

circumstances. "Ultima Thule" is the closing and ironic act in the drama. (He had called the home he built in the first flush of his opulence Ultima Thule!) Without the earlier story the full force of the terrible climax of the drama, Mahony's succumbing to manic-depressive insanity, loses much of its force.

Yet even in isolation "Ultima Thule" is a remarkable novel. There is no novel in Australian literature that so cuttingly analyzes the society of that country, for though it depicts conditions in the 1870's, in all essentials the same conditions obtain today. Nor is there any better presentation of the terrible heat and drought that curses life in the back country. However, one should carefully note that Richard Mahony's career represents the defeat of a type never meant for immigrant struggles. Naturally, then, this book presents the worst side of Australian life. For a presentation of the country as a critical patriot sees it, one should turn to Tom Collins' "Such Is Life." But most remarkable is the presentation of the character of Richard Mahony. It is the analysis of it that gives the novel force. As a study of nervous and emotional instability it is difficult to think of anything comparable. Even if it stood alone, "Ultima Thule" would, for that reason, be a remarkable and significant novel.

C. HARTLEY GRATTAN.

Catherine Foster, by H. E. Bates. New York: Viking Press. \$2.50.

MR. BATES is a very young man; it is hard to tell, from reading this novel alone, whether his work justifies the reputation he seems to have won by his earlier books in England, as a writer of considerable promise and distinction. One has an uncomfortable feeling that even if "Catherine Foster" were what he intended it to be, a restrained and stylized narrative of an ordinary woman's rebellion against the monotony of life, it would still be a dull and commonplace book. It is written with too much self-consciousness, too patent a preoccupation with words and niceties of phrasing ever to achieve more than the promise of a style; the observation is banal, and the people are too flat and commonplace to be interesting even if they were better done. Obviously Mr. Bates is an admirer of David Garnett; he has also read Flaubert, and the more one struggles through books of this type, the more admiration one has for "Madame Bovary," the parent of them all.

H. C. C.

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