

IN PRAISE OF IGNORANCE

The ~~present~~ essay, 'In Praise of Ignorance' has been written by Hilaire Belloc. He is best known for his keen power of observation and an eye for the picturesque in characters and scenes. His historical studies are brilliant pieces of writing. He is described as literary artist painting in details on a canvas where the main outlines are already drawn.

'In Praise of Ignorance' has a paradoxical title. The essayist is writing in praise of ignorance which seems to be absurd. Ignorance is a pejorative term with negative meaning, i.e. lack of knowledge. Every person has his limitation. He can't competently deal with any subject. Then let him compare it with the vast, the oceanic prospect of the things about which he knows nothing. Hilaire holds that it is a great thing to possess a true knowledge of one's own ignorance. In a sense, one should have knowledge of things in pairs.

The modern system of education has justly been criticized by the wisest and the best of mankind. But the lay man can't say in defence of the modern examination system. The author is puzzled by the formal system of examination. He has written answers to several examination papers and has negative attitude towards them. As an examinee the writer has been surrounded with dozens of other examinees at a little desk with an underpaid