

character, and villages whose beauty is that of the sixteenth century. The whole countryside, bathed in fresh green, is a perfect setting for the loveliness of England and the artistic endeavours of Englishmen.

A New Zealander, who is used to a land where almost everybody speaks the same language and where dialects are practically unknown, often finds it difficult to understand why Cockneys, Yorkshiremen, and laddies from Lancashire speak in such "foreign" and vastly different ways. In these days of quick and easy travel, of the telephone, the radio and the cinema, it is rather amazing that dialects have survived so strongly in such a small country as England. But survived they have, with the strange result that the peasant from Cornwall can hardly understand the peasant from eastern England, and the shepherd from the Lake District thinks that the man from Sussex speaks a foreign tongue, while the poor Londoner finds it difficult to understand any of them.

But this difference is not confined to one of dialect among the folk of the

counties. They have marked dissimilarities in character, custom, and outlook. The people of the industrial north differ greatly from those of the pastoral south. The northerners are more energetic, have simpler tastes, are blunt of speech and manner. The people of the south cultivate the graces of life and take things less seriously.

Even the people of neighbouring counties differ in a number of ways, and in this the weather and the landscape play an important part. The Fen country of Lincolnshire is melancholy and damp and so the people are not as cheerful as the people of the western counties where the rich soil and generous sunshine have produced men and women sunny of temperament and kindly of voice. Other counties produce other types, a state of affairs that is almost unheard of in New Zealand. And as they are, so do they live; some free-spending, others thrifty; some taciturn and cautious, others warm-hearted and hospitable. Strangely enough, these differences may be very marked in neighbouring counties, small though many of the counties are.



*Ann Hathaway's cottage at Shottery, one mile from Stratford-on-Avon*