

In the Elysee Palace in Paris, M. Auriol said good-bye to the staff ~~xx~~ on retiring from his arduous term of office as President of the French Republic. M. Auriol has been the one constant factor, in the post-war years of our gallant neighbour across the Channel --- while Governments have been falling like ripe apples in a ~~hurricane~~ gale. ¹⁸ ~~Madame~~ Madame Auriol, too, says her farewells after her years as first lady. The President ²³ bestowed the Legion of Honour on some of his colleagues, before making way for the new President, M. Rene Coty. ~~/~~ 29/5

BOXING.

~~CUE 2~~
A ~~lightning~~ fight at the Paris ~~Palace of Sports~~ ^{at the French} ~~turned out to be much quicker than the fight for the Presidential Elections.~~ ~~Percy Bassett~~ Percy Bassett of America, versus Jacques Herbillon, the French lightweight. The Frenchman gamely got back on his feet after that first quick setback --- but he was destined to go down again twice more before the fight was over; --- and the whole job took only one minute fifty seconds. ~~/~~ Out of a hundred and ten seconds, Herbillon spent a total of twenty-five on the ~~canvas~~ canvas -- before the referee stopped it. ~~/~~

SKI-JORING.

~~CUE 4~~
Motor cycles with an outsize in non-skid tyres, lined up at Thiersee in the Tyrol for the first race of the ski-joring season. ~~After~~ the mild start, the Austrian winter has got down to sports business --- and the lake-track has an ideal surface. ~~/~~ 13/12

The winner was Karlheinz Baier ~~/~~ 2/3

CIGAR-BAND MOSAICS.

Here's an unusual occupation that has turned a house in Volendam in Holland, into a show-place for tourists. Nico Molenaar retired from being a fisherman eight years ago; and has since devoted his time to making mosaics, out of his collection of one and a half million cigar bands. ~~/~~

Trouble is---- if you offer Nico a smoke, he keeps the band and throws away the cigar. ~~/~~