Obituary.

PROF. K. D. GLINKA

SOIL students in all parts of the world will learn with deep regret of the death of Prof. K. D. Glinka on Nov. 2. He had for some time been in failing health and had felt some heart strain, but none of those who met him last June and July at the Soil Congress in the United States had any suspicion that he was so near the end. All who attended were prepared to accord him their deepest respect for his profound knowledge of the subject and his own brilliant work ; and though they were with him but a very short time, his unfailing courtesy and his kindly good humour had endeared him to everyone who met him.

Glinka was born in 1867 in Smolensk, the son of one of the most ancient and honoured aristocratic families of the old regime in Russia.[1] He studied first at the University of St. Petersburg, which he left in 1889, and afterwards at the University of Moscow, where he obtained his doctor's degree in mineralogy. In 1900 he was appointed professor of mineralogy and geology at the Agricultural Institute of Novo Alexandria in the Government of Lublin, which since the War has again become Polish territory, and has therefore resumed its old Polish name Pulawy : the Institute, under this name, has now become the central agricultural experiment station of Poland. Within two years of his appointment he was, at his own request, and in consideration of his studies on soil, transferred to the chair of pedology at the same institute. Between 1908 and 1914 the Emigration or Settlement Board of Russia arranged a series of expeditions to study the soils of Russian Turkestan, putting Glinka in general charge ; this, however, did not necessitate his giving up his professorship. He made the big expedition of 1909, travelling from Kabousaya to Vernogo, thence through Lepsinsk to Sergiopol, and finally Semipalatinsk. The material collected in this and the other expeditions was worked up by the Dokuchaiev Pedological Committee. Reports were issued in his name from 1908 to 1914 : a general summary is given in Russian and German in *La Pedologie*, 1912, vol. 14, pp. 43-63. He became president of this Committee in 1912, and relinquished the chair at Novo Alexandria ; in 1913 he went to the Agricultural Institute at Voronesh, the soils around which he studied ; in 1922 he returned to Petrograd as director of the Agricultural Institute : this post he was holding at the time of his death.

Glinka was essentially a field worker, studying the section or profile of the soil from the surface to a depth of some six or eight feet. His methods are well illustrated in his paper " On the So-called Brown Earth," which appeared in *La Pedologie*, 1911, vol. 13, p. 17 (Russian and German). He had an amazing capacity for seeing things in a soil section that ordinary workers miss : the present writer had numerous opportunities of admitting Glinka's superiority as an observer during the Soil Excursion in the United States last summer. Glinka himself did but little laboratory work on soil, but his marked ability to use the results of others is illustrated in his studies of the differences between *podsols* and peaty soils, published in *La Pedologie*, vol. 13, p. 1.

In 1914 Glinka's book " Die Bodentypen " was published in Berlin ; unfortunately its value was not at first recognised by British students, none of whom had at that time any adequate knowledge of the Russian soil work. It was not until the International Soil Conferences were resumed that this defect was remedied ; now the Russian work is accorded full recognition, and some of the present-day investigators not only use Russian terms for the soil groups, but are also studying the Russian language in order to read papers that are not translated.

The chief difference between the Russian and the British soil work is that the latter has been chiefly directed to the study of the soil as a medium for plant growth, while the Russians have studied the soil as a distinct natural object without regard to questions of fertility. The difference arose from the circumstance that the early fertiliser experiments at Rothamsted and elsewhere had given striking increases in crop production, while those in Russia had not. The British workers therefore concentrated on soil fertility, which they were learning to control : the Russian workers took another direction. These studies began soon after 1861, when the serfs were emancipated by the Tsar Alexander II. The Free Economical Society was formed, and arranged with D. L. Mendeléeff, then a young man, to carry out fertiliser experiments in various parts of Russia. These experiments failed to give the definite positive results obtained in England and elsewhere, and Mendeléeff discontinued the work and returned to pure chemistry to discover the Periodic Law. It is interesting to speculate what might have happened in the history of science had the fertiliser experiments come out more definitely and Mendeléeff become an agricultural chemist. Later on the Society arranged with V. V. Dokuchaiev to study the *chernozem*—the black earths of Russia, on which wheat is so much grown.

