

calls the period between 9 and 10 p.m. on Monday nights—will not be out short, for a recorded play, "The Woman Called Ruth," will support the studio presentation.

Missionary Marsden

CENTENARY of the death of Samuel Marsden, which falls this month, is to be marked by the NBS in a talk by the Rt. Rev. F. A. Bennett, Bishop of Aotearoa. The talk is all the more interesting because Marsden's mission was to the Maoris, who now themselves have a Bishop for the Maori race. Marsden was more than a missionary, and what he did in the importation of stock in helping the pioneers was very important. Bishop Bennett's talk will be given at 8.40 on May 27 from 2YA.

Revenge

"RED MAN'S REVENGE"—Developments in Modern Mexico," will be the subject of a talk to be given from 1YA at 9.5 p.m. next Thursday by the Rev. A. M. Richards. Mr. Richards, who is on holiday at Auckland, has a parish in the Grey Valley, West Coast. He will be remembered as



the young man who, after concluding his studies in England some time ago, travelled the world, mostly on push bike. He spent some time in Mexico, so that his talk is eagerly awaited, especially as he intends to comment on the recent expropriation by the Mexican Government of foreign interests in the oil wells.

Among The Ladies

THE relay end of radio work in 1938 finds the operatives sometimes in queer situations. When Ian MacKay, of 3ZB, set out to "do" a mannequin parade from a big hall last week, he had no idea that he would become, unconsciously, comedian for an audience of women. He walked on to the stage with his equipment and exchanged bright badinage with the lady running the show. This went on during the preparations. First there was a titter, then a giggle, and then a roar from the spectators—if ladies do roar—because Mac had quite forgotten that the public address system alongside him was "alive" and carrying every whisper right into the body of the hall. His Scottish sense of humour came to the rescue.

Holiday Sing

THE big Auckland Town Hall was booked out long before Uncle Tom's children's community sing during the school holidays. Three thousand seats were sold. About 250 children took part in the three choirs, and soloists and ensembles sung. The community sing has become one of the features of the May holidays, and Uncle Tom can be congratulated on the fine showing of the children every year.

FIRE DEVASTATES 3ZB

STATION TAKES THE AIR AGAIN ONLY TWO HOURS LATER

HANDSOMELY appointed 3ZB studios and offices were destroyed by a devastating fire at 4 o'clock on Sunday morning. By 6 a.m., slick organisation had enabled the station to carry on as usual from a point seven miles distant.

THE fire completely destroyed the Colombo Street studios. When the Controller of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, arrived by plane a few hours later, the station was little more than a pile of smouldering ruins. By a feat of quick organisation, probably unparalleled in radio, the station was on the air at another point at 6 a.m., with its early morning announcers delivering a full programme, which was carried through, under strain, throughout the day.

In the evening a first-class studio presentation by Mr. Jack Maybury and his orchestra of eight performers was given as programmed.

Station 3ZB is situated in Colombo Street, over premises used by Macduff's Stores, and because of its ornate design and furnishing, was regarded as the best-appointed station in New Zealand or Australia.

The outbreak quickly spread to all parts of the building. In the absence of the Station Director, Mr. F. W. Simpson, who was on an official visit to Wellington, the acting-Station Director, Mr. Merton Bullivant (advertising manager), gained entrance to the building and was able to save portions of the programme and advertising schedules, which, along with a few records borrowed hurriedly by the programme organiser, Mr. Hunter, were rushed to the transmitter building at New Brighton.

Here a room was rigged up as a studio, and with practically the full staff standing by, the station went

on the air at 6 a.m. to the minute, with the early-morning announcers sending out their usual cheery greetings to the farming community.

From Auckland was urgently rushed the studio equipment of the old Friendly Road, 1ZB station. Arrangements were put in train for office accommodation, and it is expected that in the course of a week organisation will again be functioning as normal.

The Controller of the Commercial Broadcasting Service, Mr. C. G. Scrimgeour, accompanied by Mr. W. J. Crowther, business manager, Mr. Eric Grainger, chief engineer, and Mr. F. W. Simpson, director of 3ZB, left by the first available plane for Christchurch, after arranging by telephone as far as was possible to secure the necessary accommodation for the continuance of 3ZB in the southern centre. The National Advertising Manager, Mr. B. T. Shell, arrived from Dunedin at 11 a.m.

Interviewed by the "Record," Mr. Scrimgeour said that the fact that the station was able to continue as usual at 6 a.m. was one of the most remarkable examples of efficiency and flexibility of organisation, that it had ever been his privilege to encounter.

"While the ashes of the studio and offices were still hot," he said, "the advertising manager, assisted by the police, found his way into the building, and, from the scattered debris, was able to save part of the advertising and programming schedules, and organise the necessary staff, with the result that two hours later the business of the station was continued as usual, from a point some miles distant, in such a manner as to convey the impression to the public at large that nothing out of the ordinary had happened. It was really a magnificent effort on the part of the 3ZB staff, and, I should say, unprecedented in the annals of radio."

The contents of the building were insured.

The fire brigade, driven back by intense heat, was practically powerless, and was compelled to concentrate on preventing the spread of the conflagration to adjoining premises.

3YA Change

MR. A. RYLAND, of the technical staff of 3YA, has gone south on promotion to Dacre, near Invercargill, where he will play a large part in installing gear at the new station. Mr. Ryland is the youngest senior technician in the service and has been at Cobble's Pass for 3YA for some years. He was fawelled by the NBS Guild and at a more formal function, when, in the studio, the staff gave Mr. Ryland a set of drawing instruments.

Station 3YA has produced some notable staff men—thorough experts at their particular job—and lost them on account of promotion which naturally follows outstanding merit. And the curious thing is that one trio of them

has come to be known as the "Three R's"—M. Rickard, H. A. S. Rollinson, and A. Ryland. Each of these three men made his radio start at 3YA.

Peter Whitchurch

DESERVEDLY popular with 2ZB listeners is the cheery-voiced Peter Whitchurch, who lately has been part-nering Kingi Tahiw. Peter is a man of Kent, whose love of the sea took him to the Thames Nautical Training College at the age of 14. Service in the seven seas finally gained him the post of third officer to the Awatea on her maiden trip to New Zealand. So well did he like the country that, after a spell round the coast in traders, he decided that it was the right place in which to live.