



BRIGHT IDEAS

This column is reserved for dealing with suggestions sent in by Meccano users for new parts, new models and new ways of making Meccano model-building

attractive. We are always pleased to hear from any Meccano boy who has an idea which he considers will be useful in the Meccano system.

R. Bampas (Johannesburg, S.A.).—(1) We are considering an increase in the variety of Bevel Gears. (2) Regarding your idea for a ratchet element, we shall have to discover its applications, other than the one you mention. (3) Architraves and Corner Brackets serve the same purpose as your suggested bracing strips. (4) We now list Chassis "Iyres" (No. 142, price 4d. each).

J. Calder (Epsom).—(1) We are continually increasing our range of rolling stock, but the particular type of bogie truck you mention has not yet been added. (2) A signal box with levers is in course of preparation. (3) We propose altering the brake lever from the curved rail to the straight rail.

T. J. Cooling (Bath).—Two Hornby Presentation Train Sets are listed. They consist of a comprehensive selection of items, but are not mounted. We fear that it would be quite impossible to market them in the form you suggest as they would be too bulky and unwieldy. We quite see the advantages of your idea.

Jack Mason (Auckland, N.Z.).—(1) Thanks for your long list of suggested new parts, but the majority are merely modifications of existing parts. (2) A Flanged Wheel of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter may be made by bolting a Flanged Disc to a Face Plate.

H. A. Freeman (Willington, Sussex).—We see the point you raise in connection with the butting of two Double Angle Strips. An alternative method of overcoming this difficulty is to extend the Double Angle Strip one hole and join by means of a Strip. An extra hole in width should not make any considerable difference to the general construction.

E. W. C. White (Wisbech).—We are experimenting with a sliding action on the lines of your suggestion. **Nicholas Eyres** (Richmond).—We shall go into the matter of laterally-curved rack strips. It is not our intention to produce Gauge 1 track at the moment. The small demand for this size does not justify the manufacturing outlay.

Bert Hawkers (Romford).—We have decided to introduce a transverse strip into the Meccano system. Particulars will be furnished later.

W. R. Skelton (Kingsdown, nr. Deal).—It is not practicable to provide curved rods. Curved or bent elements cover an extremely wide field, and to provide for this is quite out of the question. The present Coupling No. 63 will give you an angle connection similar to that depicted in your sketch.

P. S. Reed (Upper Deal).—Small tools such as you mention would only have an ornamental use and their introduction would not be justified.

Brian Harden (St. Albans).—A laterally curved strip is restricted in use to its own particular diameter. The matter of this type of curved strip is exercising our attention.

Reg. F. Whittle (Bacup).—A stop on the rail worked in conjunction with the signal will require a little thought and working out, but we shall give the idea careful consideration.

G. F. Chell (Wolverhampton).—We may shortly be able to commence the designs of an electric locomotive.

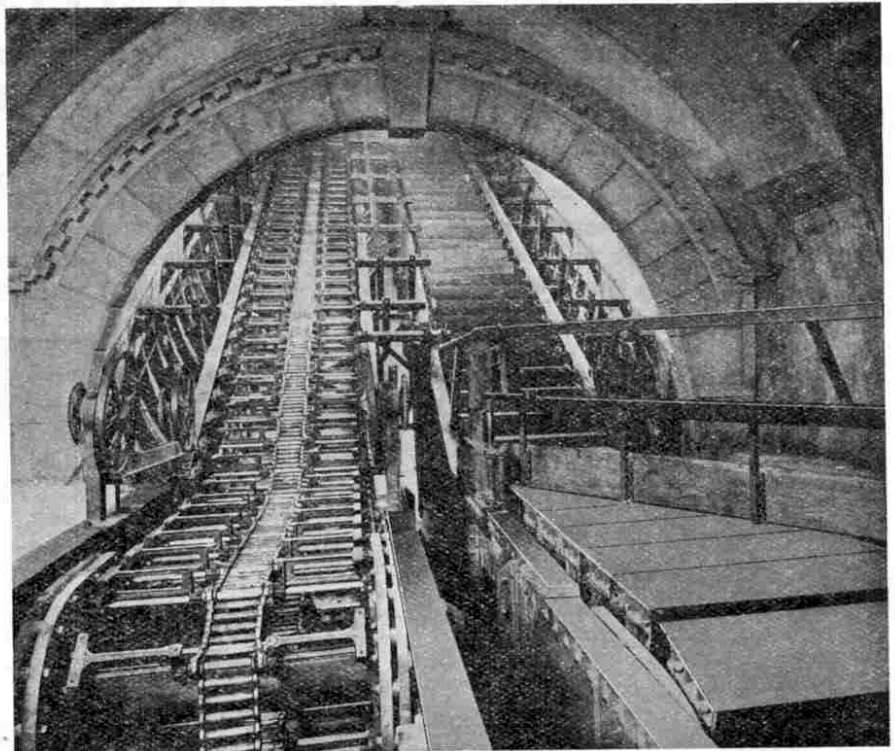
Anthony A. Fletcher (Newick).—Your complaint regarding the loosening of the wheels on the axles is an isolated one. The fault is due, we think, to some slight defect not noticeable at the time of assembly. They would be replaced under our Guarantee. We are considering the question of coupling up the driving wheels. Please accept our best thanks for your congratulatory message.

H. W. Vaughan (Blaenau Ffestiniog).—We appreciate the value of your suggested ferrule, for protecting the threads of the screwed rod when running in a bearing or when a wheel is fastened to it. We are afraid, however, that there is not a sufficient margin of space between the rod and the boss hole to permit of the introduction of such an element. Anticipating a possible suggestion from you on this point, a slight reduction of the diameter of the screwed rod could not be entertained as the present size is the adopted standard.

Stanley Dunn (Bridgend).—The matter of a sliding gear has already been dealt with in these columns. We are considering the most suitable form to adopt.

New Meccano Parts

No. 16b. Axle Rods, 3"	...	each 1d.
" 141 Wire Lines (for clock)	"	9d.
" 142 Rubber Rings (Chassis Tyres)	"	4d.



The Escalator, or moving staircase, at Earl's Court station on the Underground Railway. Our photograph shows the boards removed from the left-hand staircase, and on the right the tread in position. The working of this staircase is referred to in the article on page 97 of this issue.

What Broadcasting Means—(cont. from p. 101)

polite, very apologetic if anything goes wrong or there is any delay, and guides us through the programme, item by item.

Broadcasting Opera

The studio of a broadcasting station has its limitations. For instance, an opera performance on a big scale can only be held in a properly-appointed theatre. In such a case the ordinary land telephone line is used.

Suppose it is decided to broadcast an opera from Covent Garden Theatre. Sensitive microphones are fitted at various points in the theatre, so as to catch every sound from the stage. These microphones are connected by a land line to "2LO," the London broadcasting station. Shortly before the opera is to commence, 2LO announces to its listeners that it is "now switching over to Covent Garden." Then the microphones at the theatre are switched in, the orchestra commences the overture, this is transmitted by the land line to 2LO, amplified, and then broadcast by wireless just as if the performance were taking place in the ordinary studio. In this way music lovers all over the country are able to hear operatic performances by the finest artists, and similarly concerts and speeches can be broadcast from the actual hall in which they are taking place.

