

S. partumeium Say. Very abundant everywhere and quite variable.

GEORGE W. LICHTENTHALER.

BY MORTON J. ELROD, ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

The familiar face of George W. Lichtenthaler, one of the best known of American conchologists, and one of the most earnest and energetic collectors of natural history specimens, will be seen no more. He passed away at San Francisco on Tuesday, February 20th., death being caused by fatty degeneration of the heart. He was 60 years of age.

Mr. Lichtenthaler was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Bloomington, Ill., at the age of twenty-two. For five years he was a drug clerk, then bought out the stock, conducted business for himself for seventeen years, after which he retired with a snug fortune. During this time he imbibed a taste for natural history, and after his retirement devoted his entire time and the proceeds of his large estate to the gathering and collecting of shells, ferns, and algæ. Mrs. Lichtenthaler died nine years ago, leaving no children. After her death Mr. Lichtenthaler turned his mind more than ever to his chosen work. His wife's death was a great blow to him, and he was no doubt greatly moved to collecting to forget his sorrow. His affection for her is shown in his desire that the vast collection should be given a name that would incorporate the name of "Rebecca S. Lichtenthaler."

Mr. Lichtenthaler was an amateur collector, never having sold specimens, or labored for hire. It was a labor of love. If he could not exchange he would give of his duplicates to those who would make use of them. Many people of this community treasure collections from distant climes given by him, and many a lad with a love for nature has had this love fanned into a flame through his encouragement, and has gone from the presence of this great-hearted man not only with a greater love for nature's works, but with a liberal gift of shells or other specimens carefully preserved. Many a case has he recounted to me, sitting by my fireside, of boys he has helped to knowledge and position, by pointing the way and lending substantial aid.

Had he desired, he might have been famous as a traveler, by putting his observations in print. But he disliked and shunned publicity, and we know of nothing he has written. He was one of those workers who cared little for making new genera or species, and who collected not wholly for himself, but also for his fellow workers, and for public museums. In his travels he has been in nearly every country in the world, has been several times along the entire west American coast, was at home in the Sandwich Islands, has traversed the coast of Europe from North Cape to Gibraltar, and has been up and down both coasts of Africa, as well as around the Indian Ocean. In these travels many of the rarest species known to science were brought together, and are left among his great collection.

He was one of the early members of the "American Association of Conchologists," being enrolled as a member, May 15th, 1890. His special study was shells of the Pacific Coast. He was an active and enthusiastic member, and did much toward its promotion. His gift of Pacific Coast shells to the collection of the Association was a large and valuable addition.

Few men have as wide a personal acquaintance with men of science as he had. Devoting all his energy and time to travel and collecting, and having been all over the American continent, he met them everywhere. His retiring disposition led him to make little mention of his achievements and his great work was not known to many of the people of his home. But to a few of his friends and acquaintance who could appreciate his work he unburdened his heart, and would recount his travels and experiences, and give descriptions of museums and countries for hours at a time. He was an interesting conversationalist, and would relate his experiences in a manner that always commanded attention.

His main work was in conchology. His collection embraces many highly polished specimens, and he spared no expense to have always the finest and best that was to be had. While on a trip to France a few years ago he heard of an English firm who cut gastropods longitudinally to show their spiral arrangement, and he has case after case of shells of this exquisite workmanship. All his specimens are authoritatively correct, having been labelled by the highest authorities, and we are glad to announce to the conchologists of the middle and western United States that he has left the collection where it will be accessible to the public for comparisons.

His collection embraces shells, crustaceans, echinoderms, corallines, corals, fossil shells and plants, minerals, ferns, and marine algæ. There are six to eight thousand species of shells, and at a low estimate twenty-five thousand specimens, from all parts of the world. There are eight hundred species of marine algæ, and four hundred species of ferns. The latter include a nearly complete collection of the ferns of North America, a complete collection from the Hawaiian Islands; also many from India, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South America, Europe, etc. He stated that he had two species not in any other collection.

This vast and valuable collection he leaves without reserve to the Illinois Wesleyan University, in Bloomington, where his life has been spent, where his bride was wedded and laid to rest; and here his many friends will be permitted to again look through it, but without his guiding hand and eloquent description. This gives the Illinois Wesleyan University his life work, and endows it with one of the finest conchological collections in the West. It will be known as the "George W. and Rebecca S. Lichtenthaler Collection," and will enshrine their names not only in the hearts of their friends, but also in the hearts of many students who will receive inspiration from his work, as many have done from his life.

NOTES AND NOTICES.

CORRECTION.—In the February No. the date of Mr. Martindale's death was by error given as Jan. 10, instead of Tuesday Jan. 3d.—*P. N.*

PROF. B. SHIMEK, of the State University of Iowa, is collecting invertebrates and cryptogamous plants in the interests of that institution in Nicaragua.

CONRAD'S MEDIAL TERTIARY.—The Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia, Pa. proposes to reprint the book on The Medial Tertiary Fossils of the United States by T. A. Conrad, if 150 subscriptions can be obtained at \$3.50. For circular apply to the Institute.

UNIO CORUSCUS, SUBLURIDUS, etc.—In looking over Mr. Berlin H. Wright's "Notes on *Unio coruscus* Gould," in the March NAUTILUS I see that he acknowledges that his *U. fryanum* can be con-



Elrod, Morton J. 1893. "George W. Lichtenthaler." *The Nautilus* 6, 141–143.

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