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A DUTCH UNIVERSITY.*

WE have passed by the Dutch Universities so long in our desire to absorb the culture of Germany, that we have known but little of the work of this small country in which there are real intellectual giants. At this time particularly, it is a source of great satisfaction to know that all of the university work of Europe is not at a standstill and that in Holland, almost surrounded by hostile forces and nearly always within the sound of the heavy guns in the North Sea or Belgium, university life remains almost undisturbed by the tremendous events transpiring all around it.

The following is a short account of a journey to the University of Leiden, and, since much of it is the result of personal experience, the first person is used rather freely.

Last winter Professor Kamerlingh Onnes, the director of the physical laboratory at Leiden, invited me to undertake some work with him and his colleagues. A bit of work I had done had raised a question between us and it was partly in hope of settling this and partly to see and become acquainted with the work of his laboratory that I hastened to accept. His colleague, Professor Kuenen, whom some Queen's professors may remember as professor of Physics at Dundee, some ten years ago, is perhaps the leading authority on mixtures and their properties, a matter in which I was and am keenly interested. For the progress of my own researches, these were the two men who could give me the advice I needed, and the opportunity of working with them on low temperature research was very attractive.

I was not at all sure that I should get there, but it seemed worth trying. Ocean travel in these times is diverting, and

*A lecture given before the Queen's Alumni Conference.