
THE CYANINE DYES AND RELATED COMPOUNDS

Frances M. Hamer

*Formerly Research Chemist, Kodak Ltd., London, and Honorary Lecturer,
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This is the eighteenth volume in the series

THE CHEMISTRY OF HETEROCYCLIC COMPOUNDS

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A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS

ARNOLD WEISSBERGER, *Consulting Editor*



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The Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds

The chemistry of heterocyclic compounds is one of the most complex branches of organic chemistry. It is equally interesting for its theoretical implications, for the diversity of its synthetic procedures, and for the physiological and industrial significance of heterocyclic compounds.

A field of such importance and intrinsic difficulty should be made as readily accessible as possible, and the lack of a modern detailed and comprehensive presentation of heterocyclic chemistry is therefore keenly felt. It is the intention of the present series to fill this gap by expert presentations of the various branches of heterocyclic chemistry. The subdivisions have been designed to cover the field in its entirety by monographs which reflect the importance and the interrelations of the various compounds, and accommodate the specific interests of the authors.

*Research Laboratories
Eastman Kodak Company
Rochester, New York*

ARNOLD WEISSBERGER

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Preface

The author's introduction to research in the summer of 1917 at Cambridge, under Sir William Pope and Dr. W. H. Mills, began with the preparation of a series of isocyanines, followed by the establishment of the constitution of Pinacyanol. Seven years' research on cyanines in the Cambridge University Chemical Laboratory were followed by a few months in the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution. Then came $5\frac{1}{2}$ years with Ilford Ltd., $18\frac{1}{2}$ years with Kodak Ltd., and, through the kindness of Sir Patrick Linstead, six years at the Imperial College. During these 37 years devoted to cyanines, either in research or in their preparation for industrial use, notes on the published methods had accumulated. This book was begun with the feeling that it would be a great waste *not* to put the information on record, as it might be useful to others working on the subject. The author little thought that the writing would take another $5\frac{1}{2}$ years! An attempt has been made to cover the literature up to the end of 1959.

Emphasis has been laid on the preparative methods rather than on the theoretical aspect of the subject. The first chapter is mainly introductory, explaining the connection of the cyanines with photography, summarising their early chemistry and following with an account of the pioneer work on the constitution of typical cyanines. Apocyanines, in which the nuclei are directly linked, are included in this first chapter. Methincyanines, in Chapter II, are grouped according to methods of synthesis, each group being subdivided according to the type of dye, and this is the system followed throughout. Chapter III deals with methincyanines which are substituted on the chain. Chapters IV and V cover, respectively, symmetrical and unsymmetrical trimethincyanines having an unsubstituted chain, whilst chain-substituted trimethincyanines are described in Chapter VI. In Chapter VII, on pentamethincyanines, both symmetrical and unsymmetrical types, including those with substituents on the chain, are considered. The same applies to Chapter VIII on heptamethincyanines; cyanines with still longer chains are included in that chapter. In the cyanines of

Chapter IX, the odd-numbered carbon chain, which links the nuclei, is cyclic, or part of it is. Chapter X deals with the variations in the nuclei which enter into cyanine molecules, including the use of unusual nuclei. Bases, of which cyanines are the quaternary salts, are in Chapter XI. Chapter XII comprises azacyanines where one or more $:\text{CH}:$ groups of the chain are replaced by $:\text{N}$. Numerous types of dyes related to cyanines are gathered together in Chapter XIII and include *p*-dimethylaminostyryl salts and the corresponding anils, hemicyanines, oxonols, open-chain dyes, and cyanine analogues derived from oxonium or sulphonium salts. The merocyanines are non-ionic acidic dyes, which were prepared from cyanine intermediate compounds and which are so important that they required Chapter XIV to themselves. Here they are grouped according to the length of chain, simple merocyanines, with the nuclei directly linked, being followed by sections on di-, tetra-, and hexa-methinmerocyanines. Next comes an account of quaternary salts of merocyanines, which are important in the preparation of trinuclear cyanines, then various types of merocyanines with a substituent on the chain are considered, and others in which part of the chain is cyclic. Variations in the nuclei which enter the merocyanine molecule include the use of unusual nuclei; modification of the chain led to aza analogues. A brief account of work on the colour of merocyanines is followed by one on open-chain related compounds. In Chapter XV, on trinuclear and polynuclear cyanines, most of the sections are preceded by a table summarising the various types included in the sub-sections. Chapter XVI is on the relationship between the colour and constitution of cyanines, and Chapter XVII deals with photographic sensitisation and other properties of these dyes.

In the index, the names of the heterocyclic nuclei are followed by their numbers in the second edition of *The Ring Index* (RRI). Where the ring is substituted, to give, for example, a di- or tetra-hydro derivative, the number reference is in a different form (see RRI).

The author thanks Drs. L. G. S. Brooker, H. O. Dickinson, E. B. Knott, A. Maccoll, R. C. Odams, and (the late) G. Schwarz, as well as the American Chemical Society, the Chemical Society, the Franklin Institute, the Optical Society of America, the Royal Photographic Society, and the publishers of *Sciences et Industries Photographiques* for permission to reproduce figures or tables, to which full references are given in the text. I should have expressed earlier my indebtedness to Dr. B. H. Carroll, of the Eastman Kodak Co., for Figs. 1 in Chapters I

