through intermediate adsorption on the platinum anode, as the anode is completely unaffected.

In an earlier attempt to prepare an organoplatinum compound, Buckton (7) observed that diethylzinc reacted vigorously with platinic chloride with deposition of platinum black and with evolution of a gas. Frankland (8) found that the halide compounds of platinum reacted violently with diethylzinc but the organic group did not unite with the platinum. However, when he heated platinous chloride in contact with the chloride of cacodyl, two equivalents of hydrogen in the cacodyl were replaced by a biatonic molecule of platinum, producing a chloride of cacoplatyl.

(7) Buckton, Ann., 109, 225(1859).
\[(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{AsCl} + \text{PtCl}_2 \rightarrow (\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2\text{AsCl(}\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{Pt}''') + 2\text{HCl}\]

Cacoplatylyl forms a series of compounds analogous to those of cacodylyl.

The formation of double salts from organoarsenic compounds and platinous or platinic chloride is a general reaction (9), the organoarsenic compounds being too unreactive to cleave the platinum to chlorine bond and thus form an organoplatinum compound. The composition of the double salt may be varied according to the ratio of reactants and the general experimental procedure.

Organoantimony compounds also react with platinic or platinous chloride with the formation of double salts (10) (9a)(9b). The reaction in the case of platinic chloride differs in some cases, however, from the reaction of platinic chloride with organoarsenic compounds. The first phase of the

(9) (a) Hofmann, Ann., 103, 357(1857); (b) Cahours and Gal, Compt. Rend., 71, 208(1870); (c) Michaelis, Ann., 321, 141 (1902); (d) Cahours, Ann., 122, 210(1862); (e) LaCoste and Michaelis, Ann., 201, 184(1880); (f) Michaelis and Link, Ann., 207, 193(1881); (g) Michaelis, Ann., 320, 271(1902); (h) Mannheim, Ann., 341, 182(1905); (i) Morgan and Micklethwait, J. Chem. Soc., 26, 1473(1909); (j) Phillips, Ber., 19, 1031(1886); (k) Dehn, Am. Chem. J., 40, 114(1909); (l) Dehn and Wilcox, ibid., 35, 31(1906).

(10) (a) Landolt, Ann., 84, 44(1852); (b) Michaelis and Reese, Ann., 277, 39(1886); (c) Fartheil and Mannheim, Arch. Pharm., 238, 166(1900); (d) Morgan and Yaraley, J. Chem. Soc., 127, 184(1925); (e) Buckton, ibid., 13, 119(1860); (f) Löwig, J. prakt. Chem., 64, 415(1854); J. Chem. Soc., 8, 262(1855).
reaction between platinic chloride and the relatively more reactive organoantimony compounds may consist of a reduction of the platinic chloride to platinous chloride. The platinous chloride then forms a double salt with any excess organoantimony compound. As is the case with organoarsenic compounds, the composition of the double salt may be varied according to the procedure used in the preparation. Morgan and Yarsley (10d) made a thorough study of the reaction of trimethylantimony with platinic chloride. They found the first step of the reaction to be a reduction of the platinic chloride to platinous chloride, which then reacts with excess trimethylantimony giving rise to one or two additive compounds according as to whether the reaction is carried out in water or in alcohol. In water the compound formed is an orange colored insoluble solid of the composition \([\text{Pt}_4(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sb}]\text{PtCl}_4\). This compound is formed in alcohol along with a soluble yellow crystalline compound of the composition \([2(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sb},\text{PtCl}_2]\). Either of these products on treatment with excess trimethylantimony yield the same compound having the composition \([\text{Pt}_4(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sb}]\text{Cl}_2\). The reactions take place in the following manner:
The orange colored insoluble compound reacts with palladous chloride to replace part of the platinum with palladium (10d).

\[ \text{[Pt,}_4\text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Sb]}\text{PtCl}_4 + \text{PdCl}_2 \rightarrow \text{[Pt,}_4\text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Sb]}\text{PdCl}_4 + \text{PtCl}_2 \]

Trimethylantimony reacts with palladous chloride in the same manner as with platinous chloride.

\[ \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Sb} + \text{PdCl}_2 \rightarrow [2\text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Sb, PdCl}_2]^{\text{excess}} + \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Sb}\text{PdCl}_4 + \text{PtCl}_2 \]

Triethylarsenic reacts in the same manner with palladous chloride to form the double salt \((\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{)}_3\text{As, PdCl}_2\). (9b) (91).

No organoplatinum or organopalladium compounds are formed in any of the reactions of organoarsenic or organoantimony compounds with platinum or palladium chlorides.

Platinic halides form complex coordination compounds with unsaturated compounds of the types \(K(U\text{n, PtX}_3)\), and
(Un.PtCl₂)₂, in which Un is an unsaturated molecule containing an ethylene bond. The first compound of the type K(Un.PtX₃) was obtained by Zeise (11), who isolated a compound with the empirical formula K(C₂H₄.PtCl₃).H₂O, from the reaction of chloroplatinic acid and alcohol. Birnbaum (12) prepared similar compounds with propylene and amylene, and Chojnack (13) obtained K(C₂H₄.PtBr₃), with platinic bromide.

Bilmann and co-workers have(14) extended the work to unsaturated alcohols, acids, and aldehydes. Pfeiffer and Hoyer (15) have prepared similar compounds from allyl alcohol, allyl acetate, crotyl alcohol, and crotyl aldehyde.

Anderson (16) obtained (C₂H₄.PtCl₂)₂ by refluxing ethyl alcohol with sodium chloroplatinate.

A general method for the preparation of complexes of the types (Un.PtCl₂)₂ or (Un.PtBr₂)₂ has recently been developed by K Jasch and Ashford (17). It differs radically from the method of Anderson (16) in that anhydrous platinic chloride or bromide in an anhydrous solvent is used instead of the metallic haloplatinates. It differs further in that the

(13) Chojnacki, Jahresber., 510(1870).
(14) Billmann, Ber., 33, 2196(1900); Billmann and Anderson, Ber., 36, 1565(1903); Billmann and Hoff, Rec. trav. chim., 36, 306(1916).
unsaturated compounds are used instead of the alcohols. Co-
coordination compounds were prepared by this procedure from
cyclohexene, dipentene, pinene, ethylene, isobutylene, sty-
rene, stilbene, and trans-dichloroethylene. This method has
not been found applicable to unsaturated acids and their esters.

The general electronic structure proposed by Kharasch
and Ashford (17) for all compounds of the type \((\text{Un.PtCl}_2)_2\)

![Diagram](image)

was specifically exemplified by the following formula for
cyclohexene platinous chloride.

![Diagram](image)

The compounds of the type \(\text{K(Un.PtX}_3)\) are obviously
derivatives of the type \((\text{Un.PtX}_2)_2\).
The coordination compounds of platinum with unsaturated compounds are well-defined crystalline substances. They do not have definite melting points and vary widely in stability. When treated with pyridine the substances decompose, liberating the olefin and forming the pyridine platinous chloride. They are decomposed by concentrated hydrochloric acid with liberation of the olefin and by bromine to form the bromine addition product of the unsaturated compound.

These compounds may exist in two or more stereoisomeric forms depending on the olefin from which they are derived.

A number of mixed carbonyl compounds of platinum are known (18). Schützenberger (19) in 1868 passed chlorine and carbon monoxide over platinum sponge at 250°C, and obtained a yellow sublimate from which three distinct compounds were isolated: PtCl₂·CO, PtCl₂·2CO, and PtCl₂·3CO. These compounds dissolve unchanged in carbon tetrachloride but are decomposed by water.

\[ \text{PtCl}_2\cdot\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Pt} + 2\text{HCl} + \text{CO}_2 \]

Pullinger (20) prepared platinum carbonyl dibromide, PtBr₂·CO, by passing dry carbon monoxide over platinous bromide.

(18) See, Blanchard, Chem. Rev. 21, 3-38(1937) for a more detailed discussion of carbonyl compounds of the group VIII elements.
at 180°C. Platinum carbonyl di-iodide was obtained by Mylius and Foerster (21) by adding dilute hydroiodic acid to a solution of platinum carbonyl dichloride in hydrochloric acid. Platinum carbonyl monosulphide, PtS.CO, is thrown down as a brown precipitate when hydrogen sulphide is passed into a solution of platinum carbonyl dichloride (20). A double salt of platinum carbonyl thiocyanate, Pt(CNS)₂.CO, with potassium thiocyanate is obtained by adding a solution of potassium thiocyanate to one of platinum carbonyl dichloride.

The carbonyl compounds of platinum are crystalline solids. They decompose on heating to give metallic platinum. Manchot (22) made use of the platinum chloride carbonyls in the separation of platinum from palladium.

Organopalladium compounds have been postulated as intermediates in the catalytic hydrogenation of aryl halides (23). This assumption is based on the varying yields of biphenyl obtained in the catalytic hydrogenation of bromobenzene under varying conditions. When bromobenzene is heated to boiling in methyl alcoholic potassium hydroxide in the presence of palladiumated calcium carbonate, without introduction of hydrogen, biphenyl results in fifteen to twenty percent yields. If high pressures of hydrogen are used, in an autoclave, benzene is formed. At lower pressures of hydrogen,

(21) Mylius and Foerster, Ber., 24, 424(1891).
(22) Manchot, Ber., 58, 2518(1925).
biphenyl is formed. The reaction is postulated to proceed in the following manner:

\[ \text{PdH}_2 + \text{BrC}_6\text{H}_5 \rightarrow \text{HBr} + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{PdH} \]

If the phenylpalladium hydride so formed contacts hydrogen, benzene results.

\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{PdH} + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{PdH}_2 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_6 \]

In low concentrations of hydrogen the following reaction may take place:

\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{PdH} + \text{BrC}_6\text{H}_5 \rightarrow (\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Pd} + \text{HBr} \]

The labile diphenylpalladium then may react with hydrogen to form biphenyl and palladium hydride.

\[ (\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Pd} + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + \text{PdH}_2 \]

In alcohol, where bromobenzene is soluble, biphenyl is formed as would be expected according to the above equations. In water, where bromobenzene is insoluble, benzene results.

Further coupling is produced to some extent and this is postulated to occur in the following manner:

\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{PdH} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{HBr} \rightarrow \text{PdH}_2 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Br} \]
\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{PdH} + \text{Br} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \rightarrow \text{HBr} + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{Pd} = \text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \]
\[ \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{Pd}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + \text{H}_2 \rightarrow \text{PdH}_2 + \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 \]

etc., this series of reactions leading to the formation of coupling products up to sedeciphenyl, \( \text{C}_{96}\text{H}_{66} \), all of which were isolated.

Palladium chloride, \( \text{PdCl}_2 \), forms a complex with trimethylethylene (24). This complex forms stable orange crys-

(24) Kondakov, Balas, and Vit, Chem. Listy., 23, 579-87(1929); 24, 1-8, 26-31(1930) [G. A., 24, 3455(1930)].
Palladium forms a halogen carbonyl complex of the composition PdCl$_2$·CO, which is the least stable of all such complexes formed by the platinum metals. This compound was obtained by the action of carbon monoxide, saturated with the vapor of methyl alcohol, on palladium chloride at 0°C. (25). This complex is decomposed by water.

\[
PdCl_2·CO + H_2O \rightarrow Pd + CO_2 + 2HCl.
\]

No organometallic compounds of osmium, iridium, rhodium, or ruthenium are recorded in the literature. Pope and Peachey (1b) reported that the chlorides, or in some cases the oxides, of iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium, and platinum, reacted vigorously with methylmagnesium iodide, but they reported no products from any of these reactions other than the formation of trimethylplatinum iodide from platinic chloride.

Manchot and Gall (26) prepared a sublimable carbonyl chloride of iridium. Dry iridium trichloride in a current of completely dry carbon monoxide at 150°C, gave a white, sublimable, crystalline substance of the composition Ir(CO)$_2$Cl$_2$. This compound decomposes in water with evolution of carbon monoxide.

(25) Manchot and König, **Ber.**, 59, 883(1926).
(26) Manchot and Gall, **Ber.**, 56, 232(1925).
Manchot and König (27) heated osmium trichloride in a current of carbon monoxide at 270°C. and obtained a white sublimate whose composition approximated the formula OsCl₂·3CO. This compound is unaffected by water and acids. It is soluble in sodium hydroxide solution, and after neutralization of such a solution with nitric acid all of the chlorine is precipitated by silver nitrate, leaving the osmium and carbon monoxide in solution as an apparently stable complex.

No simple carbonyl halide of rhodium has been prepared, but the compound, RhCl₂·RhO·3CO, was prepared by Manchot and König (28) through the action of carbon monoxide on moist rhodium trichloride. This substance is decomposed slowly by water or by heating to 300°C.

Ruthenium trihalides react with carbon monoxide according to the equation (29):

\[ \text{RuX}_3 + 2\text{CO} \rightarrow \text{Ru(CO)}_2\text{X}_2 + \text{I}_2/2\text{X}_2. \]

Ruthenium triiodide reacts rapidly and completely with carbon monoxide at 250°C. and one atmosphere, yielding an ochre-colored residue of the composition Ru(CO)₂I₂, which is insoluble in water or organic solvents. It is very resistant to the action of concentrated hydrochloric and sulphuric acids. Ruthenium tribromide reacts much more slowly under the same conditions to give a sublimable product of the composition

Ru(CO)₂Br₂. At high pressures of carbon monoxide there is a further reduction of the bromide to Ru(CO)Br, a colorless crystalline substance (30). Ruthenium trichloride reacts still more slowly than the bromide, yielding Ru(CO)₂Cl₂. High pressures of carbon monoxide give a halogen-free, non-volatile carbonyl. Mond (31) prepared the same halogen free carbonyl by the action of carbon monoxide on ruthenium sponge. Its composition approximated the formula Ru(CO)₂.

Manchot and Manchot (32) prepared a series of ruthenium carbonyls. The pentacarbonyl was first prepared from ruthenium sponge and carbon monoxide at 700 atmospheres and 400°C. A more effective method of preparation, however, was found to be the action of carbon monoxide, under 455 atmospheres pressure at 175°C, on ruthenium iodide in the presence of finely divided silver. Ruthenium pentacarbonyl condenses to colorless crystals which melt at -22°C. It decomposes slowly above its melting point into the enneacarbonyl, Ru₂(CO)₉. The pentacarbonyl is very sensitive to light while the enneacarbonyl is stable. The pentacarbonyl decomposes to ruthenium and carbon monoxide on heating.

\[ \text{Ru(CO)}_5 \longrightarrow \text{Ru} + 5\text{CO} \]

An amorphous green carbonyl of the composition \([\text{Ru(CO)}_4]_x\) was also obtained.

(30) Manchot and Enk, \textit{Ber.}, 63, 1635(1930).
In an attempt to obtain the free ethyl radical, Frankland (33) found that heating of ethyl iodide with iron at 150°C. to 200°C. for twelve hours scarcely effected the decomposition of a trace of ethyl iodide. Later, Frankland (34) reported that iron was capable, under the influence of light, of combining readily with the organic groups, methyl, ethyl, and amyl. He gave no further details.

