Christmas on Shortwave

BECAUSE Australians celebrate Christmas in D much the same way as New Zealanders this week's shortwave notes are given over

this week's shortwave notes are given to Australian Christmas programmes.

Melbourne's Alexandra Gardens will supply the background for "Carols by Candleight," a Christmas Eve festival of song and thanksgiving that has become a firmly-established Australian tradition. With a choir of a thousand Australian tradition. With a choir of a thousand voices and a symphony orchestra, a huge gathering of citizens will join with a larger radio audience, in celebrating Christmas 1948, in this way. As a special feature this year, Norman Banks, Director of the Festival, has arranged for an aboriginal choir from the Australian outback to visit Melbourne and lend their voices to the singing.

Radio Australia will also be transmitting a special Christmas Day Carol Service from



NORMAN BANKS, who will conduct Melbourne's "Carols by Candlelight" on Christmas Eve

Melbourne's St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by the Precentor (Rev. H. N. Nunn).

The exact time of broadcast for "Carols by Candlelight" is not yet known, but will be announced at the beginning of the evening transmission at 8.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and will be heard on VLA (15.20 mc/s., 19.74 metres) and VLB3 (11.76, 25.51). The special Christmas Day carol service from the Cathedral will be announced at the opening of the afternoon transmission on VLA6 (15.20, 19.74) and VLC9 (17.84, 16.82).

In addition to Christmas music, a special talks feature entitled "Christmas Day in Australia" is scheduled for broadcasting in all transmissions on December 25.

(continued from previous page) the arts in New Zealand, really? Are the artists always having to catch a train?

TOLD BY GIPSIES

A BOOK OF GIPSY FOLK-TALES. Selected by DORA E. YATES. Phoenix House, London.

THESE folk-tales are interesting for two reasons. They have a racy quality which shows in every line that they have been told repeatedly to swarthy listeners around the doors of caravans, and they reveal the essential unity of folk literature in all languages. "The Little Cinder-Girl," for instance, is true in spirit to the universal theme of the despised youngest sister who makes an excellent marriage, although there are some fantastic variations. Indeed, many of the stories are so wildly improbable, even for fairy tales, that they seem to have been conceived in laughter. They are told with a gusto which comes out superbly when the narrator stops to look with twinkling eyes at the open-mouthed audience around him. Best of all, perhaps, is the conclusion of the first story in the book: "And I deserve a big pudding for telling ---M.H.H.



