

B.B.C. WIRELESS SET for Three Half-Crowns!

"MIDGE"
CRYSTAL RECEIVING SET
7/6 Including B.B.C.
Royalty 1/-

British
Manu-
facture



P.O. Regd. No. 902.

10/-
License

SPECIFICATION

The height of the 'Midge' is 4 in., and the diameter 3 in., fitted with 24 S.W.G. (enamelled) coil and improved spiral tuning rod. The top is a polished Ebonite fixture on which is mounted crystal Detector, cup containing best quality crystal, and head-phone terminals.

This Receiver, whilst possessing all the merits of an expensive Crystal Set, takes up very little space. Its compact construction has been brought about by avoiding the incorporation of a number of unnecessary components and their connections.



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97, Queen Victoria Street,
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A Message from The Rt. Hon. G. H. Barnes, P.C.

MECCANO is not only a toy for boys but it affords food for reflection on the part of grown men. I myself derive a good deal of pleasure from Meccano in watching my grandson building bridges and cranes and other models. He does not copy all these from the book of Instructions, but invents many new models himself. We keep a Meccano Outfit for him here and they are duly dragged out on his frequent advent among us. Our Dick is a firm believer in ocular demonstration, and always occupies a good deal of floor space!



Rt. Hon. G. H. Barnes, P.C.

Meccano is unquestionably the greatest thing for boys, and it will have its effect upon the youngsters as they grow into men. It is a true saying that "the boy is father to the man," for as the mind of the boy is moulded, so will that of the man be set. And, at least as regards mechanics, the moulding is helped by Meccano better than by mere oral teaching or flat board demonstration. I speak as one with some knowledge, because I spent a good deal of my early life in playing the rule and compass.

I am sure that Meccano is giving boys a taste for construction which could not be otherwise given. It prepares the ground for education in building or machine construction. It gives an insight into the interdependence of parts, which apprentices are denied because they are often kept for long spells on one part of a design without any opportunity of finding out its relation to other parts in the scheme of things.

This knowledge is essential if we are to maintain our position in the world of work. Our workmen are the best in the world when given a job to do, but the world is ever changing and they must be alert to change with it. New ways of doing things are always being brought out, as the result of knowledge of mechanism that the mere use of tools cannot give. This is where we are being "caught out" by France and America in some forms of specialised industries in which Britain was at one time supreme. What is needed now, is a quickened intelligence and a renewed interest in work for work's sake and both these requirements are stimulated by Meccano.

But there is another and a more immediate quality possessed by Meccano. It is distinctly British. It is produced by British labour and produced in such quantity as to have become quite a British industry. This should appeal to those who, like myself, are concerned about British unemployment. The sale of Meccano in place of foreign productions provides and perhaps increases employment for British labour.

Meccano has more than held its own in quality, in suggestiveness and attractiveness, as compared with the best of similar productions from abroad. I regard this feature with special satisfaction, because I am old enough to remember the displacement of some of our high class productions by American competitors. We cannot afford to lose industries because we cannot afford to lose employment. There never was a time when it was so important to retain our industries and, indeed, to add to them. Meccano is an industry we should stick to, encourage, and add to.

For these and other reasons I commend Meccano and wish it the best of good luck among the boys and those who cater for the boys. Those who would combine the genial atmosphere of Father Christmas with a useful stimulant to both youthful ingenuity and British industries cannot do better at the coming festive season than place a Meccano Outfit in the hands of British boys.

G. H. BARNES.

A Message from The British Broadcasting Co.

THE readers of the Meccano Magazine live in a happy age. There are few greater pleasures than that of constructing things for ourselves. Young and old alike seem to find a good deal of enjoyment in the construction of home-made wireless sets, and in the use of them afterwards.

It has sometimes struck me that the boys of the present day know so much, that they may lose the sense of wonder. This would be a great loss, and one which, I hope, they may never experience. I know one of our greatest scientists who never uses a telephone without feeling what a marvellous thing it is. Although I spend all my days thinking about Broadcasting, it still seems to me a marvellous thing that a person may speak from our studios in London, or from any of our stations throughout the country, and be heard by over a million people, from Land's End to John o' Groat's. Every day and every evening, there is speech and music in your home. All that is necessary to hear it is an aerial and a receiving apparatus, which many of you will no doubt be making for yourselves, or buying complete.

