drama; that three demonstrate the evil results that follow from yielding to temptation or from making worldly wealth or advancement the object in life, and are thus the predecessors of tragedy in its finished form; that two exhibit the crisis that comes to all who at the end of misspent lives must face death, and of these two "Everyman" makes an instant appeal to modern audiences; and, finally, that three deal with religious and political controversy, a favorite subject for drama at all times. In the course of Professor Mackenzie's treatment each Morality is considered in detail, its plot outlined at some length and its allegorical interpretation somewhat unnecessarily expounded. A chapter is devoted also to miracle plays that have allegorical elements and another to nine plays that have Morality features. An excellent discussion of the Moralities considered in relation to their original audience closes the volume.

Moralities and allegories. If one were to judge from the definition alone which Professor Mackenzie gives of a Morality in his "The English Morality from the Point of View of Allegory" (Ginn), one would be inclined to share the general prejudice against this type of play. His definition is as follows: "A Morality is a play, allegorical in structure, which has for its main object the teaching of some lesson for the guidance of life, and in which the principal characters are personified abstractions or highly universalized types." From the point of view of allegory as well as from that of the ultimate function of these plays as conceived by their makers the moral element was all in all; but what gives the Morality its merit both as an independent art form and as a phase in the development of the drama is its function as a play. It was this element, too, which gave the play its chief contemporary interest. So it is that when one examines Professor Mackenzie's list of genuine Moralities, as he groups them on the basis of his definition, one finds that twenty-four represent a "conflict between Virtues and Vices" and are therefore of the very stuff of