

**MODERN ENGLISH
ESSAYS,
VOLUME FIVE**

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Modern English essays, Volume Five by Ernest Rhys

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EDITED BY ERNEST RHYS



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MODERN ENGLISH ESSAYS

VOLUME FIVE



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EDITOR'S NOTE

IN this volume the short essay holds the field, whether its prevalence be owing to the impatience of the modern reader, to a feeling for concision in the writer, or to the effect of the daily and weekly press and the demand for an essay that is an article. The variety of subject is equalled by the variety of mode: expert, rapid, deliberating, easy-going in turn. There are veterans in the book like the late W. H. Hudson, who was writing almost up to the day of his death. His *Sapphire Gatherer* comes from a volume of 1921. There are new essayists like H. J. Massingham, another devoted bird-lover, and writer on wild life. There are two novelists, John Galsworthy and Maurice Hewlett, who have turned occasional essayist. Of stated essayists, no need to say that A. G. Gardiner is "Alpha of the Plough," whose holiday essay comes from *Windjalls*; or that A. C. Benson, whose essay on the art itself is now published for the first time, is the author of a whole cycle of essays; or that Mr. Clutton-Brock has, by his *Times Literary Supplement* articles, shown again how to give the periodical essay the savour of permanent things.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In Edward Garnett we have a literary diviner, a reviewer, an occasional essayist, who is old enough to have welcomed Conrad and W. H. Hudson. His book *Friday Nights* was only published this year. He has written for *The Nation* since the days when it had another name. Robert Lynd's estimate of Hawthorne is from *The New Statesman*; and we are again reminded of *The Athenæum* in its latest reincarnation by the essay on John Clare of J. Middleton Murry, who is its present editor and a critic of insight. The essays by the editor of *The London Mercury*, J. C. Squire, include one written before that miscellany and review had begun. He reminds us that five poets are among the prose-writers in this volume; which is a significant relation between the two modes. Mr. A. A. Milne is not the only playwright, and his droll fantasia "On Going Dry" adds *Punch* to the list of essayists' weeklies. Of the "Everyman" essays included, George Sampson's on Walter Bagehot and Professor Bakewell's on William James ought to be noted. The latter is a professor at Harvard; and two other American writers are represented—Miss Scudder, whose Plato article is from *The Yale Review*, and the late James Huneker, whose essay on Henry James is from *Unicorns*. The final essay on the late W. H. Hudson, from *The Nineteenth Century and After*, was written two years ago. It has been added as this volume went to press, on the news of his death.

E. R.

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- Mr. A. C. Benson for "The Art of the Essayist."
Mr. Clutton-Brock and Messrs. Methuen for "The Magic Flute" from *Essays on Art*.
Mr. John Galsworthy, Messrs. Heinemann, and Messrs. Scribner for "Reverie of a Sportsman."
Mr. A. G. Gardiner and Messrs. Dutton for "On Taking a Holiday."
Mr. Edward Garnett, Mr. Jonathan Cape, and Mr. Duckworth for "Jefferies' *Amaryllis*."
Mr. Maurice Hewlett and Messrs. Geo. Bell and Sons for "The Crystal Vase."
Mr. Robert Lynd and Mr. Cobden Sanderson for "Hawthorne."
Mr. H. J. Massingham for "The Venice of England."
Mr. A. A. Milne, Messrs. Methuen, and Messrs. Dutton for "On Going Dry."
Mr. J. Middleton Murry, Messrs. Collins, and Messrs. Dutton for "John Clare."
Mrs. Rhys for "The Five Images of Love."
Mr. Santayana for "Heathenism."
Mr. J. C. Squire and Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton for "A Dead Man" and "The Lonely Author."
Mr. Werner Laurie and Messrs. Scribner for the late James Huneker's "Note on Henry James."
Miss Scudder and *The Yale Review* for "Plato as a Novelist."
Mr. Edmond Holmes for "The Spitalfields Weavers." *The Nineteenth Century and After* for "A Rare Traveller."

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