

PREFACE

THE urgent desire of a distinguished British diplomatist in a neutral capital in Europe to reveal to the people among whom he lived the idea of a League of Nations as it presented itself to the minds of leaders of English thought led to the preparation of the pamphlets that are now assembled in this book.

Having been made responsible for editing such a series, I became convinced, in consultation with other men who agreed that in a League of Nations effectively at work lay the central hope for the future of the world, that the most helpful line of advance was, not to secure dogmatic definitions of the precise constitution and functions of such a League, but rather to ask representative men to explore the avenues of approach to it with which they were most familiar.

Viscount Grey contributed, as the first pamphlet in the series, that exposition of the project of a League of Nations which is already a classic. It is classical, among other reasons, because it initiated that intensive discussion of the project, in fellowship with President Wilson, which has at last led to the definite resolve to establish the League. It is of importance also to note that Lord Grey's pamphlet was, when first issued, translated into and published in, probably,