The British Broadcasting Company has all along been anxious to cater for those who wish to make their own wireless sets, and at last a licence has been provided for this purpose. I do not like to intrude upon the columns of a Christmas number by talking about pains and penalties, but I expect you know that nobody may use a wireless receiving set without a licence. Without a licence they are disobeying the law, and such a course is not wise. Apart from this, they are avoiding payment towards the heavy costs of maintaining the broadcasting service.

Another point I wish to make clear to you is that the Constructors' Licence is issued to those who will use only British parts. When you go to your dealer to ask for parts, it would be better to say to him "Are you sure that these are British parts?"

There are a great many people out of employment just now, but we are already finding work for many of them in the wireless industry. If everybody who constructs a set will loyally observe the condition of the licence (that only British parts are used) there will be a great deal more employment for British labour. I am sure that you will realise this and will do your best to help. The pleasure of constructing your own set will be all the greater if you know you have helped to keep in employment someone belonging to your country.

There are a number of items already included in our programmes that are of special interest to readers of the "M.M." If there are items not at present provided, which a number of you would like, perhaps you will let your editor know. If he will pass the suggestions on to us we will see what we can do about it. Your interest in wireless should not end when your set is complete, for we wish you to realise that when you have a really good British set, you are in touch with one of the greatest services that the world has ever known.

J. C. W. REITH,
General Manager B.B.C.

Note. I shall be very pleased to hear from readers of the "M.M." with suggestions or new items to be broadcast. Write neatly on a postcard and address to "Broadcasting," Meccano Magazine Liverpool.—EDITOR.

Birthday Gifts for Meccano Users When is your birthday?



In every Meccano Outfit or Hornby Train Set purchased this Christmas there will be found a special entry form on which full particulars of Mr. Hornby's birthday scheme are set out. A handsome pocket wallet will be presented to those boys whose birthday falls on the same day as Mr. Hornby's. This wallet is strong and durable, of excellent quality, and should wear for many years. All that is necessary to qualify for this gift is that the purchaser of a Meccano Set or Hornby Train should fill in the form and post it to Meccano Limited. The date of Mr. Hornby's birthday will be announced in the Meccano Magazine for May next.

A. & C. BLACK'S LIST**THE CAPTAIN AND THE KINGS.**

A School Story by R. A. H. GOODYEAR With 8 illustrations by Savile Lumley and a picture jacket in colour. Large crown 8vo, cloth. Price 5s. net.

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Soho Square, London, W.1.

OUR BUSY INVENTORS

RECENT INTERESTING PATENTS

Every day new inventions and ingenious labour-saving devices are being brought into existence. From time to time the more interesting of these will be described and illustrated in these columns. The Editor of the "M.M." will be pleased to hear your opinion of this new feature. Readers are invited to send us particulars (accompanied, if possible, with photos, sketches or cuttings) of any interesting inventions or devices that may come to their notice.

It has sometimes been said that there is nothing new under the sun. If our readers could see the flood of inventions that is daily being poured into the Patent Office at Somerset House, however, they would feel justified in casting some doubt on the statement. Not only are hundreds of new ideas—some good, but many "no good"—received, indexed and filed every week at Somerset House alone, but the same remarks apply to every patent office in the world. During the war, of course, there was a distinct lull in all patent offices, except for inventions relating to devices for the prosecution of the war. An examination of the current patent offices records, however, abundantly proves that the world's inventors are getting well into their stride again!

The study of inventions and patents is very fascinating. It shows that there is always something new to puzzle our brains over, or some new method of doing things that appeals to our imagination. It must be especially fascinating to Meccano boys, who are born inventors—as anyone may see when watching their ingenuity and originality in making their models. What a pity it is that so many lose this habit of invention when they grow older. It is a most valuable and stimulating gift that should be developed and encouraged wherever possible.

It is most interesting to watch the stream of inventions as they flow through the patent office, and to endeavour to pick out those that are likely to prove successful and profitable. Nine-tenths of them are probably never heard of again, and of the remaining tenth, very few will ultimately prove of lasting value to mankind.

