

## **SPRING, Walthère**

Born: Liège (Belgium), 1848

Died: Liège, 1911

After rather unsuccessful secondary studies, he was urged on by his father, professor of anatomy and his godfather J.S. Stas (1813-1891) to resume his studies and he qualifies as a mining engineer at the University of Liège and undertakes further studies under Clausius and at the laboratory of Kekulé in Bonn. He becomes professor of inorganic and organic chemistry in Liège where he designs the laboratory and sets up the laboratory experiments and research for the students, which have become compulsory in 1876. His first research bears upon the properties of sulfur and the colors of chemical compounds, the true colors of liquids, colloids and the Tyndall effect (paving the way for the study of ultramicroscopy by Siedentopf and Zsigmondy) and the behavior of solids under very high pressures (up to one million kPa). Spring also predicts that the economy of a country cannot thrive on coal and the steel industry alone but foresees a great future for the chemical industry.

Lit.: Frédéric Schwers, obituary notice in *J. Chem.Society, Trans* 1912, 101, 692-696;

*“Florilège des Sciences en Belgique pendant le 19<sup>me</sup> et le début du 20<sup>me</sup> siècle »*  
pp.323-350 (1968) -Académie Royale de Belgique.