

reminds one of Galsworthy. And it seems to me, somehow, to lack the quick movement, the rare gaiety of the real Tarkington.

A Saga of Growth

IN "The Midlander" (Doubleday, Page) Booth Tarkington has attempted a very difficult thing, and has practically succeeded. He has attempted to explain the crudities, the development, the heart of his own middle west in terms of personalities. I think that in some ways this is his best book, yet it is not, to me, so moving a book as "Alice Adams". This is partly because "The Midlander" is so much larger a canvas, and the character drawing is not so intensified. The original idea of "The Midlander" was a clever one. Four opposing ideas are represented by the young people of the story. Dan—bluff, energetic, pig headed, interested in the commercial development of his town and the manufacture of automobiles. Harlan—his brother, the essential æsthete, bored by Dan's energy, thoroughly undemocratic, but fine in essence. Martha—the understanding woman, typical, in a sense, of the pioneer spirit, democratic, tolerant, loving. Lena—wilful, selfish, temperamental, typifying the effete east. These, in their varying relations, form the basis of the story, with the terrifying figure of old Grandmother Savage in the background. It is a fine study of a period, a fine development of characters. It