Land-line transmission also enables a broadcasting studio to be in a building in the centre of a city, and the transmitting apparatus and aerial in another district. In the case of 2LO, for example, the studio where the artists perform is in Savoy Hill, while the transmitting apparatus and aerial are at Marconi House in the Strand. A land-line connects the two places and makes it possible to broadcast from the studio just as though the artists were in the same building as the transmitting apparatus.

Into the Land of Fun—(cont. from page 93)

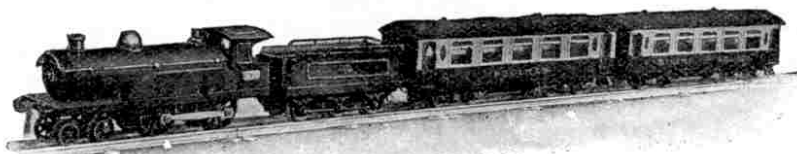
shaft) out of existing Meccano parts. The difficulty was finally overcome (as is shown in Fig. E in the October "M.M.") by using two Reversed Double Angle Brackets, connected to Couplings carrying the driving shaft. Shortly afterwards a new part fitted with four set-screws, and consisting of two interlocking parts, which are themselves detachable, was introduced. This was No. 140, Universal Coupling. This is a great improvement on the original arrangement, as the made-up coupling was not entirely satisfactory in use, and was inclined to work loosely. The Universal Coupling may also be used to form a flexible joint on two pieces of shafting each of which is being driven at a different angle.

Incidentally, this part is the very latest addition to the Meccano system up to the present time. I hear from the Factory, however, that there are several other new and important parts under consideration, and when these are introduced, full particulars will be announced in future numbers of the "M.M." Meanwhile, if any of my readers have suggestions for new parts that they consider would prove of value, I strongly advise them to send full particulars to the Editor. In describing new parts, it is always advisable to give examples of the uses to which these new parts may be applied, as this is a great help to the experts who consider their merits. It would also be interesting to hear of any specially interesting purposes to which the new parts, mentioned on this page, have been applied, and I will give 10/6 for the best suggestion in this connection. Write your suggestion neatly—with sketches if necessary—on one side of the paper only, and address your letter to "Spanner," c/o Meccano Ltd., Liverpool. Post before May 30.

HORNBY CLOCK WORK TRAINS

THE TRAINS WITH THE GUARANTEE

A most valuable and remarkable feature of the Hornby Train is that it can be taken to pieces and rebuilt just like a Meccano model. All the parts are standardised, and there is as much fun taking Loco, Tender, Wagon, and Coaches to pieces and rebuilding them as there is in playing with them. Any lost or damaged parts may be replaced with new ones.

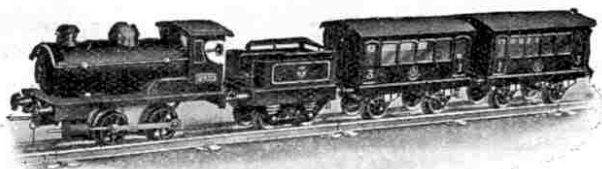


No. 2 PULLMAN TRAIN

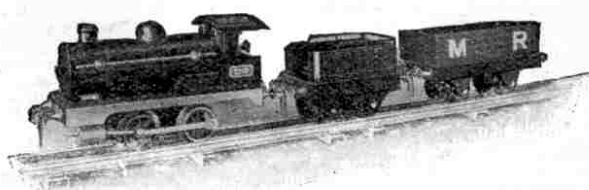
HORNBY TRAIN PRICES

No. 1			
Goods Set	...	25/6	Wagons ... each 3/9
Passenger Set	...	35/-	Tenders ... " 3/6
Locos	...	each 16/-	Passenger Coaches ... " 6/6

No. 2			
Goods Set	...	45/-	Wagons ... each 3/9
No. 2 Pullman Set	...	70/-	Tenders ... " 4/-
Locos	...	each 30/-	Pullman Cars ... " 16/-



No. 1 PASSENGER TRAIN



No. 1 GOODS TRAIN

Clockwork Train Rolling Stock and Accessories

All Train Accessories are built in correct proportion to the Hornby Trains and have that beautiful finish which is the great feature of the Hornby system. Many new accessories are being added this year. Ask your dealer to show you samples.



REFRIGERATOR VANS
Enamelled in white,
lettered black. Each 4/6



WINDSOR STATIONS
Excellent models, beautifully designed and finished.
Dimensions: Length 2 ft. 9 in., breadth 6 in., height 7 in. Each 12/6



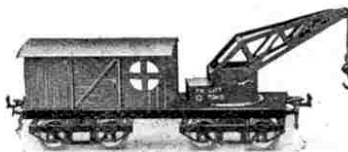
MILK TRAFFIC VANS
Fitted with sliding door, complete with milk cans. Each 5/-



SINGLE LAMP STANDARDS
A four-volt bulb may be fitted into the globe.
Each 3/-



SPRING BUFFER STOPS. Each 2/-



BREAKDOWN VANS AND CRANES
Excellent finish. Beautifully coloured.
Suitable for 2 ft. radius rails only. Each 7/-



No. 1 CATTLE TRUCKS
Fitted with sliding door.
Very realistic design.
Each 4/6



ROTARY TIPPING WAGONS
Finished in colour.
Each 3/6



TURNTABLES. Each 4/6



GAS CYLINDER WAGONS
Finished in red, lettered gold.
Each 4/-



TELEGRAPH POLES
Each 3/-

FROM ALL MECCANO DEALERS



Fireside Fun

WE have received a very large number of requests that this page of "Fireside Fun" shall be continued throughout the summer months. Although it was originally intended to feature the page only in the winter, we feel compelled to respond to the insistent demands of our readers, and whenever possible we shall therefore include a page of "Fireside Fun" in each future issue. We would remind our readers that we offer 5/- for the best puzzle submitted every month, and 2/6 for every other puzzle used. This offer remains open until further notice.

In our December number we gave several sentences commencing with the same word, syllable or sound, that are difficult to repeat, especially when repeated several times in succession. These tongue-twisters such as "truly rural" and "a pound of mixed biscuits," are evidently very popular with our readers, for we have received numerous requests for further examples. We have collected one or two interesting tongue-twisters, therefore, and print these. We are hoping to give two or three more next month. In the meantime if any of our readers know of any particularly good examples we shall be pleased to receive them and to pay for those used at our usual rates.

A very good tongue-twister is the well-known verse about the sea shells:

She sells sea shells on the sea shore;
The shells she sells are sea shells, I'm sure.
So if she sells sea shells on the sea shore,
Then I'm sure she sells sea shore shells.

