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THE
ENGLISH REVIEW

APRIL 1912

The Futurist
"Devil-among-the-Tailors"

By Walter Sickert

LET it be granted that to be a member of the Royal Academy does not in itself confer talent. Let it further be granted that to be a member of the New English Art Club does not in itself confer talent. Nor, further, can the impartial seeker after truth deny that talent is not conferred by affiliation to Mr. Fry, or by membership of the Kentish-town, or even the Somers-town group. Lest the writer be accused of Xenophilism, let him add these further postulates. To be a member of the French Impressionists did not in itself confer talent. To call oneself a Post-impressionist does not in itself confer talent, and, lastly, to be an avowed and militant Futurist is in itself no guarantee of pictorial ability.

It is curious how inexact the Press will occasionally mirror the public opinion of the town. The *Morning Post* was lucky in the possession of one of the most amusing, readable and learned art-critics in the person of Mr. Robert Ross. Right or wrong in his opinions, his articles carried the organ of the gentry into numberless intellectual homes to whom fashionable intelligence is as naught. In the exercise of his duty it seems that Mr. Ross prepared an article on the Futurist Exhibition. I am told that this could not be published on the plea that the Futurist Exhibition was in itself an immorality, and must not be chronicled! I was, therefore, rather surprised to find the tiny galleries in Sackville Street packed with an orderly crowd, consisting mostly of the mothers of England, who circulate slowly, and verifying, with reverence, the comments in the descriptive catalogue by the pictures on the walls. Here and there, a grandfather of distinguished appearance was pointing out to a delicious grand-daughter