Wonderful Discovery of an Engineer

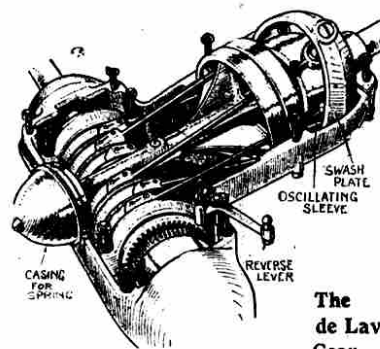
During the last few months some startling discoveries have been made by engineers investigating the possibilities of new forms of transmission. One in particular has recently created world-wide interest and promises to revolutionise motor transport as known at the present time. This is the "Torque" Converter, invented by Mr. George Constantinesco. As a result of this invention it is possible to have motor cars without clutches or gears. One result of this will be that motor cars of the future will run as silently as a falling leaf! Hills will be climbed without loss of speed, and there will be much less wear and tear because the engine will always be running at the correct speed for its particular load and gradient.

Interview with Inventor

Immediately the new discovery was announced we wrote to the inventor, Mr. Constantinesco, and told him that Meccano boys would be delighted to hear full details of this marvellous mechanism. For this purpose we placed the columns of the "M.M." at his disposal. "Come and see me," said the busy inventor, in reply. Our readers may be sure that we lost no time in responding to this kind invitation and a representative of the "M.M." waited upon Mr. Constantinesco at the earliest opportunity. A full account of the interview will appear in our next issue and I can promise our readers that they will be intensely interested in it. Mr. Constantinesco is the inventor of many amazing devices, not the least important of which is a death-dealing trench mortar and the device that enables a machine gun to fire through the revolving propeller of an aeroplane.

A New French Gear

Another and somewhat similar invention is also announced by a French engineer, M. de Lavaud. This is known as the de Lavaud gear, which, when fitted in the rear axle of a car, takes the place of three portions of the ordinary chassis. It does



The
de Lavaud
Gear

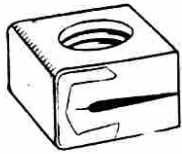
the work of the gear box, differential and the back-axle drive, only the clutch being retained. The gear box and differential are replaced by an infinitely variable range of gears. This device automatically adjusts its gear ratio to the gradient on which the car is travelling, the ratio being increased on the level and lowered on a gradient, without any attention whatever from the driver.

Our Busy Inventors—(cont.)

We hope to have more to say on this subject in one of our future issues.

A Non-slip Nut

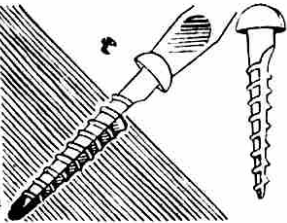
Nuts often come adrift from their bolts and sometimes this leads to disastrous results. To prevent such accidents a nut has been designed that locks itself on to its bolt. The nut is slotted, as shown



in the accompanying illustration, and the two halves exert a pull on each other, binding themselves securely to the threads. The new nut does not require a washer and also effects an economy in material, for shorter bolts may be used. It is to be manufactured in many different sizes and will be specially useful in automobiles and machinery construction, as it is not affected in any way by excessive vibration.

For Carpenters and Handymen

Wood often cracks when screws are being driven into it, even though a hole is drilled for the screw. To overcome



the difficulty a new type of screw has been invented. As may be seen from the illustration the screw has been ground down to cut a good thread, allowing the following screw to be easily driven in and providing a good grip so that the screw will not pull out.

Minor Inventions

Among numerous other small inventions that are worthy of note, this month, we notice the following:—

An automatic music-sheet turner for all sizes of pages. The sheets are engaged by clips of fine wire and turned when pressure is applied by the player to a foot pedal.

A clock that will prove useful to those Meccano boys who find themselves unable to save money. This clock requires winding every 24 hours, but it cannot be wound until a coin is put in the slot to release the spring. This invention comes from America, where it has been introduced to encourage thrift.

A new self-feeding tack-hammer should save many a bruised finger. An endless fabric belt to which 70 tacks are glued, runs inside the handle from the butt of the hammer to the head. The tacks are projected one at a time, point outward, at the butt end of the handle. The user, striking the butt on the spot where he wishes to drive the tack, starts the tack in the wood. Loosening it from the belt, it is driven home in the usual way.