Had this investigation been made in England, it would almost certainly have resolved itself into a study of the crop-producing power of the soil ; in Russia things happened otherwise, and Dokuchaiev, disregarding relationships to plant growth, studied only the soil itself, and discovered the existence of layers more or less parallel with the surface and all related one to the other. Over considerable areas of Russia he and his pupils found similar morphological characteristics, on the basis of which, rather than of geological origin, they

[1] By a curious error in journalism, for which it is difficult to account, one of the best American daily papers, in dealing with the Soil Congress, described Glinka as the son of a peasant. This description was copied in other papers and read out at certain of the functions, much to his amusement.

classified the Russian soils. P. A. Kostychev studied these relationships chemically. A close connexion was found between the soil types and climate, and the generalisation gradually emerged that the soil is largely a function of the climate, this being more important than the parent rock.

This remains the fundamental thesis of the Russian workers. If the climate be known it is possible to predict what the soil type will be. Further studies have revealed discrepancies which, however, are courageously dealt with; where it is not possible to explain the soil on its present-day climate, as in the case of the so-called degraded *chernozem*, a change of climate is postulated to account for the observed facts. The British soils present considerable difficulties, many of them being so closely dominated by the properties of the parent rock that the geological classification is still the best, but they are being studied by the Russian methods. It is now universally recognised that the Russian pedologists have added much to the resources of soil science, and among the foremost of the pioneers Glinka's name will always be counted. E. J. RUSSELL.

LORD KENYON, K.C.V.O.

LORD KENYON of Gredington, Flintshire, who died on Nov. 30, aged sixty-three years, was a country gentleman with a fine record of public service in respect to agriculture and Welsh institutions such as the University and the National Museum of Wales. He was Lord Lieutenant of Denbighshire, and had been Lord-in-Waiting to three sovereigns.

The first Lord Kenyon of Gredington was the great jurist; the late peer, the fourth holder of the title, succeeded his grandfather in 1869 at the age of five. He was educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford, and was created K.C.V.O. in 1907. His interest in agriculture led to his appointment when a young man as a member of the Welsh Land Commission. In 1924 he was chairman of the Advisory Committee on Milk Production and of the Agricultural Wages Board.

As Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Lord Kenyon did a great deal to foster and encourage scientific research in the University. He realised very clearly that one of the chief aims of a university must be the attainment of truth and the extension of knowledge. He took a particular interest in the new science buildings at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, which were opened in 1926, and in the well-equipped laboratories which have been set up at Swansea during recent years. He also watched with growing interest the rise of the new physics and chemistry buildings at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff, which are at the present time nearing completion. His great interest in the Welsh National School of Medicine was largely due to the fact that he realised the great services that by means of scientific research and investigation such an institution is capable of rendering not only to the solution of health problems in Wales, but also to the cause of medical science generally. For this reason he was a strong advocate of what is known as the 'medical unit system.'

Few realised more clearly than Lord Kenyon the function of a university in the life of the community, as a place for guarding and increasing our inheritance of knowledge and for keeping that knowledge alive. He was a great believer in post-graduate scholarships for research, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to announce gifts made from time to time for the endowment of such scholarships. He secured many such gifts for the University of Wales.

Lord Kenyon's services to the National Museum of Wales at a critical period in its development were no less valuable. He was elected president of the National Museum for the five-year period which terminated on Sept. 30 last. Though he had had no previous connexion with the institution, he at once set himself to grasp the problems and needs of the Museum and threw himself heart and soul into its work. When he took office, only the western wing of the Museum building in Cathays Park, Cardiff, was in use. The great part of the south front was a mere shell, and there was at that time no possibility of finishing it. He was foremost in urging on all interested in education in Wales that the completion of a sufficient portion of the building adequately to illustrate the environment and history of man in Wales, and the achievement of the people of Wales in the arts and crafts, was vitally important. Generous benefactions having enabled this work to be carried out, it fell to Lord Kenyon, as president, to receive their Majesties the King and Queen on the occasion of the opening ceremony in April last, and it is a source of great gratification to all concerned that he should have been able, before his death, to see this national institution happily launched on its career.

Lord Kenyon proved an admirable president; he never spared himself in the services of the Institution, and attended every meeting at which his presence was desired, even at great personal inconvenience. Though the intra-mural work of the Museum was his chief interest—his personal inclinations leant towards art and archæology—his long experience of administration and of Welsh life and culture, led him to support in the warmest possible way the efforts made to extend the extra-mural activities of the Museum by the scheme successfully launched during his presidency of affiliating to the Institution the local museums in Wales.

Lord Kenyon's imposing figure, charming manner, and unfailing courtesy endeared him to all classes of the community. By his death Wales loses one of her most conscientious, painstaking, and influential public men, who combined the prestige of a great name with an exceptional personality. In the words of one who knew him well: "He brought to the service of the Welsh people the qualities which in the past made leadership easy and natural to aristocracy." C. F. J. J.