Ullmann (35) found that finely divided iron reacted with p-iodotoluene when heated to 250°C. and gave low yields of bi-p-tolyl. Zeltner (36) was of the opinion that an organoiron compound was formed as an intermediate in this coupling reaction.

Spencer and Harrison, (37), in an attempt to ascertain whether metals of the sixth, seventh, and eighth groups of the periodic system could be caused to react with alkyl halides in the manner of the metals of the first and second groups, found that iron and nickel reacted with alkyl halides, but only when heated in a sealed tube for several hours, while cobalt would not react even under these conditions. The reaction between the metals iron and nickel with iodobenzene took place very completely with the formation of biphenyl in extremely large yields. Freshly reduced nickel heated in a

(34) Frankland, ibid., 6, 66(1853).
sealed tube with iodobenzene at 280°C. for several hours gave an eighty-five percent yield of biphenyl. In the case of iron a similar reaction took place at 180°C. This reaction could not be brought about with any other halogen compounds with the exception of p-iodotoluene. It was the opinion of these investigators that iron, cobalt, and nickel had no tendency to form organometallic compounds. Patten (38) found ethyl chloride to have no action on iron, nickel, platinum, palladium, or cobalt at 0°C.

Thomas, Bowden, and Jones (39) studied the action of iron, cobalt, and nickel on triphenylmethyl halides. Iron was found to react readily with triphenylmethyl chloride or bromide in benzene, toluene, or ether solution. No free triphenylmethyl was formed and the evidence seemed to indicate the existence in solution of a stable triphenylmethylferrous chloride complex. Triphenylmethyl chloride in benzene, toluene, bromobenzene, hexane, or ether was found to be unattacked by cobalt or nickel. Rapid and complete reduction of triphenylmethyl chloride to triphenylmethyl was produced by cobalt in acetone solution. No evidence of any triphenylmethyl iron or triphenylmethyl cobalt was reported. Pyrophoric iron reduces triphenylmethyl chloride to triphenylmethyl (40).

(40) Schmidlin, "Das Triphenylmethyl", Ferdinand Enke, Stuttgart(1914), p. 31.
Iron, like platinum, is unaffected by the nascent ethyl radical produced by electrolysis of the NaC₂H₅/Zn(C₂H₅)₂-system (6). A strong evolution of gas was noted at the anode.

Frankland and Duppa (41) in an attempt to prepare an organoiron compound by the action of iron on diethylmercury at 150°C, obtained large quantities of inflammable gases but no ethyliron compound. They considered the gases to be due to the thermal decomposition of diethylmercury entirely independent of any action by the iron. Diphenylmercury on distillation from powdered iron gives biphenyl (42). Powdered iron reacts with dimethylantimony bromide to remove the bromine without forming an organoiron compound (43).

\[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SbBr} + \text{Fe} \rightarrow \text{FeBr}_2 + (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Sb}_2 + (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sb}\]

Triphenylantimony, in alcohol or ether solution, reduces ferric chloride slowly to ferrous chloride (44). Dimethylarsenic hydride reduces ferric chloride promptly to ferrous chloride (45). No organoiron compound is formed.

\[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{AsH} + 2\text{FeCl}_3 \rightarrow (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{AsCl}_2 + 2\text{FeCl}_2 + \text{HCl}\]

Bennett and Turner (46) have reported the formation of an organoiron compound from the reaction of phenylmagnesium

(42) Dreher and Otto, Ann., 154, 129(1870).
(44) Michaelsis and Reese, Ann. 233, 49(1886).
bromide with ferric chloride in ether solution. Hydrolysis of the reaction mixture with water and sulphuric acid gave a dark-colored solid residue which was freed of biphenyl by extraction with petroleum ether. The ochre-colored residue was dissolved in benzene and precipitated by petroleum ether. A greenish solid resulted, which contained iron, was soluble in benzene, and depressed the melting point of biphenyl when mixed with that substance. No melting point or analysis was given for the substance. In a previous report (47) these workers reacted three equivalents of phenylmagnesium bromide with one of ferric chloride. They obtained only a small amount of biphenyl and no organoiron compound. The ferric chloride was not reduced to ferrous chloride.

According to other investigators (48), the reaction of phenylmagnesium bromide with ferric chloride proceeds exclusively to the formation of biphenyl and metallic iron. Benzylmagnesium bromide reacts with ferric chloride or ferric bromide to give quantitative yields of bibenzyl (48a) (49). p-Tolylmagnesium bromide and phenylmagnesium bromide react with ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, and ferric thiocyanate to give ex-

cellent yields of bi-$\pi$-tolyl and biphenyl, respectively (48d). With ethylmagnesium bromide these iron salts react to give ethane and ethylene, and with propylmagnesium bromide to give propane (48d). $\eta$-Butylethynylmagnesium bromide reacts with ferric chloride to give di-$\eta$-butyldiacetylene (50). Organo-iron compounds may be formed as intermediates in these reactions (48a)(48e)(50).

The reaction of one mole of phenylmagnesium bromide with one mole of ferric chloride gives a quantitative yield of ferrous chloride (48e).

$$2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} + 2\text{FeCl}_3 \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 2\text{FeCl}_2 + \text{MgBr}_2 + \text{MgCl}_2$$

If two more moles of phenylmagnesium bromide are added the iron is reduced to the metal (48e).

$$2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} + \text{FeCl}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + \text{Fe} + \text{MgBr}_2 + \text{MgCl}_2$$

Weichfelder and Thiede (51) found the reaction of phenylmagnesium bromide with ferric chloride, in an atmosphere of nitrogen, to give a bright reddish-brown deposit which soon became black. The deposit was found to consist of colorless prismatic crystals and a black powder. This solid substance glowed on exposure to air giving off a smoke which smelled of biphenyl. No phenyliron compound could be isolated although some organic substance apparently bound to iron was present in the solid deposit. When the reaction of phenylmagnesium bromide with ferric chloride was carried out in an atmosphere of

(51) Weichselfelder and Thiede, Ann., 447, 64(1926).
hydrogen, the products were one molecule of benzene, one mole­
cule of biphenyl, and a hydride of iron, FeH₆. Phenylmagnesium
bromide and ferrous chloride reacted in an atmosphere of hydro­
gen giving only benzene and another hydride of iron, FeH₂.

Sims and Mardles (52) carried out some anti-knock
studies on solutions prepared from the action of a phenyl-
magnesium halide on an iron halide in benzene. They assumed a
phenyliron compound to be present. The solution was without
effect as an anti-knock agent. They described the phenyliron
compound as being very unstable.

According to unpublished work by Krause and Wendt (53),
when the reaction between phenylmagnesium bromide and ferric
chloride was carried out under nitrogen, a greenish-yellow,
ether insoluble reaction product was obtained. This product
dissolved in alcohol with an intense green color, which in the
air gave a red color. With water, the green solution gave
ferrous hydroxide and the red solution gave ferric hydroxide.
Under ether, the green insoluble substance went in air to a red,
ether-soluble substance. The red solution so obtained was de­
colorized by addition of triethylaluminum etherate.

(53) Krause and v. Grosse, "Die Chemie der Metall-organischen
Job and Champetier (54) reacted phenylmagnesium bromide with ferric chloride in the presence of acetylene. They obtained a brown powder, very unstable in the air, which contained all of the iron initially used in the form of an organometallic. On hydrolysis of the brown powder the iron was eliminated and a black powder remained which weighed the same as the total of acetylene employed plus the weight of the phenyl groups employed. This black powder was found to consist of a mixture of unsaturated hydrocarbons of high molecular weight which oxidized in the air to give mainly benzoic acid. Three molecules of phenylmagnesium bromide were consumed for one molecule of ferric chloride when the ferric chloride was introduced into the Grignard reagent. This reaction was represented as follows:

\[
2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} + \text{FeCl}_3 + \text{nC}_2\text{H}_2) \rightarrow 2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}≡\text{C})_3\text{Fe} + 3\text{MgBr}_2 + 3\text{MgCl}_2.
\]

Six molecules of phenylmagnesium bromide were consumed when the Grignard reagent was introduced into a ferric chloride solution.

\[
2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} + \text{FeCl}_3 + \text{nC}_2\text{H}_2) \rightarrow 2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}≡\text{C})_6\text{Fe} + 3\text{BrMg-C}≡\text{C-MgBr} + 3\text{MgBr}_2 + 3\text{MgCl}_2.
\]

Active iron, produced by the action of phenylmagnesium bromide on ferric chloride, reacted in the presence of phenylmagnesium bromide and acetylene to give an organoiron compound.

\[
2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} + \text{Fe} + \text{nC}_2\text{H}_2) \rightarrow 2(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}≡\text{C})_3\text{Fe} + 3\text{BrMg-C}≡\text{C-MgBr}.
\]

The products of hydrolysis were the same as previously mentioned for the other reactions.

Wanklyn and Carius (55) observed that diethylzinc reacted vigorously with ferrous iodide in ether solution to give a mixture of ethane, ethylene, and hydrogen, while the iron was reduced to a mixture of iron and a hydride of iron, FeH₂. No ethyliron compound was isolated. Job and Reich (56) reported ethane, ethylene, and iron from the action of diethylzinc on ferrous iodide. They state that diethyliron is probably formed, but that it is too unstable to exist and breaks down.

Job and Reich (57) have reported the preparation of ethyliron iodide from ethylzinc iodide and ferrous iodide in ether solution.

\[ \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{ZnI} + \text{FeI}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{FeI} + \text{ZnI}_2 \]

They observed the action of organozinc chlorides on a large number of anhydrous metallic chlorides and became convinced that the organometallics exist in all the series and probably without exception. Their attempts were carried out on the chlorides of iron, nickel, cobalt, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, uranium, vanadium, thorium, the chlorides of the rare earths, and copper.

(56) Job and Reich, *Compt. rend.*, 177, 1439(1923).
(57) Job and Reich, *ibid.*, 174, 1358(1922); *Bull. soc. chim.*, 32, 1390(1922).
They explain the formation of ethyliiron iodide from ethylzinc iodide and ferrous iodide or chloride as being due to a much milder reaction than that of the Grignard reagent with iron halides.

Equal molecular quantities of ethylzinc iodide and ferrous iodide were refluxed together in ether solution for six hours. No gas was evolved during the reaction. The solution so obtained gave on hydrolysis a green precipitate of ferrous hydroxide and ethane. These products were explained according to the following equation:

\[
C_2H_5FeI + H_2O \rightarrow C_2H_6 + Fe(I)OH
\]

The solution reacted with absolute alcohol to form iron ethylate. No organoiron compound was isolated from the reaction and no further evidence for the existence of an organoiron compound was offered.

The reaction of ethylzinc iodide with ferric chloride was found to consist of a reduction of the ferric chloride to ferrous chloride.

\[
2FeCl_3 + C_2H_5ZnI \rightarrow 2FeCl_2 + C_2H_5I + ZnCl_2
\]

If an excess of ethylzinc iodide was present the reaction continued to form ethyliiron chloride. The ethyliiron chloride was not isolated.

Champetier (48e) compared the action of organomagnesium and organozinc compounds on halogen salts of iron. He found one mole of ferric chloride to react with three moles of phenylmagnesium bromide. The ether solution so obtained contained
biphenyl and magnesium salts. A black deposit was formed which consisted of active iron which decomposed cold water giving off hydrogen, oxidized spontaneously in the air with incandescence, and rapidly reduced ferric chloride to ferrous chloride. From the reaction of ferrous iodide on phenylzinc chloride, he reports the formation of phenyliron iodide.

\[ 2C_6H_5ZnCl + FeI_2 \rightarrow 2C_6H_5FeI + ZnCl_2 + ZnI_2 \]

Hydrolysis of the reaction mixture gave ferrous hydroxide and benzene with no biphenyl.

\[ 2C_6H_5FeI + 2H_2O \rightarrow 2C_6H_6 + Fe(OH)_2 + FeI_2 \]

The ferrous hydroxide obtained contained only an inappreciable amount of zinc hydroxide. No organoiron compound was isolated from the reaction.

The solution of ethyliron iodide, obtained by the action of ethylzinc chloride on ferrous iodide, on standing deposits a metallic mirror with evolution of gas (58). The gas given off consists of a mixture of ethylene and ethane.

Calcium carbide acts on water solutions of ferrous chloride giving a precipitate containing ferrous acetylide which is stable at ordinary temperatures in the presence of air or water (59). On treatment with hydrochloric acid acetylene is evolved. This compound was not isolated.

(58) Job and Reich, Compt. rend., 177, 1439(1923).
(59) Durand, ibid., 177, 693(1923).
Iron forms three different well-defined carbynyls, a pentacarbonyl, Fe(CO)\(_5\), a tetracarbonyl, Fe(CO)\(_4\), and an enneacarbonyl, Fe\(_2\)(CO)\(_9\) (18)(60).

Iron pentacarbonyl is prepared by the action of carbon monoxide on finely divided iron at temperatures ranging from 170\(^\circ\)C. to 400\(^\circ\)C. and at pressures of from 20 to 200 atmospheres (60)(61). It is a clear colorless liquid which boils at 103\(^\circ\)C. and solidifies at -21\(^\circ\)C. It is easily soluble in most organic solvents. In contact with air iron pentacarbonyl is oxidized, ferric oxide is deposited, and carbon monoxide is liberated. Halogens liberate carbon monoxide from the pentacarbonyl and form iron halides with the iron. At low temperatures the addition compounds, Fe(CO)\(_5\)X\(_2\) (X = halogen), can be isolated as intermediates. These intermediates lose carbon monoxide at room temperature to leave Fe(CO)\(_4\)X\(_2\), which with water lose all of their carbon monoxide and leave FeX\(_2\) (62). Iron pentacarbonyl may be decomposed by heat into carbon monoxide and iron. Iron prepared in this manner is of especially high purity and as such has use in catalytic processes.

(60) See, Schmidt, "Organometallverbindungen", Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, m. b. h., (1934) Tiel II, on carbonyl compounds of iron and nickel.
(61) (a) Mond and Quincke, Chem. News, 63, 301(1891); 64, 20 (1891); (b) Mond and Langer, J. Chem. Soc., 59, 1090(1890); (c) Berthelot, Compt. rend., 112, 1343(1891); (d) Mittasch, Angew. Chem., 41, 827(1928).
(62) Hieber and Bader, Ber., 51, 1717(1928); Z. anorg. allgem. Chem., 190, 193(1930).
Iron pentacarbonyl decomposes in sunlight to iron ennea-carbonyl. Carbon monoxide is liberated.

\[ 2 \text{Fe(CO)}_5 \rightarrow \text{Fe}_2(\text{CO})_9 + \text{CO} \]

The ennea-carbonyl forms orange crystals which are very stable in air (63). This compound is insoluble in ether, petroleum ether, and benzene, somewhat soluble in alcohol, and more soluble in pyridine.

