

## PREFACE

THERE is no doubt that essay-writing is becoming an important factor in education, and this is why it appears as "French Essays," either compulsory or optional, in the majority of examinations where a knowledge of French is required.

To assist in their task the large number of students who have to write essays in French, and to lighten the work of their teachers, I have here brought together, classified, and in some cases treated a fairly large number of various subjects, most of which have been chosen from questions set in examinations, either in France or in England. I have prefaced them by two sections of *Conseils Généraux* dealing with *the matter* and with *the form*; the theoretical part of these should be read and used for reference rather than learnt by heart, whilst the exercises they contain afford a valuable intellectual drill.

To help the work of beginners, a third section (*Exercices préparatoires*) gives directions, elementary examples, and outlines for the solution—one at a time—of the commonest problems, a simultaneous occurrence of which might cause some discouragement. These three sections form Part I. which, except for the examples, is written in English, as it was felt that no useful purpose could be served by giving theoretical explanations in French at this stage. Part II., in French throughout, contains extracts from the best authors in each *genre*; they may prove useful, both as examples, and as affording some of the special vocabulary required. These extracts are followed by subjects for treatment, each accompanied by a number of explanations and ideas sufficient to lead to a fair development, which in some cases is given in full. The student will arrange the ideas if necessary, when only an outline is given, and add to