

Musschenbroek, Snell, Bosscha, van der Waals, Kamerlingh Onnes, Lorentz and Zeemann, either as professors or students. The last four have been recipients of the Nobel prize, a distinction which has come to no other university. My work brought me into close association with Professor Kamerlingh Onnes and his colleague, Kuenen, but I met Lorentz, Zeemann and many others at the Royal Academy of Amsterdam to which I was invited by Professor Zeemann. While in Amsterdam I called on Professor van der Waals, an old man of eighty-four, who is still keenly interested in the work that he initiated in Leiden nearly a half century ago. The evening of the meeting of the Royal Academy was a memorable one to me. The exercises began with tea, after which we sat around the table where all of the leading Dutch physicists, some of them the greatest in the world, were gathered, and we heard Professor Zeemann explain some of his recent experiments in Optics. We then adjourned to his laboratory where the experiments were demonstrated and, fortunately for me, the explanations were repeated in English. We then went back for more tea, after which there was a very lively discussion.

Any account of the University of Leiden would be incomplete without a brief description of the work of the physical laboratory. For thirty years Professor Kamerlingh Onnes has been building up the low temperature laboratory, which is without doubt the best of its kind in the world. The Dutch government, realizing how much the future may depend on discoveries in pure Science and also having great pride in its university system, encourages its professors to engage in research to the extent that they are able to relinquish nearly all of their teaching and to devote themselves to the development of their own subjects. They have plenty of time to think quietly, unharassed by student exercises, financial difficulties, or committee and faculty meetings. The work of a Dutch university professor is his life and comes before everything else.

The organization of the laboratory at Leiden is wonderfully complete and efficient. For such work as is being done there, a great many trained assistants are needed. So Professor Kamerlingh Onnes has developed a school for the train-