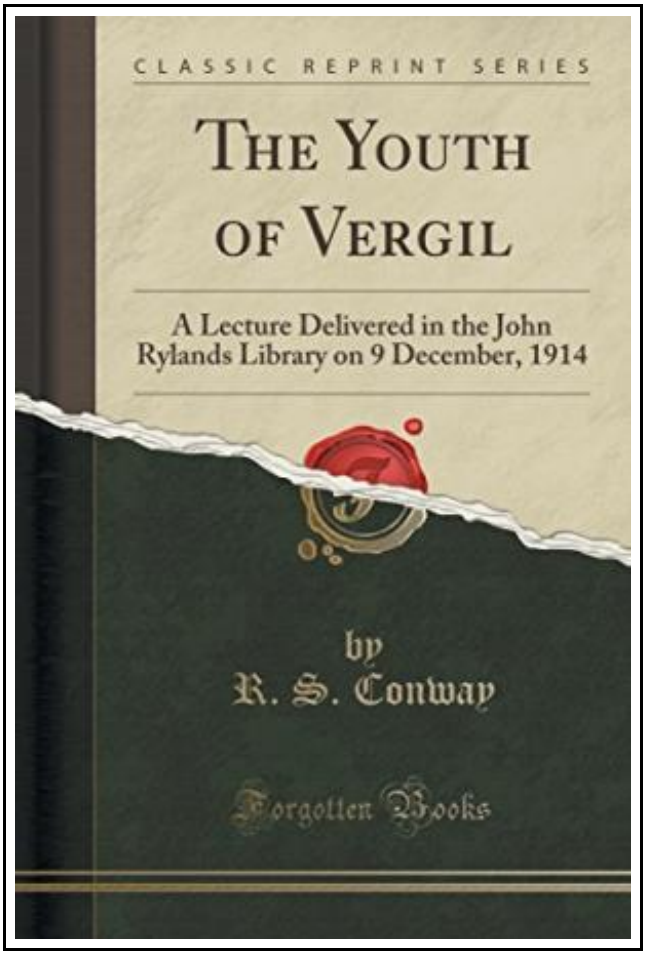
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Youth of Vergil: A Lecture Delivered in the John Rylands Library on 9 December, 1914 Such a period is difficult to study, because one is apt to judge the work of early years by the work of the artist s maturity, and hence to think little of passages admirable enough in themselves, because they fall short of what came later. Another difficulty must be faced in the case of a poet who, like Vergil or Shakespeare, so far outshone in the end every one of his contemporaries that the student finds it difficult to believe that his early work may have been deeply indebted to the encouragement and example of some of the very writers whose fame was destined to be completely eclipsed by his. Vergil in his youth was one of a group of writers full of poetic ambitions; Varius, Cinna, Varus, Tucca, Pollio, and Vergil s own bosom-friend Gallus, to mention no others, were all writers of verse; but the economy of the centuries has swept away every trace of the big or little books of all these poets, except that from Gallus one interesting poem has been preserved, because it had come to be bound up with some of the early writings of his greater friend. In this case, therefore, we have, as we shall see, a basis for comparing Vergil s work with that of one of his contemporaries; but the rest is silence. We know nothing of the authors of the other non-Vergilian poems bound up with some genuine ones in what is called the Appendix Vergiliana. Nor do we even know (I wish we did) the people whom...

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