To the dozens of existing devices for sharpening pencils another has been added. This one comes from San Francisco, and commences to sharpen a pencil the moment it is inserted. Either a fine or a chisel point (such as draughtsmen prefer) may be given to the pencil as required. To make the invention quite complete, an emery cloth puts a fine finish to the lead, whilst automatic cutters clear away the wood!

How to Obtain the "M.M."

The "Meccano Magazine" may be ordered from your Meccano dealer, or from any newsagent or bookseller, price 2d. If you are not able to obtain the "M.M." from these sources it may be obtained direct from this office, post free, six issues 1/6, 12 issues 3/.

The next number of the "M.M." will be ready on 10th January. As we print only sufficient copies to supply orders received, you should place a regular order with your dealer or newsagent, or direct with this office, to avoid disappointment.

"Meccano Magazine"

Binns Road, Liverpool.

**BRIGHT IDEAS**

These columns are 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.

H. Oddie (Carranballac, Victoria).—(1) Regret, but we are not able to follow your suggestion for a cup with a boss and cone plate. (2) Circular sections are having our attention.

Stanley and Philip Love (Bristol).—We shall go into the matter of the method of securing the signal to the track. We intend to introduce more elaborate railway signals in the near future.

C. J. Salt (Lincoln).—(1) Triangular corner plates have already been brought to our notice and we consider they might prove quite useful. (2) The $\frac{3}{4}$ " pinion in mesh with the 50-toothed gear wheel gives a ratio of 2 to 1, and the $\frac{1}{4}$ " pinion, meshed with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " wheel, gives a ratio of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. Do you consider the ratio suggested between these two would have any practical application? (3) The question of circular plates is already exercising our attention.

Bernard J. Hobden (Battle).—(1) We are considering the advisability of introducing three lengths of perforated holes on the face of the sector plate. (2) If the mechanical parts of a model are properly adjusted to give free and easy action, the roughing of the groove in the pulley wheels to give extra grip should not be necessary.

John Candler (Tulse Hill).—Further information regarding your suggested new part would be helpful, as we cannot quite place it from your sketch.

H. Bradby (Reigate).—(1) Large-size reversed angle strips are of doubtful value, but we shall go carefully into the matter. (2) The necessity for large wheels has not yet presented itself, but we shall keep the matter in mind. (3) Helical or twisted gears are already under consideration.

G. Corby (Cheadle).—(1) See our reply above to H. Bradby re large wheels. (2) Can you give any instances where hollow shafts are used? (3) The introduction of a groove in our rod to give a sliding action is not practical on account of the smallness of the diameter.

Frank Ellis (Bradford).—(1) In making suggestions for new parts it helps us considerably if an instance of their application is cited. What do you consider are the uses for a complete circular strip? (2) We shall keep in mind your second suggestion for a circular plate.

Ralph Brown (West Bromwich).—(1 and 2) The instances where strips or rods longer than 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " are used are so infrequent that they are not justified. A comparison between long strips and long girders cannot be made. Consecutive numerical tabulation of the accessory parts would not be practicable. The system of subsidiary lettering enables new additions, which are constantly being made, to be kept under the main heading number.

N. Herald (Manchester).—A flexible rod would be costly to manufacture and we cannot see that it could have any real practical use.

OUR MAIL BAG

In this column the Editor replies to letters from his readers, from whom he is always pleased to hear. He receives hundreds of letters each day, but only those that deal with matters of general interest can be dealt with here. Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write neatly in ink and on one side of the paper only.

Oscar Newman (Tongva, New Hebrides).—It will be remembered that in our February issue we printed a letter received from Oscar Newman in which he told us that he was the only white boy on the island in the New Hebrides, where he lived. Oscar now writes us again to say that since we published his letter he has received friendly letters from hundreds of Meccano boys and he asks us to thank them most sincerely for their kindness. He will try to reply to them all, and he hopes to keep up a regular correspondence with a few boys in Great Britain. Loneliness is a terrible thing, and it was fine that these hundreds of Meccano boys should spontaneously desire to let Oscar know that he is one of us, even though he is so far away and we shall probably never see him.

