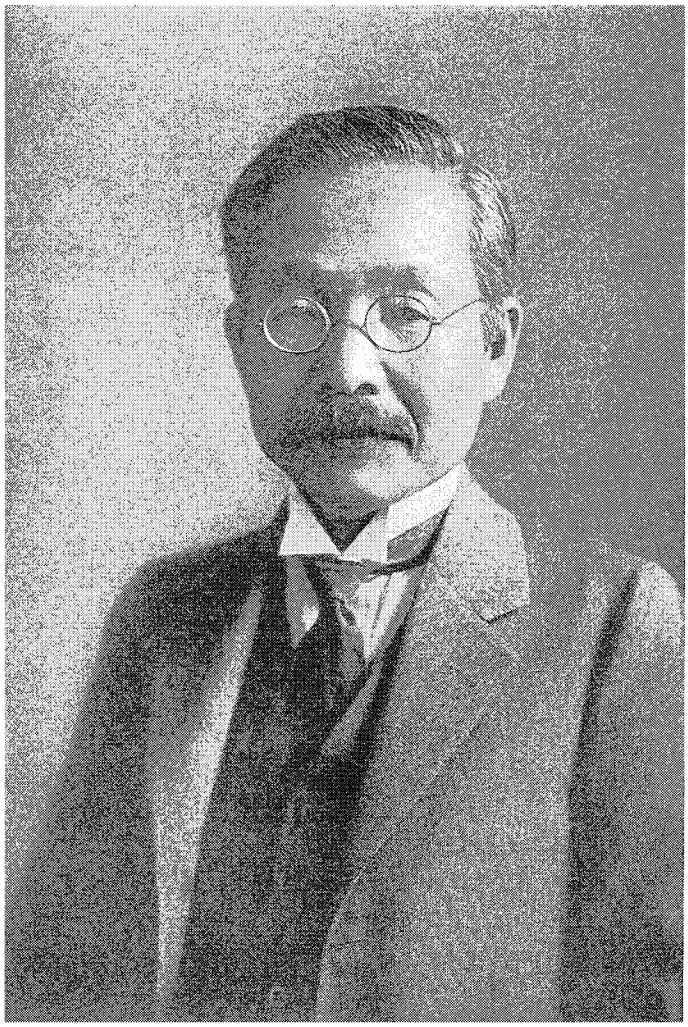

PROFESSOR KIKUNAE IKEDA.

Kikunae Ikeda was born in Kyoto on October 8th., 1864, as the second son of Harunae Ikeda. His family belonged to the Satsuma Clan, which was one of the most outstanding in introducing western learning in Japan and played most conspicuous role at the time of the Meiji Restoration.

After learning English and eastern classics at several places, young Ikeda entered the preliminary course of the Tokyo University in 1882. Soon he distinguished himself as a most promising student, and graduated the course of chemistry in the College of Science of the University in 1889.

During six years, from 1890 to 1896, he taught in the Higher Normal School. His efforts in improving chemical education in Japan, by introducing rising principles of physical chemistry as the basis, has been widely acknowledged.

In 1896 he was called back to his *alma mater* as an assistant professor in the College of Science, and three years later was sent abroad as a government research fellow. From 1899 to 1901 he studied in the Laboratory of Prof. Ostwald in Leipzig, where many young physical chemists crowded from all parts of the world at that time. After staying for a few months in the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution, London, he returned home and was promoted to the professor of physical chemistry in the Tokyo Imperial University. Soon he took the degree of Rigakuhakushi and directed the chemical institute from 1912 until he retired from the chair on March 1923.

Professor Ikeda was elected a member of the Imperial Academy of Tokyo in 1919. On the establishment of the National Research Council of Japan in 1920, he was elected one of the members, and served as the vice-chairman of its Division of Chemistry from 1921 to 1923. The title of Honorary Professor of the Tokyo Imperial University was bestowed to him on his retirement from the active service in the University. Since the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research was established in 1916, he directed its chemical department until 1921, and still remains there as an active member of the Institute.

Professor Ikeda's works as a physical chemist are chiefly in the field of chemical kinetics and the theory of solutions. As early as 1894 he published a paper on velocity of oxidation of phosphorus. His work with Bredig on the catalytic action of colloidal platinum is well known. He tried an extension of the theory of ideal solution from chemical standpoint, the result of which was published in 1908. Many works on chemical kinetics, enzyme actions and vapour tensions of solutions have been published chiefly in the name of his pupils.

Besides physical chemistry, Professor Ikeda has very wide and keen interest in almost every part of chemistry. Especially his success in the practical application of chemistry ought not be passed without notice. He discovered the importance of the salts of glutamic acid and other decomposition products of proteids as the principles of taste in food. "Ajinomoto," verbally taste essence, which is the name given to the product manufactured according to his patent method, is very popular in Japan, being used in household cookings. He applied properly dehydrated acid clay as the adsorbent of moisture. The preparation under the name "Adsole" is now getting great reputation for adjusting humidity in public buildings.

In order to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of Professor Ikeda which was due October last year, his many friends and former pupils have raised a considerable sum of money, which was presented, according to the wish of Professor Ikeda, to the Chemical Society of Japan as a fund for promoting scientific publications. The Society gratefully decided to undertake the publication of short papers or abstracts in European languages, which took the form of this Bulletin.

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Masao KATAYAMA.