

(continued from previous page)

village in those faraway, apparently very safe times, with its ignorance, prejudices, old traditions, quarrels and friendships, innate independence of spirit, and nutty commonsense. In particular it is a tale of children, among whom Miss Thompson is thoroughly at home. The gentry are there, with their soup and blankets, and their assured domination—up to a point, but they come into these village doings comparatively little. The young squire's friendship with the bailiff's attractive daughter does not go the length of seduction, which no doubt will disappoint some readers and be set down as untrue to life. The charm of the book arises largely from the fact that it is written from the inside, by someone who, whether she belonged originally to "the Quality" or not, has exceptional knowledge and deep sympathy, just as she has a keen eye for the simple everyday beauties of the landscape. Miss Finch's reflections at the end complete the quotation from which Miss Thompson takes her title—"and shall for ever glide." The generations pass, but the old rural stock, with its essential characteristics touched by experience, remains, together with the running water, the meadows and the flowers. These thoughts gave Miss Finch "an extraordinary sense of comfort and reassurance," which is surely something precious in a distracted world. This is a book to be recommended to lovers of the by-ways of England. —A.M.

#### GOOD WRITING

TURNSTILE ONE. Edited by V. S. Pritchett. Turnstile Press, London, and the British Council.

LITERARY miscellanies now appear so frequently that readers may look doubtfully at still another collection of stories, essays and poems. *Turnstile One* however, deserves special attention. Its contents have been taken from the files of *The New Statesman and Nation*, mainly in the period since 1931. This means that they are consistently good. Every paper with a literary reputation has contributions which stand out noticeably. They do not come every week, or often enough; but over the years they can grow into an impressive body of writing.

Contributors to *The New Statesman and Nation* have always included some of England's most distinguished writers. Everything they have written has not been equally good, and some of their best work was done while they were still not widely known. But the pieces reprinted here have one feature in common: they have been written more or less spontaneously. Some of them, no doubt, were commissioned for the paper; but they were not commissioned for a miscellany, and the distinction is important. Writers who are asked to send along something for a volume in preparation do not always supply work of the best quality. It is the occasional contribution, written because a man has

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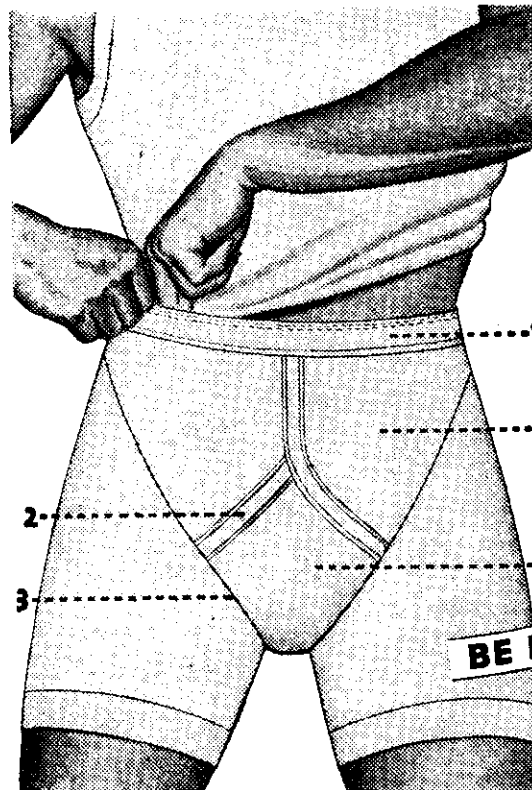
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