

REVIEW.

"CHIROPODY TODAY."*

By Edna S. and Florence Boothway, M.A.C.Ch., L.Ch.,
Principal of the Derbyshire Chiropody Academy.

As stated on the cover this is a Practical Handbook for Students and should prove very useful.

The introduction defines chiropody as the surgical and mechanical treatment for all foot troubles, excluding the right to operate on the feet for congenital deformities; for any condition requiring the use of an anæsthetic other than a local one such as ethyl chloride spray, or for any incisions involving the structure below the derma.

A useful and safe definition.

The descriptions of the structures of the foot and lower leg are simply yet clearly written giving a knowledge of the mechanism and use of the various parts of the lower limb.

Though no mention is made of the fact that the Anterior Metatarsal Arch becomes flattened when bearing weight, as in standing, but should resume its dome-like shape when the weight is removed providing the muscles are in good condition.

The "Circulation of the Blood," "Arteries of the Leg and Foot," "Veins, Lymphatics and Nerves," "Skin Structures and Disorders," have each a chapter to themselves and are explained in simple language.

The purpose and growth of the nails are described, also a clear idea of the various nail troubles, their cause and treatment.

Helomata (corns) and general foot troubles from blisters, chilblains, hammer toe to verruca and flat foot, are included, giving cause and treatment. The Authors advise fitting supports in cases of flat foot, together with corrective exercises, though opinion on the use of these appliances is divided. Muscle stimulation by means of Faradic Current is not mentioned, though this treatment combined with massage and corrective exercises is proving most efficacious, neither is the use of Infra Red Rays included in the treatment of bunions. The chapters on "Instruments," "Setting up the Surgery," and "General Hints" are very practical.

Brief descriptions of the drugs most commonly used in chiropody are given, but whilst the Authors point out the need for care in preparing a solution of Phenol, to avoid any possibility of burning a patient's skin, they omit to say *how* this can be done.

The Glossary at the end of the book should be useful though some of the pronunciations are unusual: Bone—bon, Toe—To, Nail—nal, Pore—por.

Ingrowing nail is described: See Onychogryposis, instead of Onychocryptosis, though the words are correctly described on a later page.

Stratum is defined as a layer, the various layers being mentioned by name but without any indication that it is the skin strata being defined.

This book is a good introduction to chiropody, the questions at the end of each chapter should enable students to test their knowledge in preparation for the examinations later on. It will also be helpful for reference in the early days of practice.

N.D.,

S.R.N., M.B.C.N.

EDNA LYALL

HER STYLE, HER BOOKS, HER CHARACTERS,
HERSELF.

In writing about the works of Edna Lyall I feel that I have taxed my abilities to the utmost, for not only is the list of her works a fairly long one, but every volume that has emanated from her versatile pen presents food for thought in almost every chapter.

I do not pretend to be a genuine critic who can detect all the flaws and weak points of a novel, as well as all its merits; I can only tell you that her books seem to me to show a gentle delicacy and deep feeling; along with profound sentiments of humanity and strong aspirations after ideal good, they are full of emotion and quiet tragedy none the less heartfelt that it is unostentatious. Also they are characterised by their wholesome tone, by freedom from any vicious tendency, by clearness, simplicity and directness of style; and by her graphic powers of description, for she wrote straight from the heart.

The inspirations in her books are many and varied, they treat not only of love and marriage, but of things political and ecclesiastical, of historical events and characters, of social yearnings and sceptical disquietudes, and through them all run charming descriptions of scenery full of light, air and colour. So one follows her plots with a keen and steady interest, admiring her sympathetic insight in linking and grouping together the real and the ideal, the good and the bad, the tragedy and the comedy of life in such a way that we lay down a volume with a feeling of satisfaction that we have for a time been taken out of our own cares and worries.

Her first novel, "Won by Waiting," was written after the termination of the Franco-German war, and in the opening chapters the scene is placed in Paris during all the horrors of the Prussian siege and bombardment and the early days of the commune, and people have often wondered that a mere girl should have been able to draw such vivid sketches of unknown lives and places; but it must be remembered that the imagination of a true artist—together with the help of keen observation ever on the alert—is able to depict scenes and places that have not been personally visited or experienced.

Her quick perception taught her then that a reaction follows war, that the nation emerges purified and invigorated from the struggle. Great ideas, born of its agony thrill through the pulses of its intellectual life. The activity roused by stress of conflict echoes through its literature and philosophy, its political and social life, leading to a new growth of national spirit and enterprise.

But this first novel made no name for itself and lay so much in oblivion that the young authoress despaired of ever making anything like a reputation for herself. But her next two books, "Donovan," and "We Two," really stirred the public feeling and one realises, even in the opening chapters, how much she had grown and widened in character, thought, expression and power!

Before this time she had become acquainted with "Mr. Bradlaugh" for whom she had much admiration and sympathy, for she thought there were many who were incapable of understanding the uprightness and grandeur of his character, but seized upon a few obvious defects to blight his reputation and destroy his popularity. Her indignation at the treatment meted out to him originated the plot of the second and best known book, "We Two," in which the story is woven round Luke Raeburn an atheist and his young daughter Erica, who has been brought up to share her father's disbeliefs and secularism. She lives a life of dreams, and faith in a father she idolises

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