

MR. CHARLES WILT.

In 1859 a few friends met to consider the formation of an entomological society, and in response to the call Mr. Wilt was one of fifteen who assembled. The organization was soon completed, and Mr. Wilt became treasurer March 14th of that year, remaining in that position until the close of 1863.

For nearly a year the Society met at the houses of its members until it was resolved that a library and cabinet would be necessary to aid the members in their studies. The difficulty of finding a home for the Society was solved by Mr. Wilt, who placed at its disposal the large saloon-room of his house, then recently built, and from Jan. 9, 1860, until August, 1862, these comfortable quarters were occupied without expense to the Society, and in this room the first volume of our Proceedings was printed—on a small hand-press—page by page.

The interest taken by Mr. Wilt in the Society increased with its progress, and no one was more ready to respond to any call for personal or pecuniary assistance than he. While not an active student of entomology he kept himself well advised in whatever related to its progress, especially in the fauna of our country. His interest was concentrated in the two orders COLEOPTERA and LEPIDOPTERA, and by liberal purchases and constant exchanges he accumulated a collection of the former order standing high in rank in our country, while in certain portions of the LEPIDOPTERA, the Sphingidæ and Catocalæ, his series has but few, if any, superiors.

His cabinet was at all times freely at the disposal of others, and very many of his friends were accustomed to use it in naming their local captures. To those who desired the use of his material for more thorough study he was especially kind in loan and gift, as it has been my pleasure on many occasions to testify.

Of the life of Mr. Wilt apart from his connection with our Society very little need be said. With an early training to mercantile pursuits he continued in business until his death, acquiring a competency, which enabled him to indulge his love for entomology.

Mr. Charles Wilt was born June 12, 1821, and died April 3, 1886.

GEO. H. HORN, M. D.