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FRANCES M. HAMER

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Contents

| | |
|---|--------|
| I. Mainly Introductory | 1 |
| 1. The Connection of the Cyanines with Photography | 1 |
| 2. The Chemistry of the First Sixty-Three Years (up to 1919) | 4 |
| 3. Establishment of the Constitution of the Typical Cyanines Known in 1920..... | 11 |
| A. The Constitution of Isocyanine | 11 |
| B. The Constitution of Cyanine | 13 |
| C. The Constitution of Pinacyanol | 13 |
| D. The Constitution of Cyanines of the Benzothiazole Series..... | 14 |
| E. Preparation of Unsymmetrical Methincyanines | 16 |
| F. The Constitution of Kryptocyanine | 19 |
| G. The Constitution of Dicyanine | 19 |
| H. The Constitution of the Apocyanines | 21 |
| I. Summary, and Some Developments | 23 |
| 4. Definition and Nomenclature | 25 |
| 5. Cyanines in which the Nuclei are Directly Linked (Apocyanines) .. | 27 |
| A. General | 27 |
| B. Preparation and Properties | 28 |
| C. Nomenclature | 29 |
| II. Methincyanines | 32 |
| 1. 4'-Cyanine Condensation (Involving Elimination of $HX + H_2$) .. | 32 |
| A. General | 32 |
| B. 4,4'-Cyanines..... | 33 |
| C. 2,4'-Cyanines..... | 34 |
| D. Thia-4'-, Oxa-4'-, and Selena-4'-cyanines | 37 |
| E. Thiazolo-4'- and Thiazolino-4'-cyanines | 39 |
| F. Thiacyanines | 40 |
| 2. ψ -Cyanine Condensation (Involving Reactive I, Cl, CN, or SO_2R , and Elimination of $2HX$) | 40 |
| A. General | 40 |
| B. 2,2'-Cyanines..... | 43 |
| C. 2,4'-Cyanines..... | 43 |
| D. Thia-4'- and Selena-4'-cyanines | 44 |
| E. Indo-2'-cyanines | 44 |
| F. Thia-2'-, Oxa-2'-, and Selena-2'-cyanines..... | 44 |
| G. Thiazolo-2'-, Thiazolino-2'-, Oxazolo-2'-, and Selenazolo-2'- cyanines..... | 48 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| H. 2-Pyrido-2', 2-Pyrido-4', 4-Pyrido-2', and 4-Pyrido-4'-cyanines | 49 |
| I. 2-Pyridothia- and Oxa-2'-pyrido-cyanines | 51 |
| J. 2,2', 2,4', and 4,4'- Pyridocyanines | 52 |
| K. Thiazolo-2', Thiazolino-2', Oxazolo-2', and Selenazolo-2'-pyridocyanines | 52 |
| L. Thiacyanines | 53 |
| 3. Nitrite Method | 54 |
| A. General | 54 |
| B. Indocyanines and Intermediate Compounds | 55 |
| C. Thiacyanines | 55 |
| D. Oxa- and Seleno-cyanines | 56 |
| 4. Alkyl- or Aryl-thio Method | 58 |
| A. General | 58 |
| B. 2,2'- and 2,4'-Cyanines | 60 |
| C. Thia-4'- and Oxa-4'-cyanines | 60 |
| D. Indo-2'-cyanines | 61 |
| E. Thia-2', Oxa-2', and Seleno-2'-cyanines | 61 |
| F. Thiazolo-2', Thiazolino-2'- and Oxazolo-2'-cyanines | 63 |
| G. 2-Pyrido-2', and 4-Pyrido-4'-cyanines | 64 |
| H. Oxa-2'-pyrido- and 2-Pyridothia-cyanines | 64 |
| I. 4,4'-Pyridocyanines | 66 |
| J. Thiazolo-2' and Thiazolino-2'-pyridocyanines | 66 |
| K. Thia-, Oxa-, Oxathia- and Selenathia-cyanines | 66 |
| L. Indoxa- and Indothia-cyanines | 68 |
| M. Oxaoxazolo-, Oxathiazolo-, Oxazolothia-, and Thiathiazolo-cyanines | 68 |
| N. Oxazolo-, Thiazolo-, and Oxazolothiazolo-cyanines | 69 |
| 5. Condensations Depending on Reactive :N·R | 70 |
| A. General | 70 |
| B. Thia-2'-cyanines | 70 |
| C. Thiacyanines | 70 |
| 6. Other Methods | 71 |
| A. Use of Grignard Reagent for Thiacyanines | 71 |
| B. Use of Ethyl Malonate for Synthesising Thiacyanines | 71 |
| C. Disulphide Method for Thia-, Thia-2', Thia-4', 2-Pyridothia-, and Thiathiazolo-cyanines | 71 |
| D. Malonic Acid Method for 2,2', Thia-, Oxa-, and Thiazolo-cyanines | 72 |
| E. 4,4'-Cyanine by Cleavage of 4,4'-Carbocyanine with Lepidine Ethiodide | 73 |
| F. Thia-, Oxa-, and Seleno-cyanines by Reaction of a Quaternary Salt, Having a Methylthio-Group, with Acetic Anhydride | 73 |
| III. Methincyanines with Substituents on the Chain | 77 |
| A. General | 77 |
| B. 2,2'-Cyanines | 80 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| C. Thia-2'- and Oxa-2'-cyanines | 80 |
| D. Thia-4'- and Oxa-4'-cyanines | 83 |
| E. Thiacyanines | 83 |
| F. Selenacyanine | 84 |
| IV. Symmetrical Trimethincyanines | 86 |
| 1. From Certain Quaternary Salts, with Alkali | 86 |
| 2. From a Quinolinium Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with Alkali and Formaldehyde | 86 |
| A. General | 86 |
| B. 2,2'-Carbocyanines | 87 |
| C. 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 88 |
| 3. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Alkali and Trihalogenomethane | 89 |
| A. General | 89 |
| B. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 89 |
| C. 2,2'-Pyridocarbocyanines | 90 |
| D. 4,4'-Pyridocarbocyanines | 90 |
| E. Benzimidazolocarbocyanines | 90 |
| 4. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with a Disulphide in Pyridine, for 2,2'-, 4,4'-, Thia-, and Thiazolo-carbocyanines | 91 |
| 5. From Quaternary Salts of Diheterocyclyl-1,3-propanes, with Alkali, etc., for 2,2'-, Thia-, and Oxa-carbocyanines | 91 |
| 6. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of Ethyl Orthoformate | 92 |
| A. General | 92 |
| B. 2,2'-Carbocyanines | 94 |
| C. 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 95 |
| D. Indocarbocyanines | 95 |
| E. Thia-, Oxa-, and Seleno-carbocyanines | 96 |
| F. Benzimidazolocarbocyanines | 100 |
| G. Thiazolo-, Oxazolo-, Thiazolino-, and Selenazolino-carbocyanines | 101 |
| 7. From a Base, Having a Reactive Methylene Group, with Formaldehyde or Formic Acid | 105 |
| 8. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Ethyl Formimino Ether Hydrochloride | 105 |
| 9. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Diphenylformamidine .. | 105 |
| 10. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with Chloral Hydrate, or Alcoholate, and Alkali, for Benzimidazolo-, 2,2'-, 4,4'-, and 2,2'-Pyrido-carbocyanines | 107 |
| 11. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of Ethyl Orthothioformate | 107 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 12. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of Formamide, Thioformamide, or Thioformanilide | 108 |
| 13. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with Diethoxymethyl Acetate | 109 |
| A. General | 109 |
| B. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 109 |
| C. Thia- and Oxa-carbocyanines | 110 |
| D. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Pyridocarbocyanines | 110 |
| E. Thiazolocarbocyanines | 110 |
| F. Benzimidazolocarbocyanines | 110 |
| 14. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Alkylthio-Group, with Glutaconic Acid or Crotonic Anhydride | 111 |
| V. Unsymmetrical Trimethincyanines | 116 |
| 1. Early Work | 116 |
| 2. Syntheses by Use of a Disulphide | 116 |
| 3. 2,2'-Carbocyanines from a Quinaldinium Salt, a Methylene Base, and Formaldehyde | 117 |
