

# **OLD SAWS AND MODERN INSTANCES**

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Old saws and modern instances by W. L. Courtney

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**W. L. COURTNEY**

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MODERN  
INSTANCES**



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# OLD SAWS AND MODERN INSTANCES

BY

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"THE LITERARY MAN'S BIBLE," "ROSEMARY'S LETTER BOOK,"

"IN SEARCH OF EGERIA," "UNDINE, A DREAM PLAY," ETC.

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## PREFACE

A SELF-SUFFICIENT book requires no Preface, still less does it need an apology. It is my misfortune that this book seems to require both.

First, an apology. I am quite aware that I have altered a well-known phrase in using it as my title; and that it should be "wise" saws and not "old" saws that are conjoined with "modern instances." But while I have few pretensions to wisdom, I can at least advance some claims to age; and many of the themes with which I deal are sufficiently old to justify their right to a familiar antiquity.

There is, I fear, much repetition in these pages, and there is certainly some lack of connection and unity. My main desire, however, has been to illustrate modern questions by ancient examples—especially in the region of drama. Thus I have made a study of Brieux in close connection with a study of Euripides, and have contrasted and compared Mr. Hardy's *Dynasts* with the great plays of Æschylus. An inquiry into the conditions and limitations of Dramatic Realism is perhaps the most substantive of my aims in this book, which also includes some purely historical essays.

W. L. C.

London,  
August 1918.



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