

**COMEDIES OF
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OTHER PLAYS**

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Comedies of Words and Other Plays by Arthur Schnitzler & Pierre Loving

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BY

ARTHUR SCHNITZLER

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PIERRE LOVING

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P. L.



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INTRODUCTION

To the great mass of the American public Arthur Schnitzler, admittedly the finest psychologist in the theatre today, is still as it were something of a far half-rumored country upon whose bourne the proverbial tired pedestrian seldom touches. As a people, whether intensively or extensively, we haven't as yet cultivated the habit of turning up the lamp after coffee and liqueurs for the purpose of abandoning ourselves without reserve to a refined spirit, a subtle mind reaching out with infinite circumspectness and tact. Tact has its peculiar morality in the same way that art has its implied ethics. This tact when applied to the province of thought may simply mean that the world is not an affair of sharp lines, rules or data. It is this quality emanating from just such a spirit and mind that we find uppermost in Arthur Schnitzler.

In Europe Schnitzler's dramatic pieces are ranked on a par with those of his German confrères, Hauptmann and Wedekind. The keenly discerning Berlin and Munich audiences, not wholly free from an acute national consciousness, concede him a place immediately after these two in their affections. But in view of the fact that Schnitzler is uniquely abreast, if not a few hurdles ahead, of his time in handling that vein of character analysis which utilizes most effectively the latest discover-