| 4. 2,2'-Carbocyanine from a Quinaldinium Salt, a Methylolquinaldinium Salt, and Alkali | 117 |
| 5. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Ethyl Formimino Ether Hydrochloride | 117 |
| 6. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Diphenylformamidine | 118 |
| A. General | 118 |
| B. 2,2', 2,4', and 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 120 |
| C. Benzimidazolo-2', Indo-2', Thia-2', Oxa-2', and Selena-2'-carbocyanines | 121 |
| D. Indo-4', Thia-4', Oxa-4', and Selena-4'-carbocyanines | 123 |
| E. Indo-, Thia-, and Oxa-carbocyanines | 124 |
| F. Benzimidazoloindo-, Benzimidazolo-oxa-, Indoxa-, Indothia-, Oxaselena-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-carbocyanines | 125 |
| G. 2-Pyrido-2'- and 2-Pyrido-4'-carbocyanines, Oxa-2'-pyrido- and 2-Pyridothia-carbocyanines | 127 |
| H. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Pyridocarbocyanines | 128 |
| I. Thiazolo-2'- and Thiazolino-2'-carbocyanines | 128 |
| J. Thiathiazolo-, Oxathiazolo-, Oxathiazolino-, Selenathiazolino-, and Thiathiazolino-carbocyanines | 129 |
| K. Thiazolo-, Oxazolo-, and Thiazolino-carbocyanines | 129 |
| L. Benzimidazolocarbocyanines | 130 |
| 7. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of Ethylisoformanilide | 130 |
| A. General | 130 |
| B. Thiathiazolo- and Oxaoxazolo-carbocyanines | 131 |
| C. Thiazolo-, Oxazolo-, and Oxazolothiazolino-carbocyanines | 131 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 8. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with a Heterocyclic Base Having the Group :CH·CHO | 132 |
| A. General | 132 |
| B. Benzimidazolo-2'- and Indo-2'-carbocyanines | 133 |
| C. Indo-4'-carbocyanines | 134 |
| D. Indocarbocyanines | 134 |
| E. Indoxa- and Indothia-carbocyanines | 134 |
| F. Benzimidazoloindo-, Benzimidazolothia-, Benzimidazolo-oxa-, and Benzimidazoloseleena-carbocyanines | 134 |
| G. Thiazolino-2'-carbocyanines | 135 |
| H. Benzimidazolothiazolino- and Indothiazolo-carbocyanines | 135 |
| 9. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and a Quaternary Salt, Having the Group ·CH:CHOR | 136 |
| A. General | 136 |
| B. Thia-4'-carbocyanine | 136 |
| C. Oxaselena- and Oxathia-carbocyanines | 137 |
| 10. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and a Quaternary Salt, Having the Group ·CH:CH·SR | 137 |
| A. General | 137 |
| B. 2,4'-Carbocyanines | 138 |
| C. Indo-2'-, Oxa-2'-, and Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 138 |
| D. Thia-4'-carbocyanines | 138 |
| E. Thiocarbocyanines | 138 |
| F. Benzimidazoloindo-, Indoselena-, Indothia-, Indoxa-, Oxaselena-, and Oxathia-carbocyanines | 139 |
| G. Oxa- and Thia-thiazolinocarbocyanines | 139 |
| 11. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of Formamidoxime, Formamide, or Thioformamide | 140 |
| 12. 4'-Carbocyanines by Cleavage of Carbocyanines with Quaternary Salts | 140 |
| A. General | 140 |
| B. 2,4'-Carbocyanine | 141 |
| C. Indo-4'-, Selena-4'-, and Thia-4'-carbocyanines | 141 |
| D. 2-Pyrido-4'-carbocyanine | 142 |
| VI. Trimethincyanines with Substituents on the Chain | 148 |
| 1. General Survey | 148 |
| 2. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Substituted Carbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, with Benzotrichloride, etc. | 162 |
| A. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 162 |
| B. Indo- and Thia-carbocyanines | 162 |
| 3. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkyl- or -Aryl-carbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with an Ortho-ester in Pyridine | 163 |
| A. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 163 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| B. Thiazolo-, Thiazolino-, and Selenazolino-carbocyanines | 167 |
| 4. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkylcarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and an Iminocarboxylic Ester, $\text{HN}:\text{CR}'(\text{OR}'')$ (see equation 1) | 168 |
| A. Thiocarbocyanines | 168 |
| 5. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkylcarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and an Iminothio-Ester, $\text{ArN}:\text{CR}'(\text{SR}'')$ (see equations 2 and 3) | 169 |
| A. Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 169 |
| B. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 169 |
| C. Oxathia- and Selenathia-carbocyanines | 171 |
| 6. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkylcarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and a Dithiocarboxylic Ester, $\text{S}:\text{CR}'(\text{SR}'')$, (see equations 4 and 5) | 172 |
| A. Thiocarbocyanines | 172 |
| B. Thiazolinocarbocyanines | 172 |
| 7. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -(Alkylthio)carbocyanines from a Heterocyclic Base, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, an Alkyl Toluene- <i>p</i> -sulphonate, and an Alkyl Dithiocarbamate, $\text{S}:\text{C}(\text{NRR}')(\text{SAlk})$ | 172 |
| A. Thia- and Oxa-carbocyanines | 172 |
| 8. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkylcarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and one or more Bases | 173 |
| A. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 173 |
| 9. Symmetrical <i>meso</i> -Methylthiocarbocyanines from a 2-Methylbenzothiazolium Salt with Potassium Acetate and Acetic Anhydride | 173 |
| 10. Symmetrical Carbocyanines, Having a Substituted <i>meso</i> -Vinyl Group, by Reaction of <i>meso</i> -Methylcarbocyanines with Aldehydes or their Anils | 174 |
| A. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 174 |
| 11. Symmetrical Carbocyanines, Having a <i>meso</i> -Substituent, from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, a 2-Substituted Benzoxazolium Salt, and Alkali in Alcohol (see equations 6 and 7) | 175 |
| A. Thia- and Selena-carbocyanines | 175 |
| 12. Symmetrical Carbocyanines, Having a <i>meso-o</i> -Carboxyphenyl or a <i>meso-β</i> -Carboxyethyl Group, from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and Phthalic Anhydride or Succinic Anhydride, in Pyridine (see equations 8 and 9) | 176 |
| A. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 176 |
| B. Thiazolinocarbocyanines | 177 |
| 13. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkyl-, -Aryl-, or $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ -carbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, and a Heterocyclic Ketone Comprising the Group $:\text{CH}\cdot\text{CR}'\text{O}$ | 177 |
| A. Indocarbocyanines | 177 |
| B. Thiocarbocyanines | 177 |
| C. Indothia-, Oxaselena-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-carbocyanines | 178 |
| D. Selenathiazolino- and Thiathiazolino-carbocyanines | 179 |


