

of the perfect beauty of their forms and in all their variety they betray their creator's profound feeling for psychology. Their looks vary from innocent curiosity to the melancholy yearning in dark eyes, from childish gaiety and youthful challenge to the deep glance of knowledge. This wide comprehension of physical beauty, which our age has in common with antiquity, brings these immortal works nearer to us and causes text and illustration to blend into one harmonious whole. Mariette Lydis' sociological and psychological understanding enlightens for us the old English "Beggar's Opera" and Baudelaire's "Fleurs du Mal".

To complete this rare power of entering into the spirit of the work and this well-disciplined imagination, she has a perfect command of graphic technique, classical purity of line, unswerving surety of stroke in etching and a wonderful variety of tone from palest to darkest grey in her lithographic work.

In Mariette Lydis we find the charm of France and the dynamic power of Central Europe most happily combined: sensibility of comprehension and power of expression.

Trans. by E. T. Scheffauer.



M A R I E T T E
L Y D I S

Illustrations

