from one man only too much emphasis cannot be laid on the physiologic significance of the present findings.

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SYNTHESIS OF A NEW RESERPINE ANALOGUE. 7-0-(3, 4, 5-TRIMETHOXY BENZOYL)-ISOQUINOLINE

The complex medicinal agent reserpine is well known for its pharmacological properties, particularly for antihypertensive\(^1\) and tranquilizing\(^2\) activities. For many years medicinal chemists have been attempting to determine whether the above actions of reserpine are dependent on a single pharmacophoric moiety, or there are distinct moieties responsible for each type of action.

In continuation of our investigations on the synthesis of simple analogues of reserpins\(^3\) to pin-down single pharmacologic moieties, the reserpine molecule (I) was simplified through the dotted line and the compound 7-0-(3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl)-isoquinoline (II) has been synthesized with a view to separate the tranquilizing activity from antihypertensive activity.

The first part (III), 7-hydroxyisoquinoline has been synthesized from aminooctanol and \(m\)-hydroxybenzaldehyde by the method of Woodward\(^4\). The second part (IV), 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl chloride has been prepared\(^5\) by the action of purified thionyl chloride on trimethoxy benzoic acid.

One mole of 7-hydroxyisoquinoline sodium salt (III) (m.p. 226\(^\circ\)), one mole of 3,4,5-
trimethoxy benzoyl chloride (IV) (m.p. 77–9\(^\circ\)), 0.5 mole of potassium carbonate and trace of freshly precipitated copper powder were dissolved in 40 ml of absolute alcohol, and the mixture was refluxed in the water-bath for six hours with a calcium chloride guard tube. Solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the brown residue dissolved in 5% acetic acid, extracted with ether and the ether layer was discarded. The mother liquor was made just alkaline with 10% sodium bicarbonate solution and extracted with ether, dried and the solvent evaporated, white crystalline product recrystallized from absolute ethanol, m.p. 196\(^\circ\) (decomp.) (Yield, 17%). Calculated for \(C_{13}H_{17}O_3N\) : C, 72.18; H, 4.26; N, 3.51; Found : C, 72.14; H, 4.25; N, 3.53%. U.V., I.R., and N.M.R. spectra confirm the proposed compound.

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