

From card.

BOORDE (ANDREWE) 1489?—1549?

*Good example*

The Breviary of Healthe, for all manner of sicknesses and diseases the which may be in man or woman, doth folowe. Expressyng the obscure terms of Greke, Araby, Latyn, and Barbary, in Engliche concernyng Physicke and Chierurgerie, compyled by Andrew Boorde, of Physicke Doctour, an Engliche man. [Colophon] Imprinted at London in Fletestrete at the signe of the George next to Saynt Dunstones Church by Wyllyam Powell. In the year of our Lorde God. M.D.LIII.

[Second title page] The Second Boke of the Breviary of Health, named the extravagantes foloweth: (Colophon) Imprynted at London in Fletestrete at the aygne of the George next to Saynt Dunstones Church by Wyllyam Powell. London, 1552. sm. 4°.

Engr. title pages. Woodcut back of the first. A few outline initials in the first book; outline and punctured initials in the second. Separate foliation. The last sig. in book I is Q., the first in book ii, is R., followed by B, C, D.

Bought at the Huth Sales, Nov. 1911.

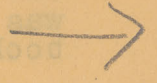
Boorde, one of the most remarkable of English physicians of the 16th. century, has suffered not a little in reputation from the attribution to him of the character of original Merry Andrew! Furnival whose study of his life and works in [ ] is admirable, has a sound criticism: (D. N. B.) "No one can read his racy writings without admiring and the liking the cheery, frank, bright, helpful and sensible fellow who penned them". See also Hearne's account in Vol. i, XLI of Benedictines Abbas &c. [ ]

Fuller said the Breviary was "The first written of that Faculty in English".

The breviary contains a mine of folk lore: old proverbs, old fashioned remedies that still survive.....forgotten elements of diet, obsolete customs.....and much positive information concerning the inner habits of the nation" Fox. p. 77.

The 1st ed. is 1547 Lord W. Middleton. The R.C.P. copy has the title page 1556, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and fol. ii -xi of this years issue but Fol. xiii to end is the edition of 1547, the only copy I have seen.

P.T.O.



Bodley has 1557, and 1598, B.M. 1552 157 175, '87, & '98.  
R.C.P. 1556 and 1557. Hunts. 1557 and 1587. S.G.L. 1575.

Erasmus.

To show how intimate, i.e. examined the book the following, with the first book. The last follows.

Extract from Folio C. xxiii 2 near the end of the book.

Here endeth the first boke examined in Oxford in June the yere of our Lord, B.CCCCC., xlvi. And in the reigne of our soverayne Lorde kynge Henry the viii kynge of Englande, France, and Ireland the xxxviii. pere. And newly Imprinted and corrected, the pere of our Lorde God, B.CCCCC. L.II.

The book examined in Oxford must have caught his attention for it has led to the following cases.

D.iii.

CU5417/35.38

Letter (Script) from R. L. Poole. To: W. U.

From the Keeper of the Archives,  
Oxford.

The Museum House,

12 October 1916.

Dear Sir William,

I have searched the Register of Congregation and the Act Book of the Chancellor's Court for the year 1546 and some time previous, and have found no record of any examination of books by the University. I did not indeed expect to find any, for in 1546 the University was in the lowest state of humiliation and was completely under the heels of Henry VIII and his agents.

It seems to me that the examination of Andrew Boorde's book was made in pursuance of the Statute of 1543 (34 & 35 Hen. VII. c. 1) against the publication of "books and writings in the English tongue" which taught anything contrary to the King's religion. All such books were to be "abolished"; but in order to ascertain whether their contents came within the Statute, it was evidently necessary to examine them. A book of which the title began with the word "Breviary" would naturally need looking into.

In the month after Boord's book was examined, on 8 July 1546 a proclamation was issued giving a long list of English books condemned. It is printed in Cattley's edition of Foxe's Acts and Monuments, v. 565 568 (1858). This shows that the government was actively exercised on the subject at the time. The prohibited books were to be handed over for burning to the sheriff, mayor,

contd.