| | |
|---|------------|
| 14. Symmetrical und Unsymmetrical <i>meso</i> -(Alkylthio)carbocyanines Through a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{C}(\text{SR})_2$ (see equation 26) | 180 |
| A. Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 180 |
| B. Thia- and Selena-carbocyanines | 180 |
| C. Selenathiacarbocyanines | 180 |
| D. Thiathiazolinocarbocyanines | 181 |
| 15. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical <i>meso</i> -Alkoxy-, -Alkylthio-, -Methyl-, or -Phenyl-carbocyanines, Through a Salt with the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{OAlk})$, $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{SAlk})$, $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe}_2$, or $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMePh}$.. | 181 |
| A. Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 181 |
| B. Thiocarbocyanines | 181 |
| C. Indothia-, Indoxa-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-carbocyanines .. | 182 |
| 16. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Carbocyanines with a <i>meso</i> -NRR', or <i>meso</i> -CH(COR) ₂ Group, etc., from <i>meso</i> -(Alkylthio)carbocyanines: Non-Ionic Dyes with the Chain $\cdot\text{CH}-\overset{\text{Q}}{\text{C}}-\text{CH}\cdot$, where Q = :NR, :O, :S, :Se, :C(COR) ₂ , etc. | 183 |
| A. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Carbocyanines | 183 |
| B. Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 183 |
| C. Thia- and Oxa-carbocyanines | 184 |
| D. Indothia-, Indoxa-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-carbocyanines .. | 187 |
| E. Thia-(1,3,4-thiadiazolo)carbocyanine | 188 |
| 17. α -Substituted or $\alpha\alpha'$ -Di-substituted Carbocyanines | 188 |
| A. Indo-2', and Oxa-2'-carbocyanines | 188 |
| B. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 188 |
| C. Indoselena-, Indothia-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-carbocyanines | 191 |
| 18. Carbocyanines with an α -CHO Group, Synthesised from Carbocyanines with an Unsubstituted Chain | 192 |
| A. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-carbocyanines | 192 |
| VII. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Pentamethincyanines, Including those with Substituents on the Chain | 200 |
| 1. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, by Use of a 1-Anilino-3-aniloprop-1-ene, or its Salt | 200 |
| A. General | 200 |
| B. 2,2', 2,4', and 4,4'-Dicarbocyanines | 202 |
| C. Thia-2'- and Selena-2'-dicarbocyanines | 204 |
| D. Thia-4'- and Selena-4'-dicarbocyanines | 205 |
| E. Indo-, Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-dicarbocyanines | 206 |
| F. Indothia- and Selenathia-dicarbocyanines | 210 |
| G. 2,2'-Pyridodicarbocyanines | 210 |
| H. Thiazolo-2'- and Thiazolino-2'-dicarbocyanines | 211 |
| I. Thiazolo-4'- and Thiazolino-4'-dicarbocyanines | 211 |
| J. Selenathiazolo-, Thiathiazolo-, Oxathiazolino-, and Thiathiazolino-dicarbocyanines | 212 |
| K. Thiazolo- and Thiazolino-dicarbocyanines | 213 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 2. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of a 1,3,3-Trialkoxyprop-1-ene | 214 |
| A. General | 214 |
| B. 2,2'-Dicarbocyanines | 215 |
| C. Thia-2'- and Oxa-2'-dicarbocyanines | 215 |
| D. Thia-4'- and Oxa-4'-dicarbocyanines | 215 |
| E. Indo-, Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-dicarbocyanines | 216 |
| F. Oxaselena-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-dicarbocyanines | 218 |
| G. Thiathiazolinodicarbocyanines | 218 |
| 3. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of a 3,3-Dialkoxy-1-alkylthioprop-1-ene or of a 1,3,3-Tri(alkylthio)prop-1-ene | 219 |
| A. General | 219 |
| B. 2,2'-Dicarbocyanines | 221 |
| C. Thia-2'- and Oxa-2'-dicarbocyanines | 221 |
| D. Thia-4'-dicarbocyanines | 222 |
| E. Indo-, Thia-, and Selena-dicarbocyanines | 222 |
| F. Indoselena-, Indothia-, Indoxa-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-dicarbocyanines | 223 |
| G. Indothiazolinodicarbocyanines | 224 |
| H. Thiazolinodicarbocyanines | 224 |
| 4. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, by Use of 3,3-Diethoxyprop-1-yne | 225 |
| A. General | 225 |
| B. 2,2'-Dicarbocyanines | 225 |
| C. Indo-, Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-dicarbocyanines | 226 |
| 5. Symmetrical Pentamethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a β -Acetanilidovinyl Group, or a β -Ethylthiovinyl Group, with Malonic Acid or with Alkylmalonic Acid | 226 |
| A. General | 226 |
| B. 2,2'-Dicarbocyanine | 227 |
| C. Oxadicarbocyanines | 227 |
| 6. Symmetrical Pentamethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having an Alkylthio Group, with Sorbic Anhydride | 227 |
| 7. Symmetrical Pentamethincyanines, Having a <i>meso</i> -Cyano- or a <i>meso</i> -Carbalkoxy-Group, by Two Routes | 228 |
| A. General | 228 |
| B. 2,2'-Dicarbocyanines | 229 |
| C. Indo-, Thia-, and Selena-dicarbocyanines | 229 |
| 8. Preparation of β -Substituted Pentamethincyanines through Quaternary Salts, Having one of the Groups $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{SR})$, $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{OR})$, $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{SR})$, or $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe}(\text{OR})$; Dyes Derived from Them | 230 |
| A. General | 230 |
| B. Indo-2'- and Thia-2'-dicarbocyanines | 234 |
| C. Thiadcarbocyanines | 234 |
| D. Indoselena-, Indothia-, Oxathia-, and Selenathia-dicarbocyanines | 235 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| E. Dyes with the Chain :CH-C·CH:CH·CH: where Q is :NAr, :O, :S, or :C(CO ₂ Et)CN | 237 |
| 2-Chloro-3,3-dimethylindolenine in Pyridine | 241 |
| 9. Thiadicarbocyanine from a 2-Methylbenzothiazolium Salt with | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| VIII. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Heptamethincyanines, Including those with Substituents on the Chain; Polymethincyanines | 244 |
| 1. General Survey | 244 |
| 2. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, by Use of a 1-Anilino-5-anilopenta-1,3-diene, or its Salt | 252 |
| A. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Tricarbocyanines | 252 |
| B. Thia-2', Thia-4', and Selena-4'-tricarbocyanines | 253 |
| C. Indotricarbocyanines | 254 |
| D. Thia-, Oxa-, and Selena-tricarbocyanines | 255 |
| E. Selenathiatricarbocyanines | 257 |
| F. 2,2'-Pyridotricarbocyanines | 258 |
| G. Thiathiazolo- and Selenathiazolo-tricarbocyanines | 258 |
| H. Thiazolo- and Thiazolino-tricarbocyanines | 258 |
| 3. From a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, by Use of a Pyridinium Salt | 259 |
| A. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Tricarbocyanines | 259 |
| B. Indotricarbocyanines | 260 |
| C. Thia- and Selena-tricarbocyanines | 260 |
| D. Thiazolinetricarbocyanines | 261 |
| 4. Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Tricarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, or from the Corresponding Methylene Base, by Condensation with a Heterocyclic Pentamethin Aldehyde | 261 |
