

ZB's New Book Session

FEW people reach the end of a book without wondering what sort of person the author is. If his photograph is on the dust-jacket, the reader can form some idea of his approximate age, but to hear his voice would give an even better clue to his personality. And that is what the ZB stations and Station 2ZA propose to do in a new Sunday night book review session which will start at 9.15 p.m. on Sunday, February 6, and be heard each Sunday thereafter at the same time.

By arrangement with British publishers the Commercial Division of the NZBS will introduce into each session a short recording in which an author will tell how he or she came to select the material for the plot or what inspired the writing of a book. In each session from three to five books will be dealt with and one New Zealand book will be included. Several British publishers have already sent recordings and others have expressed interest in the session.

On the opening night, Eric Ramsden, of Wellington, a student of Maori history, will review H. B. D. Dansey's *How the Maoris Came to Aotearoa*; F. L. Combs, writer, educationist and critic, will review G. B. Stern's latest novel, *No Son of Mine*, which concerns the life of Robert Louis Stevenson; Dr. T. Garland, Director of Industrial Hygiene, will discuss Van Hoosen's *Petticoat Surgeon*, and C. R. H. Taylor, of the staff of the Turnbull Library, will deal with *Old New Zealand*, by F. E. Manning. The voice of G. B. Stern will be heard in the course of the review of her novel.

Among other reviewers who will take part in the new session will be Frank Sargeson, Ngaio Marsh, James Bertram, Isobel Andrews, A. R. D. Fairburn, Dr. A. M. Finlay, Pat Lawlor, O. N. Gillespie, and Allen Curnow. Other authors' voices which have already been recorded for use in reviews are those of Robert Gibbings, Norman Berrow, Ngaio Marsh, and James Bertram, and a steady flow of recordings by overseas writers is expected from England. Each session will occupy about 20 minutes and for the first the chairman will be R. M. Burdon, New Zealand historian.

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author thinks there is little chance in the near future of food production keeping pace with it. Expectation of life at birth is only 27 years, compared with 59 in Britain and the United States. "Positive checks" on population, such as famine and pestilence (the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 killed eighteen million people), have operated less strongly of recent years. The population rose from 280 millions to 389 millions in 50 years and before long it may exceed 500 millions. How are all these people to be fed and given a general higher standard of living? Sir Atul Chatterjee sees the difficulties clearly. It is recognised in India, he says, that there is little to be expected from large-scale emigration as a remedy.

The problem is not one that affects India alone. It is a matter of vital

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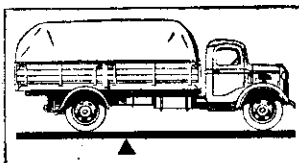
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