Iron tetracarbonyl may be prepared by well regulated thermal decomposition of iron ennea-carbonyl (64). It may also be prepared directly from the pentacarbonyl (65). The pentacarbonyl is shaken with alkali, and a suspension of manganese dioxide is added. The pentacarbonyl disproportionates with the formation of a hydride.

\[ \text{Fe(CO)}_5 + \text{CH}_3\text{ONa} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Fe(CO)}_4\text{H}_2 + \text{CH}_3\text{O} \cdot \text{CO} \cdot \text{ONa} \]

The hydride is then oxidized.

\[ \text{Fe(CO)}_4\text{H}_2 + \text{MnO}_2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{3} \left[ \text{Fe(CO)}_4 \right]_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{MnO} \]

Iron tetracarbonyl forms green crystals which are soluble in benzene, ether, or acetone.

Iron carbonyl hydride has been isolated as a very volatile liquid when prepared in an oxygen free atmosphere (66).

It is extremely unstable. The acidity of this hydride is of about the same order of magnitude as that of carbonic acid (18).

A large number of mixed carbonyl compounds of iron are known. These include amine carbonyl complexes, halogen carbonyl complexes, and nitrosyl carbonyl complexes (18)(60).

Nickelous chloride apparently reacts with diethylzinc in the same manner as ferrous iodide (55).

Nickelous chloride reacts with ethylmagnesium bromide to give ethane and ethylene, with propylmagnesium bromide to give propane, with phenylmagnesium bromide to give biphenyl, and with p-tolylmagnesium bromide to give bi-p-tolyl, all in excellent yields (48d). In an atmosphere of hydrogen, nickelous chloride reacts with phenylmagnesium bromide to give benzene and a hydride of nickel, NiH₂ (51)(67). The action of phenylmagnesium bromide on nickelous chloride has been used as a means of preparing a highly reactive form of colloidal nickel (58)(67). Colloidal nickel prepared in this manner rapidly absorbs hydrogen, carbon monoxide, ethylene, acetylene, or nitric oxide. Job and Reich (58)(68) assumed an organonickel compound to be formed as an intermediate in the reaction of phenylmagnesium bromide with nickelous chloride. Weichsselfelder and Thiede (51) attempted the preparation of diphenylnickel from the action of phenylmagnesium bromide, in ether solution, on anhydrous nickelous chloride. They varied the amounts and con-

(67) Schlenk and Weichsselfelder, Ber., 56, 2230(1923).
(68) Job and Reich, Compt. rend., 179, 330(1924).
centration of Grignard reagent used manifoldly, but were unable to prepare any diphenylnickel in a pure form. In the reactions the ether solutions were colored brownish-black, and a black powder of pyrophoric nature separated out. This powder burned in the air with an odor resembling biphenyl. In ether suspension it rapidly absorbed oxygen. If it was allowed in a dry condition to react slowly with air, a sublimate melting about 60°C. was obtained. In an atmosphere of hydrogen a hydride of nickel, NiH₂, was obtained. The reaction of γ-amylmagnesium chloride with nickelous chloride was found to proceed in the same manner only more slowly. Gilman and Kirby (69) found nickelous cyanide, Ni(CN)₂, to react with phenylmagnesium bromide in ether with sufficient vigor to cause refluxing of the ether. A brownish reaction mixture was obtained which gave only a trace of biphenyl on hydrolysis. Jones (70) reacted phenylmagnesium bromide with nickel tetracarbonyl and obtained biphenyl and benzoin. Gilliland and Blanchard (71) obtained triphenylmethane, triphenylvinyl alcohol, pentaphenylethane, and tetraphenylethylene from the same reaction. No mention of organonickel compounds being formed was made.

Calcium carbide acts on a water solution of nickelous chloride to give a precipitate containing nickelous acetylide, C₂Ni (59). This compound was not isolated. It liberated acetylene on treatment with hydrochloric acid.

(70) Jones, Chem. News, 90, 144(1904).
Nickel tetracarbonyl was the first metal carbonyl compound to be prepared (72). It is prepared through the action of carbon monoxide on finely divided nickel at a temperature of 300°-1000°C. Nickel tetracarbonyl is a colorless liquid which boils at 43°C, and solidifies at -25°C. It is soluble in most organic solvents. It decomposes on heating to 180°-200°C into nickel and carbon monoxide. Nickel tetracarbonyl is very sensitive to oxygen, exploding when heated to 60°C in air. Chlorine, bromine, iodine, and cyanogen react with nickel tetracarbonyl forming the corresponding nickel salts and liberating carbon monoxide (73). Nickel tetracarbonyl reacts with pyridine and ammino-compounds to form complexes (18)(60).

Cobaltous chloride reacts with Grignard reagents in the same manner as has already been described for nickelous chloride (48d)(51). If pyridine is used as the solvent, rather than ether, the reaction proceeds a great deal more slowly.

Sims and Mardles (52), tested an assumed solution of naphthylcobalt for anti-knock properties and found it to be without effect. The supposed naphthylcobalt was prepared from a naphthylmagnesium halide acting on an anhydrous halide of cobalt. Naphthylcobalt was described by them as being very unstable.

Cobaltous acetylide, CoC₂, was prepared by the action of calcium carbide on a water solution of cobaltous chloride

This compound reacted with hydrochloric acid to liberate acetylene. The compound was not isolated.

Cobalt forms two carbonyl compounds, cobalt tetracarbonyl, \( \text{Co}_2(\text{CO})_8 \), and cobalt tricarbonyl, \( \text{Co}_4(\text{CO})_{12} \) (74). The tricarbonyl is prepared by careful heating of the tetracarbonyl. Cobalt tetracarbonyl is a yellow, crystalline substance. It melts at 510°C. It is soluble in most organic solvents.

Cobalt tricarbonyl forms black-glistening crystals which are sparingly soluble in benzene and pentane and insoluble in most other ordinary solvents. The cobalt carbonyls form complex compounds with amines.

Cobalt carbonyl hydride, \( \text{H}_2\text{Co}(\text{CO})_4 \), may be prepared by the action of barium hydroxide on cobalt tetracarbonyl (75). This substance is a clear, yellow liquid which solidifies at -33°C. The acid strength of this hydride has been found to be between that of formic acid and of acetic acid (18). Cobalt carbonyl nitrosyl, \( \text{Co}(\text{CO})_3\text{NO} \), is formed by the action of a mixture of carbon monoxide and nitric oxide on cobalt (76).

The assumption may be drawn that the catalytic action of metals on the decomposition of diphenylmercury and dibenzylmercury, forming biphenyl and dibenzyl respectively, may be due

to the migration of phenyl or benzyl radical from mercury to
the metal employed as a catalyst, with the subsequent decomposi­
tion of the new organometallic into the coupling product and
metal (77). This conclusion is substantiated, in part, by the
fact that those metals, with the exception of platinum, effec­
tive in this reaction are those of which no organometallic com­
 pound has been prepared or of which the organometallic compounds
de decompose readily. Rasuwajew and Koton (77) studied the cata­
lytic action of finely divided metals on diphenylmercury and
dibenzylmercury by heating without solvent, as well as in the
presence of hydrogen under pressure. Iron, cobalt, nickel, cop­
 per, silver, gold, palladium, and platinum were used. The de­
creasing order of effectiveness in the absence of hydrogen to
produce coupling products was found to be for diphenylmercury:
Pd > Pt > Ag > Au > Co > Cu > Fe > Ni; and for dibenzylmercury: Pd > Pt >
Ag > Au > Cu > Ni > Fe > Co. The decreasing order of effectiveness,
in the presence of hydrogen, for the decomposition of diphenyl­
mercury was found to be: Pd > Pt > Ni > Ag > Au > Co > Cu > Fe; and
for dibenzylmercury: Pd > Pt > Ni > Au > Ag > Fe > Co > Cu. Dibenzyl­
mercury on hydrogenation without a catalyst forms benzene and
no diphenyl. In the presence of a catalyst both benzene and bi­
phenyl are formed. The interpretation of experimental results
on the basis of intermediate organometallic compounds is in ac­
cord with the interpretation given by Busch and Weber (23) on
the hydrogenation of bromobenzene.

(77) Rasuwajew and Koton, Ber., 66, 854(1933).
EXPERIMENTAL

The Reaction of Iron, Cobalt, and Nickel with some Organic Halides.

To several tubes containing µ-butyl bromide were added powdered iron, nickel, and cobalt, respectively. The tubes were sealed and heated to 180°. The tubes containing iron exploded. No reaction occurred on sixteen hours heating in the tubes containing cobalt and nickel. Bromobenzene and powdered iron gave no reaction on heating in a sealed tube for eight hours at 210°.

Iron amalgam was added to ethyl iodide in a tube. The tube was sealed and allowed to stand in sunlight for six months. No reaction occurred. The ethyl iodide was recovered unchanged.

To a solution of 0.1 mole of µ-butyl magnesium bromide in ether was added 0.05 mole of anhydrous ferrous chloride. The reaction was refluxed for six hours. The evolution of gas was complete at this time. Ten grams (0.05 mole) of iodobenzene in 25 ml. of ether were then added dropwise. Vigorous refluxing occurred. When the reaction ceased to reflux of its own accord, heat was applied and the reaction mixture was refluxed overnight. Hydrolysis was then effected by addition of an iced solution of ammonium chloride. The ether layer was separated, dried over sodium sulphate, and carefully fractionated. The
fraction boiling at 78° weighed 2.47 grams. This was identified as benzene by means of nitration to m-dinitrobenzene, m. p. 89°. Six grams of iodobenzene were recovered.

The experiment was repeated using bromobenzene in place of iodobenzene. This reaction was not as vigorous as with iodobenzene. The yield of benzene was 1.55 grams from 7.8 grams of bromobenzene. The benzene was identified by nitration to m-dinitrobenzene.

These reactions were checked several times with the same results. Attempts to determine the presence of a phenyliron compound in the reaction mixture by means of reactions with functional groups gave negative results. Benzaldehyde, oxygen, and allyl bromide gave no reaction when added to the mixture, while benzoyl bromide gave a 32% yield of ethyl benzoate, but no benzophenone.

To a solution of 0.1 mole of phenylmagnesium bromide in ether was added 0.05 mole of anhydrous ferrous chloride. The reaction was refluxed for four hours. The color test for organometallics was negative. Ten grams (0.05 mole) of iodobenzene in 25 ml. of ether were then added dropwise. No reaction occurred. Heat was applied and the reaction was refluxed for two hours. Hydrolysis was then effected by addition of water. A vigorous reaction occurred with the evolution of large quantities of gas and the formation of ferrous hydroxide. The ether layer was separated, dried, and fractionated. No benzene could be detected. Nine and eight-tenths grams of iodobenzene
were recovered. This reaction was repeated with the same results.

The Reaction of Iron Halides with Phenylmagnesium Halides and Phenyllithium.

Many attempts were made to prepare phenyliron compounds through the action of phenylmagnesium iodide, phenylmagnesium bromide, or phenyllithium on ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, ferric bromide, or ferrous iodide. These reactions were carried out at varying concentrations and at temperatures ranging from -55°C. to 35°C. The solvent employed was varied from 100% ether to a solution containing five parts of benzene to one part of ether. In some cases the organometallic solution was added to the iron halide and in some cases the iron halide was added to the organometallic solution. In none of these reactions could any evidence be found for the formation of an organoiron compound. In most cases the reactions were vigorous and biphenyl was formed in quantitative yield. The reaction mixtures turned black, depositing an iron mirror on the walls of the flask. Ferrous chloride failed to react with the Grignard reagents or with phenyllithium at -55°C. in two hours of stirring. The color test remained positive and unchanged ferrous chloride remained in the flask. On warming to -20°C., a vigorous reaction would set in and biphenyl was formed in quantitative yields. The reaction of ferrous iodide with phenyllithium and with the
Grignard reagents gave a mixture consisting of two layers. Hydrolysis of an aliquot from the larger, upper layer gave the same amount of biphenyl as was obtained on hydrolysis of an aliquot from the smaller, lower layer. Both aliquots indicated a quantitative yield of biphenyl. However, the amount of ferrous hydroxide obtained from the lower layer was many times that obtained from the upper layer. This proved that the biphenyl was not formed from hydrolysis of a phenyliron compound.

Numerous attempts to determine the presence in solution of an organoiron compound, by reacting the solutions with functional groups, gave no evidence of the existence of an organoiron compound even at -55°C. Benzoyl halides yielded ethyl benzoate in 80 to 90% yields, phenyl isocyanate gave a quantitative yield of its trimer, and benzaldehyde gave no reaction.

In an attempt to stabilize the primary valence of iron, by filling the secondary valence, ferrous chloride tetrapyridine was prepared (78) and reacted with an ether solution of phenylmagnesium bromide. The only effect of the pyridine was to decrease the rate of reaction. Five days stirring were required to obtain a negative color test. Hydrolysis at this point gave a quantitative yield of biphenyl.

The chlorides and bromides of nickel and cobalt were found to react in the same manner as the chlorides and bromides

(78) This compound was prepared according to the directions of Weinland, Effinger and Beck, Arch. Pharm., 265, 374(1927) [G. A., 21, 2231(1927)].
of iron. They reacted with phenylmagnesium halides to produce biphenyl in quantitative yields. No evidence of organocobalt or organonickel compounds was obtained.

The Reaction of α-Naphthylmagnesium Bromide with Ferrous Chloride.

An ether-benzene solution containing 0.1 mole of α-naphthylmagnesium bromide was cooled to -10° in an ice-salt bath. To this solution was added 12.8 grams (0.1 mole) of anhydrous ferrous chloride. No apparent reaction occurred. After stirring for twenty-four hours in an ice-salt bath, the color test was still strongly positive and large amounts of ferrous chloride, which was free of organic matter, were still present in the flask. The reaction was then allowed to come to room temperature. The color test was negative after four hours, the solution was black, and a metallic mirror covered the inside of the flask. The reaction was then hydrolysed by addition of iced-water. A large amount of ferrous hydroxide formed. The benzene layer was separated, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and distilled. Ten grams of naphthalene (76%) and 2 grams (16%) of bi-α-naphthyl were obtained. No iron was present in the benzene layer.

This reaction was repeated and 0.05 mole of benzoyl bromide was added as soon as a negative color test was obtained. The reaction mixture was stirred for two hours and then hydrolysed. No α-benzoylnaphthalene was obtained.
The Reaction of \(\alpha\)-Naphthyllithium with Ferrous Iodide.

