

## *Mr. Ervine's Heroes*

HERE is a valuable book for the student of English letters. St. John Ervine is so definitely analytical that his searching studies of such men as Arnold Bennett, Yeats, Shaw, and others reduce them to a point where they might quite effectively step on the stage as characters in a realistic Ervine play. To me, at least, the book would have been more amusing had its author suppressed occasionally violent political opinions. This, however, may be forgiven an Irishman. After all, politics and literature have often, if not always, marched bravely together in the Brit-

ish Isles. Wise and succinct portraits, these, and, to an understanding of giants of contemporary writing, "Some Impressions of My Elders" (Macmillan) is an easy and pleasant route. The paper on Galsworthy is the most interesting, perhaps because Ervine's own absorption in the drama led him to elaborate studies of one or two of the older dramatist's plays, and while Mr. Ervine is respectful to his elders, he does not hesitate to display their faults in as grand colors as their virtues. A fine book — and dedicated to Elizabeth Cutting, "who would not give me any peace until I had overcome my idle habits and written all these impressions of my elders for 'The North American Review' ".