Repeated rapidly ten or twenty times this makes one sound like a tank engine shunting!

Then there is the famous verse about Betty and the butter:

Betty Botta bought some butter.
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter,
But a bit of better butter
Will but make my butter better."
So she bought a bit of butter,
Better than the bitter butter,
And it made her butter better.
So 'twas better Betty Botta
Bought a bit of better butter.

The letter "C," especially when followed by "r," gives plenty of scope for unruly tongues, as the following verse shows:

Captain Crackskull cracked a catchpoll's cockscomb;
Did Captain Crackskull crack a catchpoll's cockscomb?
If Captain Crackskull cracked a catchpoll's cockscomb,
Where's the catchpoll's cockscomb Captain Crackskull cracked?

The tongue-twister about the woodchuck almost knots one's tongue completely. Try this in bed at night if you can't sleep and I will guarantee you will fall off before you can repeat it a hundred times! Say it softly though, or you'll wake the others, and they will imagine you are in some new kind of fit!

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? If a woodchuck could chuck wood, the wood that a woodchuck could chuck is the wood that a woodchuck could chuck, if the woodchuck that could chuck wood would chuck, or a woodchuck could chuck wood.

Puzzle No. 17.

The Flock of Geese

Brown one day drove his flock of geese
And met with farmer Gay. "How much a-piece
For this flock did you pay?"
Says Brown, "I paid for all I drive
Just six pounds and a crown
And I'm going to sell them all but five,
At yonder market town,
When fifteen pence a head I'll charge
Above what they cost me.
And thus obtain a sum as large
As I gave for all, you see."

Can any reader state how many geese Brown bought, how much he paid for each, and what price he asked?

(Contributed by Master J. McGregor, of Govan, N.B.)



"What an awful gash you have on your forehead!"

"Oh, next to nothing—next to nothing."

This Month's Short Story

Barber, shave;
Man, sneeze;
Customer, dead;
Next, please!

We never thought of that

Mother: "There now! I've read you the whole story of the Ark and you must go to sleep!"
Tommy: "Yes, but first tell me what would have happened if Noah had sent out a sea-gull instead of a dove?"

"Yes, we have no—"

"This song about bananas makes me tired," said the Old Gentleman. "In my day we had songs like 'Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-De-Ay' and 'Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow-wow.' Songs like those had some sense in 'em!"

Answers to Last Month's Puzzles

- No. 11 Nothing.
No. 12 24 lbs.
No. 13 Ann's age: 18.
No. 14 Mary's age: 40. Ann's age: 24.
No. 15 79 days' voyage.
No. 16 25 miles.



Waiter: "Did you have turtle or ox tail soup, sir?"

Diner: "I don't know—it tasted mostly like soap."

Waiter: "That was the turtle soup, sir. The ox tail tastes like paraffin."

Puzzle No. 18.

The verses with the missing words that we recently printed have proved very popular, and we are printing another similar verse of this nature.

A..... sat in his..... gray,
Watching the moonbeams..... play,
On a keg that in the bushes lay,
And the leaves with their..... took up the song,
Thou..... the brave. Thou..... the strong.
To thee doth..... of great battles belong.
John Barleycorn, my king.

This verse has been submitted by Master Norman T. Nicholson, of Falkirk. The word in this case consists of six letters, the word in each case being different but composed of the same six letters in different order. The answer will be given next month.

On mules we find two legs behind,
And two we find before,
We stand behind, before we find,
What the two behind be for!

Tried in the Short Circuit Court

A man, arrested for assault and battery, was before the judge:

Judge: "What is your name, your occupation and what are you charged with?"

Prisoner: "My name is Spark, sir. I am an electrician, and I am charged with battery."

Judge: "Six days in a dry cell!"

We offer a prize of 5/- for the best puzzle submitted each month, and prizes of 2/6 each for any other puzzles printed.

Puzzles should be expressed as clearly as possible and the answers should be given in each case. Diagrams should be clearly drawn and letters should be addressed "Puzzles," Meccano Magazine, Binns Road, Liverpool.



The Secretary's Notes

During the past few weeks the majority of clubs have been holding Exhibitions and Socials, before finally bringing the Second Winter Session to a close. Secretaries' and Leaders' reports are now coming in, and I am very glad to note that in nearly every case the past session has proved entirely satisfactory, from the point of view of both pleasure and finance. Reports of so reassuring a character reflect considerable credit on the respective Leaders and Secretaries, on whom devolves the work of arranging successful programmes, lectures, etc., and keeping the members amused. This is no light task. It may be remembered that last month, when reviewing the progress of the Guild, I asked all members to help me to make 1924 a record year. This Second Winter Session has clearly shown that it will be no very difficult task, and if only steady progress is continued our endeavour will be accomplished in the next twelve months. To bring this about, however, it is essential that club members should not lose touch with each other during the summer months.

Many Leaders have informed me of the wish of the members for the continuation of club activities during the summer months, and I have already received programmes for the summer from several clubs. I notice that

Summer Activities

these include arrangements for outings to places of interest, and indicate the formation of Cricket teams, and Tennis, Cycling, Rambling, Naturalist's and Photographic sections. These are only a few of the many enjoyable arrangements being made. Although Meccano has so sure a hold on the affections of all Meccano boys, it takes second place during the bright days of summer and long evenings, when members naturally prefer to be out of doors. I earnestly recommend those Club Leaders and Secretaries who have not already done so to make similar arrangements for continuing their clubs during the summer months. A General Meeting for the discussion of plans should be held and summer arrangements made. It will then be found how enthusiastic the members are. I should also like to say that I am only too glad to give full particulars and advice with regard to organising the various summer sections, if the Secretary will write and let me know the number of members and the kind of club it is proposed to organise.

Meccano Musicians from Somerset

Chard Club's Jazz Band

UNDER the able Leadership of Mr. J. S. Miller, the enthusiastic members of the Chard (Somerset) Meccano Club recently organised a jazz band. This was described in the local newspaper as being "an entirely new note in jazz bands" and the Club was unanimously awarded the First Prize in a local Carnival.

Apart from the music, perhaps the most striking feature of the band was the novel design of the "bandsmen's" costumes. These had red facings and white cuffs, which—although not clearly seen in the accompanying photograph—were decorated with various musical notes. The boys wore cardboard hats, each painted in different colours, with the points forming the triangular badge of the Meccano Guild. Banners made of Meccano girders with "notes" of strips, wheels, and bolts, created considerable interest among the spectators. The banner on the left in the accompanying illustration refers to the



musical notes on the cuffs of the performers, and also, by a coincidence, to the name of the Meccano dealer in Chard. The banner on the right represents two or three bars of "Auld Lang Syne," one of the selections played "on the march" by the band.

I am sure that every member of the Guild will join me in wishing that we might see this successful jazz band, and also hear its full programme. It is to be regretted that the band cannot undertake a tour of Meccano Clubs!

