

Obituary.

WALTER S. CHAPMAN.

In the last Journal of Proceedings it was our sad duty to record the loss of two active and well-known members of the Association.

But a more painful duty now awaits us. Even death, when it comes at the sunset of a long and useful life, may justify its approach. To-day we chronicle the loss of one whose life had yet scarce shed the freshness of youth. Mr. Chapman was born at Hamilton on the 16th day of September, 1871, and was thus but 24 years of age at the time of his death, which occurred on the 3rd day of September of the present year.

Early in life Mr. Chapman chose the medical profession as his intended vocation, and applied himself diligently to his preparatory school course. But a higher fate ruled otherwise. When but eleven years of age failing health and a severe affection of the eyes compelled him to abandon all study for a time. A trip to Europe for change and medical treatment so far restored his health as to enable him to complete his public school course and spend two years in collegiate work, when a second loss of strength forced him to relinquish all thought of undergoing the severe strain of university work.

Though compelled to forego the pleasure of school life, Mr. Chapman did not in the least lose his thirst for knowledge. The study of nature, to which he had been early drawn, now became his ruling passion, microscopy and botany being his favorite departments. In the last of these he has left as a memorial of his zeal a collection of Canadian and foreign plants which would do credit to a scientist of far older years. It was at this time that Mr. Chapman became interested in the work of the Association, among whose members he found companions congenial to his quiet and studious disposition. Being of a retired nature he always avoided the very appearance of notoriety. The Association, however, were not slow in discovering his real merit, and soon appointed him to one of its offices, a position which he held at the time of his death.