

54/99.

BIG TOP IN TOWN.

Under the Big Top at Olympia, 6,000 boys and girls from homes, schools and hospitals in London and the Home Counties watch the first performance of the 1954, Bertram Mills Circus. Animals, of course, are a big attraction - and they don't come much bigger than Oscar Fischer's 3 Elephants, Mary, Jennie and Rancee.

Going up! And way above the ring some of the troupe known as the Seven Eagles provide a generous ration of high-wire thrills.

Still keeping up in the air, here are the New De Rias - four French acrobats with a stunt designed for the jet-age.

Coming down to earth with a bump (and you can bet there'll be plenty of bumps) with the big top's oldest and most popular act. Making their first appearance with Bertram Mills are the Bullys. Although they've just come over from the States, the gent on the floor, is obviously no G.I.!

Back come the animals - (in this case Expert's Bears) with a dashing display of balance and Grace.

Now an eye-popping feat by the star of the act.

Even the scooter craze has caught up with the animal world's version of the Teddy-boys.

Back again to the clowns. Cooe, making his 26 appearance at Olympia takes part in a housewife's nightmare of a visit to the laundrette.

Now for a grand finale with Manfred Bonnewis, the star of a Danish circus, putting the Big Cats through their paces - and the hoop. With more than its quota of laughs and thrills, the circus comes to town to add its own distinctive flavour to the feast of Christmas fun.