

BIG TOP.

Shop windows may be full, the post office may be working overtime - but until the circus comes to town, the festive season hasn't really started. Whatever else may change, there's always Bertram Mills' Circus at Olympia to see the old year out and the new year in with a bang that can be heard all over London.

The accent's on youth - even among the elephants. Fancy learning to crawl after you've learned to walk! Still, almost anything seems to make these humans laugh, so we might as well oblige.

The two Ortons decide there are more uses than one for a television aerial. So next time you get interference on your set look aloft to make sure someone isn't doing his daily dozen the hard way!

Well, that's a new slant on an old and popular act - Nor for a traditional turn which still leaves us breathless - the daring young men themselves. These are the Flying Sylvests - and they include some daring young women if you're not too dizzy to pick them out.

Right way up or upside down, it's all the same to the Flying Sylvests.

Where's that trapeze? Oh, there it is.

Anything they can do, I can do better, says Reeo the clown - let's start with the wire walk.

Strange - it went perfectly all right when he rehearsed it on that white line in the road.

And here's the reason for the herring shortage - the Benneweias Sealions.

Grab up!

Couldn't have done it better myself!

From sealions to real lions - and real tigers, too. Scottish trainer Alex Kerr makes his big cats do tricks even a little car wouldn't do. That's the circus for you - it just can't be true - but it happens!