

AROUND THE STUDIOS

FRENCH ORGANIST ON AIR

*Broadcasts By Renee Nizan—Her Place Among World Performers—
Inter-Varsity Debate—Recital By Alan Loveday—Staff Changes
At 2ZB And 3ZB—Features By Commercial*

DESCRIBED as "the modern St. Cecilia," Renee Nizan, young French organist, is now touring New Zealand, and arrangements have been made by the NBS to broadcast parts of her recitals. Following her relay from the Basilica, Wellington, on June 12, she will be heard from the Dunedin Town Hall, through 4YA, on Tuesday, June 21, at 8 p.m.; and 1YA will relay (at 8 p.m. on June 25) part of her recital from the Auckland Town Hall. From New Zealand Mlle. Nizan goes to Australia.

DESPITE her youth, Mlle. Nizan has won a place for herself among leading European organists. She has love of the king of instruments in her blood, for her father was for many years organist of the Church of Notre Dame de Boulogne, Paris, and her brothers (one of whom, M. Alain Nizan, accompanies her as manager) are also very accomplished players. She was a pupil of Dallier and Louis Vierne, who was organist of Notre Dame, and who at his death last year was in the front rank of modern composers for the instrument.

WHEN only 14 years old, Mlle. Nizan gave her first public recital in Paris, and at 15 appeared as soloist with the Pasdeloup Symphony Orchestra. She has made three tours of the United States, appearing in the principal Canadian cities as well; and she has played in England, Belgium, and Switzerland. Her present tour of New Zealand marks the first time in possibly a generation that an organist of high repute has visited this country for the purpose of giving recitals.

Mlle. NIZAN'S repertoire covers almost the whole range of organ music, from Bach to some of the newest French composers. It has been her experience that, although many concert-goers are unfamiliar with the organ except through church services, they find genuine pleasure in its music when that is properly grouped and varied.

OVERSEAS critics have been warm in their praise of Mlle. Nizan. One eulogised her thus: "A brilliant organist—a virtuoso of the very first rank—an organ recitalist whose astonishing technique is matched by an imagination every bit as astonishing. As she plays, the limitations of the organ are forgotten, all its "popular" weaknesses



RENEE NIZAN

... "The Modern Cecilia."

—offspring of the movie show and organ loft moronism—are as though they had never been. Only the organ remains—king of musical instruments—noble, dignified, authoritative, and beautiful beyond praise. . . ."

AN extremely interesting subject for many listeners has been selected for an inter-varsity debate between Auckland University College and Victoria University College, for broadcast on Sunday, June 19. The subject is "That the Existing Gambling Laws are Unsound and Inequitable and Should be Revised." P. H. Lewis, P. Day and A. O. Woodhouse will take the affirmative for Auckland, while R. W. Edgley, R. E. Scott and C. J. Tremblay will adopt the negative for Victoria. The latter will speak from the 2YA studios and the Aucklanders from 1YA studios. The judge is to be O. C. Mazengarb, M.A., LL.M.

BUT recently arrived from England where he played the bassoon with the BBC Orchestra, W. Dearden Jackson will give a short recital on this instrument from 2YA on June 23. Apart from his ability as a bassoonist,

Mr. Jackson is also an accomplished pianist, a "double" which is probably unique. Upon his arrival in New Zealand his services were sought and secured by the Wellington Symphony Orchestra, to whose ranks this capable musician will undoubtedly be an asset.

Community Sings

COMMUNITY singing has started in Christchurch again, in aid of the relief of distress. The city has made a name for itself in its financial collec-

RADIO LOSS

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT ALLAN

ONLY a month ago, Mr. Robert Allan went to Christchurch from Dunedin to take charge of the 3YA transmitter at Gelbrie's Pass, having previously been stationed at Dunedin.

When making some adjustments after the station went off the air on Sunday, June 5, he received an electric shock which resulted in his death. His body was found by Mr. J. Moore, another technician when he went on duty at about 6.15 in the morning.

The adjustments were close to the floor, and Mr. Allan would have been in a lying position when he received a shock of 230 volts.

He was a married man with one child.

Mr. Allan had been more than eight years in the employment of the national stations, having joined the staff of 3YA when the service was under the control of the New Zealand Broadcasting Company. He was subsequently transferred to 1YA, but about five years ago received a further transfer, this time to 4YA.

His death caused a particularly thoughtful and praiseworthy gesture from 4ZB. That station paid a delightful tribute to the dead man, and extended its sympathies with his family and relatives. In addition, a sympathetic poem was read by Alex. McDowell, and music in keeping was played during the brief session. The consideration which prompted the tribute could only have raised 4ZB in the esteem of all who happened to hear it.

Among those who attended the funeral in Christchurch were the Director of Broadcasting (Professor James Shelley), Mr. J. R. Smith (chief engineer of the service), Messrs. C. S. Booth and L. Halerow, of 4YA, Dunedin, Mr. J. McKenzie (station director of 3YA) and very many members of 3YA staff.