| A. Thia-2'-tricarbocyanines | 261 |
| B. Thiatricarbocyanines | 261 |
| C. Indoselena-, Indothia-, and Selenathia-tricarbocyanines | 261 |
| 5. Symmetrical δ-Alkyltricarbocyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and an Aldehyde, HC : C · CR : CH · CHO | 262 |
| A. Indotricarbocyanine | 262 |
| B. Thiatricarbocyanines | 262 |
| 6. Unsymmetrical δ-Alkoxytricarbocyanine from a Quaternary Salt, Having a β-(Alkylthio)vinyl Group, and a Salt Having the Group ·CH : CH · CH : CMe(OR) | 262 |
| A. Indothiatricarbocyanine | 262 |
| 7. ε-Acyloxy-Hepta-, -Nona-, and -Undeca-methincyanines, from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with R ¹ R ² N · CH : CH · CH : C[· CH : CH] · e ⁻² CH : NR ¹ R ² X ⁻ OR' + | 263 |
| A. 2,2'- and 4,4'-Tetra- and -Penta-carbocyanines | 263 |
| B. Indotetracarbocyanine | 266 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| C. Thia-tri-, -tetra-, and -penta-carbocyanines, and Selenatetra-carbocyanine | 266 |
| 8. Nonamethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and a Heptamethin Salt + $R^1R^2N \cdot CH:CH \cdot CH:CH \cdot CH:CH:NR^3R^4X^-$ | 267 |
| A. Thia- and Seleno-tetracarbo-cyanines | 267 |
| IX. Cyanines in which the Odd-Numbered Carbon Chain, which Links the Nuclei, or Part of it, is Cyclic | 270 |
| 1. General Survey | 270 |
| 2. Tri-, Penta-, and Hepta-methincyanines Having a Dimethin- or an <i>o</i> -Phenylene Group with $\alpha\gamma$ -Linkings to the Chain, by Reaction of Cyclopentadiene or Indene with a Quaternary Salt Having one of the Groups $\cdot SR$ or $\cdot CH:CH \cdot NR^1R^2$ | 277 |
| A. 2,2'-Carbocyanines | 277 |
| B. Indo-4'-tricarbo-cyanine and Thia-4'-dicarbocyanine | 277 |
| C. Thia-, Thiadi-, Thiatri-, Oxa-, and Oxatri-carbocyanines | 278 |
| D. Indothiadi-, Indothiatri-, Oxathia-, Oxathiadi-, and Oxathiatri-carbocyanines | 279 |
| E. 2,2'-Pyridocarbocyanine | 280 |
| F. Thiazolotricarbocyanine | 280 |
| 3. Trimethincyanines, in which the $\alpha\gamma$ -Positions are Linked, either Directly, or Through a Chain of One to Six Methylene Groups, or Through Oxygen, by Reaction of Alkyl Orthoformate with a Di-quaternary Salt, Having Nuclei Joined by $\cdot CH_2(\cdot CH_2)_n \cdot CH_2 \cdot$ or by $\cdot CH_2 \cdot O \cdot CH_2 \cdot$ | 280 |
| A. 2,2'-Carbocyanines | 280 |
| B. Thia-, Oxa-, and Seleno-carbocyanines | 280 |
| C. Thiazolocarbocyanines | 282 |
| 4. Tri- and Penta-methincyanines with $\alpha\gamma$ -Dimethylene or Trimethylene on the Chain, from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Cyclopentenyl or Cyclohexenyl Group, and a Salt Having an $\cdot SR$, $\cdot CH:CH \cdot NR^1R^2$, or $CH:CH \cdot SR$ Group | 282 |
| A. Thia-2'-carbo- and Thia-2'-dicarbo-cyanines | 282 |
| B. Thia-, Thiadi-, and Oxa-carbocyanines | 283 |
| C. Indothiadi-, Oxathia- and Selenathia-carbocyanines | 283 |
| D. Thiathiazolino-carbo- and -dicarbo-cyanines | 284 |
| 5. Pentamethincyanines Having a $\beta\beta'$ - $CH_2 \cdot CR^1R^2 \cdot CH_2 \cdot$ Group, from a Quaternary Salt, Having a Reactive Methyl Group, with a 3-Alkylthiocyclohex-2-en-1-one, or with an Intermediate Salt | 284 |
| A. Thia-2'- and Thia-4'-dicarbocyanines | 284 |
| B. Thia- and Seleno-dicarbo-cyanines | 285 |
| C. Selenathiadicarbocyanines | 285 |
| 6. Hepta-, Nona-, and Undeca-methincyanines, Having a $\beta\delta \cdot CH_2 \cdot CR^1R^2 \cdot CH_2 \cdot$ Group, and an Undecamethincyanine Having Two Such, Through Quaternary Salts, Having the Group $\begin{array}{c} H_2C \cdot CR^1R^2 \cdot CH_2 \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \\ \cdot CH : C \cdot CH = C \cdot Me \end{array}$ | 285 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| A. Heptamethincyanines of the Thia-, Oxa-, Selena-, and Oxathia-Series | 285 |
| B. Nonamethincyanines of the Thia-Series | 286 |
| C. Undecamethincyanines of the Thia-Series | 286 |
| 7. Pentamethincyanines, by Removal of Acid from a Diquaternary Salt, which has the Nuclei Linked by $\cdot\text{CH}_2\cdot$  | 286 |
| A. Thiadicarbocyanines | 286 |
| 8. Cyanines in which One or More Dihydro- β -quinindene Nuclei are Involved in the Chain | 287 |
| X. Variations in the Nuclei which Enter Into Cyanine Molecules | 292 |
| 1. General Survey | 292 |
| 2. Introduction of Certain Substituents | 293 |
| 3. Variations in the Anion | 296 |
| 4. Variations in the Groups Attached to the Nitrogen Atoms | 297 |
| A. Modified <i>N</i> -Alkyl Groups | 297 |
| B. <i>NN'</i> -Alkylene Groups, which may be Substituted | 300 |
| C. <i>N</i> -Aryl Groups | 302 |
| D. <i>NN'</i> -diH Structure | 306 |
| E. Heterocyclic Nitrogen Atom Linked by a Chain to Second Ring | 308 |
| 5. Use of Unusual Nuclei | 310 |
| A. Nuclei with Nitrogen as the One Hetero-Atom | 310 |
| B. Nuclei, Including Complex Nuclei, with Two Nitrogen Atoms as the Only Hetero-Atoms | 318 |
| C. Nuclei with Three Nitrogen Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 327 |
| D. Nuclei with Four Nitrogen Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 328 |
| E. Nuclei with One Nitrogen and One Sulphur as Hetero-Atoms | 330 |
| F. Complex Nuclei with a Nitrogen, an Oxygen, and a Sulphur as Hetero-Atoms | 335 |
| G. Nuclei, Including Complex Nuclei, with Two Nitrogen Atoms and One Sulphur or One Oxygen as Hetero-Atoms | 335 |
| H. Complex Nuclei with Three Nitrogen Atoms and One Sulphur as Hetero-Atoms | 338 |
| I. Complex Nuclei with One Nitrogen and Two Sulphur Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 338 |
| J. Complex Nuclei with Two Nitrogen and Two Sulphur Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 340 |
| K. Nucleus Giving Rise to Non-ionised Cyanine Dyes | 341 |
| XI. Bases, Including Some with Substituents on the Chain, of which Cyanines are the Quaternary Salts | 351 |
| 1. General Survey | 351 |
| 2. Bases of Methincyanine sfrom Heterocyclic Bases Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 358 |
| A. Bases of 2,2'-Cyanines | 358 |
| B. Bases of Thia-2'-, Oxa-2'-, and Selena-2'-cyanines | 359 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| C. Base of Thia-4'-cyanine | 359 |
| D. Base of Quinazolinothiacyanine | 360 |
| 3. Bases of Methincyanines from Heterocyclic Bases Having a Reactive Alkylthio or Methyl Sulphone Group | 360 |
| A. Bases of Thia-2'- and Oxa-2'-cyanines | 360 |
| B. Bases of Thia- and Selenathia-cyanines | 360 |
| C. Bases of Indo-, Indo-2'-, Indoselena-, Indothia-, Indoxa-, and Indothiazolo-cyanines | 361 |
| 4. Bases of Trimethincyanines from Heterocyclic Bases Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 361 |
| A. Base of 2,2'-Carbocyanine | 361 |
| B. Bases of Indo-2'- and Thia-2'-carbocyanines | 361 |
| C. Base of Indo-4'-carbocyanine..... | 362 |
| D. Base of Thiocarbocyanine | 362 |
| 5. Bases of Methin- and of Tri- and Penta-methin-cyanines by Boiling the Dyes with a Nitrogenous Base | 362 |
| A. Bases of Thia- and Thia-2'-cyanines | 362 |
| B. Bases of 2,2'- and Thia-carbocyanines | 363 |
| C. Base of Thiadicarbocyanine | 363 |