To a solution of 0.05 mole of \(\alpha\)-naphthyllithium in ether, cooled to \(-55^\circ\) in a dry-ice acetone bath, was added 0.05 mole of ferrous iodide in ether solution. Two layers formed in the reaction mixture. The larger, upper layer was almost colorless. The lower layer was black and viscous. No solid was formed. The color test was soon negative. To this mixture was added 0.05 mole of benzoyl bromide. The reaction was stirred at \(-55^\circ\) for one-half hour and then allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction was then hydrolyzed with distilled water. A large amount of ferrous hydroxide was formed. The benzoyl bromide was recovered as benzoic acid. Three and nine-tenths grams (60\%) of naphthalene was obtained. One and three-tenths grams (20\%) of the \(\text{bi-\(\alpha\)-naphthyl}\) were obtained. No \(\alpha\)-benzoylnaphthalene was obtained.

The Reaction of Ferric Fluoride with Grignard Reagents.

To a solution of 0.1 mole of phenylmagnesium bromide in ether was added 5.65 grams (0.05 mole) of anhydrous ferric fluoride. Five days stirring of the reaction mixture were required to obtain a negative color test. No trace of metallic iron was present in the reaction flask. A reddish-brown precipitate mixed with white crystals was present in the solid phase. The ether layer was light-red in color. The ether layer was filtered through sintered glass and hydrolyzed. A
very slight amount of ferric hydroxide was formed on hydrolysis of the ether layer. Careful fractionation of the ether layer gave six grams (77%) of liquid boiling at 78°. This was identified as benzene by nitration to m-dinitrobenzene. A solid residue remained in the flask after removal of the benzene fraction. This was distilled in steam. The solid collected in the distillate weighed 1.2 grams (15.5% yield) and melted at 69°. It gave no depression in melting point with known biphenyl. The benzene and biphenyl obtained accounted for 92.5% of the phenylmagnesium bromide employed in the reaction.

The red solid present in the original reaction flask was soluble in benzene. Removal of the benzene from the solution gave a red, hygroscopic solid which contained no organic matter. This red solid was not identified.

Repeated experiments using varying amounts of ferric fluoride and phenylmagnesium bromide showed that three equivalents of Grignard reagents to one of ferric fluoride were consumed in the reaction. The addition of more than three equivalents of Grignard reagent gave a reaction mixture which continued to give a positive color test after standing a year.

To a solution of 0.2 mole of methylmagnesium bromide in ether was added 11 grams (0.1 mole) of ferric fluoride. The mixture was stirred for two weeks with no apparent reaction. The contents of the reaction flask were then transferred to a Schlenk tube and sealed. The tube was opened after standing for five months. Only a very slight pressure was present in
the tube. There was no evidence of any reaction having occurred as the solution gave a very strong color test and the ferric fluoride was unchanged in the tube.

**The Reaction of Phenylzinc Chloride with Ferrous Iodide.**

This reaction was carried out according to the directions of Champetier (48e) for the preparation of phenyliron iodide. To a solution of 0.05 mole of phenylmagnesium bromide in ether was added 0.05 mole of anhydrous zinc chloride in ether. To the phenylzinc chloride, so obtained, was added 0.05 mole of ferrous iodide in 50 ml. of ether. No warming occurred. This mixture was then refluxed for two hours. Seven grams (0.05 mole) of benzoyl chloride were added to the reaction mixture. A slight warming occurred. This reaction was stirred for one hour and then allowed to stand overnight. The products isolated on hydrolysis were, 3 grams of ethyl benzoate, 0.22 gram of benzoic acid, 1.4 grams of benzophenone (19% yield), 0.35 gram of biphenyl, and 1.45 grams of benzene. Some tar was also obtained. The hydroxides formed on hydrolysis were filtered off and washed free of chlorides. Analysis of the hydroxides for iron and zinc showed them to consist of 3 atoms of iron to 2 atoms of zinc.

An ether solution containing 0.5 mole of phenylmagnesium bromide was filtered into a one liter flask under nitrogen. To this Grignard solution was added a solution of 0.5 mole of
zinc chloride in ether. The solid phenylzinc chloride formed was washed with ether and then covered with 500 ml. of an ether solution containing 0.5 mole of ferrous iodide. This mixture was stirred and refluxed for two hours. A 10 ml. portion of the reaction mixture was then hydrolysed with distilled water. The hydroxides formed were filtered off and washed free of halides. The hydroxides so obtained gave a voluminous precipitate of zinc sulphide when a qualitative test was made for zinc. After seven hours more of refluxing, another sample of the reaction mixture was removed. The hydroxides obtained at this point were found to consist of approximately 50% ferrous hydroxide and 50% zinc hydroxide. Analysis was made by igniting the mixed hydroxides to the oxides and extracting the soluble zinc oxide with dilute acetic acid. The zinc was reprecipitated by addition of sodium hydroxide to the neutral point of methyl orange, filtered, washed, and weighed. The iron oxide was washed, ignited, and weighed. The yield of biphenyl as isolated by ether extraction of the hydrolysis products was 47% at this point. After another five hours refluxing another sample was hydrolysed. The yield of biphenyl was 63% and the hydroxides consisted of 67% iron hydroxide and 33% zinc hydroxide. After twelve hours more of refluxing, the yield of biphenyl was 83% and the hydroxides obtained were 90% ferrous hydroxide. The reaction was refluxed another twenty-four hours. Hydrolysis of a portion of the reaction mixture gave a 96% yield of biphenyl and the hydroxides obtained gave only a slight test
for zinc. One-half of the remainder of the reaction mixture was then treated with benzoyl bromide. No benzophenone was isolated on hydrolysis. Ethyl benzoate and biphenyl were the only products isolated. The bottom of the initial reaction flask was covered with a black solid which reacted vigorously with water to form large quantities of inflammable gas and ferrous hydroxide. No difference could be found in the chemical reactivity of phenylzinc chloride and the mixture obtained by adding ferrous iodide to phenylzinc chloride and refluxing for two hours according to the direction of Champetier (48a) for the preparation of phenyliron iodide. Addition of acid halides produced ketones in both cases, while neither would react with allyl bromide on standing sixteen hours.

**The Reaction of Ethylzinc Iodide with Ferrous Iodide.**

To a solution of 0.1 mole of ethylzinc iodide in ether, prepared according to the directions of Job and Reich (79), was added 0.1 mole of ferrous iodide in ether according to the directions of Job and Reich (57) for the preparation of ethyliron iodide. The outlet of the condenser was connected to a gas collecting flask, with a calcium chloride tube connected intermediately. The reaction was then refluxed for six hours. The evolution of gas from the reaction was slow but continuous. The gas collected was passed through a cooling coil at \(-10^\circ C\) to remove any ether which might be present. A total volume of

575 ml. of gas was collected. This was analysed with a modified William's gas analyser.

**Anal.**
Total unsaturated gases, 39%.
Saturated gases, 58%.

Selective oxidation over copper oxide showed no hydrogen to be present. Combustion data gave a value of 3.18 for the average number of carbon atoms in the saturated gases. This indicated a probable mixture of ethane and butane.

The reaction mixture was hydrolysed with distilled water. The hydroxides formed consisted of 39.4% ferrous hydroxide and 60.6% zinc hydroxide. No organic material other than a small amount of ethyl iodide was isolated from the products of hydrolysis.

This experiment was repeated using twice as large a run. The gas evolved measured 1320 ml. Analysis of the gas gave 37% unsaturated gases and 63% saturated gases. The hydroxides obtained on hydrolysis contained 44.8% zinc hydroxide and 55.2% ferrous hydroxide.

**The Reaction of Ferric Chloride with Tetraethyllead.**

To a solution containing 11.5 grams of anhydrous ferric chloride in 200 ml. of dry ether was added 20.6 grams of freshly distilled tetraethyllead. A slight warming occurred with the formation of a voluminous precipitate. This precipitate was extracted with boiling ether until free of lead. The residue consisted of 9 grams of anhydrous ferrous chloride which
was identified by analysis.

**Anal.** Calcd. for FeCl₂: Fe, 44.1; Cl, 55.9.

Found: Fe, 44.02; Cl, 56.00.

The ether extracts consisted of organic lead compounds containing chlorine. From their decomposition points they were probably a mixture of triethyllead chloride and diethyllead dichloride. No organoiron compound was formed.

Tetraethyllead was found to be without action on ferrous iodide, ferrous chloride, cobaltous bromide, and nickelous bromide. Chloroplatinic acid was reduced immediately by tetraethyllead to deposit metallic platinum.

The Reaction of Ferrous Iodide with Tri-p-anisyllead.

This reaction was run using ferrous iodide alone with tri-p-anisyllead and using ferrous iodide in the presence of iron powder. The results were the same in both cases.

Ten grams of tri-p-anisyllead were added to a solution of 0.019 mole of ferrous iodide in 20 ml. of ether and 150 ml. of dry benzene. A yellow precipitate of lead iodide formed immediately. The black color of ferrous iodide disappeared leaving a yellow solution which would blacken immediately on exposure to air. The solution gave no color test with Michler's ketone. This solution was filtered under nitrogen from the solid precipitate. The solution after filtration was divided
into two equal parts. One part was treated with 1.85 grams of benzoyl bromide. This was refluxed for two hours and hydrolysed. The benzoyl bromide was recovered as benzoic acid. No ketone was formed.

The residue in the initial reaction flask was extracted with benzene. This gave 4 grams of tetra-p-anisyllead, m. p. 143°. A mixed melting point with tetra-p-anisyllead gave no depression. There remained 1.58 grams of lead iodide which was identified by dissolving in ammonium acetate and precipitating as lead chromate.

The half of the filtered solution which was not treated with benzoyl bromide was hydrolysed. The hydrolysis products were extracted with ether, the ether extracts dried and distilled. No anisole was obtained. A mixture of organolead compounds consisting chiefly of a yellow compound melting at 122°, was obtained. This yellow solid was identified as di-p-anisyllead diiodide by means of a mixed melting point with a sample of di-p-anisyllead diiodide later prepared by Mr. J. C. Bailie (80). The yield of pure product was 0.9 gram.

The iron from the ferrous iodide remained in solution until hydrolysis was effected. It then precipitated as ferric hydroxide. This reaction is analogous to the reaction obtained by Mr. J. C. Bailie from triaryllead compounds with magnesium iodide in which he obtained no Grignard reagent.

(80) Unpublished work in this laboratory.
This reaction was repeated with the same results. The reaction was also run using powdered iron along with ferrous iodide and tri-p-anisyllead. The results were also the same in this case.

**The Reaction of Cobalt Bromide with 2,4,6-trimethylphenylmagnesium Bromide.**

To a solution of 0.05 mole of 2,4,6-trimethylphenylmagnesium bromide in an ether-benzene solution (2 parts of ether to 1 part benzene) was added slowly 0.05 mole of anhydrous cobaltous bromide, CoBr₂. The reaction mixture was cooled in an acetone-dry ice bath. No reaction was apparent at this low temperature. The color test for organometallics remained as strong after three hours stirring as at the start. The reaction was then allowed to warm up to -20° in an ice-salt bath. An immediate reaction set in, the solution became black, and the color test soon became negative. Hydrolysis of this solution gave a 20% yield of bimesityl. No organic material containing cobalt could be isolated.

**The Reaction of Phenylmagnesium Bromide with Nickel Cyanide.**

Anhydrous nickel cyanide, Ni(CN)₂, was prepared by dehydration of the hydrated salt. This was accomplished by heating to 230° under nitrogen until no more water was evolved.
To a solution of 0.05 mole of phenylmagnesium bromide in 100 ml. of ether was added 5.5 grams (0.05 mole) of the anhydrous nickel cyanide. A very slow reaction set in with darkening of the reaction mixture. The reaction was stirred for three weeks. A strong positive color test was obtained at this time. Hydrolysis of the reaction gave 1.05 grams or 27% of biphenyl melting at 68°-69°. No organonickel compound could be isolated.

This experiment was repeated with the same results. A very slow reaction occurred. The yield of biphenyl was 1.15 grams (30%) after three weeks of stirring.

The Reaction of Phenylmagnesium Iodide with Halide Salts of the Group VIII Metals.

Phenylmagnesium iodide was reacted with a halide salt of each of the metals of group VIII according to the procedure by which Pope and Peachey (1b) prepared trimethylplatinum iodide. One gram of magnesium turnings was placed in a clean, dry, three-neck flask, fitted with a condenser, mechanical stirrer, and a dropping funnel. The magnesium was covered with 5 ml. of anhydrous ether and a few drops of iodosobenzene were added. After initiation of the reaction, the remainder of 8.1 grams of iodosobenzene in 10 ml. of dry ether was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was refluxed by means of a hot plate for thirty minutes after it had ceased to reflux of its own heat. The solution was then allowed to cool and 125 ml. of dry benzene were added.
This solution was then filtered through a sintered glass plate and standardized by acid titration. All work was carried out in an atmosphere of nitrogen.

A slight excess of phenylmagnesium iodide solution, prepared in the above manner, was placed in a clean, dry, three-neck flask under nitrogen. The solution was then cooled by means of an ice-salt bath until a small amount of benzene had frozen around the edge of the flask. To this well-stirred mixture was slowly added the anhydrous metal halide by flushing from a dropping funnel with an ether-benzene solution. All halides were added as solids in this manner.

The Reaction with Ferrous Chloride.

To a solution of 0.03 mole of phenylmagnesium iodide was added 1.27 grams (0.01 mole) of anhydrous ferrous chloride, FeCl₂. The solution turned black and deposited a black solid. The color test for organometallics was positive after one hour of stirring in ice bath. The solution was then hydrolyzed by filtration through a sintered glass plate into an iced solution of ammonium chloride. The hydrolysis products were extracted with ether. The ether extracts were dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate, filtered, and the ether and benzene were removed under reduced pressure. Steam distillation of the solid residue gave 1.51 grams of biphenyl melting at 68°-9°. A mixed melting point with a known sample of biphenyl gave no depression.
The yield of biphenyl was 98% of the theoretical based on the amount of ferrous chloride employed in the reaction. No other organic material could be isolated from the reaction. The solid residue remaining in the reaction flask reacted vigorously with water giving ferrous hydroxide and a gas, but no organic material. This reaction was repeated with the same results.

The Reaction with Cobalt Bromide.

To a solution of 0.03 mole of phenylmagnesium iodide was added 2.19 grams (0.01 mole) of anhydrous cobaltous bromide, CoBr₂. A black solution resulted with a black deposit in the flask. The color test for organometallics remained positive. The reaction was worked up in the same manner as described for ferrous chloride. This gave 1.52 grams of biphenyl melting at 68°-90°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. The yield of biphenyl was 98% of the theoretical based on the amount of cobalt bromide employed in the reaction. The solid residue remaining in the flask contained no organic material, and no organic material other than biphenyl was isolated from the reaction. This reaction was repeated with the same results.
The Reaction with Nickel Bromide.

To a solution of 0.095 mole of phenylmagnesium iodide was added 6.54 grams (0.03 mole) of anhydrous nickelous bromide, NiBr$_2$. The solution became black and a black deposit was obtained. The color test for organometallics remained positive. The reaction mixture was worked up in the manner described for ferrous chloride. This gave 4.6 grams of biphenyl melting at 67°-9°. The melting point was not depressed by known biphenyl. The yield of biphenyl was quantitative based on the amount of nickel bromide employed in the reaction. No other organic material was isolated. The residual solid in the reaction flask contained no organic matter. This reaction was repeated with the same results.

