

INTRODUCTION.

THE first of these comedies is reprinted from the *German Reader and Theme-Book* prepared by the present editor in collaboration with Professor Calvin Thomas. The notes have been revised and expanded, to meet the requirements of separate publication.

Unter Vier Augen, published 1886, is one of the best productions of the well-known contemporary dramatist, Ludwig Fulda (born 1862). It is believed to be peculiarly suited to first-year students of German, in high school or college, by reason of its brevity, its contents — neither far-fetched nor puerile — and especially its diction, which represents the speech of cultivated Germans of the present day. Like some others of Fulda's comedies, as *Die Aufrichtigen*, his first play (1883), and *Die wilde Jagd* (1888), *Unter vier Augen* mirrors a familiar phase of modern life and contains a wholesome lesson, but without making display of didactic purpose. Hermine Volkart is an excellent type of the young wife who finds, or at least thinks she finds, the perfection of happiness in a constant round of social pleasures. Fortunately her moral constitution is good and she has not breathed the bad air long enough to become vitally diseased, so when a favorable opportunity offers — the first evening spent alone with her husband since their honeymoon — a cure is speedily effected.

Of Fulda's others plays may be mentioned *Das Verlorene Paradies* (1890), a serious drama on the social question, and *Jugendfreunde* (1897), a society comedy. Most re-