

### ALSATIANS RULE SWISS ALPS

Amid the snow-covered peaks of the Bernese Oberland, a new generation of Alpine rulers passes out of finishing school. Guided by expert Swiss trainers, alsatians have come to the rescue of the dwindling race of St. Bernards. Proving themselves worthy in the toughest of tests (finding a man buried beneath the snow) the alsatian is now rescue dog No. 1 in the Alps. Though, like all dogs, their eyesight is weak, their sensitive noses can follow a trail for 48 hours. And even in snow, this highly-developed sense stays with them.

An honours degree is waiting for each canine student who gets through the stiff "end-of-term" exam. So far, 95 per cent of the pupils have passed. The latest move is to enrol them in a national register, so that they can be called upon instantly in an emergency.