I continue to receive many letters from boys all over the world, saying how sorry they are that they are "unable to join the Guild because there is no Club near them."

"Lone Members"

This is, of course, quite an incorrect impression, for any boy who possesses a Meccano Outfit may join the Guild, even if he is hundreds of miles away from a Meccano Club, as are many of our members Overseas. Such boys are called "lone members," but they are as much members of the world-wide brotherhood as if they belonged to a Meccano Club. "Lone members" are very loyal supporters of the Guild movement and are persistent in their endeavours to persuade their friends to join up. In many cases they eventually succeed in forming a Meccano Club themselves.

It should be clearly understood that no charge is made for enrolment in the Guild Correspondence Club. It is one of the privileges of the Guild of which members are strongly advised to take advantage. The Correspondence Club

The Correspondence Club

offers a wonderful opportunity for every boy to have a friend in any country abroad or in any town or city in England. At present I hear of French, Belgian, American, Canadian, Australian, South African and Indian boys waiting for correspondents in this country. Stamps, postcards or photos may be exchanged and correspondence may be either in English or in the language of the country where your correspondent lives. Any boy who has not yet joined should write to me at once for an enrolment form, which will be sent post free on request.



CLUB NOTES

Den Haag (Holland) M.C.—The Club Leader recently gave a lecture on statics, to assist members in building cranes, bridges, etc., on correct principles. A model-building contest was also held, the entries being judged by two Engineer visitors. Competition was very keen indeed and the prizes were finally divided between three of the competitors. Secretary: Mr. H. G. Van der Sluis, 108, Stadoudersplein, 108 Den Haag, Holland.

St. Lukes' (London W.10) M.C.—Owing to the fact that several members have recently left the district, the past Session has not proved as satisfactory as was anticipated. It is hoped, however, to arrange an enjoyable programme for the summer months, and Guild Members living near Kensington are invited to join the club. Secretary: Master Leonard Burgess, c/o Mr. P. J. Betts, 178, Wornington Road, North Kensington, London, W.10.

Chard and Combe St. Nicholas M.C.—This club's recent innovation of organising a branch a few miles distant is proving very successful. Several interesting lectures were recently given on "Sound," "Model Building" and "Electricity." A Wireless Demonstration proved one of the most successful events of the Session. Secretary: Master L. Bailey, Combe St. Nicholas School, near Chard, Somerset.

Rollstone M.C.—A very encouraging report has been received from the Club Leader, who states that "every member is keen on making the Club a success." Lectures delivered by local gentlemen during the past session have proved exceedingly popular. An Exhibition and Concert was recently held to raise funds for purchasing a Club Wireless Set, as all the members are keen on Radio. Secretary: Master Phin Toon, Sherbourne House, Tutbury Road, Rollstone, Burton-on-Trent.

Ormskirk Scouts M.C.—The membership has recently been increased and several new recruits are expected before the Summer Session commences. A display of Meccano Models is being made in a local dealer's window, while preparations for a Model Exhibition are being discussed with a view to making Meccano more widely known in the district. Secretary: Cub Master C. E. Walsh, 113, Wigan Road, Ormskirk.

(Continued on page 107)

How to Run a Meccano Club

by the
Guild Secretary

Having found a Leader for the club, the next thing is to procure a suitable room. This should be as comfortable as possible, furnished with tables or benches, brightly lighted, and suitably warmed in cold weather.

The Club Room

The choice of a room is of importance, for the success of the club will often depend upon it. If the room is cold and cheerless it will damp the ardour of even the most enthusiastic members.

If any difficulty is experienced in obtaining a room, and if there is no boys' club in the district, you might make application for a room belonging to a Church, Chapel, or Institute. A schoolroom would be quite suitable if one is available. It is surprising how kind people are when they know what is wanted and why it is required. A polite request and a clear statement of the facts of the case will seldom fail to secure the use of a suitable room, if it is at all possible. Even if you do not succeed at the first attempt you should not give up trying. Once it is realised for what fine objects the Meccano Guild stands, and the good it will do in the district, a room should soon be forthcoming.

If you have any difficulty in the choice of a Leader or in obtaining a suitable room, you should write to me. I am in touch with many influential gentlemen in all parts of the country who may be able to find someone willing to act as Leader. At any rate, I shall be able to send you the names and addresses of Guild members in your district, and by visiting or writing to them you will gain new members, some of whom may be able to suggest a suitable Leader, or where a room may be obtained. Do not forget that in the Guild Headquarters staff every member has real helpers and friends.

One other point. Whilst I am always ready to give a hand in any difficulty, I want you to realise that you must only appeal to me as a last resource. The successful working of a club depends upon the Guild members on the spot. Unless they are prepared to work hard, both in the formation of the club and afterwards, no club will be successful. "What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well" is an old saying that continues to hold good in regard to many things, and in regard to running a Meccano Club in particular. If the members are keen and enthusiastic they will nearly always be able to arrange for both a Club Leader and a club room without having to seek my assistance.

Having decided the above-mentioned details, the next thing to do is to draw up the club rules. Although all are agreed that rules relating to the conduct of members at meetings are essential, it is not suggested that rigid discipline be exercised. Members must, however, be made to realise that disorder

and rowdiness will find no place in a Meccano Club. Ordinary conversation and freedom to move about at model building meetings should generally be permitted, for the members' enthusiasm will soon evaporate if the club is run on the lines of a school-room. Let every member enter into the spirit of the club, and remember that each is able to contribute materially to the others' happiness by gentlemanly behaviour. It should be made clear, too, that all movement and noise should cease if the Leader or Secretary wishes to address the members. Respect and obedience to the officers of the club must be given by all members.

Meccano Club Leaders

No. 12. Mr. S. R. CARLILE

Founded in December, 1921, the Parkstone Congregational Meccano Club largely owes its present satisfactory position to the enthusiasm and energy of its



Leader, Mr. S. R. Carlile. Commencing with a membership of 18, the Club made such splendid progress that affiliation with the Guild was granted in February of the year following its inception. Since that time the Club has never looked back, and its work has been most successful.

Mr. Carlile is one of the rapidly-increasing number of Club Leaders who believe in keeping their members together during the summer months. Some time ago he introduced a Gymnastic and Physical Drill Section, which have proved very popular. In addition to the usual club activities the Parkstone M.C. also runs a Concert Party and (in season) Football Team. Wireless is an important and very popular item in the club programmes.

Sometimes it may be difficult for members to obey some ruling—they may think to themselves "Who is X that he

Obey the Club Officials

should say 'do this' or 'do that'?" Remember then that you are obeying him not as the individual, but by virtue of the office he holds, to which office he has been elected by all the members. In the Army, men may sometimes dislike their officers, but they remember that they are the representatives of their King and Emperor, whom they have sworn to serve faithfully and well, and because of this they sink personalities and cheerfully carry out the officers' orders.

