

JOSEPH R. PUTNAM: IN MEMORIAM.*

The death of Joseph R. Putnam, September 7, 1910, removed from the active members of the academy one who has long been identified with the society and who had served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the preceding eighteen years.

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Mr. Putnam was born in 1835, at Houlton, Maine. He spent his boyhood days in New England, and graduated from Williams' College in the year 1858. At the opening of the Civil War, Mr. Putnam enlisted in the Third Minnesota Infantry. In 1862 he was made lieutenant of that infantry, and in 1864 lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-Third Colored U. S. Infantry. Soon after that he was taken prisoner. While on parole on account of illness, he served in General Sibley's staff in the Sioux Indian campaign. Later, upon his return to his own company, Mr. Putnam served on the Signal Corps until the close of the war. He served in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

Following the close of the Civil War, Mr. Putnam came to Chicago and soon established himself in the real estate business. As a citizen of Chicago he took an active interest in the general welfare of the community. He became a member of the Chicago Academy of Sciences before the great fire in 1871, when the records of the Academy were destroyed. He was among the most enthusiastic members in the re-establishment and growth of the Academy after the fire, and up to the time of his death gave a great deal of attention to the welfare and development of the institution.

In the year 1892 he was elected to membership on the Board of Trustees, and in 1899 chosen as the president of that Board, in which capacity he served until the time of his death. During Mr. Putnam's association with the Academy he endeared himself in many ways to the members of the Society.