

DROGRAMME staffs attached to the four ZB stations and 2ZA (Palmerston North) have had the celebrations of Christmas in mind for some months. As a result of their preparations, listeners will be entertained in the traditional way, of course, but this year with programmes having a predominantly New Zealand atmosphere. As we go to press (and as most readers know by now we have to do that some time in advance of the programme-week) the Weather Presentation officer has not been able to give a clue as to whether it will be damp or dry in Dunedin or Dargaville. But it can be assumed that a radio set won't be far away, whether the family are getting suntanned, or toasting their toes at the fireside.

on Christmas Day, will include a special Diggers' Session at British regiments played a football 10.0 a.m. (3ZB at 10.30 a.m.); These People Helped to Make Christmas, from 1ZB at noon, 2ZB at 1.30 p.m., 3ZB at 1.15 p.m., and 4ZB and 2ZA at 1.0 p.m.; a Women's Christmas Session at 2.30 p.m.; Greetings from the Danish State Broadcasting Service (featuring carols by a children's choir) from 1ZB at 3.30 p.m., 2ZB at 5.0 p.m., 3ZB at 6.0 p.m., 4ZB at 1.45 p.m., and 2ZA at 3.0 p.m.; New Zealand's First Christmas at 8.0 p.m., and finally From Fernland, Forest and Farm, at 9.15 p.m.

Occupying nearly an hour, From Fernland, Forest and Farm-a documentary feature-will have the principal place on the programmes on Christmas night. It has been written with the idea of covering a large number of New Zealand outdoor activities at Christmas time. It opens with a story of the gumdiggers in the Waipoho district and goes on to a description of a scene in a small Maori home at Whakarewarewa; a climb up Rainbow Mountain near Rotorua, with a peep into a foresters' lookout, and some details about how the men looking after the timber lands observe the festival. There will be an interview with a shepherd in the Mackenzie Country, and a descriptive tale of Christmas in the small mining village of Denniston.

The Diggers' Session for this occasion has been compiled from information supplied by Army Archives and the War Histories Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs. It will contain dramatized accounts of how men in the line in both the First and Second World Wars spent a Christmas Day, and record the conversations of soldiers during the season of peace, goodwill towards men. Stories about Christmas Day, 1914, in the front line, are many and varied. One is of a lively exchange of banter and expressions of goodwill instead of bullets and shells. Another is of a truce which lasted till midnight,

THE main features, to be heard and of parties of British troops visiting from all Commercial stations the enemy trenches as Yuletide guests of the Germans. It is recalled, too, how in one part of the line, German and

> During the 1939-45 War, the tradition of Christmas was observed in many theatres of battle. Thousands of New Zealanders were overseas, some were in the Oflags and Stalags. Variety in methods of celebration were governed by the exigencies of service, but there was no real variety in thoughts of home and invariably the toast was-"To the last Christmas overseas; we'll be home next year."

> These People Helped to Make Christmas will consist of a series of interviews with tramwaymen, policemen, mailroom sorters, traffic officers, hydro-. electric operators and others whose jobs compel them to work while other people are having holidays.

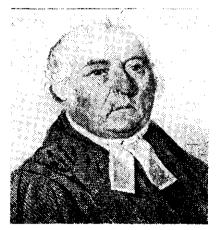
> On Christmas Day, 1814, the first Christmas service in New Zealand was held at the Bay of Islands by the Rev. Samuel Marsden, who was one of the first churchmen to take an interest in the Maoris. The programme New Zealand's First Christmas will be based on Marsden's early experiences in New Zealand, his dealings with the Maori chiefs, his purchase of land for missionary work and the establishment of mission stations in the far north.

> Below are summarised some of the local features in the Commercial station programmes for Christmas Eve and

Christmas Eve

AUCKLAND

AUCKLANDERS will be invited to gather in Myers Park for Carols by Candlelight from 9.0 p.m. to 10.0 p.m. Bands from various parts of the city and suburbs will form up round the rostrum in the park. Choirs will also take part and at the end; of the programme candles will be lit by the audi-



THE REV. SAMUEL MARSDEN. central figure in the programme "New Zealand's First Christmas," which will be heard from the Commercial Stations at 8.0 p.m. on Christmas Day

WELLINGTON

RETWEEN 9.0 p.m. and 11.0 p.m. the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. will hold a musical ceremony by candlelight at Newtown Park. A choir and the Salvation Army Band, conducted by H. Temple White, will present a selection of Christmas carols. Station 2ZB's mobile microphone will record the items and a description of the spectacle, and broadcast them at 11.0 p.m.

CHRISTCHURCH and PALMERSTON NORTH

IN addition to regular features specially selected seasonal programmes will be broadcast throughout the day.

DUNEDIN

AT 5.0 p.m. a Christmas Party, organ. ised by Peter Dawson, will be held in the studio and lounge for children. The 4ZB Radio Players, who will present a play, A Christmas Street Scene in London, will also support Peter Dawson in the role of Scrooge in Charles Dickens's Christmas Carol. At 6.0 p.m. the children will hear On the Night Before Christmas, with Fibber McGee and Molly in the main roles.

Christmas Day

AUCKLAND

AT 6.30 a.m. Phil Shone will interview Santa Claus about his experiences of the night before, and at 7.0 a.m. there will be carols from the studio by the Salvation Army Band and Songsters. From 8.30 a.m., an hour will be taken up with relays of interviews and request items from crippled children in the hospitals. Each child will receive a gift and will be asked to nominate some recording. The whole ward will then hear the items played in the studio. This procedure will be repeated at the Wilson Home.

WELLINGTON

AT 9.0 a.m. the choir of St. John's Church, Johnsonville, will present a programme of lesser-known carols. The boys, whose ages range from eight to 13 years, will be under the conductorship of Claude Sander. At 11.30 a.m. listeners will hear the origins of several old customs such as the bringing in of the Yule Log, and the Christmas pudding complete with burning brandy. Food recipes from Christmas feasts of pre-austerity days will also come under the "old customs" classification. During the two days before Christmas 2ZB will appeal for flowers for old people in various Wellington institutions, and distribute them on Christmas Eve. 11.45 a.m. on Christmas Day a description of the presentation of the posies will be broadcast. At 4.30 p.m. Lyell Boyes will relate The Poor Relation's Tale, by Charles Dickens, and at 5.15 p.m. C. J. Cutler, Curator of the Wellington Zoo, will describe how his animals react to special titbits and a little extra fussing for Christmas.

CHRISTCHURCH

A STUDIO presentation of carols by the Christchurch Boys' High School Choir, under Clifton Cooke, will be broadcast at 7.30 a.m., followed at 8.0 a.m. by a hospital request session conducted by Bob Spiers, who was associated with the session when 3ZB first went on the air. At 10.0 a.m. listeners will hear a series of recordings taken at various Christchurch homes as children found their Christmas stockings, and at 11.0 a.m. the staff of 3ZB will present posies to women patients in hospitals. A new type of request sessionrecordings selected by people of 75 years