It is impossible to lay down hard and fast rules for the guidance of a club. This is only possible to those who are on the spot and who are consequently familiar with local conditions. The requirements of each club differ from all others. These differences are principally those of environment and the type of boy of which the club consists. Each club, therefore, must establish itself, draw up its own rules, and run its own affairs in the manner that is considered most suitable.

(To be continued)

Club Notes—(cont. from page 106)

Wynberg (S. Africa) M.C.—A meeting was recently held to welcome the South African agent of Meccano Ltd., on his visit to Capetown. The attendance was the highest on record, and there were as many adults present as Guild Members. During the proceedings, the Chairman, Mr. Mansergh, C.B.E., made a very impressive speech which was afterwards reported in the Press, together with an account of the meeting. An inter-club model contest was also recently held between this club and the Observatory M.C. which was voted a complete success by members of both clubs. **Secretary:** Mr. A. J. Lewis, Wynberg Park, near Cape Town, South Africa.

The Torque Converter—(cont. from page 91)

features of this Meccano model, and to watch it operate is a fascination that will delight everyone with engineering interests. The turning movement delivered to the back axle is in the nature of a number of impulses given by the pawls to the gear wheels. In the Meccano model these impulses vary from about twelve teeth of the gear wheels (on what is equivalent to top gear) to one or two teeth, when great power is required to overcome considerable resistance.

In Fig. 1 and in the Meccano model of the gear, we have used a ratchet composed of pawls and gear wheel. It should be pointed out that in the actual Constantinesco Torque Converter, ratchets and gear wheels are not employed for the drive. Instead a system of "uni-directional valves" is being perfected by Mr. Constantinesco, and these form the subject of a separate patent.

As mentioned at the commencement of this article, the fact that it has been possible to build this Torque Converter with Meccano is a splendid illustration of the adaptability of Meccano parts. There is no movement known to which the Meccano system may not be applied with success, and as the Torque Converter will undoubtedly be very much in evidence in engineering in the future we earnestly commend every Meccano boy to study this remarkable invention. There is no better method of understanding the working principle of the Converter than that of building this model with standard Meccano parts. The time spent will well repay every reader, and will enable him to explain the working of the Converter to his parents and friends when next it is mentioned in the newspapers.

Rules for Meetings

OF INTEREST TO CYCLISTS

Buy your Kiddie a Cherub Cycle

Built throughout on same lines as our adult models. Fitted with strong mudguards, rustless tangent spokes, nickel plated hubs, proper adjustment for handle bar and seat pillar, built up seat pillar, and lamp bracket. Made in two sizes with 14 in. and 16 in. wheels. Send for list and name of nearest agent.

RIGBY BROS.,
Cycle Manufacturers,
Robert Street Works,
Cheetham, MANCHESTER



RETAIL PRICES
from £3-15-0
If Fitted with Pneumatic
Tyres 25/- Extra.

SANSPAREIL CYCLES
Guaranteed Throughout.
FIRST MADE IN 1875.
50 Years' Reputation.
From
£4:10:0
Net Cash. Carriage Paid.
SEND P.C. FOR OUR
NEW ART CATALOGUE.
The New Sanspareil Cycle Co.
38 Snow Hill, Birmingham.

GRAVES
WORLD'S BEST CYCLE.
The highest point of
All British engineering
excellence.
Warranted 10 yrs.
HANS REINOLD CHAIN;
CLINCHER A-WON TYRES;
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Delivered carriage paid to approved orders for 10/- with order.
Balance 10/- monthly if satisfied.
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CATALOGUE Post Free
Complete range of Models
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A Veeder Cyclometer

FITTED TO YOUR BICYCLE
TELLS YOU:—

How far you have been;
Distance from one place to another;
Service your Tyres give you;
Number of Miles to Destination;
Distance Travelled, etc.

Makes your Riding doubly interesting.
Its accuracy has been endorsed by all the best authorities, and the experience of your fathers for 26 years.



Insist on a Genuine Veeder.
See the Name thereon.
Beware of German Imitations.

Made in Two Models:
Regular 7/6. Trip 17/6.

Markt & Co. (London) Ltd.,
98-100, Clerkenwell Rd., London, E.C.1.

The Call of the Open Road

by "ROVER"

Now that the evenings are lengthening, every boy will be out of doors as much as possible, and for the boy with a bicycle, the next few months will be the happiest of the whole year. Up with the sun every morning, and out on the road before the rest of the family are properly awake, even familiar surroundings appear wonderfully changed in the early morning.

The Joys of Cycling

There is nothing more exhilarating than a swift run through the countryside on a fine spring morning. It gives one a healthy appetite for breakfast and clears the brain ready for the day's work. It is well worth while getting up early to enjoy the experience.

To appreciate cycling to the full you must have perfect confidence in your machine, and this is only obtained by giving it some amount of care and attention. The keen cyclist regards his machine with the same importance that a soldier regards his rifle, and he pays as much attention to keeping it clean and in good order.

Bearings should be kept well oiled, wheel-rims and mud-guards free from dirt and rust, lamps in good condition, and above all, the chain should be carefully looked after. Some boys consider it "too much-fag" to clean down their machine when they come in from a long run on a wet and muddy road. The result is that rust sets in and, if it is not removed, the life of even the finest bicycle will quickly be shortened, and its appearance spoiled. To the true lover of cycling, however, the care of his machine is a real pleasure, and he will spend many an hour cleaning, oiling and adjusting, so that when he sets out on a run it is with absolute confidence in the reliability of his mount.

Care of Ball Bearings

An important point to remember is the care of the ball bearings, the use of which was recently explained in the "M.M." As there are sets in both

bicycle-wheel hubs, as well as in other places in the machine, the young rider should know how to take down a wheel without losing the small steel balls.

The nuts that hold the wheel in its fork are unscrewed and the hub caps are taken off. Before pushing the spindle out, the wheel should be slanted over a little and the balls allowed to drop into the hand, and the process repeated with the other side of the hub. To replace the wheel in position again, the hub should be first filled with thick grease

and the balls embedded in it, around the axle hole and in the ball race. The grease holds the balls in position while the wheel is re-assembled.

If one or two of the balls are lost in the process do not replace them with odd or old balls. Usually it is better to purchase an entirely new set, as the balls are manufactured to such an accurate degree that the slightest difference in size will throw the whole bearing out. The odd balls may not be quite so

much worn as those left in the hub and so will take on more than their share of work, and probably break under the additional stress imposed upon them.

There are many ways in which cycling may be made even more enjoyable and interesting, such as by adding a Veeder cyclometer, which tells you numerous important particulars of your run, or by fitting a three-speed gear, which immensely increases the riding comfort and capabilities of your machine. Particulars of such accessories and of their fitting and upkeep, will be given on this page from time to time.

Other cycling chats will include "Forming a Meccano Cycling Club," "The Cyclist's Tool Kit," "Mending a Puncture," and "Choosing the Day's Run." Meanwhile any reader who desires any information on cycling matters or is in any difficulties with regard to his machine or its equipment should write to the Editor of the "M.M." for assistance. Answers to questions likely to prove of interest to other cyclists will be published on this page.