W. Summarsell (Brighton).—In a very short time now we shall commence to illustrate new models of a simple type, for those who do not own big Outfits. We quite appreciate your arguments, and shall certainly not confine ourselves to big models, however attractive they may be.

W. Clarke (Hyde).—We like your letters and we like the spirit in which you enter our competitions. Nothing would please us better than to see you win one of the beautiful championship cups which are to be offered in the next Model Building Contest. A boy, who, like yourself, has had Meccano for his hobby for ten years, has always a warm corner in our hearts.

W. F. Coates (Streatam Hill).

There was a young lady of Harwich,
Who once wrote an essay on marwich,
She said "All you do
Is to swear to be true

And then you drive home in a carwich."

This is the only one of your limericks for which we can find space. If we start a puzzle and rhyming column a little later, as we may, your undoubted talent in this direction should make you a useful contributor.

E. G. Powell (Burton-on-Trent).—"Why is a horse with its head hanging down like the 'M.M.' on the 8th of the month? Answer: Because its neck's weak." If we get much more of this we shall certainly have to start a riddle column.

E. Draper (Southampton).—Without the advertisements we should probably not be able to put the "M.M." into these beautiful coloured covers which we are now using. They also enable us to enlarge the "M.M." and give more articles on engineering and other interesting subjects. Watch the "M.M." grow, Edward.

G. Kay (Pinner).—No! that is not really us at the top of our Editorial column. Our brow is a little more wrinkled than that, but it unwrinkles beautifully when we receive such nice friendly letters as yours, and then we are not really bad looking at all.

H. Piggett (C-on-M., Manchester).—"How about enlarging the 'M.M.' and charging 2d. for it. I know boys who pay 4d. for a blood, and the cheapest is 2d. now-a-days. The 'M.M.' is the finest in the world." We intend to keep the price as low as possible, but we shall most certainly continue to improve it, Harry.

R. Peet (Nottingham).—Most boys commence a diary at some time, but very few get beyond the first few days. You might try it, Ronald, and let us hear from you about a month after you have commenced it.

E. Bonnici (Sliema, Malta).—Many thousands of our readers at home listen in to splendid concerts every night, and we are sorry that you are deprived of this pleasure. You must induce your father to transmit a little music from his own set for the benefit of the boys in Malta. We are mailing you full particulars of the Correspondence Club.

G. Irlam (Salford).—Our articles on Railways have always been popular, and we shall commence a new series very shortly. We have so much to print, and our space is very limited, that these must wait their turn.

D. Ayes (Darjeeling, India).—Thanks for your endeavours to make Meccano better known in India. Your photos are interesting and we shall be glad to see more. You have our best wishes for your success in the A.M.I.M.E. Exam.

V. G. Govett (London).—Thanks for your suggestion that we issue Guild brochures and pendants for those who prefer them to the regular Guild Badges. This has been suggested several times, and we should like to have the views of other readers.

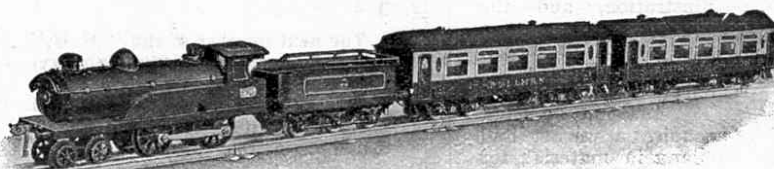
HORNBY CLOCK WORK TRAINS

THE TRAINS WITH THE GUARANTEE

A most valuable and remarkable feature of the Hornby Trains is that they may be taken to pieces and rebuilt, just like Meccano models. All the parts are standardised, and any lost or damaged sections may be replaced with new ones.

