

GOETHALS Gaston

Born: October 12, 1908 (Leuven)

Died: 1979

After his secondary studies at the Koninklijk Atheneum of Ghent, he graduates as chemical engineer in 1931 and doctor of applied sciences (1941) at the University of Ghent.

From 1933 to 1938 he is attached to the Laboratory of Applied Sciences in Ghent, followed by his appointment as professor at the Biochemical Centre (1946) lecturing on organic chemistry and (till 1947) on the analysis of food and the technology of the food industry. In 1947 he is appointed professor of Industrial Chemistry. In 1950 he becomes professor at the Faculty of Sciences, followed by his appointment at the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Between 1933 and 1945 his research concerns the aetheric oils of the flora of Belgian Congo (Zaire). His contribution leads to becoming a member of the committee in charge of the technical and economical aspects of plant extracts of Zaire.

In 1946 Goethals studies in Sweden the properties of cellulose. Between 1948 and 1954 he is a member of the centre for research on high polymers.

His research also includes studies of chemical engineering, especially about distillation and rectification techniques.

Among his contributions: the reaction of Bouveault applied to unsaturated alcohols, geranium oil and thermal cracking of acetone.