| 6. Dimethincyanine Bases with a 3-Linked Indole Nucleus, Prepared through 3-Formylindoles | 363 |
| 7. Bases of Methin- and Trimethin-cyanines Comprising a Thiazine Nucleus | 364 |
| A. Bases of Methincyanines with a 3,1,4-Benzothiazine Nucleus .. | 364 |
| B. Bases of Trimethincyanines with a 3,1,4-Benzothiazine Nucleus | 365 |
| C. Bases of Trimethincyanines with a Perinaphtho-1,3-thiazine Nucleus | 365 |
| 8. Various Cyanine Bases, Having a 1,3,5-Triazine, a Tetrazolo[2]-pyrimidine, or a s-Triazolo[2,3-a]pyrimidine Nucleus | 365 |
| 9. α -Cyano-Bases of Methincyanines and of Tri-, Penta-, and Heptamethincyanines, and their Hydrolysis to Bases with Unsubstituted Chains | 366 |
| A. Bases of the Methincyanine Series | 366 |
| B. Bases of the Trimethincyanine Series | 367 |
| C. Bases of the Pentamethincyanine Series | 368 |
| D. Bases of the Heptamethincyanine Series | 369 |
| 10. Bases of Methincyanines, and of Tri- and Penta-methincyanines, Having an α -CRO Group, Through Heterocyclic Nitrogenous Bases Having a $\cdot\text{CH}_2\cdot\text{CRO}$ Group: Their Hydrolysis to Unsubstituted Bases..... | 369 |
| A. Bases of the Methincyanine Series | 369 |
| B. Bases of the Trimethincyanine Series | 370 |
| C. Base of the Pentamethincyanine Series | 371 |
| XII. Azacyanines, Including Dyes Substituted on the Chain, and Bases of which the Quaternary Salts are Azacyanines..... | 375 |
| 1. General Survey | 375 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 2. Azamethincyanines | 384 |
| A. Synthesis through Diheterocyclic Amines | 384 |
| B. Azamethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt Having an Amino Group and One Having an Alkylthio Group | 385 |
| C. Symmetrical Azamethincyanines from Quaternary Salts, Having an Alkylthio-Group, with Ammonia | 386 |
| D. Synthesis of Azamethincyanines, Having One Benzothiazole or Thiazole Nucleus, and One 4-Oxothiazoline Nucleus, by Reaction of a 2-Thiocarbimido-benzothiazoline or -thiazoline with Halogenoacetic Acid | 386 |
| 3. α -Azatri- and α -Azapenta-methincyanines by Reaction of a Quaternary Salt Having an Amino Group with Another Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{N}\text{AcPh}$ or $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{SR}$. α -Azatri-methincyanine from an Anhydronium Base with an Ester | 387 |
| 4. <i>Meso</i> -Substituted α -Azatrimethincyanines from a Base with a Methyl Group, One with the Group $\cdot\text{N}:\text{CR}(\text{OR}')$, and an Ester .. | 388 |
| 5. $\alpha\beta$ -Diazatrimethincyanines | 389 |
| A. From the Quaternary Salt of a Heterocyclic Aldehyde with the Hydrazone of a Heterocyclic Ketone | 389 |
| B. From a Heterocyclic Aldehyde and the Hydrazone of a Heterocyclic Ketone, followed by Quaternary Salt Formation | 390 |
| 6. $\alpha\gamma$ -Diazatrimethincyanines, Including <i>Meso</i> -Substituted Dyes | 391 |
| A. Symmetrical Dye by Reaction of a Heterocyclic Base, Having an Amino Group, with Ethyl Orthoformate, and Treatment of the Diheterocyclic Product with an Ester | 391 |
| B. <i>Meso</i> -Substituted $\alpha\gamma$ -Diazatrimethincyanine from a Base with an Amino Group, One with the Group $\cdot\text{N}\cdot\text{CR}(\text{OR}')$, and an Ester | 391 |
| C. Symmetrical $\alpha\gamma$ -Diazatrimethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having an Amino Group, with an Ortho-ester | 391 |
| D. <i>Meso</i> -Substituted $\alpha\gamma$ -Diazatrimethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt, Having an Alkylthio Group, and an Amidine | 392 |
| 7. Azadimethincyanines from a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group and a 1,2-Disubstituted-3-nitroso-indole or a Substituted Nitrosopyrrocoline | 392 |
| 8. Diazadimethincyanines | 394 |
| 9. Bases of which Azacyanines are the Quaternary Salts | 394 |
| A. Bases of Azamethincyanines | 394 |
| B. Bases of α -Azatrimethincyanines | 395 |
| C. Bases of Azadimethincyanines | 395 |
| D. Bases of Diazadimethincyanines | 396 |
| 10. Dimethincyanines Having a 2,1,3-Triazole Nucleus..... | 396 |
| XIII. Certain Classes of Dyes Related to Cyanines | 398 |
| 1. Styryl Compounds and their Higher Vinylene Homologues | 398 |
| A. General Survey..... | 398 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| B. Styryl Salts with a 2-Linked Quinoline Nucleus | 413 |
| C. Styryl Salts with a 4-Linked Quinoline Nucleus | 416 |
| D. Styryl Salts with an Indolenine Nucleus | 416 |
| E. Styryl Salts with a Benzothiazole Nucleus | 417 |
| F. Styryl Salts with a Benzoxazole Nucleus | 420 |
| G. Styryl Salts with a Benzoselenazole Nucleus | 420 |
| H. Styryl Salts with a Benzimidazole Nucleus | 421 |
| I. Styryl Salts with a 2-Linked Pyridine Nucleus | 421 |
| J. Styryl Salts with a 4-Linked Pyridine Nucleus | 423 |
| K. Styryl Salts with a Thiazole Nucleus | 423 |
| L. Styryl Salts with a Thiazoline Nucleus | 424 |
| M. Styryl Salts with Unusual Nuclei | 425 |
| (1) Nuclei with Nitrogen as the One Hetero-Atom | 425 |
| (2) Nuclei, Including Complex Nuclei, with Two Nitrogen Atoms as the Only Hetero-Atoms | 426 |
| (3) Nuclei with Three Nitrogen Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 427 |
| (4) Nuclei with Four Nitrogen Atoms as Hetero-Atoms | 428 |
| (5) Nuclei with One Nitrogen and One Sulphur as Hetero-Atoms | 428 |
| (6) Nuclei with a Nitrogen, an Oxygen, and a Sulphur as Hetero- Atoms | 429 |
| (7) Nuclei with Two Nitrogen Atoms and One Sulphur or one Oxygen as Hetero-Atoms | 429 |
| (8) Nuclei with One Nitrogen and Two Sulphur Atoms as Hetero- Atoms | 429 |
| N. Phenylbutadienyl Salts | 429 |
| O. Styryl and Phenylbutadienyl Analogues in which the Carbon Chain which Links the Nuclei, or Part of it, is Cyclic | 430 |
| P. Styryl and Phenylbutadienyl Salts with Substituents on the Chain | 431 |
| (1) 2- <i>p</i> -Dialkylaminostyryl Salts | 431 |
| (2) 4- <i>p</i> -Dimethylaminophenyl-1,3-butadienyl Salts | 433 |
| Q. Styryl Bases and their Higher Vinylene Analogues | 433 |
| (1) Bases of the 2- and 4-Linked Quinoline, Benzothiazole, and 2-Linked Pyridine Series | 433 |
| (2) Styryl Bases with Unusual Nuclei | 434 |
| (3) Bases with Substituents on the Chain | 436 |
| R. Bis-(<i>p</i> -dialkylaminostyryl) Salts and a Higher Vinylene Analogue | 437 |
| 2. Aza Analogues of <i>p</i> -Dialkylaminostyryl Heterocyclic Compounds | 440 |
| A. General Survey | 440 |
| B. <i>p</i> -Dialkylaminoanils of Heterocyclic Aldehyde Quaternary Salts, etc. | 443 |
| (1) Anils of the 2- and 4-Linked Quinoline, Benzothiazole, 2- Linked Pyridine, and Thiazole Series | 443 |
| (2) Anils with Unusual Nuclei | 444 |
| (3) Anil in which Part of the Azadimethin Chain is Cyclic | 445 |
| (4) Anil Bases, Including Those with Substituents on the Chain | 445 |
| (5) Bis-(<i>p</i> -dimethylaminoanils) | 446 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| C. α -Aza- <i>p</i> -dimethylaminostyryl Heterocyclic Bases | 446 |
| (1) Bases of the Benzothiazole and Thiazole Series | 446 |
| (2) Bases with a 3-Linked Indole Nucleus | 446 |
| D. Diaza- <i>p</i> -anilinostyryl Heterocyclic Salts | 447 |
