

THE WOMAN WHO HAD IMAGINA-
TION and Other Stories. By F. E. Bates.
Newell, 1884. 32.

Mr. Bates dedicates his collection of short stories to Mr. David Garrison, and Mr. Garrison writes a blurb for Mr. Bates. Greater men, nearer home, have done as much; and Mr. Bates has merit, though perhaps not so much as is discerned by Mr. Garrison's friendly eye. His sensitiveness to scenery, atmosphere, the intonation of character, is indeed unusual; and if his stories never have a plot, and sometimes not even a point, that only qualifies him, by modern taste, as an art author. There is a delicate charm, firmly sustained, in "A German Myth"; and an arid presentation of the helplessness of the poor in "Sally Go Round the Moon." Best of the lot, however, are the three sketches dealing with Great-Uncle Silas, a fine salty character who, if not drawn from life, is excellently invented.