This novel fancy-dress was awarded a prize in a recent cyclists' carnival. The idea may prove of interest to readers of the "M.M." for future carnivals and fetes. Supplies of coloured streamers and other advertising matter, with which to decorate the cycles, may be obtained free of charge from the Editor of the "M.M."

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR MECCANO CYCLISTS

We announce a special Essay Competition for Meccano Cyclists, the subject being "The Ideal Bicycle." Competitors should describe the kind of bicycle they would best like to own; whether three speed, two speed or single speed; dropped handle bars; with or without chain case, etc. Essays should not exceed 500 words and should be posted before May 30, addressed "Cycling," c/o Meccano Magazine, Binns Road, Liverpool. The prize will be a Veeder "Regular" Cyclometer.



The MECCANO

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

21 Cups & 460 Medals: total value £250



As already announced, the Meccano Model-Building Competition is this year divided into the following groups:—(1) Great Britain. (2) Australasia, South Africa, Canada, India, and all Countries within the British Empire. (3) *America. (4) *France, Belgium and Switzerland. (5) *Scandinavia and Holland. (6) *Italy. (7) *Spain and Portugal.

In each of these groups, three splendid Championship Cups will be awarded for the best models submitted, and the winner of each Cup will hold the title of "Meccano Champion" for his particular group and section for twelve months from the date of the awards. Each Cup will be engraved with the name of the winner, and will form a valuable reminder of his prowess and skill.

(*Including Colonies).

In addition, there will be Silver and Bronze Medals in each section and Certificates of Merit to a limited number of other entrants. The total value of the prizes to be awarded will amount to £250.

Complete List of Awards

SECTION A.—For competitors under 10 years of age on April 15 next. Championship Cup. 20 solid Silver Medals. 50 Bronze Medals.

SECTION B.—For competitors over 10 years of age and under 14 years of age on April 15 next. Championship Cup. 30 solid Silver Medals. 100 Bronze Medals.

SECTION C.—For competitors over 14 years of age on April 15 next. Championship Cup. 60 solid Silver Medals. 200 Bronze Medals.

In all there will be 21 Championship Cups, 110 Silver and 350 Bronze Medals awarded.

Meccano Gold Medallist

The competitor who, in the opinion of the Judges, submits the best model in the entire Competition, will be awarded a solid Gold Medal, and will hold the title "Meccano Gold Medallist." His name and the year in which he gained the title will be engraved on the medal, which will remain his own property.

Ask your dealer or send to us for an Entry Form. Post free from Meccano Limited, Liverpool.

No. 1

Ready
MAR. 20



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Every
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A New Weekly Paper for Young British Manhood

The Contents of No. 1 includes:—

CYCLING & MOTOR CYCLING
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How to make a Portable Receiving Set. Illustrated.

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A rattling Serial Story by H. BEDFORD-JONES. Illustrated.

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COMING EVENTS
BOOKS AND BOOKMEN
STAMP NEWS AND NOTES
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OUR FRIEND—THE DOG. A column of Kennel notes.

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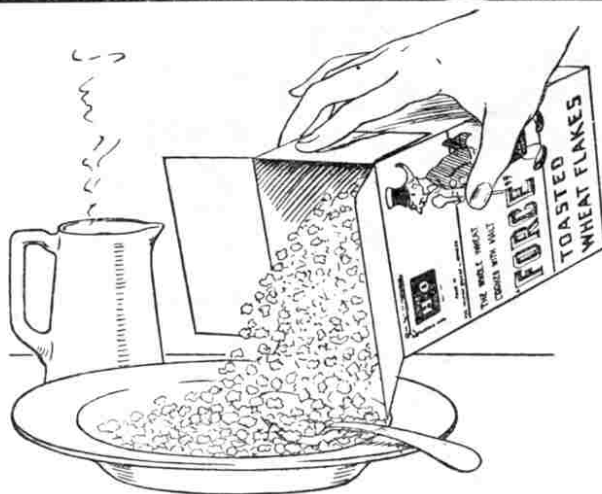
24"	26"	28"	30" Chest
7/6	8/3	9/-	9/9
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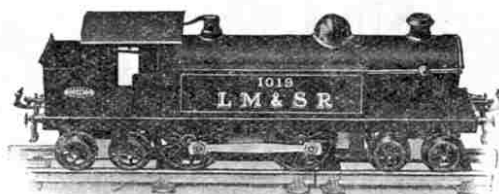
Boys! this is easy

If you can add hot milk and sugar to a plate of "FORCE" you can get your own breakfast. If you do this to-morrow you will not only save mother a lot of bother, but you will have the finest meal you ever had in your life. Ask mother to be sure to get the packet with "Sunny Jim" on it. Prove how nice it is. Send now, to "Sunny Jim," Dept. A.Y.S., 197, Great Portland Street, London, W.1., for a free sample.

FORCE
WHOLE WHEAT FLAKES
MALTED AND TOASTED



Hornby Tank Locos.



This magnificent Tank Loco is a splendid addition to any train system. A glance at the above illustration shows how beautifully this Loco is designed. It is thoroughly representative of the latest type of its class. Measuring 11½ in. in length, it embodies all the characteristics of the Hornby Trains. Suitable for 2 ft. radius rails only.

Beautifully finished in colours; lettered L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. Fitted with reversing gear, brake and governor.

Price each 32/6

FROM ALL MECCANO DEALERS

Competition Corner

Competitions are now a strong and popular feature of the "M.M."

Some splendid new ones are being prepared and will be announced in our future issues. On page 109, particulars are given of the £250 Championship Contest for the best models, which every reader of the "M.M." should enter.

Which is Your Favourite Model?

A NEW ESSAY COMPETITION

THE various essay competitions that have been announced from time to time in the "M.M." have been so successful that it has been decided to run a further essay competition, the subject of which is

"MY FAVOURITE MODEL AND WHY I LIKE IT."

Essays should not exceed 500 words and should be written on one side of the paper only. The competitor's name and age should appear on the back of each sheet, as it is possible that odd sheets may get astray if they do not bear the author's name.

Seventh Photographic Competition

CLOSING DATE: APRIL 30

We are able to announce another photographic competition. This is our Seventh Photographic Competition, and, as before, there will be no restrictions except that the photographs entered must have been taken (i.e., exposed) by the entrant. The plates or films may have been developed or the prints made by others. This fact must be stated on each entry, however, as naturally if two photographs tie for first place, preference will be given to the one that is the sole work of the competitor.

The subject of the present competition is:—

AN OUTDOOR SCENE

and the contest will be divided into two sections:

- (A) For those of 16 years of age and under, and
- (B) For those over 16 years of age.

The Prize will be goods to the value of 10/6, to be chosen from our catalogue by the winner. Closing date: April 30 next. (For Overseas Readers: July 30).

