

IN MEMORIAM—R. J. WEITH.

Born September 15th, 1847, in Wroutke, Prussia; died September 15th, 1902, in Elkhart, Indiana. A few words of biography, together with the sad intelligence of his death, have already appeared in these pages; but it seems fitting that the life of one who was well known to many entomologists in America and Europe as an accurate observer, an indefatigable worker, a valued correspondent, and a sincere friend, should receive more than a passing notice.

From his son, Mr. Louis E. Weith, I have obtained some further facts. At an early age he was apprenticed as a barber, and from the age of thirteen until a short time before his death he followed this business. It was while at school, prior to his thirteenth year, that he acquired that love for nature which was ever afterward the passion of his life.

At twenty-five he came to New York; thence he went to New Orleans, afterwards to Memphis, to Chicago, and then to South Bend, Indiana, where he was married. Thereafter he removed to Elkhart, where he resided until his death.

His knowledge of entomology and his skill as a field naturalist were obtained by the devotion of all his spare moments (which were all too few) to these ends. His chief subject of study was the parasitic Hymenoptera. Of his work in this field I will leave others to speak. During the last few years of his life he took up, with great enthusiasm and success, the study of the life-histories of Odonata, Plecoptera and Ephemeroptera; and it is of some of the qualities of the work he did in this field that I wish to speak. He began by collecting and contributing data for Williamson's Dragonflies of Indiana. My correspondence with him began when he, having learned that I was seeking to obtain the immature stages of a dragonfly of peculiar and restricted distribution that he had found near his home, wrote me, offering to find these stages for me, if I would direct his efforts. I gladly wrote the few suggestions necessary, and he found the specimens wanted. At my solicitation he recorded his observations of that time for the readers of this magazine, in Vol. XXXIII., pp. 252-254. During the summer of 1902 he studied with great diligence the life-histories of the Stoneflies and Mayflies of his own locality, and made here other important discoveries that still remain to be published.

His letters, which came thick and fast during the collecting season, for he was continually sending specimens, were marked by an impetuous desire to know where were the gaps in our knowledge, in order that he

might endeavour to fill some of them. Once he wrote me : "Would it not be well if older students would oftener publish notices of what observations are needed to clear up mysteries in the life-history of this or that species? There are those, like myself, who are interested in natural history and who have collected for many years, who have many good chances to observe important biological facts, but who have no means of knowing which of their observations are new. I have seen many things the knowledge of which would have saved professional entomologists much time ; but, not knowing this at the time, and not wishing to print to be laughed at, I have let the observations slip. Had I not seen your note on unknown dragonfly nymphs in the CANADIAN ENTOMOLOGIST some time ago, the nymph of *Nannothemis* had probably not yet been found." And again : "I shall be glad to contribute my mite toward widening the scope of our knowledge of natural history." And again, when I had written him about some of Say's species of Perliidæ, unheard of since Say's day, he wrote : "I am anxious to find some of the missing ones."

His diligence and application were remarkable, and his care to keep his statements within the limits of his observations was most exemplary. He was the best type of unprofessional entomologist. He so loved nature, and trusted in the value of accurate knowledge of her ways, that he was willing—nay, happy—to work and to wait, to observe and to verify again and again, in order that he might be able to tell in the end the simple truth. American entomology was honored by his methods, and has lost one of her ablest field naturalists by his untimely death.

JAMES G. NEEDHAM, Lake Forest, Ill.

MALE WASP WITH FEMALE ANTENNÆ.

BY W. HAGUE HARRINGTON, F.R.S.C., OTTAWA.

Among some hymenoptera recently received from Mr. A. Gordon Leavitt, of St. John, N. B., is a very interesting male of *Thyreopus latipes*, Smith. The sexes of this genus are readily separated, as the males have the anterior legs remarkably modified; the tibiæ especially being developed in broad shields, or leaf-like expansions. The antennæ are simple in the female, but those of the male have the flagellum fusiform and compressed. In *T. latipes* the basal joints are broad, and the flagellum narrows from the second joint to the apex. Mr. Leavitt's specimen, taken at St. John, N.