

BOOKS AND BOOK-MEN.

"CHARLOTTE."

This is the tale of a fashionable beauty and a very charming, witty young woman to boot; indeed her wit and charm are even more accentuated than her beauty. But her virtues are very much less conspicuous than her charms, and, therefore, as her story progresses it becomes somewhat painful reading. Yet Charlotte had elements of good in her which might have developed into the makings of a noble woman had she had a different mother. But her mother was an unprincipled worldling and her daughter's evil genius. The novel is written in Mrs Walford's bright, pleasant, chatty style, and gives the best examples of her cleverness in characterisation and dialogue that I have yet come across. Her great popularity is likely to be increased by "Charlotte."

"Charlotte," by L. B. Walford—Longmans, Green, and Co.

Clear Complexion and Robust Health.

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS TRANSFORM A ONCE ANAEMIC GIRL.

Those who know Miss Maggie Russell, of Livingstone, Otago, cannot have failed to notice her clear, rosy complexion and bright, healthy appearance. It will be no surprise to the many who have benefited by Dr. Williams' pink pills to know that she attributes this happy state of affairs entirely to their use.

"Formerly," said she, when interviewed, "there was no colour in my cheeks. I was pale and thin, and quite devoid of strength—the result of anaemia and debility. My system was thoroughly run down, I was disinclined either for work or pleasures, could not sleep at night, and derived no nourishment from my food. A doctor diagnosed my case as poverty of the blood, but only a little benefit was derived from his treatment."

"Then," she continued, "after being under medical treatment for some time, I left Oamaru and came to Livingstone. Whilst at the latter place I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, having read that they were beneficial in such cases as mine. A few days after I began taking them I noticed an improvement. After using three boxes I was restored to perfect health. As my blood became enriched the colour returned to my cheeks and lips, and now I am strong and robust, full of energy, have a splendid appetite and sleep well. The good health and complexion I possess are due entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which remedy I never fail to introduce to suffering friends."

For promoting a permanently beautiful complexion by natural means Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cannot be surpassed. They enrich the blood, tone up the nerves, strengthen the spine, and induce a proper circulation and perfect health. The result is the beautiful complexion so noticeable in those who have used these pills. They also cure debility, dyspepsia, liver and kidney troubles, consumption of the bowels and lungs, nervous disorders, St. Vitus' dance, skin complaints, rheumatism, neuralgia, paralysis, etc. Sold by chemists and storekeepers and the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Wellington, 3/ per box, six boxes 16/6, post free. If your health and complexion are affected, write for testimonials and free letter of information.

BOUGHT AT ONCE.

Dugley was contemplating the purchase of a country place and had driven his wife out to look at it. "How do you like it?" he asked. "Oh! I'm delighted; its beauty fairly renders me speechless," she replied. "That settles it," replied Dugley; "I'll buy it this afternoon."

Stamp Collecting.

Cuban stamps issued since the war should never be scarce. Since January 1st, 1890, the following United States stamps were issued over-printed "Cuba":—One centavo, 4,000,000; 2 centavos, 4,000,000; 2½ centavos, 2,000,000; 3 centavos, 4,000,000; 5 centavos, 4,000,000; 10 centavos, 400,000; 10 centavos, Express, 20,000. Special designs: 1 centavo, 4,000,000; 2 centavos, 7,000,000; 3 centavos, 2,000,000; 5 centavos, 2,000,000; 10 centavos, 600,000; 10 centavos, Express, 100,000. Postage due U.S. stamps over-printed "Cuba," 1 centavo, 100,000; 2 centavos, 200,000; 5 centavos, 70,000; 10 centavos, 60,000. In addition the following quantity of stationery, envelopes, U.S.A., 1c, 20,000; 2c, 10,000; 4c., 5c., unknown; envelopes, current, 1c., 10,000; 2c., 100,000; 5c., unknown; post cards, 1c., 1,003,000; 2c., 581,750; and bands, number unknown.

Of the countless hobbies that have sprung up of recent years in response to the demand for some pursuit to take the ordinary man "out of himself," stamp collecting may be said to have gained a leading place. Its claims are indisputable; it appeals alike to the schoolboy and to the millionaire, and it is within the reach of both. The last few years have witnessed an enormous development in philately as a science since stamp collecting first saw the light about 1854. It knows no politics, for it is decidedly international. Around it has grown up a formidable cluster of technical terms, and it summons to its aid the artist, the chemist, the engraver and the printer.—"Globe."