Result of Essay Contest

"What I intend to be and Why"

Readers the world over have heartily entered into the spirit of this competition, and have helped to make it one of our most successful Essay Contests. It has been very interesting indeed for me to read of the ambitions and intentions of Meccano boys, and there seem to be very few who have not definitely made up their mind which career they intend to follow. Civil, electrical and marine engineers; soldiers, sailors, farmers, ranchers, novelists, astronomers, wireless experts, deep-sea divers and even undertakers, are some of the careers chosen and praised by the competitors.

The competition will be divided into two sections:—

- (A) Boys under 12 years of age.
- (B) Boys of 12 years of age and over.

A prize of a Hawk-Eye camera will be awarded in each section. These cameras takes pictures $3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$, and are manufactured by the Kodak Company. The closing date is May 30 in the United Kingdom, and for entries Overseas August 30.

This is the first of several essay competitions that will be announced, and it affords an excellent opportunity for Meccano enthusiasts to describe their favourite models. Competitors will please remember that the task of judging the entries is rendered easier if the essays are neatly and clearly written.

On the whole the standard of the entries was exceptionally high, and although some competitors wandered away from the subject—to discuss and describe at length various other careers which they might adopt—the majority kept well to the point, and some remarkably good essays were submitted.

We have pleasure in announcing herewith the results of the entries for the United Kingdom. Master Harold Parker, of Buckley, nr. Chester, wins the First Prize of Meccano goods to the value of £1 1s. 0d. for his essay on "Teaching as a Career." Three Hawk-Eye cameras (made by Kodak Ltd.) have been awarded to the following competitors, whose entries were next in order of merit:—

Miss Diana Meek, London, W.1.

Master John D. Boyd, Giffnock, nr. Glasgow.

Master Donald Murdoch, of Ealing, London.

Essays by Stamp Collectors

"Why I Collect Stamps"

Stamp collecting is certainly a very interesting subject to write about, and Meccano Stamp collectors have undoubtedly made the most of their opportunity. Thousands of readers of the "M.M." collect stamps, and the entrants for this competition were all unanimous in praise of their hobby, which in nearly every case comes second only to Meccano itself. Several competitors, carried away by their enthusiasm, went into long descriptions of various rare and beautiful stamps, quite forgetting to explain why they were stamp collectors. These absent-minded enthusiasts, however, were the exception rather than the rule, and many good essays were received. The prize of a 10/6 packet of stamps to be chosen by the winner himself from any firm advertising in these pages, has been awarded to Master Leslie Dugdale, of Hull, who chose the "Worth More" Packet advertised in our Christmas number by Messrs. Errington & Martin.

Result of Drawing Contest

Apparently no two readers of the "M.M." agree as to the appearance of the Editor, for entries in the Drawing Competition have been as different as they were numerous. Hundreds of drawings showed fat editors, thin editors, young editors and old editors, with either red, white, or black hair! Some of these entries were very humorous indeed, and the Editor has had many hearty laughs these last few weeks. Many were really clever sketches, but a few were so complicated that the judges did not know whether they were entries for this contest or sketches of new Meccano models!

The First Prize in Section A has been awarded to Master Norman Shacklock, of Longsight, Manchester, for a particularly clever black and white sketch, and a Hawk-Eye Camera has been sent to him. The Second Prize in this Section was won by Master H. W. Vaughan, of Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales. In Section B, the First Prize of a Hawk-Eye Camera was awarded to Master Eric Mitchell, of Stockton-on-Tees, and the Second Prize in this Section to Master Richard Waterston, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. We hope to publish one or two of the winning entries in the next issue of the "M.M."

Result of Sixth Photo Competition

The winner of Section A in this competition—for the best indoor photograph of a Guild member building a Meccano model—is Master George Salisbury, of Martock, Somerset, to whom Meccano goods to the value of 10/6 have been awarded. The prize in Section B, for competitors over 14, has been won by Master Norman Onset, of Hull, for his photograph of a group of Guild members. As all photographers know, satisfactory photographs are very difficult to secure in a room, but the winning entries showed a good knowledge of lighting. Particulars of the Seventh Photographic Competition are announced on this page, and readers are advised to send in their entries at once.

FOR OVERSEAS READERS

Essay Competition for Stamp Collectors

Our last essay contest (the result of which is announced elsewhere on this page) clearly showed that there are many thousands of keen stamp collectors among readers of the "M.M." and it has been decided to hold another essay competition. This time the subject is "My Favourite Stamps and Why I Like Them." Some special set, or stamps of a certain colony or even stamps of a country should be chosen and described, and the reasons for your choice given. The essay must not exceed 500 words and is to be written neatly on one side of the paper only. Envelopes containing the entries should be marked "Stamp Contest" in the top left hand corner and sent to the Editor of the "M.M.," Binns Road, Liverpool.

The first prize will be stamps to the value of 10/6, to be chosen by the winner himself from any firm advertising in the pages of the "M.M." Make your choice when you send in your essay, and give full particulars of the stamps required, so that the prize may be sent direct to you in the event of your success. Closing date for Overseas Readers: June 30, 1924.

Result of Fifth Photo Contest (Overseas)

Photographs from all over the world were entered in this popular competition, and the judges had a difficult task in choosing between photos of Egypt, Rome, and Naples; the ruins of Pompeii; Indians, wild animals, pets and many other subjects. In Section A, a good photograph of the Public Bathing Place and "Castel dell'Oro" at Naples, submitted by Master Gerald Briffa, of Valetta, Malta, was awarded the First Prize (a Hawk-Eye Camera, made by the Kodak Company). Second and Third Prizes in this Section were won by Masters Ahmed Shawky (of Cairo, Egypt), and P. S. de Wet (of Pretoria, South Africa), for their respective entries of "Houseboats on the Nile" and "The Union Buildings at Pretoria." In Section B, Master E. H. Whitney (of East London, South Africa), wins the First Prize for his clever study of a pet pony. Meccano goods to the value of 5/- have been forwarded to Master H. C. Manchanda (of Lahore M.C., India), and Master Jack Haysom (of Victoria, Australia), as Second and Third Prize Winners in this Section. We congratulate these prize winners on their well-merited successes.

Small Advertisements

CINEMA FILMS. 100 ft. 1/- Post Paid. Phillips, 64, Ewart Street, Brighton.

ADVICE, HANDBOOK & CONSULTATION FREE. King, Registered Patent Agent, 146a, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4. 37 years' references.

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Of new and original design. Very accurate. A handy little pocket weapon for Garden, Field, Farm, or Target work, only 1/9 each, postage 3d. (usual price 2/6). Supply ammunition included.

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Have you spoken to him yet about the 300 boys and girls who have no father and for whom we provide everything in this School? What did he say? Is he going to send something? Has he sent already? Are you going to send something—out of gratitude for your father's love and care? Perhaps you have sent. Have you? What did your Meccano Outfit cost? It costs £3 each day to keep our Orphans in bread alone. How many loaves will you buy for them? Here are a lot of questions. Please send your reply to Mr. Fred. J. Robinson, Sec., 73, Cheapside, London, E.C.2.