| 3. Hemicyanines: Heterocyclic Quaternary Salts Having the Group $\cdot(\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot)_n\text{NR}'\text{R}''$ | 447 |
| A. General Survey | 447 |
| B. Salts of the 2- and 4-Linked Quinoline Series | 451 |
| C. Salts of the Indolenine Series | 453 |
| D. Salts of the Benzothiazole, Benzoxazole, and Benzoselenazole Series | 453 |
| E. Salts with Substituents on the Chain | 456 |
| F. Bases Prepared from Hemicyanines, Including Some with Sub- stituents on the Chain | 457 |
| G. Double Hemicyanines and Related Bases | 458 |
| (1) Salts of the 2- and 4-Linked Quinoline Series | 458 |
| (2) Salts of the Indolenine Series | 459 |
| (3) Salts of the Benzothiazole, Benzoxazole, and Benzoselenazole Series | 460 |
| (4) Salts of the Thiazoline and Selenazoline Series | 461 |
| (5) Salts with Less Usual Nuclei | 461 |
| (6) Unsymmetrical Salts | 462 |
| (7) Salts with Substituents on the Chain | 462 |
| (8) Symmetrical and Unsymmetrical Bases | 463 |
| 4. Oxonols and Related Compounds | 463 |
| A. General Survey | 463 |
| B. Methinoxonols, Including Those with a Substituent on the Chain | 475 |
| C. Trimethinoxonols, Including Those with a Substituent on the Chain, and Others in which Part of the Chain is Cyclic | 479 |
| D. Pentamethinoxonols, Including One in which Part of the Chain is Cyclic | 481 |
| E. Dialkylaminobenzylidene Compounds, Higher Vinylene Anal- ogues, and a Bis-(<i>p</i> -Dialkylaminobenzylidene) Compound | 482 |
| F. Aza Analogues of Benzylidene Compounds, and of a Bis- benzylidene Compound | 484 |
| G. Hemioxonols | 485 |
| (1) Methinhemioxonols | 485 |
| (2) Trimethinhemioxonols | 486 |
| (3) Pentamethinhemioxonols | 487 |
| (4) Double Hemioxonols, etc. | 488 |
| 5. Dyes with an Open Chain Instead of a Cyclic Nucleus | 488 |
| A. General Survey | 488 |
| B. <i>p</i> -Dimethylaminocinnamylidene Salts | 492 |
| C. Oxonol Analogues | 492 |
| D. <i>p</i> -Dialkylaminobenzylidene Compounds | 493 |
| E. Hemioxonol Analogues | 494 |
| F. Cyanomethin Dyes | 494 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 6. Cyanine Analogues Derived from Oxonium or Sulphonium Heterocyclic Salts | 495 |
| A. General | 495 |
| B. Compounds with a Pyrylium, Benzopyrylium, or Xanthylium Nucleus | 499 |
| (1) <i>p</i> -Dialkylaminostyryl Salts and <i>p</i> -Dimethylaminophenylbutadienyl Salts | 499 |
| (2) A Methincyanine Analogue with Pyrylium Nuclei | 501 |
| (3) Trimethincyanine Analogues with Benzopyrylium Nuclei .. | 501 |
| C. Compounds with a Thiopyrylium Nucleus | 501 |
| (1) <i>p</i> -Dimethylaminostyryl Salts and a <i>p</i> -Dimethylaminophenylbutadienyl Salt | 501 |
| (2) Methin- and Trimethin-cyanine Analogues with Thiopyrylium Nuclei | 502 |
| XIV. Merocyanines | 511 |
| 1. General Survey | 511 |
| 2. Simple Merocyanines | 534 |
| A. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Heterocyclic Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive SR, I, CN, or SO ₃ R, or a Dihydro-Base Having a Reactive :NH | 534 |
| 3. Dimethinmerocyanines | 537 |
| A. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Heterocyclic Quaternary Salt Having the Group ·CH:CH·NR ¹ R ² , or from a Cyclic Compound with >C:CH·NR ¹ R ² Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Methyl Group | 537 |
| B. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Heterocyclic Salt Having the Group ·CH:CH·SR or ·CH:CH·SeR | 544 |
| C. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Dihydro Heterocyclic Base Having a :CH·CHO Group, or from a Cyclic Compound Having >CH·CHO Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 544 |
| D. From a Cyclic Compound Having >C:CHOEt Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 545 |
| E. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound, a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and Ethyl Orthoformate, Formamide, or Diethoxymethyl Acetate | 546 |
| F. From a Cyclic Compound Having >C:CH·CH ₃ , Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having an SR Group | 547 |
| G. By Rupture of a Methinoxonol or Trimethincyanine | 547 |
| 4. Di- and Tetra-methinmerocyanines with a CS Group in Place of CO | 548 |
| 5. Tetramethinmerocyanines | 549 |
| A. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group ·CH:CH·CH:CH·NR ¹ R ² , or from a Cyclic Compound Having >C:CH·CH:CH·NR ¹ R ² Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Methyl Group | 549 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| B. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{SEt}$ or $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{OMe}$ | 551 |
| C. From a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}_3$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having an SR Group | 551 |
| 6. Hexamethinmerocyanines | 551 |
| A. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$ or from a Cyclic Compound with $\text{>C}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Methyl Group .. | 551 |
| B. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Dihydro Heterocyclic Base Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CHO} \dots$ | 553 |
| C. From a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{CH}_3$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}:\text{NACPh}$ Group | 553 |
| D. From a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound, a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and 1-Anilino-5-anilopenta-1,3-diene | 553 |
| 7. Quaternary Salts of Mero- and Dimethinmero-cyanines | 553 |
| A. Salts of Merocyanines | 553 |
| B. Salts of Dimethinmerocyanines | 555 |
| 8. Di-, Tetra-, and Hexa-methinmerocyanines with a Substituent on the Chain | 556 |
| A. β -Substituted Dimethinmerocyanines | 556 |
| (1) β -Alkyldimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound, a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and an Acid Anhydride | 556 |
| (2) β -Alkyldimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having a 2- $\text{CH}:\text{CR}(\text{SMe})$, a 2- $\text{CH}:\text{CRCl}$, or a 2- $\text{CH}:\text{CR}(\text{SeMe})$ Group | 557 |
| (3) β -Alkyl- and β - CO_2R -dimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and an <i>N</i> -Alkylbenzothiazoline, or an <i>N</i> -Alkylthiazoline, Having a 2- $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{COR}'$ Group; β -Methyldimethinmerocyanine from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>CH}:\text{COMe}$ Adjacent to CO and a 2-Methylbenzothiazolium Salt | 558 |
| (4) β -Alkyldimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound with $\text{>C}:\text{CR}(\text{OEt})$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 559 |
| (5) β -Alkyldimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound, a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group, and an Ortho-Ester | 560 |
| (6) β -Substituted Dimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CR}'\text{Me}$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having an SR Group | 560 |
| (7) β -Methylthiodimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{C}(\text{SMe})_2$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 561 |

