

**ESSAYS;
CLASSICAL, VOL. I**

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Essays; Classical, Vol. I by F. W. H. Myers

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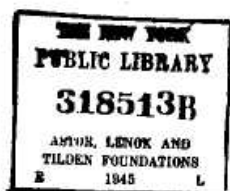
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PREFATORY NOTE.

IN reprinting this Essay from *Hellenica*, I have thought it needless to repeat my original list of authorities consulted. Since the Essay was written M. Bouché-Leclercq has published his *Histoire de la Divination dans l'Antiquité*, where the bibliography of the subject is given with exhaustive fulness. The chief references to oracles in classical authors have been long ago collected, and are now the common property of scholars. The last considerable addition to the list was made by G. Wolff, and they have been judiciously arranged by Maury and others. What is needed is a true comprehension of them, towards which less progress has been made than the ordinary reader may suppose. Even Bouché-Leclercq, whose accuracy and completeness within his self-proposed limits deserve high admiration, expressly excludes from his purview the lessons and methods of comparative ethnology, and hardly cares to consider what those phenomena in reality were whose history he is recounting. I can claim little more of insight into their true nature than suffices to make me conscious of ignorance, but I