The Reaction with Ruthenium Chloride.

One gram of commercial ruthenium chloride was dehydrated in an electric furnace at 380°C. in an atmosphere of chlorine. This gave 0.75 grams of anhydrous ruthenium trichloride, RuCl$_3$. This halide was added to a slight excess of phenylmagnesium iodide. A prompt reaction occurred. The color test for organometallics remained positive. This reaction was worked up in the manner described for ferrous chloride giving 0.82 gram of biphenyl melting at 68°-9°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. The yield of biphenyl was 99% of the theoretical based on the amount of ruthenium trichloride em-
ployed. No other organic material was isolated from the reaction. The ruthenium was reduced to ruthenium metal which was deposited on the bottom of the reaction flask. This metallic deposit did not react with water. It gave a metallic streak when rubbed on a porous plate. When viewed under a microscope, it appeared as a gray metal without crystalline form which had the appearance of having been fused. Fits and extrusions were visible on the surface. This reaction was not repeated.

The Reaction with Rhodium Chloride.

One gram of commercial rhodium trichloride, RhCl$_3$, was dehydrated by heating to 440°C in an atmosphere of chlorine. This gave 0.75 gram (0.0036 mole) of anhydrous rhodium trichloride, RhCl$_3$, which was added to 0.013 mole of phenylmagnesium iodide. A slow reaction set in and the solution gradually became black with deposition of a black solid. The reaction mixture was allowed to stand overnight after having been stirred for six hours in an ice-salt bath. The color test for organometallics was positive. The reaction was worked up in the same manner as described for ferrous chloride. This gave 0.81 gram (97.5%) of biphenyl melting at 68°-90°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. Metallic rhodium remained in the reaction flask. This gave a metallic streak when rubbed on a porous plate. When viewed under a microscope,
this solid showed a metallic luster. It consisted of amorphous lumps, with many pits and extrusions, having cracks visible across the surface. No organic material other than biphenyl was obtained. This reaction was not repeated.

The Reaction with Palladium Chloride.

One gram of anhydrous palladium chloride, PdCl₂, (0.00566 mole) was reacted with 0.0163 mole of phenylmagnesium iodide. This gave a vigorous reaction and a black deposit of metallic palladium appeared immediately. The reaction was stirred for three hours in an ice-salt bath and then allowed to stand overnight. The color test for organometallic compounds remained positive. The reaction was then worked up in the manner previously described for ferric chloride. This gave 0.85 gram of biphenyl melting at 68°-9°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. This was a 98% yield of biphenyl based on the palladium chloride employed in the reaction. The black deposit of metallic palladium was amorphous but gave a metallic luster. No organic material other than biphenyl was isolated from the reaction. This reaction was not repeated.

The Reaction with Osmium Chloride.

Osmium trichloride was prepared by heating ammonium chlorosmate to 350°C. in a current of chlorine. The 0.82 gram
of sublimed salt was added to a slight excess of phenylmagnesium iodide. A prompt reaction took place and the solution became dark. Hydrolysis gave 0.34 gram (53%) of biphenyl melting at 68°-9°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. A small amount of black, tarry, organic material containing osmium remained after removal of the biphenyl. This material could not be induced to crystallize. The larger part of the osmium was precipitated as metallic osmium black during the reaction. This reaction was not repeated.

The Reaction with Iridium Chloride.

One gram of commercial iridium trichloride was dehydrated in a current of chlorine at 320°C. This gave 0.9 gram of anhydrous iridium trichloride, IrCl₃. This was added to a slight excess of phenylmagnesium iodide. No apparent reaction took place. After two hours stirring in an ice-salt bath the reaction was allowed to come to room temperature. After three weeks stirring, a negative color test was obtained. The reaction was hydrolysed with iced ammonium chloride solution, the benzene layer was separated and dried, and the benzene was removed under reduced pressure. Steam distillation of the residue gave 0.2 gram of biphenyl melting at 69°. A mixed melting point with known biphenyl gave no depression. The yield of biphenyl was only 26% of the theoretical based on the iridium chloride. A small amount of a brown amorphous solid, resem-
bling that obtained from the reaction of platinic chloride with phenylmagnesium iodide, was obtained. This solid burned, on heating in a flame, leaving a residue of metallic iridium. This material was difficultly soluble in benzene, alcohol, acetone, and ether. It was readily soluble in dioxane. It appeared to be a mixture as it was only partially soluble in some solvents. This reaction was not repeated.

The Reaction with Platinic Chloride.

Two and one-tenth grams of anhydrous platinic chloride, PtCl₄, prepared according to the method of Kharasch and Ashford (17), were added to six equivalents of phenylmagnesium iodide. A reaction set in at once with the appearance of beautiful golden crystals in the reaction mixture. The reaction was stirred for thirty minutes at room temperature after the addition of platinic chloride was completed. The color test for organometallics was negative at this point. The contents of the flask were then poured into ice water and extracted repeatedly with benzene. The benzene extracts were dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. A heavy, reddish-brown powder separated from the benzene. This solid was only slightly soluble in benzene, alcohol, or chloroform. It was readily soluble in dioxane and insoluble in water. The temperature of the solvent
had no apparent effect on the solubility of this material. On heating in an open flame, the substance burned with a smoky flame leaving a residue of metallic platinum. It gave an excellent qualitative test for iodine. Chlorine tests were negative. This material was analysed for platinum by burning and weighing the platinum residue.

**Anal. Found:** Pt, 37.9, 37.7.

This analysis does not correspond to the calculated value for any expected compound and solubility tests indicated that the material was a mixture of various compounds. No crystalline material could be isolated.

A portion of this solid was dissolved in hot concentrated nitric acid. The solution deposited, on cooling, white needles, which after crystallization from alcohol melted at 229°C and gave no depression in melting point when mixed with a known sample of 4,4'-dinitrophenyl. Biphenyl was found to nitrate to 4,4'-dinitrophenyl under the same conditions. However, the platinum-containing solid had been washed several times with benzene, in which biphenyl is very soluble, so it appears unlikely that the 4,4'-dinitrophenyl was derived directly from biphenyl contained in this material.

In a second run, four equivalents of phenylmagnesium iodide were reacted with 1.1 grams of platinic chloride. The color test for organometallics was negative after one hour. Another four equivalents of phenylmagnesium iodide were then added to the reaction mixture. The color test again became
negative after one hour. The addition of two more equivalents of phenylmagnesium iodide left a solution which gave a positive color test after stirring overnight. The golden precipitate which appeared at the start of the reaction was gone and a heavy white precipitate was present in the reaction flask. No metallic platinum was visible. The white precipitate was extracted repeatedly with ether to remove unreacted Grignard reagent and magnesium salts. The ether extracts contained some platinum. This precipitate darkened on exposure to air. It gave a qualitative test for magnesium and iodine, which could not be removed by repeated extraction with ether. Qualitative tests for chlorine were negative. This white precipitate gave no color test. It reacted vigorously with water to give a brown, platinum-containing substance which from platinum analysis was the same as that previously described. This white precipitate was analysed for platinum and magnesium. Samples were procured by adding dry ether to the reaction flask; stirring then produced a suspension, which was forced out into a sintered glass filter plate, sealed in a tube. The sample was dried in a stream of nitrogen and weighed in a bulb. The sample was decomposed by dilute sulphuric acid, which dissolved the magnesium but not the platinum. The insoluble platinum containing portion was washed free of magnesium, burned, and the residual platinum was weighed. The magnesium was precipitated as magnesium ammonium phosphate, ignited and weighed as the pyrophosphate.
Anal. Found: Pt, 18.66, 18.52; Mg, 5.78, 5.72.

This analysis shows a ratio of 2.5 atoms of magnesium to 1 of platinum. Hydrolysis of the white precipitate remaining in the reaction flask gave 0.5 gram of the brown, platinum-containing powder. No biphenyl was formed during this hydrolysis. This material had no melting point. On heating in a melting point tube, it decomposed at around 185°-200°. The material consisted of a mixture of compounds as it varied slightly in solubility and the percentage of platinum varied from 30.3% to 47.8% on various fractions of this material.

A check on the amount of phenylmagnesium iodide required to give an excess of Grignard reagent in the reaction with platinic chloride gave the same results, ten equivalents of Grignard reagent being added before a permanent color test could be obtained.

Due to the amorphous nature of the material, and the lack of melting point, no individual compounds could be isolated.

The Reaction of Methylmagnesium Iodide with Platinous Chloride.

One and eight-tenths grams of platinous chloride, PtCl₂, prepared according to the directions of Kharasch and Ashford (17), were added slowly to a solution of six equivalents of methylmagnesium iodide in an ether-benzene solution. The reaction mixture was cooled in an ice-salt bath and was stirred at this temperature for two hours. The reaction was then al-
allowed to stand overnight. This gave a dark-brown solution with a small amount of solid in the bottom of the reaction flask. Hydrolysis was effected by addition of water while the reaction was cooled in an ice-bath. Ammonium chloride was then added to dissolve the magnesium hydroxide. The benzene layer was separated, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to dryness. A very slight amount of unidentified solid remained. The main product of the reaction consisted of a very difficultly soluble, amorphous, dark-brown powder. This powder was slightly soluble in acetone or alcohol, and was insoluble in water, petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°), chloroform, or benzene. Analysis of the substance indicated it to be dimethylplatinum diiodide.

**Anal.** Calcd. for C₂H₆PtI₂: Pt, 40.75; I, 52.99;
C, 5.01; H, 1.25.
Found: Pt, 40.59; I, 53.5; C, 5.00; H, 1.87.

**Di-α-Naphthylplatinum.**

To a solution of 0.02 mole of α-naphthylmagnesium bromide in ether-benzene solution, cooled in an ice-salt bath, was added slowly 0.5 gram of platinous chloride, PtCl₂. The reaction was stirred for six hours. A brown solution resulted. This solution was poured onto cracked ice and extracted with benzene. The benzene solution was dried, filtered, and concentrated to a small volume under reduced pressure. Addition of alcohol precipitated a brown powder, which was washed several
times with hot alcohol and ether to remove any naphthalene or bi-\(\alpha\)-naphthyl. The weight of product was 0.55 gram (61\%) based on the platinous chloride used in the reaction. This product was very soluble in benzene and chloroform. It was very slightly soluble in alcohol, ether, or petroleum ether. The temperature of the solvent had no effect on the solubility of this material. It could not be induced to crystallize from any of these solvents. On heating, this product decomposed without melting. Decomposition produced a strong odor of naphthalene. Sodium fusion gave no test for halogen. Analysis of the product indicated an impure form of di-\(\alpha\)-naphthylplatinum.

**Anal. Calcd.** for \(C_{20}H_{14}Pt\): Pt, 43.43; C, 53.45; H, 3.12.

**Found:** Pt, 45.11; C, 51.95; H, 3.35.

To a solution of 0.45 gram of di-\(\alpha\)-naphthylplatinum in 50 ml. of dry \(m\)-xylene was added 5 grams of benzoyl bromide. This solution was refluxed for five hours. Evolution of large amounts of hydrogen bromide was noted. The solution was cooled, filtered, and distilled. Five grams of an oil boiling at 187\(^\circ\)-189\(^\circ\) at 17 mm. were obtained. This product was identified as 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone by preparation of its oxime, m. p. 126\(^\circ\). A mixed melting point with a known sample of the oxime of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone gave no depression.

Refluxing of benzoyl bromide in xylene without platinum being present gave no reaction.
Platinic chloride was also found to act as a condensing agent for the preparation of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone from benzoyl bromide and meta-xylene. Seven and five-tenths grams of benzoyl bromide, 30 ml. of meta-xylene, and 1 gram of anhydrous platinic chloride were heated to refluxing of the xylene for eight hours. The evolution of hydrogen bromide was vigorous. Six grams (71%) of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone were obtained on working up the reaction. The ketone was identified by preparation of its oxime, m. p. 126°. A mixed melting point with a known sample of the oxime gave no depression.

The Reaction of Methylmagnesium Iodide with Platinic Chloride.

This reaction was carried out by Pope and Peachey (1) for the preparation of trimethylplatinum iodide. However, the reaction is much more complicated than would be indicated by their report. Compounds other than trimethylplatinum iodide are obtained. As trimethylplatinum iodide was the compound desired in this study, attempts were made to discover the conditions necessary to obtain optimum yields of this compound. The conditions described below were found to be the most satisfactory.

Anhydrous platinic chloride was prepared according to the directions of Kharasch and Ashford (17).

A solution of methylmagnesium iodide was prepared from 15 grams (0.105 mole) of methyl iodide, 40 ml. of anhydrous
ether, and 2.5 grams (0.105 atom) of magnesium. The resulting Grignard solution was diluted with 150 ml. of dry benzene. This solution was filtered through glass wool into a clean, dry flask. The Grignard solution was then cooled to -10° and 8.5 grams (0.025 mole) of anhydrous platinic chloride were added in small portions to the well-stirred reaction. Stirring was continued for four hours after the addition of platinic chloride was complete. Hydrolysis was then effected by the addition of water while the reaction was cooled in an ice bath. The reaction products were extracted repeatedly with benzene, the benzene extracts were dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and concentrated to a small volume under reduced pressure. A heavy reddish-brown powder separated from the concentrates. Sufficient benzene was added to increase the volume to 50 ml. The benzene was heated to boiling and filtered from the residue. The residue was extracted with another 50 ml. portion of boiling benzene. The benzene extracts were combined and concentrated to 10 ml. followed by cooling in an ice-bath. Three and seven-tenths grams (40%) of trimethylplatinum iodide were obtained by filtration from the benzene. This product was recrystallized from a mixture of chloroform and alcohol and identified by analysis in a pearl tube for platinum and iodine.

**Anal.** Calcd. for C3HgPtI: Pt, 53.14; I, 34.60.

Found: Pt, 53.20; I, 34.48.

A slight residue remained from the original benzene extracts after the two extractions with 50 ml. portions of boiling
benzene. This residue was washed with hot acetone. A brick-red powder weighing 24 mg. remained. On examination under a microscope, this substance was found to consist of long slender needles. This compound was analysed for platinum and iodine.

**Anal.** Found: Pt, 43.30; I, 47.93.

This analysis does not correspond to any simple compound. The compound has not been identified. It is practically insoluble in chloroform, acetone, water, ether, and ethyl acetate. It is very slightly soluble in hot benzene, xylene, and toluene.

The benzene from which the trimethylplatinum iodide was crystallized was removed by a current of dry air. A slight residue remained. This was covered with 5 ml. of petroleum ether (b.p., 60°-80°) and allowed to stand for thirty minutes. The petroleum ether was filtered off and concentrated to a very small volume. Eighteen mg. of a crystalline material containing no halogen was obtained. This was identified as tetra-methylplatinum by analysis. The analysis was slightly low.

