

TWENTY TALES. H. E. Bates. *Cape*, 10s.6d. 19·8 cm. 254 pages. (*Evensford Edition*)

That Mr. Bates's high reputation as a short-story writer, as well as a novelist, is well earned is evident in this collection chosen from several previous volumes. He shows particular sensitivity in recording the feelings and emotions of the helpless, the frustrated, the inarticulate and the young. His descriptions of the physical scene leave very vivid pictures in the mind; he uses words with a skill that underlines the poignancy and the effect of each situation. There are a number of memorable stories here, including 'Alexander' (a boy's eventful day), 'Breeze Anstey' (A young girl's friendship with an older woman) and 'Kimono' (a man's bondage to a woman), but all are worthy of study as examples of the art of telling a story.