

# In Mr. Bates's Corner

Cut and Come Again, by H. E. Bates. London: Jonathan Cape. 7s. 6d.

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**A** QUIET AND beautiful slow-moving realism is the quality of Mr. H. E. Bates's short stories. His scope has always been narrow, limited to the same characters and the same countryside where they dwell in all his books. At one time he seemed to have entered into a kind of static trance. The present collection shows him widening his observation and

sympathies. The stories about irascible Uncle Silas have opened a mature vein of humor at once genial and sardonic; and one story, "The Mill," the tale of a servant who goes to work in a country mill, is one of the best things he has ever done. Other English short-story writers are more varied, and wider in their interest among people and emotions; but in the simplified world of elemental experience, no other living English writer comes near him in excellence.