**Anal.** Calcd. for $C_4H_{12}Pt$: Pt, 76.48.

**Found:** Pt, 75.46.

The residual hydrolysis products, which were not extracted by benzene, were filtered. The solid which remained on the filter was washed with alcohol, then with acetone, and finally with ether until the washings were colorless. Concentration of these washings gave a large quantity of a red hygroscopic platinum containing complex which was readily soluble in ether, alcohol, acetone, or water. This complex was not identified.
The residue on the filter was then treated with 10% hydrochloric acid with which it reacted to give a black, water solution. The water soluble material was extracted repeatedly with small portions of ethyl acetate which removed the color from the water layer. The ethyl acetate extracts were dried over sodium sulphate and filtered. The ethyl acetate was removed in a vacuum desiccator and the residue was then washed with acetone until the acetone washings were colorless. There remained 0.1 gram of black crystals which were no longer easily soluble in ethyl acetate or water. Analysis of these crystals indicated a probability of their being methylplatinum pentaiodide.

**Anal.** Calcd. for CH₂PtI₅: Pt, 23.10; I, 75.10.

**Found:** Pt, 23.32; I, 75.16.

These crystals on dissolving in water or alcohol and heating the solution on a steam bath for a short time deposited a black, amorphous powder which analysis indicated was methylplatinum triiodide.

**Anal.** Calcd. for CH₂PtI₃: Pt, 33.05; I, 64.41.

**Found:** Pt, 33.20; I, 63.05.

This material burned with a luminous flame in an atmosphere of oxygen. This substance is insoluble in all ordinary solvents excepting alcohol in which it is very slightly soluble. Attempts to obtain this substance in a crystalline condition were unsuccessful.
The acetone-soluble portion of the ethyl acetate extracts was evaporated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in ether which was allowed to evaporate slowly in an effort to crystallize the material. This left, on standing, 2.15 grams of a black material which was no longer soluble in ether, ethyl acetate, water or acetone. This material was analyzed for platinum and iodine. The analysis approximated the composition for dimethylplatinum diiodide.

**Anal.** Calcd. for C$_2$H$_6$PtI$_2$: Pt, 40.75; I, 52.99.
**Found:** Pt, 40.20; I, 51.42.

This material burned with a luminous flame in an atmosphere of oxygen.

Four grams of difficultly soluble, black material remained on the filter after the original extraction with ethyl acetate. This material was placed in a Soxhlet cup and extracted with alcohol in which it all dissolved on long extraction. This material was analyzed for platinum and iodine. The analysis indicated a possibility of the material being methylplatinum triiodide.

**Anal.** Calcd. for CH$_3$PtI$_3$: Pt, 33.05; I, 64.41.
**Found:** Pt, 31.95; I, 62.95.

This material could not be obtained in a crystalline form. It burned with a luminous flame in an atmosphere of oxygen.

All of the products of the reaction, which contained halogen and platinum, contained iodine. No product containing platinum contained chlorine with the possible exception of the hygroscopic complex which was not analyzed.
It is necessary that the greatest attention be paid to details if a satisfactory yield of trimethylplatinum iodide is to be obtained from the reaction of methylmagnesium iodide with platinic chloride. The Grignard solution must be diluted with at least four parts of benzene, the reaction mixture must be cooled until the benzene starts to freeze around the edge of the flask, and the platinic chloride must be added slowly in small portions to the reaction. If these conditions were not strictly followed, the yield of trimethylplatinum iodide dropped to zero in some cases. In case no trimethylplatinum iodide was obtained, the reaction products consisted entirely of the black, highly iodinated platinum compounds described above.

Hexamethylidiplatinum.

Attempts to prepare this compound by the action of sodium on trimethylplatinum iodide in liquid ammonia were unsuccessful. Trimethylplatinum iodide was found to be insoluble in liquid ammonia. Addition of sodium caused the trimethylplatinum iodide to dissolve in the liquid ammonia, giving a water soluble complex which regenerated trimethylplatinum iodide on addition of hydrochloric acid.

Six-tenths gram of trimethylplatinum iodide was dissolved in 20 ml. of dry benzene and refluxed with two equivalents of powdered potassium for ten hours. The reaction mix-
ture was then allowed to stand for two days. The potassium was almost completely reacted. Traces of metallic platinum had precipitated. A few drops of β-amy1 alcohol were added to destroy any remaining potassium. The solution was filtered and the solvent removed. The residue was washed with water to remove inorganic salts. The residue was extracted with ether. Removal of the ether left pale-yellow crystals which were recrystallized from a benzene-petroleum ether solution by slow concentration of the solvent. Colorless crystals of hexamethyldiplatinum were obtained. The yield of hexamethyl-diplatinum was 0.24 gram (60%). These crystals were very soluble in ether, acetone, or benzene. They were insoluble in water, and only slightly soluble in cold petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°). Considerable difficulty was experienced in the analysis of this compound due to its explosive nature. It explodes sharply, on heating, with a brilliant shower of sparks. Analysis for platinum was finally obtained by exploding the compound in a bulb with capillary openings. The capillaries were plugged with about one inch of glass wool to prevent escape of platinum. After the compound was exploded, a slow current of air was passed through the bulb and it was burned to constant weight. Analysis for carbon and hydrogen was obtained by scattering a weighed sample of the material over a length of about four inches in the combustion tube and igniting a few particles at a time. A constant series of small explosions accompanied the combustion.
Anal. Calcd. for C₆H₁₈Pt₂: Pt, 81.25; C, 14.95; H, 3.76.

Found: Pt, 81.13; C, 14.55; H, 3.92.

Molecular weight determinations, by lowering of the freezing point of benzene, indicated the compound to be undissociated.

**Mol. Wt. Determination.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gms. substance</th>
<th>Gms. benzene</th>
<th>ΔT_f</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 0.1000</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 0.1440</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mol. Wt. found: 502, 482.

Calcd. for C₆H₁₈Pt₂: 480.4.

Twenty mg. of hexamethyldiplatinum were dissolved in 10 ml. of ether. To this solution was added 12.7 mg. of iodine. The resulting solution was refluxed for several hours until the color of iodine was gone. A precipitate had formed in the flask. This precipitate was crystallized from benzene and identified as trimethylplatinum iodide by analysis for platinum and iodine.

Anal. Calcd. for C₃H₉PtI: Pt, 53.14; I, 34.60.

Found: Pt, 53.07; I, 34.46.

The yield of trimethylplatinum iodide was 12 mg. (45%).

**Tetramethylplatinum.**

To a solution containing four grams of dimethylmercury in 60 ml. of benzene-free hexanes was added 1.5 grams of sodium.
This mixture was stirred for two days. The methylsodium formed was forced, by means of nitrogen pressure, through a small tube into a dry flask. Dry mercury was added to remove any particles of metallic sodium which might be present. The suspension of methylsodium was then forced over into another flask.

To this suspension of methylsodium was added 1 gram of trimethylplatinum iodide. The reaction was stirred for twenty-four hours and then hydrolysed by the addition of 2 ml. of n-amyl alcohol followed by ethyl alcohol and finally water was added. The hexane layer was separated, dried over sodium sulphate, filtered, and evaporated to dryness. The residue was covered with 20 ml. of petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°). After standing for thirty minutes, the petroleum ether was filtered off and concentrated slowly. Large hexagonal crystals of tetramethylplatinum were deposited. The yield of tetramethylplatinum was 0.32 gram or 46%. Tetramethylplatinum is a colorless solid, readily soluble in the cold in benzene, acetone, ether, and petroleum ether (b.p., 60°-80°). It is much less soluble in cold alcohol or chloroform. It is insoluble in water and only slightly soluble in acetic acid. It is the most soluble of the organoplatinum compounds so far prepared. Its chief distinction in regard to solubility is its ready solubility in cold petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°). This compound has no melting point. It decomposes with a slight explosion on heating in an open flame, but does not explode with anything near the violence of hexamethyldiplatinum. Tetramethylplatinum was identified by analysis.
Methyllithium was found to be ineffective for the transformation of trimethylplatinum iodide to tetramethylplatinum. On adding trimethylplatinum iodide to an ether solution of methyllithium, a white precipitate formed. The reaction mixture was refluxed for ten hours. Hydrolysis by means of dilute hydrochloric acid regenerated trimethylplatinum iodide.

To a solution of 0.2 gram of tetramethylplatinum in 10 ml. of benzene was added 1 ml. of benzoyl chloride. This solution was refluxed for one-hundred hours. No reaction occurred. The tetramethylplatinum was recovered unchanged.

To a solution of 0.1 gram (.0004 mole) of tetramethylplatinum in 10 ml. of chloroform was added 0.1 gram (.0008 atom) of iodine. This solution was refluxed for twenty-four hours with no reaction. The tetramethylplatinum was recovered unchanged.

A solution containing 0.1 gram of tetramethylplatinum in 10 ml. of petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°) was heated to boiling. Dry hydrogen chloride was passed into the solution. White crystals of trimethylplatinum chloride soon began to deposit from the solution. After about fifteen minutes the precipitation was complete. The crystals were removed and analysed for platinum and chlorine.
Cleavage Reactions of Tetramethyllumbin.

In order to compare the chemical reactivity of tetramethylplatinum with that of tetramethyllumbin, some cleavage reactions of tetramethyllumbin were run under the same conditions as were employed in cleavage reactions with tetramethylplatinum.

To a solution of 0.72 grams (0.004 mole) of tetramethyllumbin in 100 ml. of chloroform was added 1 gram (0.008 atom) of iodine. This solution was refluxed. The iodine coloration was gone at the end of four hours. The solution was then saturated with ammonia gas which precipitated 1.2 grams (100%) of the ammonia addition compound of trimethyllumbin iodide. This substance was identified by analysis for iodine.

**Anal.** Calcd. for C\(_3\)H\(_9\)SnI·NH\(_3\): I, 41.24.

**Found:** I, 41.21.

This experiment was repeated with the same results with the exception that a faint iodine coloration persisted after four hours refluxing.

A solution containing 0.72 grams (0.004 mole) of tetramethyllumbin in 100 ml. of petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°) was heated to boiling under reflux. Dry hydrogen chloride was passed into the solution for five minutes. The solution was then cooled and the excess hydrogen chloride was removed by reduced pressure.
The solution was then saturated with ammonia gas and the petroleum ether was removed in the cold under reduced pressure. No evidence of cleavage of the tetramethyltin was obtained. This experiment was repeated with the exception that hydrogen chloride was passed into the boiling solution for fifteen minutes. Sixty mg. of the ammonia addition compound of trimethyltin chloride were obtained.

The Attempted Preparation of a Methyliridium Compound.

To a solution containing 0.05 mole of methylolithium in equal parts of ether and benzene was added 4 grams (0.0133 mole) of anhydrous iridium trichloride. This mixture was stirred for five days at room temperature. The ether-benzene solution was filtered from the solid in the flask and hydrolysed. Three and six-tenths grams of iridium trichloride remained unreacted in the flask. This material was identified by analysis for iridium.

Anal. Caled. for IrCl₃: Ir, 64.45.

Found: Ir, 64.42.

No methyliridium compound was isolated from the reaction.

The Reaction of Methylmagnesium Iodide with Osmium Chloride.

One gram of osmium was placed in a boat in a quartz tube and heated to 1000° in a current of chlorine for four hours. The chlorine was dried by passage through three feet of anhydrous calcium chloride followed by passage through sulphuric
acid. The exit end of the quartz tube was connected to a calcium chloride tube to exclude moisture. The osmium chlorides formed were deposited in the cool portion of the tube from which they were extracted with anhydrous ether. The solution of osmium chlorides was added slowly to an ether-benzene solution of methylmagnesium iodide which was cooled in an ice-salt bath. The reaction was stirred for four hours. A brown solution resulted with a black deposit in the flask. Hydrolysis was effected by pouring the reaction mixture onto an iced ammonium chloride solution. Besides osmium black, only a very small amount of tarry material could be isolated from the reaction. This material could not be induced to crystallize.

Miscellaneous Attempts to Prepare Group VIII Organometallics.

Di-p-tolylmercury was refluxed for six hours in xylene with powdered iron. No reaction occurred.

Powdered iron was heated with tetraphenyllead for eight hours at 150°. No reaction occurred.

A benzene solution containing 0.05 mole of di-p-tolylmercury was refluxed with 0.05 mole of anhydrous nickelous bromide for six hours. No reaction occurred. The benzene was replaced by quinoline to increase the solubility of the nickelous bromide. This mixture was refluxed for eighteen hours with no reaction.
Three and one-half grams of diphenylmercury was dissolved in ether and refluxed for eight days with 0.01 mole of anhydrous cobaltous bromide. No reaction occurred.

Attempts were made to prepare the methyl derivatives of iron, cobalt, nickel, and platinum according to the procedure of Hilpert and Ditmar (81) for the preparation of dimethylmercury. Twenty grams of ferrous chloride were dissolved in 130 grams of ten percent hydrochloric acid. This solution was heated to 90° in a water bath and 15 grams of aluminum carbide were slowly added with shaking. The ferrous chloride was unchanged. Similar experiments were carried out using ferric chloride, cobaltous bromide, nickelous chloride, and platinic chloride. Ferric chloride was reduced to ferrous chloride and the platinic chloride was reduced to platinum. No reaction occurred with cobaltous bromide and nickelous chloride.

Ethynylsodium was prepared by the action of acetylene on 2 grams of sodium in liquid ammonia. To this solution was added 0.1 mole of ferrous iodide in 100 ml. of ether. The ferrous iodide formed an insoluble complex with the ammonia before actually hitting the liquid. The mixture was stirred for twelve hours in liquid ammonia with no reaction. The liquid ammonia was then replaced with ether. This was allowed to stand for three weeks prior to hydrolysis. No apparent reaction occurred and no organoiron compound was obtained on hydrolysis.

