M. AURIOL SAYS GOOD-BYE. 8/1/54.

In the Elysee Palace in Paris, M. Auriol said good-bye to the staff 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 gale. Madame Auriol, too, says her farewells after her years as first lady. The President bestowed the Legion of Honnur on some of his colleagues, before making way for the new President, M. Rene Coty. 29/5

BOXING. CUE 2

A fight at the Paris Palace of Sports --- turned out to be much quicker than the fight at the French Presidential Elections. 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 teh seconds, Herbillon spent a total of twenty-five on the 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.