The idea of amateur stamp collectors that specimens are more valuable when postmarked has been the means of destroying thousands of pounds worth of stamps. It is estimated that within the last year or two many hundreds of pounds worth of South African V.R.L. stamps have been spoiled in that manner.

Somerset House has notified that from the 18th of January, 1902, the use of the 10/ postage die was discontinued.

The only known unused copy of the British Honduras inverted "6" surcharge in black on the 10-cent, or 4d, of 1891, was sold by auction in London recently for £15 10/. Three sheets of 30 of this stamp with inverted red surcharge and one with inverted black surcharge were issued to a Scottish collector, Mr. Aikman, who happened to be visiting Belize at the time. He got them postmarked, only keeping a single unused copy with the inverted black surcharge, which explains the high price paid for it.

The Gold Coast provisional stamps, 1d on 2½d, and 1d on 6d, were only issued from October 6th, 1901, to the 20th of the same month. The total quantity surcharged was 1000 sheets of 60 each. Probably half that quantity was secured by local dealers.

King Edward stamps have been reissued in England. The remaining stock of "Queen's Heads" is exhausted, and it is now getting difficult to buy such in London. Of course there will be no scarcity of Queen's heads amongst collectors and dealers.

Among the plainest and yet most uninteresting to philatelists are the stamps of British Guiana, in use about 1830. The hand-stamp used for a post-mark was altered by having a value-mark placed in the centre, instead of a date. The impressions were then made upon cheap coloured paper similar to what is now known as poster paper, the postmaster signing his initials on each before selling. The set consists of eight values. Used specimens in good condition bring £12, £50, £60 and one particularly scarce specimen as high as £300.

Corea contemplates issuing a new series of postage stamps of larger size than the present ones. In the centre will be a representation of a falcon, with the Yu Yang, a sacred Korean symbol (a circular object shaded dark and light in various ways and symbolic of life and death, good and evil, etc.) on the breast.

In 1844, when the United States Government had not as yet issued stamps, the postmasters of Baltimore, Brattleboro, Millbury, Mass., New Haven, New York, Providence and St. Louis, devised stamps of their own design, which they sold to the public for the purpose of repaying postage. An unused specimen of the Brattleboro stamp was offered in 1897 for 3/1, but did not sell. It was subsequently bought by a Boston collector for 2/8. Now the identical Brattleboro specimen is catalogued at £130.

A 12-cent stamp is to be issued in Mauritius, it being greatly needed since the postal rate to Great Britain was reduced to 6 cents. In the meantime the 18-cent green and ultramarine has been surcharged 12 cents. About 30,000 of these provisionals are stated to have sold in a few hours.

A new kind of stamp album has found great favour with little folk. It is made to look something like a menagerie, each page being covered with bars. The only stamps admitted are those which bear a design of an animal—and there are more of these than one would imagine at first sight. From the United States come a pony and a buffalo, from Labuan a stag and a crocodile, Liberia has a hippopotamus and an elephant, Newfoundland has a dog, a codfish and a seal, and West Australia rejoices in a swan. The book is made doubly interesting if it is illustrated with pictures of the trees and foliage belonging to each place.—"Daily Graphic."

Lady (to tramp): You can have something to eat if you'll work for it. Tramp (with extreme dignity): Madam, would you ask me to stultify myself?

EXPERIENCE TEACHER.

"Are you sure these corsets are unbreakable?" asked the doubting customer. "I have been wearing a pair myself for a year," said the shop girl, "and they are not broken yet, and," she continued, blushing, "I'm engaged."

A Life Saved
Sixteen Months of Awful Suffering

Impure blood is always dangerous. Just as soon as you begin to feel weak and languid, nervous and depressed you are in danger. Make your blood pure and your nerves strong at once. Mr. Thomas H. Cashel, of Dripton, New South Wales, Australia, sends us this letter, with his photograph:



"I was suddenly taken very ill and for three weeks was delirious nearly all the time, and my life was despaired of. The doctors said it was blood poisoning. For many long weeks I suffered the most frightful agony; the poisoning all settled in one limb. I then went to Sydney Hospital, where dead pieces of bone were taken from my leg. But I grew weaker and weaker, until I could hardly raise my hand. I then left the hospital, believing I must surely die. Then my people bought me a bottle of

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

It did me good at once. In all I used fifteen bottles. Without doubt it saved my life, even after sixteen months of suffering." Take Ayer's Pills with the Sarsaparilla. Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.



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in the **Milk**
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See this Trade Mark on every Tin.