ally analogous cyclitols, has yet to be given, but there is evidence to indicate that different reaction mechanisms may be involved in the two ring systems (*cf. e. g.* Ref.[7]).

The frequently observed enzymic catalysis of reactions different from those favoured in non-enzymic systems renders Blom's reference to the biological glucose oxidation irrelevant in the present context.

4. *1,2-Anhydro-sugars.* Blom's argumentation on basis of the ring-opening reactions of Briegl's anhydride reflects a fatal negligence of the current, well-established stereochemical course of such reactions (*cf. e. g.* Ref.[8]) and, therefore, requires no further discussion here. In fact, the conversion of such epoxides into glycosides affords about the best chemical evidence for the correctness of the generally accepted structures.

In conclusion, the character and validity of the argumentation by Blom, balanced against the bulk of evidence in favour of the commonly accepted structures for α- and β-glucose, is insufficient to warrant any revision of the latter.

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The Synthesis of 4,4,7,7-Tetrabenzyl-1,2,3,5,6-pentathiepane

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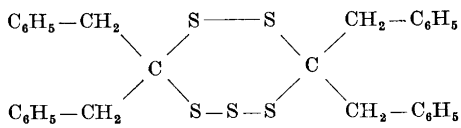
In connection with work on duplodithioketones [1,2], attempts have been made to prepare these by oxidation of *gem.*dithiols. These attempts were not successful. Methanedithiol gave only polymers even when the oxidation was carried out with air in high dilution at low temperature and in the presence of ferric chloride [3].

The products obtained by oxidation of *gem.*dithiols with iodine do not seem to be duplodithioketones [4].

The synthesis of a crystalline *gem.*dithiol, 1,3-diphenyl-2,2-dimercaptopropane, has recently been reported [5]. Attempts to oxidize it to a duplodithioketone was carried out by the autor, but the appropriate conditions have not yet been found. When the dithiol was treated with ammonium-polysulphide, 4,4,7,7-tetrabenzyl-1,2,3,5,6-pentathiepane (I) was obtained in 49 % yield. m.p. 130–131.5°C. (Found: C 65.52, 66.01; H 5.12, 4,96; S 29.09, 29.08; Mol.wt. 542, 550. Calc. for $C_{30}H_{28}S_5$: C 65.65; H 5.14; S 29.21; Mol.wt. 548.8.)



(I)

Further investigations of this reaction are in progress.

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