

BIG TOP AIDS CHARITIES

When the Circus comes to London it's generally Xmas. But this was a very special occasion, a star gala performance by Billy Smart's Circus for the charities sponsored by the Variety Club. The famous in show business came thick and fast. Film star Denis Price, and the inimitable Bootsie and Smudge. Variety Club's a name to conjure with, so here's David Nixon. Very gratifying to those stalwarts of the Club, C.J. Latta and Billy Butlin.

Stanley Baker; and after him, irrepressible Bruce Forsythe, with Joy Beverley, she of course, is now Mrs. Billy Wright, and Billy was there too.

Robert Beatty, and a lot more stars yet. Here were Hattie Jacques, with TV brother Eric Sykes. Comedian Arthur Haynes argued with Bruce till it was time for the animals to take over and the Big Top was really under way.

A lesson in keeping fit by the Seven Herrvik, of the Hungarian State Circus.

Hold your breath for the Great Henry Denis, a star from Spain.

From Germany, for the first time in England, Charlie Baumann and his Tiger Group. Just the time for Bruce Forsythe to persuade Dorothy Squires to go inside and get into the act, and then make a song about it.

Dorothy didn't like her audience so close. It's the last time she'll sing to tigers.

Have this one on me, said John Pertwee to the baby elephant.

Billy Smart Junior's Mighty Herd of Elephants, assisted by the Digger Pugh Elephants Girls.

How's this for a novelty? A row of real live millionaires. Burma (the elephant) could have squashed the life out of them; but you don't take liberties with all that money. Any damage to Billy Butlin, and Burma couldn't foot the bill. Obviously a great time was had by all.