(81) Hilpert and Ditmar, Ber., 46, 3738(1913).
DISCUSSION

The metals of group VIII show no tendency for direct union with organic halides to form organometallic compounds (37)(p. 40). It is possible that organometallic compounds are formed as intermediates in the reaction of iron with organic halides to form coupling products (36), but that the conditions necessary to bring about this reaction are too strenuous to permit the existence of organoiron compounds for a measurable period of time. In an effort to bring about a reaction of iron with an organic halide under milder conditions, in which an organoiron compound might be stable, a mercury-iron amalgam was prepared and added to ethyl iodide. This method proved ineffective as no reaction occurred. As the finely divided, pyrophoric iron, produced by the action of Grignard reagents on iron halides, shows a high degree of reactivity toward oxygen, with which it reacts to burn spontaneously, and toward water, with which it reacts rapidly to displace hydrogen and form ferrous hydroxide (48e)(54), it was hoped that this active form of iron might react with organic halides in the same manner as magnesium and thus produce organoiron compounds. This active form of iron was produced by the action of η-butylmagnesium bromide on ferrous chloride. To the ether suspensions of finely divided iron, prepared in this manner, was added iodobenzene and bromobenzene, respectively. Vigorous reactions occurred and benzene was ob-
tained on hydrolysis in every case. However, no evidence of an
organoiron compound was obtained and as active iron produced
from the action of phenylmagnesium bromide on ferrous chloride
gave no reaction with iodobenzene, it is probable that a hydride
of iron was formed, in the reaction of \( n \)-butylmagnesium bromide
with ferrous chloride, which reduced the iodobenzene and bromo-
benzene to benzene. A hydride of iron has been shown to be
formed in the reaction of diethylzinc with ferrous iodide (55).
The possibility that the reduction might be due to hydrogen,
formed from the action of iron on water during hydrolysis, is
ruled out as no reduction to benzene occurred when pyrophoric
iron, produced by the action of phenylmagnesium bromide on fer-
rous chloride, was hydrolysed in the presence of iodobenzene.
The reduction of iodobenzene to benzene probably takes place
according to the equation:

\[
2 \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{I} + \text{FeH}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{C}_6\text{H}_6 + \text{FeI}_2.
\]

There is no definite evidence that organometallic com-
pounds are formed, even as intermediates, in the reaction of
Grignard reagents or organolithium compounds with the halides
of iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium,
or iridium. In the reaction of phenylmagnesium iodide with fer-
rrous chloride, for example, the products of the reaction are bi-
phenyl and iron. These products may be due to the intermediate
formation of an organoiron compound (48a)(48e)(50).

\[
\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgI} + \text{FeCl}_2 \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{FeCl} + \text{MgCl}_1
\]

\[
2 \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{FeCl} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5-\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + \text{Fe} + \text{FeCl}_2
\]
While there is no direct evidence that organoiron compounds are formed as intermediates in the reaction of Grignard reagents with iron halides, there is indirect evidence, by analogy with other coupling reactions, that the reaction occurs in this manner. Undoubtedly, organocopper and organosilver compounds are formed as intermediates in the reaction of Grignard reagents with copper and silver halides, respectively, as is indicated by experiments purposefully carried out to establish this point (82). Under ordinary conditions copper and silver halides are excellent coupling reagents for the production of R-R compounds from RMgX compounds (48a)(48d)(83)(84). However, some organosilver and organocopper compounds have been prepared from the action of Grignard reagents on silver and copper halides, respectively (84). Organogold compounds have also been prepared from the Grignard reagent and gold chloride (85). The most characteristic reaction of the copper, silver, and gold compounds is their prompt and complete decomposition to R-R compound and metal.

\[ 2 \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{M} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 2 \text{M} \]

(84) (a) Reich, Compt. rend., 177, 322(1922); (b) Krause and Wendt, Ber., 56, 2064(1923); (c) Gilman and Straley, Rec. trav. chim., 55, 821(1936).
The first instance of that particular type of reaction between a Grignard reagent and a metal salt which involves the reduction of the salt and the coupling of the organic radicals was observed by Bennett and Turner (86) who treated phenylmagnesium bromide with chromic chloride in an attempt to prepare organochromium compounds. They obtained biphenyl and chromous chloride in almost theoretical yields.

\[ 2 \text{CrCl}_3 + 2 \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{MgBr} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{C}_6\text{H}_5 + 2 \text{CrCl}_2 + 2 \text{MgBrCl} \]

Later, Hein and co-workers (87) succeeded in preparing a series of organochromium compounds, including the phenyl compounds, from Grignard reagents and chromic chloride. Strong cooling of the reactions was necessary in order to avoid coupling products. These compounds were unstable and decomposed spontaneously with the formation of coupling products. Thus it has been shown in several cases that the reaction of Grignard reagents with some metal salts which ordinarily give coupling products may be employed in the preparation of the organic derivatives of these metals and that the organic derivatives, so formed, decompose readily with the formation of coupling products. This makes the possible formation of organoiron compounds, as intermediates in the reaction of Grignard reagents with iron salts, seem reasonable. This same reasoning may be applied to the reaction of Grignard reagents with the halides of all of the group VIII metals which have definitely shown strong coupling tendencies.

(87) Hein and co-workers, Ber., 54, 1916, 1936, 2710, 2727(1921); Ber., 57, 6, 699(1924); Ber., 59, 362, 751(1926); Ber., 61, 2255(1928); Ber., 62, 1151(1929).
A possible mechanism for the reaction of iron halides, etc., with Grignard reagents, which does not involve the assumption of organometallics as intermediates, is that a step-wise reduction of the halide occurs due to disproportionation of RMgX into R and MgX. The MgX, which is an excellent reducing agent, might then reduce ferric chloride, for example, to ferrous chloride. Two R groups might then unite to R-R. The first step of the reaction would be represented as follows:

\[ \text{RMgX} \rightarrow \text{R} + \text{MgX} \]
\[ 2 \text{R} \rightarrow \text{R-R} \]
\[ \text{FeCl}_3 + \text{MgX} \rightarrow \text{FeCl}_2 + \text{MgXCl} \]

The first step of the reaction of ferric chloride with Grignard reagents has been shown to be a reduction to ferrous chloride with formation of R-R compound. The second step of the reaction, according to the above theory, would consist of a reduction of ferrous chloride to a mono-chloride of iron, FeCl, which might then disproportionate to ferrous chloride and iron.

\[ \text{RMgX} \rightarrow \text{R} + \text{MgX} \]
\[ 2 \text{R} \rightarrow \text{R-R} \]
\[ \text{FeCl}_2 + \text{MgX} \rightarrow \text{FeCl} + \text{MgXCl} \]
\[ 2 \text{FeCl} \rightarrow \text{Fe} + \text{FeCl}_2 \]

The ferrous chloride formed by disproportionation could then react in the same manner thus producing a chain of reactions.

(88) Gomberg and co-workers, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 49, 236(1927); ibid., 52, 2455, 4967(1930); ibid., 51, 2229(1929); Rec. trav. chim., 48, 847(1929).
which would yield the same final products as obtained by a possible decomposition of an intermediate organoiron compound. The results reported by Weichfelder and Thiede (51), who obtained only benzene and a hydride of iron, FeH₂, from the reaction of phenylmagnesium bromide and ferrous chloride in an atmosphere of hydrogen, might be considered as evidence for this mechanism. The phenyl radical, which would be formed if this mechanism is correct, might be readily reduced by hydrogen to form benzene rather than coupling to biphenyl which was obtained in an atmosphere of nitrogen. While the possibility exists that an intermediate phenyliron compound might be cleaved by hydrogen to form benzene, this possibility is remote as no organometallic compound, with the possible exception of the highly reactive organoalkali compounds, has been found which cleaves with such extreme ease in an atmosphere of hydrogen.

On the other hand, benzene might be formed readily during the disproportionation of an intermediate phenyliron compound if this substance disproportionated to give phenyl radicals as intermediates in the formation of biphenyl. The results obtained by these authors in the reaction of ferric chloride with phenylmagnesium bromide in an atmosphere of hydrogen indicate that the mechanism of the reduction of ferric chloride to ferrous chloride may differ from the mechanism of reduction of ferrous chloride to metallic iron as they obtained both biphenyl and benzene in this reaction.
In the reaction of $\alpha$-naphthylmagnesium bromide and $\alpha$-naphthyllithium with ferrous chloride and ferrous iodide, the yields of coupling products are low (89). This suggests the possibility of the existence in solution of a stable organoiron compound. However, naphthalene is obtained on addition of water while benzoyl bromide, which reacts with such unreactive organometallic compounds as di-p-tolylmercury (90) (which is unaffected by water under the same conditions) to give ketones, gave no ketone when added to the reaction mixtures obtained from $\alpha$-naphthylmagnesium bromide or $\alpha$-naphthyllithium with ferrous halides. Also, Mr. J. C. Bailie obtained only a trace of $\alpha$-naphthyllead compound on reaction of $\alpha$-naphthylmagnesium bromide with lead chloride although a negative color test was obtained promptly in the reaction. Therefore, it is probable that the low yields of coupling product are not due to an organoiron compound, which is stable in solution, but to some intermediate complex between the Grignard reagent and the iron halide. However, it is known that the stability of such relatively unstable organometallic compounds as those of copper, silver, and gold (91) increases

(89) These results have been verified in unpublished work by Mr. F. J. Prochaska in this laboratory.


greatly as the electronegativity of the radical attached to the metal is increased, and as a low yield of coupling product was also obtained in the reaction of 2,4,6-trimethylphenylmagnesium bromide with cobaltous bromide, the highly electronegative radicals seem to offer the best promise for the preparation of organometallic derivatives of iron, cobalt, nickel, ruthenium, rhodium, and palladium. With the other three members of the group VIII elements, osmium, iridium, and platinum, the tendency to produce coupling products, in the reaction of their halides with phenylmagnesium iodide, is much less with the tendency to produce coupling decreasing in the order: osmium, iridium, platinum. If this tendency to produce coupling may be used as a criterion for the ability to form organometallic derivatives, then organooosmium compounds will be prepared with most difficulty, organoiridium compounds will be prepared more readily, while organoplatinum compounds may be readily prepared if proper precautions are observed. On the basis that the ability to form organometallic derivatives increases as one goes from left to right in the triads of the group VIII elements, organometallic compounds of nickel should be prepared more readily than organorhodium or organoruthenium compounds.

In the reaction of ferric fluoride with phenylmagnesium bromide, benzene was produced on hydrolysis. No evidence of an intermediate organoiron compound was obtained. The formation of benzene might be attributed to the possibility that the ferric fluoride was not anhydrous. If this were the case, then
methyll magnesium bromide which showed no reaction with ferric fluoride in six months should have reacted with ferric fluoride. The reaction is not understood by the author at present.

The reactions of phenylzinc chloride and ethylzinc iodide with ferrous iodide have been reported to produce phenyliron iodide and ethyliron iodide, respectively (48e)(57). The evidence offered for the existence of a phenyliron compound was the formation, on hydrolysis, of benzene and ferrous hydroxide, which according to the author contained only a negligible amount of zinc hydroxide. The evidence offered for the existence of the ethyliron compound was the formation of ferrous hydroxide on hydrolysis accompanied by evolution of ethane. It was also stated that no gas was evolved during the reaction of ethylzinc iodide with ferrous iodide. The solution of ethyliron iodide deposited iron on standing and evolved gases which consisted of a mixture of ethane and ethylene (58). The reactions of phenylzinc chloride and ethylzinc iodide with ferrous iodide were investigated in this thesis work. The evidence obtained indicated that the reaction of phenylzinc chloride with ferrous iodide proceeded to the formation of biphenyl and metallic iron. The hydroxides obtained on hydrolysis at the end of the reaction period given by Champetier (48e), for the completion of reaction between phenylzinc chloride and ferrous iodide, were found to contain large amounts of zinc hydroxide rather than the inappreciable quantities indicated by Champetier (48e). Checks of the ratio of zinc hydroxide to ferrous hydroxide and of benzene to
biphenyl, obtained on hydrolysis of aliquots at various intervals, showed that the amount of biphenyl increased regularly as the amount of ferrous hydroxide increased. Furthermore no difference in reactivity was found between phenylzinc chloride and the supposed phenyliron iodide. Both solutions reacted with benzoyl chloride to give benzophenone, and neither gave a reaction with allyl bromide. The reaction of ethylzinc iodide with ferrous iodide was found to proceed in a similar manner. The evolution of gas during the reaction was slow, but continuous. Measurements of the volume of gas collected from the reaction together with the ratio of zinc hydroxide to ferrous hydroxide, obtained on hydrolysis, indicated the reaction to be proceeding slowly, but without the formation of an organoiron compound. The results obtained in this study have convinced the author that no organoiron compound is obtained in either reaction, but that the reactions proceed in the same manner as do the reactions of the corresponding Grignard reagents with ferrous iodide, with the exception that the reactions are much slower.

Gilman and Kirby (69) have reported the reaction of nickelous cyanide, Ni(CN)₂, with phenylmagnesium bromide to proceed with sufficient heat of reaction to maintain a gentle refluxing of the ether used as a solvent. They obtained only a trace of biphenyl on hydrolysis. This result gave promise of the reaction as a satisfactory method for the preparation of a phenyl nickel compound. No mention was made in their report as to whether the nickelous cyanide employed by them was anhydrous.
In this thesis work, anhydrous nickelous cyanide was prepared by dehydration of the hydrated salt. Addition of this anhydrous salt to phenylmagnesium bromide gave no reaction of sufficient vigor to cause any warming of the ether. The color test remained positive after three weeks stirring and hydrolysis at this point gave a twenty-seven percent yield of biphenyl. It is probable that the commercial nickelous cyanide employed by Gilman and Kirby (69) was not anhydrous and that the reaction of anhydrous nickelous cyanide with phenylmagnesium bromide is unusually slow, but proceeds ultimately to biphenyl and metallic nickel.

As the reaction of the Grignard reagent and organolithium compounds on iron, cobalt, or nickel halides gave little promise of yielding organometallic compounds, other methods were investigated in attempts to prepare these substances.

Organoaluminum compounds have been prepared by cleavage of organolead compounds with anhydrous aluminum chloride (92). This reaction suggested the possibility that organoiron compounds might be prepared in the same manner, that is, by cleavage of organolead compounds with iron halides. The addition of anhydrous ferric chloride to tetraethyllead effected a prompt and complete reduction of the ferric chloride to ferrous chloride. This reaction furnishes a convenient method for the preparation of pure anhydrous ferrous chloride. Tetraethyllead was found to

(92) Unpublished studies in this laboratory by Mr. L. D. Apperson.
be without action on ferrous iodide, ferrous chloride, cobaltous bromide, and nickelous bromide. Chloroplatinic acid was reduced immediately by tetraethyllead to deposit metallic platinum.

Grignard reagents may be obtained by the action of the binary system, MgX₂ + Mg, on some trivalent organolead compounds (93). This suggested the possibility that organoiron compounds might be formed in a similar manner from trivalent organolead compounds and a mixture of iron and ferrous iodide in ether. The reaction was attempted and an immediate reaction occurred which was quite complex. Although the color of ferrous iodide disappeared and lead chloride and tetra-p-anisyllead were precipitated, the iron, in some unknown form, remained in ether solution. No evidence as to the nature of the iron compound was obtained. Addition of benzoyl bromide to the solution gave no ketone, while addition of water precipitated ferric hydroxide. Di-p-anisyllead diiodide was obtained from the hydrolysis products along with a mixture of other unidentified organolead compounds. A search was made for anisole, which should have been formed on hydrolysis if a p-anisyliron compound was hydrolysed, in the hydrolysis products, but none was found. The same results were obtained when tri-p-anisyllead and ferrous iodide were brought together in ether solution without metallic iron being present. The reaction was not due, therefore, to a binary system of Fe + FeI₂. The reaction is analogous to the reaction

(93) Unpublished studies in this laboratory by Mr. J. C. Bailie.
obtained by Mr. J. C. Bailie (93), who obtained similar results from the reaction of trivalent organolead compounds with magnesium iodide in the absence of metallic magnesium. He obtained no Grignard reagent from this reaction, therefore it is probable that no organoiron compound was formed in the reaction of ferrous iodide with tri-p-anisylead. The mechanism of the reaction is not understood.

