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Fred, the man who takes his place as a second in the mill. But is all well? No. His daughter Monica urges Fred to push himself as her mother did years ago. Joshua hangs on to his job as did Robertshaw and gets just the same heart trouble. Fred, the pick of the bunch, tries to save the old man by getting medicine for him, but Joshua, haunted by his own willingness to see his boss die thinks that Fred is trying to poison him. When Fred brings the medicine, he refuses to take it and so dies. We do not see Fred stepping into his shoes and getting a new house and a motor car, but no doubt his unpleasant Monica does this for him. A plot so full of improbabilities needs very careful characterisation to bring it off. That it did not succeed was not the fault of the NBS players, who have done their best with it. It was the fault of the joint authors who had not sufficiently realised the limitations of the radio. In a novel it is possible to build up a situation so carefully that such coincidences and improbabilities are made probable. A play can carry the audience with it because eyes help ears and a skilful actor can carry conviction with every movement as well as with every word. This cannot be done over the air. Joshua, the henpecked industrious husband, just wasn't convincing as the soured boss determined to do exactly what his predecessor had done—even though it meant that his daughter and her husband were kept back as he had been. There was no attempt to show how he gets like this. The success of the play depends on the ironic situation into which Joshua's guilty conscience forces him—and it didn't quite come off.

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SEVERAL mothers of my acquaintance have already rubbed their hands with glee that Van der Hausen, alias Jan Walders, has gone back into the Darkness again. *Commando Story*, which is taking the place of *Out of the Darkness*, may not be high-class literature but it is, we hope, no more and no less than a straight-out adventure story that children can listen to without fear of having to move away from the radio because a scream or a murder is impending.

Winter Course Talks

AT the four main National stations preparations are now being made for the Winter Course Talks that are an annual feature of programmes. 1YA is preparing a series on the history of the Auckland Province, particulars of which will be given later. 4YA will actually be the first to start. On Tuesday, April 11, Dr. C. M. Focken, who is well-known to 4YA listeners, will give an introduction to the series, and the following week, April 18, Dr. F. J. Turner will start a group of talks on "Science and Everyday Life." This will include talks on earthquakes, noise, and how to keep cool and warm. Dr. Focken will speak on "The Scientific Attitude."

Making A Fighter Pilot



AS an aid to the Air Force recruiting campaign, the Commercial Division of the NBS is broadcasting a series of five programmes based on the story of a New Zealand fighter pilot's training, from the day he enlists until he gets his wings. A mobile recording unit visited various Air Force stations, and with the co-operation of the authorities, recorded interviews with personnel from the rank of C.O. to the trainees themselves, and including all those who play a part in an airman's training. "Fighter Pilot" is heard on Sundays at 9.0 p.m. from the ZB's, and will later be heard from YA stations. Our photograph, taken during the recording of "Fighter Pilot," shows a commentator interviewing ground staff who are checking engines used by airman pupils



Looking Ahead—

Mary's birthday! What a happy celebration! An appropriate thought at this time is provision for her future. The Government Life Insurance Department has a very popular children's policy designed to meet this particular need. Enquire today and safeguard your child's future without delay.

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