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CHRISTMAS IS A-COMING.....

The mayor and mayress of Southwark visit the Elephant and Castle Theatre where young cinemagoers are seeing to it that everyone has the best Christmas possible, even if they're in hospital. Like many other cinemas up and down the country, the Elephant and Castle is collecting toys for sick children. A fine idea - have you given one?

While Christmas is being made brighter for the youngsters, London is being made brighter for Christmas. Designer Beverley Pick plans Regent Street's decorations for this year - twelve hundred glittering stars in the shape of giant snowflakes.

Seventy thousand rivets are needed to assemble the light alloy stars, which are then sprayed with silver paint.

Next comes the glitter dust - over eighty pounds of it altogether - to make the stars sparkle like the snowflakes which inspired them.

Thus the vision of the designer becomes reality, and London's most graceful shopping centre puts on its holiday dress. Can this be London? It looks more like fairyland.

Christmas is a-coming, and the pigs are getting fat - not to mention the beef and mutton, on parade for the Smithfield Show. And it's a parade with enough bull to gladden any sergeant's major's heart.

A last-minute trim for a Clun Forest sheep. How's that for a winter coat?

Mr. Ben Cootes parades a handsome Highlander, Mulach of Iaccon. And in case you prefer pork for your Christmas dinner here are some Large Whites -

For British farmers, this is one of the big events of the year, when thousands of them come to London to see what the other fellow's doing. And the other fellow seems to be doing all right. How's that for a Galloway - The Duke of Norfolk's "Zulu"?

So much for the beef - and now for the beefcake, at the "Health and Strength League's Mr. Britain" contest in London. The twenty finalists include Ernest Martinson, a 40-year old fish worker - he's the oldest by eight years, but he doesn't seem worried. Would you be, with muscles like that

Twenty-four-year-old Henry Downs is a timber salesman. Hope he's careful how he knocks on doors!

Anyone want to start an argument?