

## OBITUARY

### THE REV. JOHN A. LEES

By the death of the Rev. John A. Lees there has passed away one who was formerly a well-known and enthusiastic member of the West of Scotland Branch. He was a Borderer, and in his boyhood was connected with Galashiels E.U. Church. After training in the E.U. Theological Hall in Glasgow, he was ordained in 1894, and was

minister successively at the Hood Memorial Church, Glasgow, at Stewarton, Ayrshire, and at St. James's Church, Hamilton. In 1925 he removed to Newport, Fife, where he ministered until his retirement in March last. He served on the College and other committees of the Congregational Church in Scotland, and was for many years its pulpit supply secretary. He was a keen temperance worker. In 1929-30 he was President of the Congregational Union of Scotland. He was an excellent linguist, and was a votary of Esperanto, in which he preached to the members of the Scottish Esperanto Federation in Dundee, Perth and Elie.

While at Stewarton Mr. Lees commenced to take an interest in astronomy, and later at Hamilton he became associated with the West of Scotland Branch of the B.A.A. In 1923 February he became a Member of the Association. He followed up the science actively, on both the theoretical and practical sides, being specially devoted to planetary observation, and was a frequent speaker at meetings of the Branch. On one occasion he gave interesting accounts, illustrated by drawings, of observations made by himself and his son on the canals and other surface markings of Mars. In the three years 1933-35 he was a lecturer in astronomy under the David Elder foundation in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow. He did much in the way of interesting others in the science, and his vigorous and breezy style of lecturing was much appreciated. After a short illness Mr. Lees died on 1935 September 27, at the age of sixty-nine years. He is survived by Mrs. Lees and one son, the Rev. John Lees, of Castle Street Congregational Church, Dundee, to whom the sincere sympathy of the West of Scotland Branch is extended.

J. J. R.