Di-p-tolylmercury could not be induced to react with anhydrous nickelous bromide by refluxing the two together for six hours in benzene, followed by eighteen hours refluxing in quinoline. The quinoline was used in an effort to increase the solubility of the nickelous bromide. Diphenylmercury gave no reaction with anhydrous cobaltous bromide on refluxing the ether, used as a solvent, for eight days. The organomercury compounds are evidently of too low an order of reactivity to react with these halides.

Attempts to prepare methyl derivatives of iron, cobalt, nickel, and platinum through the action of aluminum carbide and hydrochloric acid on the halides of these metals were unsuccessful. No reaction was obtained excepting in the cases of ferric chloride and platinic chloride. The ferric chloride was reduced to ferrous chloride and the platinic chloride was reduced to metallic platinum. This reaction had been employed by Hilpert and Ditmar (81) for the preparation of methylmercury, methylbismuth, and methyltin compounds.
Organometallic compounds in which the carbon attached to metal is connected by a triple bond to the adjacent carbon have been shown in some cases to be the most stable class of organometallic derivatives (50)(87). n-Butylethylnylmagnesium bromide gives no organometallic derivative of iron when reacted with ferric chloride (50). In the hope that an ethynyliron compound might be more stable than an n-butylethylnyliron compound, the reaction of ethynylsodium with ferrous iodide was attempted in liquid ammonia. Liquid ammonia was used as a solvent media as it is an excellent solvent for ethynylsodium, which is insoluble in ether, and has the additional advantage of maintaining a low temperature. However, when the reaction was attempted, the ferrous iodide formed a complex with ammonia which was so insoluble that no reaction took place.

Organoplatinum compounds are readily prepared by the action of Grignard reagents on anhydrous platinum halides. Certain of the methylplatinum compounds are crystalline and may be readily purified and identified. Aside from those methylplatinum compounds which are crystalline there is no crystalline organoplatinum compound described in the literature and none, other than methyl derivatives, was isolated in this thesis work. None of the organoplatinum compounds so far isolated have melting points.

Anhydrous platinic chloride reacted readily with phenylmagnesium iodide with the formation of a complex compound. The first precipitate to appear in the reaction mixture had a golden
color. On addition of sufficient Grignard reagent to give an excess (ten equivalents of phenylmagnesium iodide were added in the reaction before a solution was obtained which persisted in giving a color test), the golden precipitate was no longer in evidence and a heavy white precipitate was present in the reaction flask. This precipitate contained magnesium in the ratio of two and five-tenths atoms to one of platinum. This amount of magnesium fails to account for the Grignard reagent introduced into the reaction. However, the ether layer contained platinum in some soluble compound which may have had a larger proportion of magnesium. The magnesium in the insoluble precipitate could not be removed by repeated extraction with ether. This precipitate evidently contained Grignard reagent in the form of a complex with the platinic chloride, or a reaction product of the platinic chloride with the Grignard reagent, as it was sensitive to air and moisture. The Grignard reagent was not present in a normal reactive condition as this precipitate did not give a color test. Hydrolysis of the complex produced magnesium-free organic material containing platinum. This material was amorphous and evidently consisted of a mixture of compounds as some solvents would only partially dissolve the material and analyses for platinum varied with differing fractions of the material. This material contained iodine and was undoubtedly a mixture of phenylplatinum compounds as treatment of the material with boiling nitric acid gave 4,4'-dinitrobiphenyl thus proving the presence of phenyl groups in the material. The possibility
exists that some biphenyl was present in the material and was nitratred to form 4,4′-dinitrobiphenyl. This possibility is remote as the material had been extracted several times with benzene in which biphenyl is very soluble. The 4,4′-dinitrobiphenyl may have been formed by cleavage of the phenylplatinum bond with the formation of biphenyl which was subsequently nitrated, or the phenyl groups may have been nitrated prior to cleavage.

It is not surprising that a mixture of compounds would result from the action of phenylmagnesium iodide on platinic chloride as the action of methylmagnesium iodide on platinic chloride produces a mixture of compounds. The amorphous nature of the phenylplatinum compounds together with their lack of melting points made it impossible to separate the components of the mixture into definite individual compounds.

The reaction of methylmagnesium iodide with platinic chloride is very complex and has not been worked out in a satisfactory manner. Pope and Peachey (1) reported trimethylplatinum iodide from the reaction, but they gave no yields of this product and reported no other products. In this thesis work, an attempt was made to isolate all of the products of the reaction. As trimethylplatinum iodide was the product desired in this work as a starting material for the preparation of other compounds, the optimum conditions for the preparation of this compound were also studied. Under the best conditions found the yield of trimethylplatinum iodide was forty percent. A very small amount of tetra-
methylplatinum was also isolated from the reaction. This compound was identified by crystal form, solubility, and analysis for platinum. A small amount of a black, crystalline solid which was apparently a pure compound was isolated. Analyses of this compound indicated the compound as being methylplatinum pentaiodide. The presence of a methyl group was not proved, but a methyl group would exactly account for the portion of the compound which was not platinum and iodine. Furthermore, the ratio of iodine to platinum in the compound was five atoms to one.

No inorganic platinum iodide has such a composition. Also on warming a solution of the methylplatinum pentaiodide on a steam plate, a black, amorphous, insoluble material was precipitated which contained one less mole of iodine. Analyses of this material for platinum and iodine corresponded to the calculated values for methylplatinum triiodide. Various fractions of difficulty soluble platinum-containing materials were isolated from the reaction. Analyses of these fractions for platinum and iodine corresponded to the calculated values for methylplatinum triiodide and dimethylplatinum diiodide, respectively. However, as these materials were not crystalline and had no melting points, it was impossible to identify them as definite chemical compounds. Much of the material isolated from this reaction underwent changes in solubility during the isolation process. The mechanism of these solubility changes remains undetermined, but may be due to breaking down of a double compound. The only absolute evidence obtained as to the nature of the difficulty
soluble materials was that they contained platinum and iodine and would burn in a current of oxygen. No chlorine was found in any of the platinum-containing products of the reaction with the possible exception of an easily soluble complex which contained large amounts of magnesium. This material was not analysed.

Methylmagnesium iodide reacted with platinous chloride with the formation, on hydrolysis, of an amorphous, difficulty soluble material which analysis indicated as being dimethylplatinum diiodide. This material was the same in appearance and solubility as the material obtained from the reaction of methylmagnesium iodide with platinic chloride which analysed for dimethylplatinum diiodide. It is surprising to obtain what is apparently a tetravalent platinum compound by the action of a Grignard reagent, which is normally a strong reducing agent, on a divalent platinum halide without disproportionation and deposition of metal. The reaction may not have been due to an oxidation of the platinous chloride by the Grignard reagent but may have been due to preliminary formation of methylplatinum iodide, followed by addition of methyl iodide which was present in the solution.

The reaction of α-naphthylmagnesium bromide with platinous chloride proceeded to the formation of di-α-naphthylplatinum. The formation of a divalent platinum compound in this case, instead of a tetravalent compound as was formed from methylmagnesium iodide, may probably be attributed to the steric
hindrance of the much larger \( \alpha \)-naphthyl groups. Di-\( \alpha \)-naphthylplatinum was not obtained in a pure condition due to its lack of crystalline structure. This compound decomposed on heating with a very distinct odor of naphthalene. An attempt to prepare \( \alpha \)-benzoylnaphthalene by refluxing a \( \gamma \)-xylene solution of di-\( \alpha \)-naphthylplatinum with benzoyl bromide gave a very unexpected result. The platinum compound acted as a condensing agent with the formation of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone in a good yield. This reaction was repeated with anhydrous platinochloride, rather than di-\( \alpha \)-naphthylplatinum, as the condensing agent. An equally good yield of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone was obtained. Thus it is apparent that some platinum compounds may be employed as catalysts for the preparation of 2,4-dimethylbenzophenone from benzoyl bromide and \( \gamma \)-xylene. Platinum compounds may be found to be effective condensing agents for the preparation of other ketones.

In a preliminary attempt to prepare hexamethyldiplatinum, trimethylplatinum iodide was added to liquid ammonia. Liquid ammonia failed to dissolve this compound. Addition of sodium to the liquid ammonia caused the trimethylplatinum iodide to dissolve and removed the color of sodium from the liquid ammonia. Evaporation of the liquid ammonia left a water soluble compound which regenerated trimethylplatinum iodide on addition of hydrochloric acid. The nature of the water soluble compound was not investigated. Hexamethyldiplatinum was prepared by boiling a benzene solution of trimethylplatinum iodide with potassium.
\[
2 \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{PtI} + 2 \text{K} \rightarrow \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Pt-Pt(CH}_3\text{)}_3 + 2 \text{KI}
\]

This compound is apparently completely undissociated at the freezing point of benzene as molecular weight determinations gave values slightly higher than the calculated value for hexamethylidiplatinum. The compound is of a somewhat unsaturated nature, however, as it absorbed iodine readily with the formation of trimethylplatinum iodide.

\[
\text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{Pt-Pt(CH}_3\text{)}_3 + \text{I}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{PtI}
\]

The iodine in trimethylplatinum iodide may be replaced by a methyl group, forming tetramethylplatinum, through the action of methylsodium.

\[
\text{(CH}_3\text{)}_3\text{PtI} + \text{CH}_3\text{Na} \rightarrow \text{(CH}_3\text{)}_4\text{Pt} + \text{NaI}
\]

Methyllithium was found to be ineffective for this transformation. This may be due to the unusually strong platinum to iodine bond in trimethylplatinum iodide or it may be due to the formation of an insoluble complex between trimethylplatinum iodide and methyllithium. A white precipitate was formed immediately on adding trimethylplatinum iodide to a solution of methyllithium. The insolubility of the complex together with the added steric hindrance effects may account for the difficulty of replacement of the iodine by a methyl group in the reaction of trimethylplatinum iodide with methyllithium. Some tetramethylplatinum was probably formed in this reaction as a very small amount was isolated from the reaction of methylmagnesium iodide with platinic chloride, but the properties of tetramethylplatinum were unknown at the time the reaction was
carried out and no tetramethylplatinum was isolated.

The organoplatinum compounds are apparently the least reactive of all known organometallic compounds with the possible exception of the organotin compounds. Tetramethylplatinum was found to be unaffected by iodine in boiling chloroform in a period of twenty-four hours, while tetramethyltin was cleaved to trimethyltin iodide by iodine under the same conditions in four hours. Thus tetramethylplatinum is less reactive toward iodine than is tetramethyltin. However, tetramethylplatinum was quantitatively cleaved by hydrogen chloride in boiling petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°) to trimethylplatinum chloride in fifteen to twenty minutes. Tetramethyltin under the same conditions showed but a trace of cleavage to trimethyltin chloride. Due to the extreme difficulty of recovering a small amount of unchanged tetramethyltin from a large amount of petroleum ether (b.p., 60-80°), unchanged tetramethyltin was not recovered and the possibility exists that the highly volatile tetramethyltin may have been lost during the attempted reaction. Further work is being carried out on this reaction. On the basis of present evidence, it may be concluded that tetramethylplatinum is more reactive toward hydrogen chloride than is tetramethyltin. Neither tetramethyltin nor tetramethylplatinum have been found to react with acid chlorides to form ketones. Thus the relative reactivities of tetramethyltin and tetramethylplatinum are as yet only partially determined.

As the methyl compounds of platinum are the only crys-
talline organoplatinum compounds so far reported, and as the re-
action of phenylmagnesium iodide with osmium trichloride and i-
ridium trichloride, respectively, gave promise that organometal-
lie derivatives of these metals might be prepared, attempts were
made to prepare the methyl derivatives of these metals in the
hope of obtaining crystalline compounds. The reaction of methyl-
magnesium iodide with osmium chloride gave no crystalline pro-
duct. A slight amount of black, tarry, osmium-containing mater-
ial was obtained. The prediction appears to be warranted, how-
ever, that organoosmium compounds will be prepared and identi-
fied when larger amounts of osmium are available. A slight
change in technique in carrying out the reaction of Grignard re-
agents with osmium halides may be necessary. The reaction of
phenylmagnesium iodide with iridium trichloride proceeded so
slowly, probably due to the extreme insolubility of iridium tri-
chloride, that the more highly reactive methyllithium was used
in an attempt to prepare a methyliridium compound from iridium
trichloride. The reaction was stirred for five days prior to
hydrolysis. The larger portion of the iridium trichloride was
recovered unchanged. No methyliridium compound was found in the
reaction products. It is the opinion of the author that if a
more soluble anhydrous iridium halide could be prepared and re-
acted with methylmagnesium iodide under the same conditions em-
ployed in preparing trimethylplatinum iodide, that a satisfac-
tory yield of a methyliridium compound would result.
The literature has been surveyed in regard to organometallic compounds of the group VIII elements.

The preparation of organometallic derivatives of iron, cobalt, and nickel was attempted by several methods. No evidence for the formation of these compounds was obtained.

The reaction of phenylmagnesium iodide with ferrous chloride, cobaltous bromide, nickelous bromide, ruthenium trichloride, and palladium chloride proceeds to the formation of the corresponding metal and biphenyl in quantitative yields. The yields of biphenyl in the reaction of phenylmagnesium iodide with osmium trichloride, iridium trichloride, and platinic chloride are less than quantitative with the yields decreasing in the order: Os > Ir > Pt. Platinic chloride reacts with phenylmagnesium iodide with the formation of a mixture of amorphous phenylplatinum compounds.

Dimethylplatinum diiodide is obtained from the reaction of methylmagnesium iodide and platinous chloride. Di-α-naphthylplatinum is obtained from the reaction of α-naphthylmagnesium bromide and platinous chloride.

The reaction of methylmagnesium iodide with platinic chloride is complex. Trimethylplatinum iodide may be obtained from this reaction in forty percent yields, along with a slight
amount of tetramethylplatinum, methylplatinum pentaiodide, and some amorphous platinum compounds whose analyses correspond to the calculated values for methylplatinum triiodide and di-methylplatinum diiodide, respectively.

Hexamethyldiplatinum is obtained by the action of metallic potassium on trimethylplatinum iodide. Tetramethylplatinum is obtained by the action of methylsodium on trimethylplatinum iodide.

No crystalline product was obtained from the action of methylmagnesium iodide on osmium chloride.

Iridium trichloride gave no reaction in five days with methyllithium. The lack of reaction was probably due to the extreme insolubility of iridium trichloride.

The prediction is made that organometallic compounds of osmium and iridium will be prepared.