No. 2 PULLMAN SET

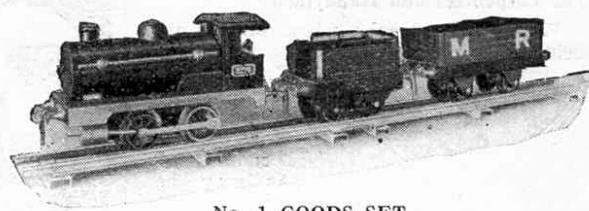
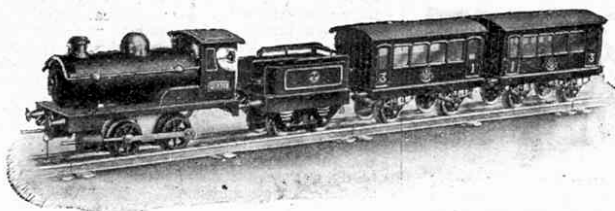
The No. 2 Pullman Set is a beautiful production. The Loco and Tender measures 17" in length. It is built of standardised parts, enamelled in colours and beautifully finished. Fitted with reversing gear, brake and governor. Complete set in brown leather-finished gold-embossed box ... 70/-



No. 2 Pullman Set

No. 2 GOODS SET

This Set contains Loco, Tender and Rails (as in the No. 2 Pullman Set), and two Goods Wagons. Superbly finished. Gauge 0, in colours to represent L.M.S. and L. & N.E.R. Co.'s rolling stock. Complete set in brown leather-finished gold-embossed box ... 45/-



No. 1 GOODS SET

The Loco and Tender of the No. 1 Goods Set are the same as No. 1 Passenger Set. A Goods Wagon is supplied in place of the Passenger Coaches. Each Loco is fitted with reversing gear, brake and governor. Gauge 0. Complete in brown leather-finished gold-embossed box, price 25/6

No. 1 PASSENGER SET

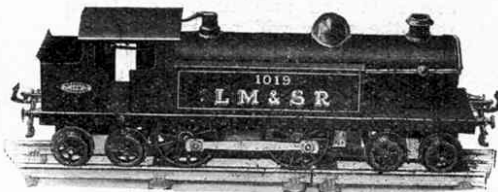
This set contains Loco, Tender, two Passenger Coaches and Rails. Gauge 0, in colours to represent the principal British Railway Companies' rolling stock. Complete in brown leather-finished, gold-embossed box, price 35/-

Guarantee

Hornby and Zulu Trains are tested and their efficiency is guaranteed. A form of guarantee is furnished with each Loco. We undertake to repair or replace, at our option, any Loco that fails to run satisfactorily from any cause other than mis-use, within 60 days of date of purchase.

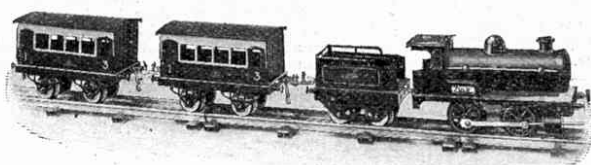
HORNBY TANK LOCO

The Hornby Tank Loco is a powerful model, embodying all the characteristics of the Hornby Train. It is 11½" in length and is fitted at both ends with a special bogey. Beautifully enamelled and finished, Lettered L.M.S. and L. & N.E.R. Fitted with reversing gear, brake and governor. Gauge 0. Price 32/6



ZULU CLOCK WORK TRAINS

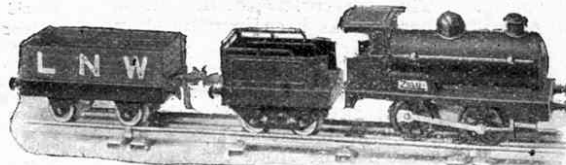
Fine and durable mechanism, and strength of construction in all parts are the main characteristics of Zulu Clockwork Trains.



ZULU PASSENGER SET

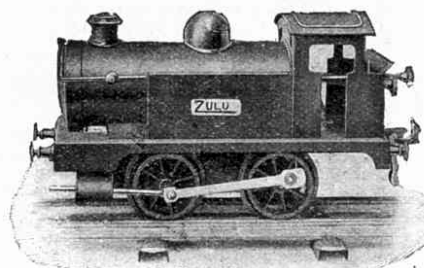
This Set contains Loco, Tender, two Passenger Coaches and Rails. Gauge 0, in black only. Packed in strong cardboard box, price 25/-

The Locos are well designed and efficient, and will give long and excellent service.



