

Some measurements on hysteresis and the effect of iron in the magnetic circuit have been undertaken. It would, however, be too premature to take up their description at this time.

The instrument which has been described was built, largely, by Mr. Edwin Place, formerly connected with the Institute. He made many observations similar to those above recorded.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Gray for his many suggestions and for the removal of a number of stumbling blocks.

A DEMONSTRATION APPARATUS.

BY P. N. EVANS.

The apparatus is a simple modification of that commonly used to compare, by diffusion, the density of another gas with air. It consists of a porous battery-cell placed horizontally and fitted by a stopper to a glass tube bent downwards at right angles a few inches from the stopper, and then upwards again to its original height. This U-shaped manometer is about two feet long and half filled with a dark-colored liquid; the limbs are close enough together to make a slight difference of level easily seen, against a white background fastened to the tube. To further increase the sensitiveness of the instrument a perforated glass plate or heavy card is secured between two corks on the horizontal part of the tube close to the cell, so that the cylinder or beaker of gas to be examined may be pressed lightly against this, and thus largely prevent loss of the gas before sufficient time has elapsed to show the maximum deviation in the manometer.

While the ordinary apparatus is recommended for demonstration only with gases differing considerably from air in density, this modification has given very satisfactory results with hydrogen sulphide, and even oxygen, with densities of 1.18 and 1.11 respectively, a difference in level of at least an inch being observed in the latter case. A slight effect, clearly visible to the manipulator, though not satisfactory for demonstration purposes, was obtained with nitrogen—density 0.972.

Still greater delicacy may be obtained by slanting the whole apparatus, giving the manometer a decided inclination.



METHYLATION OF HALOGEN AMIDES WITH DIAZOMETHANE.*

BY JAS. H. RANSOM.

Since the classical work of Hofmann on the rearrangement of the halogen amides to derivatives of the isocyanates the mechanism of this reaction has been the subject of numerous investigations. Hoogewerff and van Dorp extended the work of Hofmann and pointed out the probability of a similarity in this reaction and that known as the "Beckmann rearrangement" of the oximes. After some more recent work on the brom-amides by Lengfeld and Stieglitz, the latter, with his pupils, studied the influence of the amide hydrogen atom on the rearrangement. He found that when this hydrogen was replaced by an alkyl radical no rearrangement took place in the sense of the Hofmann reaction, and suggested as the simplest and most reasonable explanation, that at some early stage of the reaction, under the influence of the alkali, the molecule

*This work was undertaken during the past summer, at the University of Chicago, in company with Dr. Julius Stieglitz.