

Agriculture Rural Life

THE COUNTRY HEART. H. E. Bates. *Michael Joseph*, 12s.6d. 1C8. 239 pages. Drawings by John Minton.

Mr. Bates writes of country matters with a skill and understanding that not many can match. *The Country Heart* contains the revised and amended text of two earlier books, *O! More than Happy Countryman* and *The Heart of the Country*, which have been long out of print. In them he records 'those little things, personal, trivial, dear in recollection' that are perhaps among the 'unannihilated little that is left to us that we share with the centuries'. Observations of country life and character are mingled with delightful descriptions of the sudden outbreak of spring, the satisfaction of a day's fishing, a winter of continuous snow, and with more serious dissertations upon the importance of the parish council, the disintegration of country life accelerated by the war, the importance of the people who inhabit the country, the English tradition. An epilogue speculates about the future, stressing the necessity for a healthy agriculture as one of the foundations of a healthy national life and welcoming the fusion of town and countryside as good for both. The book is attractively illustrated by the well-known artist, John Minton.

(630.1)