

CIRCUS COMING TO TOWN

It won't be long before the circus comes to town, so everybody's getting in step down at Ascot, where the Bertram Mills team spend the winter. When they're not in London or on tour round the country, the animals are kept in constant training. Along with Liberty Horses this year, are zebras - perhaps the most difficult creatures to train. To make sure the circus has all its traditional colour and glitter, the performers' costumes are given a thorough check-up.

The ring-master, the boss of the big-top, tries out his tepper. Everything's got to be just right for the London opening - as young jumbo's finding out.

That's quite a feat - er foot. Nobody here relies too much on that old saying about elephants never forgetting - they don't give them a chance. Rehearsals will go on right up to the last moment - they need to for acts like this.

The harness-room too makes ready for opening night. There are bridles by the dozen to be polished, and saddles to be cleaned to add yet further sparkle to this year's great finale - Carousel.