STUDIES AND APPRECIATIONS

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Studies and appreciations by Darrell Figgis

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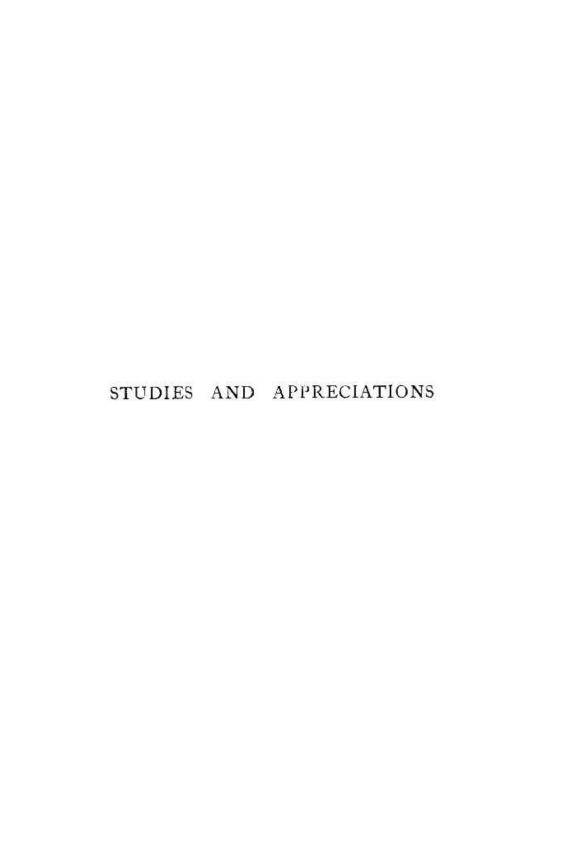
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DARRELL FIGGIS

STUDIES AND APPRECIATIONS







To G. K. CHESTERTON



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AFTERTHOUGHTS

One must always, it seems, look back upon one's work with a curious mixture of hostility and clandestine affection. Particularly is this the case when, as in these random studies, it has been done within a limited space, having in mind some or other definite end that was to be served. Everything is conditioned by the aim it serves, a fact that literary criticism is too often pleased to forget; but when, as in the case of these studies, that aim is definite and articulate, it is inevitable that one's afterthoughts should be prolific of qualifications of the statements made, and adjustments of the points of view taken. Speech is the noblest attribute of man; yet it is a humiliating consideration that even in so noble a function it is impossible for him to arrive at truth. Every statement is a lie, for every statement is a preclusion. Yet the colourless balance between two emphases is a deeper kind of a lie still, for it says nothing when perhaps something should be said. It adds cowardice to falsehood. It is not by the