

Scooping the pool

ONE section of V. S. Naipaul's novel, "In a Free State", which last night won him this year's £5,000 Booker prize, was published in *The Daily Telegraph Magazine* three weeks ago. Considering the number of literary prizes Mr Naipaul has won, its title, "One Out of Many", is apt.

His tally runs: 1957, the John Llewellyn Rhys; 1961, the Somerset Maugham; 1963, the Hawthornden



Naipaul: prize-winner

and a Phoenix Trust grant; 1967 the W. H. Smith £1,000 prize. And now the Booker.

He finds writing exhausting and has said he doesn't expect to write more than three books between now and 1983. Well, there's always the Richard Hillary, the Duff Cooper, and the Nobel.