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| (8) β -NR ¹ R ² -Dimethinmerocyanines from β -Methylthiodimethinmerocyanines and HNR ¹ R ² | 561 |
| (9) β -o-Carboxyphenyldimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound, a 2-Methylthiazolinium Salt, and Phthalic Anhydride | 562 |
| (10) β -Methylthiazoliniummerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and Excess of 2-Methylthiazolinium Salt | 562 |
| B. α-Substituted Dimethinmerocyanines | 562 |
| (1) α -Methylthiazoliniummerocyanine from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Benzothiazolinium Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CMe}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{SEt}$ | 562 |
| (2) α -Methylthiazoliniummerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>CH}:\text{CHO}$ Adjacent to CO and a 2-Ethylbenzothiazolinium Salt | 562 |
| (3) α -Phenylthiazoliniummerocyanine from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having an SR Group | 563 |
| (4) α -Aryloxydimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{C(OAr)}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, or from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{OAr}$ | 563 |
| (5) α -Carbethoxydimethinmerocyanine from 2-Carbethoxymethylbenzothiazole by Two Routes | 563 |
| (6) α -Hydroxy- or α -Methyl-dimethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{OEt}$ Adjacent to CO and a Benzothiazolinium Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ or $\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Me}$ | 564 |
| C. $\alpha\beta$-Dimethylthiazoliniummerocyanines | 564 |
| (1) From a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>CH}\cdot\text{COMe}$ Adjacent to CO and a 2-Ethylbenzothiazolinium Salt | 564 |
| (2) From a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CMe(OEt)}$ Adjacent to CO and a 2-Ethylbenzothiazolinium Salt | 564 |
| D. δ-Substituted Tetramethinmerocyanines | 564 |
| (1) δ -Methyltetramethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Ketomethylene Compound and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe(SR)}$ | 564 |
| (2) δ -Methyltetramethinmerocyanine from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CMe}_2$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{SR}$ | 565 |
| (3) δ -Substituted Tetramethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CRMe}$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having the Group $\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{NAcPh}$ | 565 |
| E. β-Substituted Tetramethinmerocyanines | 566 |
| (1) β -Methyltetramethinmerocyanines from a Cyclic Compound Having $\text{>C}:\text{CH}\cdot\text{CH}:\text{CMe(SEt)}$ Adjacent to CO and a Quaternary Salt Having a Reactive Methyl Group | 566 |