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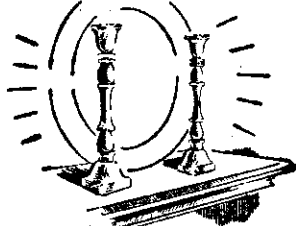
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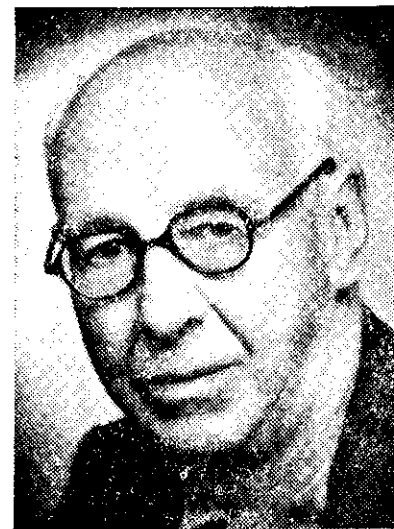
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SHORT COURSE IN PLAY PRODUCTION

HOW do you go about producing a play? Robert Young, producer to the Canterbury Repertory Theatre Society, thinks that too few people in the amateur drama movement really know the answer and that this "most obvious weakness" of the movement is also the most difficult to remedy. "Producing," he says in the first of seven talks to be broadcast by 3YA, "is a form of teaching, and before a teacher can teach he must be trained and qualify. And before he becomes a really good teacher he must gain experience. It's the absence of training and experience that makes the work of the amateur producer such a problem." Pointing out that the function and responsibilities of the producer are far more comprehensive than many people realise, Mr. Young starts his talk by describing how the professional producer begins.

Since he had a varied career in the theatre in Britain, including long experience as a professional producer, Mr. Young is well qualified to talk about play production. He was one of the founders of British Actors' Equity, and when a Member of Parliament was one of those who defended the profession from the attempt by managements to open theatres on Sundays. As far back as 1921 he was a member of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company. His experience as a professional producer included posts at Northampton, Nottingham and Tonbridge theatres; he also managed the Tonbridge theatre. For several years he was a member of the famous play-producing firm of H. M. Tennent, Ltd., and worked with Dame Edith Evans, Isabel Jeans, Michael Red-



ROBERT YOUNG

grave, John McCallum and others. During the war he was invited by Sir Lewis Casson to produce for the Arts Council.

Producing a Play, which will be heard from 3YA on Wednesdays, starting on April 29 at 7.15 p.m. (and later will be repeated in *Mainly for Women*), discusses many problems of play production, both elementary and advanced. The second talk is about the difficulties of small groups, doing their best under difficult conditions to foster a love of the theatre. Among other questions Mr. Young will discuss are the relationship between producer and stage manager, choosing a play, errors in casting, rehearsals and their difficulties, and the dress rehearsal.

Good Work at 3ZB

MORE than 60 inhabitants of the Greek villages of Polydendri and Perivoli will be warmer next winter through the efforts of Station 3ZB and of some hundreds of Christchurch citizens. A Knitting Derby conducted recently by 3ZB's *Women's Hour* yielded some 2000 peggy squares which will be made up into quilts and dispatched to Greece by Corso.

The individual section of the derby was won by Mrs. Kellman, who knitted her square in the record time of 50 minutes. In common with the other competitors, the winner contributed also an entry fee of two peggy squares knitted beforehand at home.

By far the largest group contribution—350 squares—was made by the pupils of Avonside Girls' High School, but as they were not permitted to enter the derby as competitors the prize went to the Christchurch Police Ladies' Social Club, which contributed 150 squares. This prize, a pair of blankets, was handed to Corso by the club's president for inclusion in the consignment to Greece.

Christchurch "adopted" the villages of Polydendri and Perivoli last November under Corso's Greek Village Scheme, and the "starter" for the derby was therefore the Mayor of Christchurch. Some 500 people crowded the lounge of 3ZB to watch the running. The oldest competitor was aged 85, and the youngest 20.

Since the derby, Corso has found that the interest stimulated has led to donations of blankets, cash to buy blankets, and many gifts of warm clothing.



FILM star Ann Sothern (above), last seen on New Zealand screens in *Nancy Goes to Rio*, will be entertaining ZB listeners shortly as the muddling but ever-hopeful principal in a new M-G-M radio comedy entitled *The Adventures of Maisie*. The blonde Maisie is an ineffectual but not-so-dumb show-girl from Brooklyn ("The better part of Brooklyn, mind you. In my district we all had garbage cans"). She claims to be a hard-working girl, whose hardest work is finding work. Each edition of *The Adventures of Maisie* is a self-contained, half-hour show. The series will play on Tuesdays at 7.0 p.m., starting from 1ZB and 2ZB on April 28, from 3ZB on May 5, and from 4ZB on May 12.