Work by Watts now on show

Sir,—G. F. Watts's painting "Hope" was sold recently at Sotheby's, setting the record price for a Victorian painting. The works of the painter of "Hope" may now be seen to full advantage thanks to the efforts of Richard Jefferson, who has relumed the extensive collection of the Watts Gallery at Compton.

As the new curator, Mr. Jefferson has brought out from store important paintings that have not been seen by the public for 40 years and the impact of the gallery upon the viewer is now formidable, striking and filled with gravity.

In the main hall are grouped a series of paintings by which Watts hoped to build his reputation, I believe that the combined effect of these works powerfully challenges anyone who arrives at the gallery believing Watts to be a sentimental, allegorical painter who had been emasculated by his coddling admirers.

In all fairness, the titles of these paintings, "Love and Death, Time, Death and Judgement, Progress", and so on, might seem unacceptable to modern tastes, but the effect of these paintings cannot be so easily dismissed. They are strong works but certainly not beautiful in any conventional sense, for it seems that Watts is to Sargent what Rodin is to

DAVID A. STEWART
Back Bay, Massachusetts
(Address in England)
The Filth, Watts Gallery, Compton.