

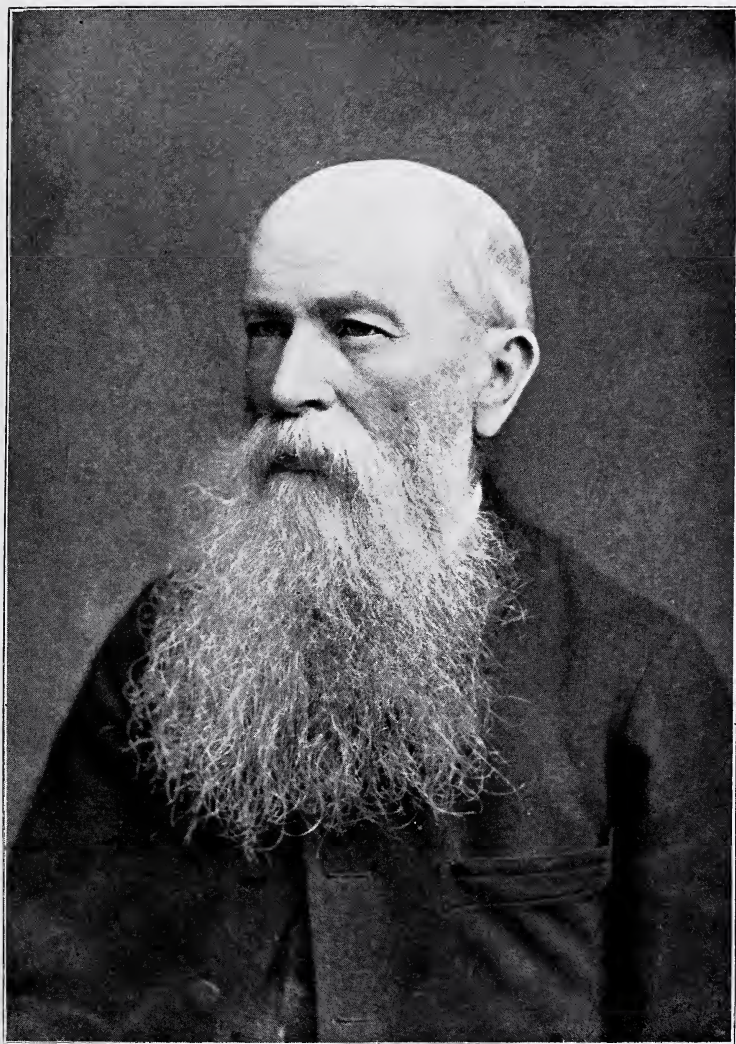
Dr. Walter Winter Walter,

M.R.C.S., Eng.

BY CHARLES TITE.

THE accompanying portrait gives an admirable likeness of Mr. W. W. Walter, of the Gables, Stoke-under-Ham, who presented the contents of his museum to our Society in December, 1901.

Mr. Walter was born in the village named, and practised there more than half-a-century as a medical man. It may fairly be said of him that he inherited a love of archæology and natural history from his father, Mr. Richard Walter, whose discoveries on Ham Hill were duly recorded by him in the fourth volume of our *Proceedings*, when he also published a carefully-prepared map of the hill and gave a description of that most interesting eminence. Mr. W. W. Walter followed in the footsteps of his father at an early age, and steadily got together a considerable number of local antiquities. Nor was he content to be a collector only, for every important addition brought him into correspondence with some able man whom he thought likely to give him reliable information about it. The notes thus collected were carefully preserved, and form not the least interesting item of his valuable gift. For some years, one of the principal rooms in his house was occupied by the collection, and when it had outgrown the accommodation thus afforded, a larger room was provided over a range of outbuildings. In due time, this also was fully occupied ;



WALTER WINTER WALTER, M.R.C.S., Eng.,
of The Gables, Stoke-under-Ham.

for the steady and regular growth of the collection gave another illustration of the fact that when suitable centres are provided and become well known, scores of things that would otherwise be scattered, if not destroyed, are taken there as a matter of course. Friends and neighbours were glad to contribute, and many lads of the labouring class who went farther afield remembered their good friend the doctor, and gladly brought home, or sent home, articles likely to be acceptable to him. Sailors and soldiers were considerable contributors. But the great source of wealth was, of course, Ham Hill; and the constant watchfulness of the enthusiastic collector made the most of it. Then again the regular round of professional visits, extending over such a long period, brought Mr. Walter into contact with almost everybody in the neighbourhood, and he delighted to tell the stories of his finds. Archæologists are deeply indebted to the zeal and research of Mr. Walter for many of the most interesting facts now known about the Beauchamp Castle and the Free Chapel at Stoke-under-Ham, and many items connected with both of these buildings were discovered and carefully preserved by him. Mr. Walter's love of natural history found expression in a large and valuable collection of butterflies and moths, all carefully set by himself; and also in several cases of local birds which he had skilfully preserved and mounted. Some idea of the extent and value of the collection will be gathered from the detailed description given in the following pages. It occupies a large upstairs room in the Museum at Taunton Castle, and the great gift was publicly and formally acknowledged by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Cork and Orrery, K.P., on May 21st, 1902, when his lordship also announced that Mr. Walter had been elected an honorary life member of the Society.