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## Low Temperature Research

COMMISSIONS I and II of the International Institute of Refrigeration will hold a joint meeting at Louvain, Belgium, September 4–7. The program has been organized around the following major topics: (1) methods for the detection at very low temperatures of traces of impurities in metals, semiconductors, and other solids—magnetic susceptibility, electrical resistance, electronic resonance, heat conductivity, etc.; (2) heat conductivity and viscosity coefficients of gas and liquid mixtures at low temperatures; (3) relationship between insulating materials and the gas or vapor included; (4) hygrometry.

Among those planning to attend the conference are C. J. Gorter and K. W. Taconis (Leiden), F. Simon (Oxford), A. Van Itterbeek (Louvain), P. Lainé (Bellevue), E. Griffiths (Teddington), G. Chaudron (Paris), P. Glansdorff (Mons), P. Grassmann (Zürich), L. C. Jackson (Bristol), P. Keesom (Purdue), D. K. C. MacDonald (Ottawa), I. Prigogine (Brussels), and M. Soutif and L. Weil (Grenoble).

All inquiries about the conference should be addressed to Prof. A. Van Itterbeek, Director, Physical Institute, Louvain, Belgium. Those wishing to present papers should submit abstracts of not more than 100 words as soon as possible. Housing accommodations can be provided in a university college in Louvain or in hotels in Brussels or Louvain.

## NSF Travel Grants

THE National Science Foundation is planning to assist a limited number of scientists and engineers to attend the Ninth International Congress of Applied Mechanics which is to be held September 5-13 in Brussels, Belgium. Applications for these international travel grants should be submitted to the National Science Foundation, Washington, D. C., not later than August 1, 1956.

### Perkin Centennial

COLOR scientists and chemists throughout the world are celebrating this year the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the first synthetic dye, an important development in the history of industrial organic chemistry. The discovery was made accidentally in 1856 by William Henry Perkin, an eighteen-year-old assistant at the British Royal College of Chemistry, who was at the time attempting unsuccessfully to synthesize quinine. In the course of his experiments he produced a violet aniline coloring material ("Perkin's Mauve") which he lost no time in patenting and putting on the market. By the following year Perkin had begun manufacturing the dye, thus founding the coal tar color industry.

The Centennial will be climaxed by a celebration to be held during the week beginning September 10th at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City under the