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**HIGH PRESSURE RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS IN THE
BELGIAN INDUSTRY**

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HIGH PRESSURE RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS IN

THE BELGIAN INDUSTRY

by

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INTRODUCTION

"The fact that the pressure influences the chemical reactions, on which industrial processes are based, was known later than the same one referring to the influence of the temperature and both facts have nowadays to be attached the same importance to. In fact, our industry has consequently made considerable progress in the field of the synthesis and mass production, which events stand out as landmarks in its history since the beginning of this century". These are the first sentences by which Professor L. Jacqué begins one of these remarkable editorials, which are published each month in the french review "Chimie et Industrie".

In Belgium, and there perhaps more than in foreign countries, the chemical industry has since a long time made use of the high pressures for extending the scope of their activities and valorizing their products: therefore the most important applications of the high pressures which above mentioned editorial calls back to the reader's memory are applications in which this country as well as France are greatly interested.

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But owing to the constant development of the engineering science, the Belgian industry must spare no effort to keep abreast of the times. The Belgian Institute for High Pressures (Institut Belge des Hautes Pressions) endeavours to give this industry an effectual support by studying and solving the new problems with which the latter is confronted, which support is rather restricted, owing to the force of circumstances.

This report aims at showing how and by which means this Institute fulfils its task, which is always a difficult but often an exciting one.

Ample funds are not made available in Belgium for research as it is the case in the U.S.A. and in some Belgium's powerful neighbour countries. Therefore the specialized laboratories must be extremely well equipped, before engaging in scientific activities relating to a particular field of the engineering science. Suggesting or accepting to do research work is a thing which wants thinking over, because the less important, the funds available to this purpose are, the more difficult and the narrower is the way to follow with a view to obtaining the anticipated results.

These notions, which we deemed to call back to the memory of the readers of this report only aim at answering a question which certainly will be put by said readers, who will not understand why such an Institute of a rather moderate size engages in a lot of scientific activities into many fields instead of selecting a particular field. As paradoxical as it may be, it was necessary to adopt this policy, because the results of the research work done in the field of the high pressures have to be made use of in Belgium by a lot other laboratories.

These results will however show, that such a policy pays.