

## J. A. WEST: IN MEMORIAM.

BY S. A. FORBES.

Mr. James Alexander West, a charter member of this Academy, was born March 29, 1874, at Nokomis, Ill. His father, Reverend James M. West, was a clergyman in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He took his first degree in a scientific course at the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington, in 1899, and received the master's degree from the same college in 1904. In the meantime he had taken a theological course at Boston University, from which he graduated in 1903.

After preaching for two years, he returned to scientific work as an assistant in the State Entomologist's office, located at the University of Illinois, under an appointment dated September 1, 1905, and entered also upon a graduate course in entomology for which he would have received his doctor's degree at the commencement of 1910 except for the failure of his health in September, 1909. He died of tuberculosis April 17, 1910, at Ottawa, Ill., in the thirty-fourth year of his age, leaving a wife, Mrs. Mary Josephine (Varty) West, to whom he was married in 1901, and two children aged 6 years and 15 months, respectively.

Mr. West was a painstaking, thorough, and accurate student, and a faithful, loyal, and unselfish gentleman. He was a clear writer, and an unusually acceptable speaker to general audiences. He made friends easily, was highly regarded by his entomological associates, and was rapidly becoming widely and favorably known throughout his state. Although at the very beginning of his scientific career, he had won sufficient recognition and appreciation to bring him, in 1909, an appointment as head of the department of entomology in an important technical college—an appointment which he declined in order to complete his graduate course. He left several papers on scientific subjects in form for publication, one of which has been recently printed as a bulletin of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History.