elf is having an affaire, and

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By RALPH STRAUS

IN spite of its title, which is by no paying business, continue in their for means ill-chosen, "African Tragedy" to attract men, can flatter some wor. is an exceedingly lively story about a would-be pioneer. (How popular, by beautifully and freely, have charm the way, these adventurers are just now! manners (at any rate outside the far Perhaps the films with their picturesque circle), and can be as hard as nails v lonely islands are responsible.) It moves that her daughter, Angel, can be ha though so much was to be expected of life," and not too decorous "rules Mr. Stephen Graham, and if it ends in Angel, however, is rather an catastrophe, well, Tom Anderson lacks fashioned girl. She dislikes late he the stuff which goes to the making of untidy parties, even gin. She does vour true pioneer, and you cannot in this appreciate her mother's great kindne

e is bound to make a success of his limitations.

The results at first are not too good, reader, four long-short stories, and life. But there is a reverse side to the Luckily for her, there are those who are the novel reader, four short novels.

of a man of substance, a leader of men. a great lover; but, fundamentally, he is Yet he is a fellow born to exciting which never strains your credulity is signed he is in trouble with the militar the guardroom, stows himself away in troopship returning to New York, and for ome times manages to masquerade as ar American soldier. But there is troub over a woman, and he is lucky to find a

job on a cocoa plantation in Trinidad.

A Dream of Africa

There it is that the man who has always They are an appalling lot, with but of n "mysterious" Africa, the man who in or less unpleasantly to somebody st comes up against the colour problem, fellow, though he is a Galahad co and finds it less easy to solve than he had pared to some of Kitty's acquaintance expected. There, too, there is trouble It is hardly to be wondered at that Mau

It is then that his great dream shows oreover, from his father and Laura THEY will tell you that on the Co s father, however, he meets his bene- devil-worshipping cartoonists at we actress, who turns out to be the rich there now, murdering people as hard a nd fashionable Lady Charters, and from they can. But I must confess that I fo his behalf, she buys land adjoining his does not pretend to be anything m vn. and flies over from Europe to help than a thriller, but it seems to me d, though it is not the one that you so prone to quote from the classics.

nd he ought to have learnt how to pro- | The gang, I admit, are not dope-fien ect his property from the dreaded white though cocaine is not altogether ou nt. As I have said, you never feel that the picture. They kill celebrities w he has been badly treafed, in spite of his have been previously insured v that his experiences do not make very ivid, and his story reads like a record agreeable story, or perhaps I ought to s

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

"modern" as herself.

Kitty Hereforde is one of those half-have had the approval of the late Mr celebrities who run a fashionable and Thomas Hughes, had he lived to read it.

SHORT STORIES

The Two Mr. Bateses Something Short and Sweet. By H. E. Bates. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

(Cape. 7s. 6d.)

Rainbow Fish. By Ralph Bates.

. By L. A. PAVEY

I think myself it is a sound general rule not to compare authors who come together fortuitously for review. Their methods, their aims, and their effects are almost certain to be different, and comparisons are apt to be a little odious. It is even at times a little difficult not to infer that you would have preferred a general post—any one of your authors to have written another's book.

But here is Mr. Cape begging, indeed, almost forcing, the reviewer to make comparisons, for he produces books of stories by both his Mr. Bateses, H. E. and |Ralph, on the same day. He may have thought that they would be less lonely, or that the effect of one would reinforce the other, so that a reader could hardly resist both. In any case, he cannot in the them both in the same breath. Mr. H. E. Bates's collection follows up his enviable tale of five previous books of

stories and as many novels, and Mr. Ralph Bates's shorter list, which shows Bates's stories are mostly like their title. "SOMETHING SHORT AND SWEET"; Mr. Ralph Bates's are, to the short story reader, four long-short stories, and, to

Many Virtues

Mr. H. E. Bates's stories have the close observation, the sense of life and beauty, the correct selection and presentation of detail that have made their predecessors so memorable. Fewer than usual are concerned with country scenes and people, but the other stories are no less successful. The best of them are "The Kimono," which exactly and beautifully conveys the passion between a normal man and an amoral woman which leads him to throw up wife and career; and "Purchase's Living Wonders," the tale of a performing midget who fell in love with the circus proprietor. Of the country stories, I thought those of Uncle Silas not so lively as usual, but then Uncle Silas might well find it difficult to live up to his past. Of the rest, "Breeze Anstey," the tale of two girls who manage a herb farm and of the man who spoils their friendship, is a lovely and delicate story, and its qualities are vivid again in the shorter stories, little more than studies. such as "Cloudburst" and "Spring Snow." And in "The Man Who Loved Cats," the study of a music master and a girl pupil, Mr. Bates employs a light ironic touch that is

As a whole, the collection is not so solid as some of the earlier ones, and it may not increase Mr. Bates's reputation, but that for him is not easy. shows at all events how well he can keep it up, and it shows too that he is widening his range without losing his

Tales of Disenchantment

Mr. Ralph Bates's collection is neither short nor sweet. It makes, indeed, very different kettle of fish, whether four stories is full to the brim with disillusion and tragedy, but whereas the other Mr. Bates's longest move is from country to town, Mr. Ralph is a rover. and the settings in "RAINBOW FISH range from a Greek boat fishing for sponges to Barcelona, to a London park, and to France and Spain as seen by wandering artists and writers. His own life, I should say, must have been packed with adventure, and his stories, though tragic, have a tremendous feeling for life, wherever or however

Of the four I found a great admiration for the Spanish story, "Death of a Virgin." In it Mr. Bates has kept closer to his theme than in the others, and has made the story of Pepita and Joana and Carles and their relatives a fine and moving one. The long title-story, on the other hand, while its strange people and its change of scene and temper are more exciting, is a little loose and vague, and, for all its virtuosity, it makes no such direct hit. In the same way I found the s telling of individual stories from two different angles in "Dead End of the Sky" not too successful. The method in that story, and in the London park story, "The Other Land," is an overstressed and unselective one, but it is probably employed because of Mr. Bates's eager grasp at material which his own perception and imagination made so rich that, in despair, he crammed it all in. But one | must be grateful to him for that richness a writer with many qualities, and he does not dream of stinting the written mea-

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