

ON THE AIR

RADIO

Michael Innes is the author of "The Road to Dunsinane," which Rayner Heppenstall is to produce in the Third Programme on November 15. This is a successor to "The Hawk and the Handsaw." Macbeth and not Hamlet, however, is the subject of the new script, divided into two parts. In the first part listeners will meet the historical Macbeth. In the second part the author supposes that, in 1599, Shakespeare was in Edinburgh with Laurence Fletcher's company; that he met there William Drummond of Hawthornden, a precocious boy of 14, and that "Romeo and Juliet," having been banned, a new play had to be written at short notice. Mr. Heppenstall recently held auditions at the Herriot Hospital, Edinburgh, for the part of young Drummond. The successful candidate was 14-year-old Ian Gloag. The historical Macbeth will be played by Frederick Valk, and Jack Hawkins will be heard as Shakespeare. Extracts from Shakespeare's tragedy will be played by Grizelda Hervey and Oliver Burt. Helena Gloag, Ian's mother, will play a smaller part in the programme. Howieson Cuff will read passages from Holinshed's "Chronicles," and author's commentary will be spoken by Carleton Hobbs.

TELEVISION

On Wednesday, October 25, new ground was broken by Leonard Boucher, whose ballet-play, "Barrack Square," was produced by Christian Simpson. Unlike the device of dance-drama, sometimes used to overcome the limits which television imposes upon ballet, this was dancing as an integral part of a play especially written by the choreographer. The slight story forming the framework for the ballet provided a combination of comedy and philosophy, and the choreography, set in the period of 1780, showed great musical appreciation of Mozart's German Dances and Haydn's Military Symphony.

Leonard Boucher as Razacula and Dominic Callaghan as Lucille danced extremely well, and Gillian Hobart was outstanding among the

corps de ballet for her appreciation of the period. Philip Godfrey and Michael Rittermann, the leading actors, were very good, and, but for some minor technical hitches, the programme was pleasing as well as promising.

New Game

"Kaleidoscope" makes a return to television on November 3 when it starts a new fortnightly series. Produced as before by Ronald Waldman, it contains three of the original features, "Close-up," "Song Time" (with Petula Clark on November 3), and "Puzzle Corner," and three new features, "Alibi," "Pictures in the Fire," and "First Date."

At the Fortune

Members of the B.B.C. Club's Ariel Players, who joined in a production of Frank Vosper's play, "Murder on the Second Floor," at the Fortune from Monday to Thursday this week, seldom achieved more than amateur dramatics, and for the first hour the going was slow indeed. But, once well under way, the efficiency of Douglas Moodie's production became evident and it was all good fun. Keith Geddes tried a little too hard as Bromilow and lacked somewhat in authority in consequence. There was a happy characterisation from Eleanor Burton as Miss Snell, and Jennifer Hammond was coolly charming though a little inflexible as Sylvia. But far and away the best of the evening's performances came with a brief interlude of striking drama from Geoffrey Booty as a self-confessed murderer. It was a display that left one wondering if Mr. Booty could sustain a longer rôle with equal effect. Others in the company were Hilary Field, Brian Denny, Betty Davies, Peter Albany, Ray Suffield, Douglas May, Peter Hines, Desmond Briscoe, and Don George.
