



THE THRESHOLD

AN ANTHOLOGY OF PROSE
FOR THE PRE-UNIVERSITY COURSE

Selected and Edited

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PREFACE

This anthology is primarily intended for students in the Pre-University classes in Indian Universities. Since the attainment of independence, there has been a good deal of thinking in this country concerning the scope and content of education. With regard to the teaching of English, the consensus of opinion is now in favour of stressing the linguistic and not the literary aspect. Educationists are convinced that the aim of teaching English at the Pre-University level should be to give the students a satisfactory 'working knowledge' of English.

Our attempt, in the present anthology, is to present to the younger students in our Universities models of English prose calculated to help them in the acquisition of a lucid, idiomatic and modern prose style. Most of the authors represented here belong to our own century, but a few well-known writers of the last century also have been included because, while their style is classical and literary, it is at the same time modern. We are of the opinion that the best way to influence and form the style of the young student is to place before him models of writing which are capable of stimulating the imagination, satisfying the aesthetic sense and which are, nevertheless, modern in phraseology and idiom.

We felt that, as far as possible, extracts offered to Indian students for study should not be entirely English in theme and background. A majority of the passages included here are, therefore, of universal interest. Some extracts of purely Indian interest have been brought in, in order to ensure harmony between what our students read and the life around them.

We hope that this book will help students to acquire a satisfactory command of idiomatic English and at the same time offer them matter for pleasant and purposeful reading.

THE EDITORS

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