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"Meccano" Pen Coupon. Value 3d. Send 5 of these coupons with only 2/9 direct to the Fleet Pen Co., Fleet Street, E.C.4.

You will receive by return a splendid British 14-ct. Gold Nibbed Fleet Fountain Pen value 10/6 (Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib). If only 1 coupon is sent, the price is 3/9. 3d. less for each extra coupon up to 4 (Pocket Clip 4d.). Satisfaction guaranteed. Your own name gilt letters, either pen 1/- extra.

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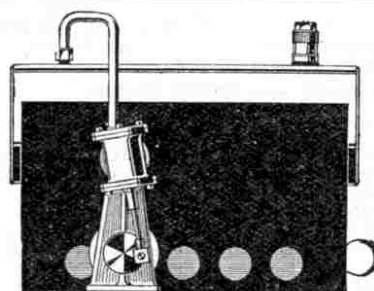
The 'BRITON'

The latest and best
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AIR PISTOL 8/6



A handsome and thoroughly reliable little weapon. Finely polished and plated, with vulcanite handle. Incomparable for power and accuracy. Nothing like it at the price. Ideal for the sportsy boy. Boxed with supply of Slugs and Darts. No. 1, plated 8/6; No. 2, all steel, black finish, 10/6 post free.—**FRANK CLARKE, 6, Whittall Street, Birmingham.** (Be sure to address "Mail Order Dept.")



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with double-acting cylinder, 7/16 x 7/16 in.

Specially designed for driving Meccano Toys. The engine you can build yourself with the aid of a screwdriver. It is perfectly safe and we absolutely guarantee that it will work when you have built it.

ENGINE PARTS, 5/-

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BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

The "M.M." is published on the 1st of each month and may be ordered from any Meccano dealer, or from any bookstall or newsagent, price 2d. per copy. It will be mailed direct from this office 1/6 for six issues and 3/- for twelve issues (post free).

Small advertisements are inserted in these columns at 1/- per line (average seven words to the line), or 10/- per inch (average 12 lines to the inch). Cash with order.

Obtaining the "M.M." Overseas

Readers Overseas and in foreign countries may order the Meccano Magazine from regular Meccano dealers, or direct from this office. The "M.M." is sold Overseas at 2d. per copy, or mailed (post free) direct from Liverpool, 1/6 for six issues, or 3/- for twelve issues.

IMPORTANT.

Overseas readers are reminded that the prices shown throughout the "M.M." are those relating to the home market. Current Overseas Price Lists of Meccano Products will be mailed free on request to any of the undermentioned agencies. Prices of other goods advertised may be obtained direct from the firms concerned.

CANADA: Meccano Ltd., 45, Colborne Street, Toronto.
AUSTRALIA: Messrs. E. G. Page & Co., 379, Kent Street, Sydney.
NEW ZEALAND: Messrs. Browning Iwerson Ltd., P.O. Box 129, Auckland.
SOUTH AFRICA: Mr. A. E. Harris, P.O. Box 1199, Johannesburg.



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You will be pleased with the splendid results you obtain, using it for foundations, coverings, connections, ornamentation, etc., etc. Always ready for immediate use, clean and odourless. Send P.O. for 1/6, for large sample box, to

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SPECIAL EASTER GIFT

Available during April only. Send for our famous approvals. Purchasers 2/6 upwards receive ABSOLUTELY FREE fine collection 250 unused different, including Three Triangulars. Post Free.

North Wales Stamp Co., Colwyn Bay

100 BLOCK OF 4 TRIANGULARS & Free!

We have been able to secure a small supply of a unique "three-cornered" stamp, a block of which we will inc. in each of these free pkts. of 100 diff., which include 40 unused, British Col., War and Armistice Stamps. As supply is limited an early application is advisable. Just request our famous approvals.

LISBURN & TOWNSEND,
201a, London Road, Liverpool.

RESULT OF FAIRYCYCLE COMPETITION—

SO many children entered this competition and so many good essays were sent in that we wish we were able to award many more prizes than promised, but we cannot afford to be as generous as we desire, and must, therefore, conform to the terms of the competition by awarding three Fairycycles as prizes to the three successful competitors.

We would compliment a great number of those who entered very interesting stories but who just missed reaching the standard of those who won. To these we would say do not be too disappointed, keep on trying to do your best, and you will succeed in other ways although you have been beaten this time.

Names and Addresses of Winners

Royal Goulding (7½ yrs.), 4, Vale View, Claremont Road, Bath.	To be supplied through Halford Cycle Co., 5, Stall Street, Bath.
--	---

Jack Little (6 yrs.), 2, Dunelm, Sunderland.	To be supplied through Messrs. Binns Ltd., Fawcett Street, Sunderland.
--	---

Madge Hotchin (8 yrs.), 39, Chapeltown, Pudsey.	To be supplied through Mr. A. Fairbank, The Shop for Presents, Chapeltown P.O., Pudsey
---	---

We may have another competition next month, giving cash prizes to successful boys and girls who are owners of a Fairycycle, therefore

**Ask Father or Mother
to buy you a
Fairycycle now**



The FAIRYCYCLE THE CHILDREN'S BICYCLE

Patent No. 169294

Regd. Design 677489

As illustrated, only

59/6 each

at all good Toyshops
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Note the Low Centre of Gravity, this makes it safe for the Kiddies.

Insist on these:—Cone Bearing Steering Head, Brake, Freewheel, Adjustable Chain by means of Pedal Bracket (*you know how all chains stretch*). Reinforced Seat Pillar, Ball-Bearing Rubber Pedals, Mudguards—Back and Front, Highly-plated Fittings.

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"Be particular in this." Insist on seeing the celebrated Trade Mark on the Fairycycle and on all your toys. It is a guarantee of Quality and Value and of British Manufacture.

Also Supplied on Pneumatic Tyred Tangent Spoke B.B. Wheels.

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GAMAGES

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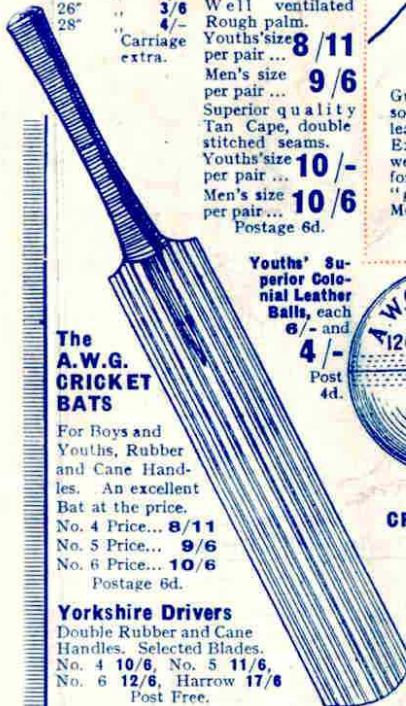
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