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Book Reviews.

"The Way to Health and Long Life," by Medicus; Juta & Co.; 7s. 6d.

The weekly Health Talks by Medicus in the "Week-end Argus" have familiarised readers of that paper with his ideas and style. In this book of nearly 200 pages one is spared the disjointedness that must inevitably characterise the Weekly Talk. It also gives the author greater latitude in determining the amount of space which he shall devote to each particular subject—a freedom which was impossible in the weekly contribution to a newspaper. The result is a volume that is as instructive as it is amusing, and as concise in its method of presentation as it is comprehensive in the field which it attempts to cover. No doubt the style will offend those who dislike to have their bodies or ailments described in everyday language; to whom "constipation" is unnecessary vulgarity, but "intestinal stases" has the dignity of a disease. It might also fail to carry conviction to those who only react to the lurid and the sensational, who thrill at the dread mystery of words like "X-ray" and gauge the potency of a drug by the colour of its advertisements. But to the vast majority of readers the book, with its concise paragraphs and their humorous and apt headings, with its simple language and wealth of illustrative comparisons, will be as interesting as a novel.

The work is divided into two parts. The first, and shorter, consists of the Twelve Commandments of Health, and contains brief talks in a general way on the subjects of air, clothing, exercise, etc. The real body of the book, however, is in the second part, where definite and sensible advice is given on a host of specific topics—like food and sleep and constipation; on smoking, alcohol, patent medicines and nervous strain. In other words, Medicus has produced a "Hai Adam" that is authoritative and up-to-date, and as useful to the fit as to the ailing.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE ROYAL.

"Annie Laurie" at the Royal this week made an instantaneous appeal with its charming Scottish atmosphere. The story, which, after all, has taken some producing from a single song, is romantically unfolded amidst much local colour, and the principal character as portrayed by Lillian Gish more than does credit to the pathetic tone of her acting. This seems to take on a more robust quality on the heaths of Scotland, than is usual in her pictures, and the result is a delightfully human depiction of an essentially romantic story. Norman Kerry, as the hero, lives a life of much energy. The picture itself is full of action and some of the scenes are of great spectacular beauty.

During the showing of the picture Henry Miles sang "Annie Laurie" and a preliminary piece on the bagpipes was played to create a true atmosphere. Both did much to enhance the value of a most pleasing production.

"THE ROAD TO ROMANCE."

Movie picture fans who have been longing to see Ramon Novarro in the role of a real Latin lover are going to realise this ambition when they see him in "The Road to Romance," the screen version of Joseph Conrad's most famous story, which comes to the Royal on Monday next. Novarro plays this part as though he were born to it, and in doing so merely emulates the actions of his own ancestors who came to America several centuries back.

Marceline Day has the featured feminine role, and the supporting cast includes Roy D'Arcy, Marc McDermott and Bobby Mack.

THE GRAND.

At the Grand this week Norma Shearer stars as Rose Trelawney in "Trelawney of the Wells," the film version of Sir Arthur Pinero's famous play. The picture is eminently successful in its effort to portray the

romance of the period and there are many amusing situations and touches of drama in the excellent make-up of the scenes. Norma Shearer gives a charming characterisation of Rose in her own delightful personality. It is a picture that provides excellent entertainment.

On Monday Clive Brook and Billy Love will be seen in "The Yellow Lily," a Hungarian pre-war love romance. The story deals with the love affairs of a Hungarian Archduke and a peasant girl. The picture is lavishly produced and has a very remarkable theme and shows the gay life in pre-war days in Hungary. The story will appeal to all. On Thursday Jack Holt will be seen in Zane Grey's great story, "The Water Hole." The story deals with the taming of a passionate girl by a strong man. The picture has some beautiful technicolour scenes.

THE TIVOLI.

The full vaudeville programme at the Tivoli this week is headed by Jerry and her Baby Grands in "New Bits o' Dream Music." The clever lighting effects greatly enhance this act, contributing much to its general success. Jerry (Geraldine la Valliere) and her companions, Janet Rowland (soprano soloist), Florence Shewell (contralto) and Vera Walters (soprano) play well and their selection of popular and semi-classical music ensures them an enthusiastic reception.

An original and silent dancing turn is given by Parr and Parr, whose bright performance displays much humour as well as grace. Some tuneful songs are given by the Scots comedian, Andy McPherson, and Wyn and Ivy, although their excessive vitality becomes tiresome, are clever in their act. Songs and patter are presented by Roy Cowl and Molly McKay, and Frank Powell makes a return visit in his character songs. Remaining over from last week is Tommy Trinder in "Loads of Nonsense."

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