ZULU GOODS SET

Contains Loco, Tender and Wagon and Rails. Gauge 0, in black only. Packed in strong cardboard box, price 18/6



ZULU TANK LOCO

A strong and durable Loco capable of any amount of hard work; richly enamelled and highly finished; fitted with reversing gear, brake and governor. Gauge 0, in black only ... each 12/6

Full details of all Hornby and Zulu trains appear in the Meccano Products Booklet illustrated on opposite page. Read the conditions under which a copy of this splendid booklet will be sent you. Illustrations and particulars of Train Accessories appear on page 176 of this issue.

MECCANO

For
MAS

ENGINEERING FOR BOYS

THE reason why you can build such wonderful models with Meccano is that every part is a real engineering piece—pulleys, gears, strips, girders, rods, couplings and cranks, each perfectly designed and accurately made. Every part is standardised and interchangeable.

WHEN TO START

Anywhere between 5 and 70 is the correct age to start Meccano. The youngest boy may begin the moment he gets his Outfit home. A screw-driver and spanner are the only tools necessary, and even these are supplied. Every Outfit is complete—there is nothing further to buy.

HOW TO BEGIN

For convenience Meccano parts are sold in nine Outfits of varying size, numbered 00 to 7. The quality and finish of the parts are of the same high standard throughout the series, but as the Outfits increase in size they contain larger quantities and greater varieties of parts. Each Outfit may be converted into the one next higher by the purchase of an Accessory Outfit. Thus if a No. 2 is the first Outfit bought, it may be converted into a No. 3 by adding to it a No. 2a. A No. 3a would then convert it into a No. 4, and so on up to No. 7. In this way, no matter with what Outfit you commence, you may build it up by degrees to a No. 7 and so be able to make all of the many hundreds of models shown in the Books of Instructions. No study is needed.



Free to "M.M." Readers

This splendidly-illustrated book tells of all the good things that come from Meccano-land, where the best toys are manufactured. It includes illustrations of all the Meccano Outfits from No. 00 to No. 7, and also shows all the Hornby and Zulu Train Sets, new Rolling Stock and Train Accessories. Full details of Rails, Points and Crossings are also given, and a complete list of Meccano Parts. Twenty pages of splendid Meccano Products!

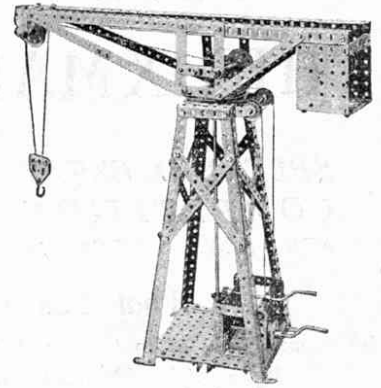
HOW TO GET A FREE COPY

Just show this advertisement to three boys who do not take the "M.M.," and send us their names and addresses with your own. Address your letter to "Booklet" Department.

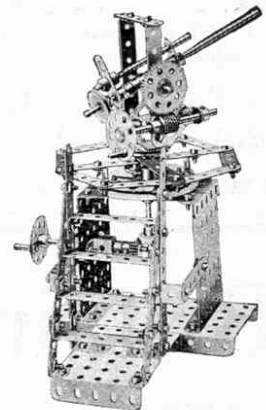
MECCANO PRICES

No.		No.	
00 Outfit	... 3/6	4 Outfit	... 40/-
0 "	... 5/-	5 "	(carton) 55/-
1 "	... 8/6	5 "	(wood) 85/-
2 "	... 15/-	6 "	(carton) 105/-
3 "	... 22/6	6 "	(wood) 140/-
No. 7 Outfit (wood)			370/-

These are a few of the hundreds of models that may be built with a No. 4 Outfit.



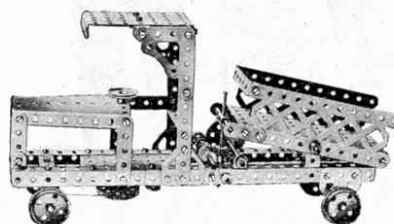
Girder Crane



Anti-Aircraft Gun



Elevated Jib Crane



Tip-Wagon

BUY BRITISH TOYS THIS XMAS

This is the
FIRST PRIZE
in our
SPLENDID ESSAY
COMPETITION
(See below)



Model-de-Luxe Scooter

SPLENDID ESSAY
COMPETITION
FOR BOYS UNDER 14

What You Have to Do

Write an Essay of not more than 500 words on

"WHY WE SHOULD BUY BRITISH TOYS."

