

REPRESENTATIVE ENGLISH PLAYS

By Walter Prichard Eaton

The mass of printed plays is so great, even in English, that few can, or would care to, own them all, still less, perhaps, to read them all. Yet only by reading certain of them—since we have no theatre that keeps them alive—can we form any just idea of the changes and progress in dramatic technique and substance during the past century. Accordingly, Mr. Moses has gathered in one book the complete texts of twenty-one representative English plays, each with a short biographical and critical intro-

duction, beginning with the "Virgin-
ius" of Sheridan Knowles, and ending
with plays by Barker, Masefield, and
the modern Irishmen. None is in-
cluded which was not actually in the
theatre repertoire, and from "Vir-
ginius" (1820) to "The Gay Lord
Quex" (1899) these plays admirably
illustrate the progress of the English
drama. Copyright restrictions have,
unfortunately, compelled the omission
from the latter portion of any work by

Shaw or Barrie, weakening consider-
ably the representative character of
the twentieth century list. But, as the
works of these writers are familiar,
and easily available elsewhere, the
harm is not great. The book remains
a useful compilation, containing, if
read carefully, a considerable dra-
matic education.

Representative British Dramas—Victorian
and Modern. Edited by Montrose J. Moses.
Little, Brown and Co.