Then send it to the Editor of the "Meccano Magazine." State clearly your age, name and full address. Closing date 31st December, 1923. The Editor of the "M.M." has kindly consented to act as judge, and for the two best Essays we will give the following:—

FIRST PRIZE—Our Model-de-Luxe Scooter as Illustrated.

SECOND PRIZE—Our Popular Model with Solid Tyres.

The Auto-Scooter
is
The Sporty Toy
for
The Sporty Boy

Prices to suit all Pockets

MADE BY

The New
Auto-Scooter Company

CHESTERGATE,
STOCKPORT,

and Stocked by all Leading Toyshops

Send for Lists of 6 Different Models

Britains Limited, Toy Soldier Makers,

Lambton Road, LONDON, N. 19

LATEST NOVELTY The Model Home Farm Series. Perfect Models, strictly to scale. Make and finish exactly similar to our celebrated Metal Toy Soldiers.

Specialities:

Railway Station Sets

Complete as Illustrated.

CATALOGUE—POST FREE.



Prices
to
suit
all
Pockets.



TRADE MARK

Ask
your
Dealer
for
them.

WHEN BUYING BRITAINS SOLDIERS SEE THAT THEY ARE BRITAINS.

Competition Corner

Essay Competition

This Competition, which was announced last month, is for the best essay on the subject:—

"What I Intend to Be, and Why."

Everyone of our readers has his ambitions, and no doubt the majority already have decided what they intend to be. Many wish to be Engineers or Electricians. Some have a taste for farming or wish to go abroad as Planters or Ranchers. Others wish to be Soldiers or Sailors, or to enter one of the professions and become Doctors, Lawyers, Accountants, etc.

Every boy has his place to fill in the great scheme of life, and I feel sure it will be of interest to learn what Meccano boys intend to be, and also to know why they are choosing that particular walk of life.

Essays, to be written on one side of the paper only, should not exceed 1000 words. A prize of Meccano goods to the value of £1/1/- (to be chosen from our current list) will be awarded for the best essay, and three Hawk-Eye cameras (taking pictures $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$) made by Kodak Ltd., to the next best. The winning essay will be published in the "M.M." Closing date, 31st January, 1924 (Overseas 31st March).

ESSAY COMPETITION for

"M.M." Stamp Collectors

This competition is open to all readers of the "M.M." who are also stamp collectors. The subject is "WHY I COLLECT STAMPS." Limit your essay to 500 words; write neatly on one side of the paper only, with name, address and age on back of each sheet. First prize: Packet of Stamps value 10/6 to be chosen by the winner, from any firm advertising in the pages of the "M.M." Make your choice when you send in your essay and give the necessary information, so that the stamps may be sent to you if you are the lucky winner. Closing date, 31st January next. (Overseas 31st May, 1924). Mark your envelope "Stamp Essay."

Competition Closing Dates

1923	20 Dec.	Christmas Present
1924	31 Jan.	Essay.
	"	Stamp Essay.
	29 Feb.	Drawing.
	"	Sixth Photographic.
	15 April	£250 Championship.

Overseas Closing Dates

1923	30 Dec.	Holiday Essay.
	"	Photo Essay.
1924	29 Feb.	Fifth Photographic.
	31 Mar.	Essay.
	30 April	Drawing.
	30 May	£250 Championship.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS PRESENT

CLOSING DATE, 20th DECEMBER.

It is a wonderful sensation to sit down and study illustrations and descriptions, and select your own Christmas presents. I want you to try it! I am going to make at least one boy happy by giving him just the very thing he wants, from amongst the articles advertised in the pages of this Special Christmas number of the "M.M."

What You Have to Do

In order to experience the sensation of choosing your own presents you must look at *all* the articles advertised in these pages and decide which article you would like the postman to hand to you

Are You an Artist?

In response to numerous requests received from Meccano boys, I have pleasure in announcing a Drawing Competition. As mentioned in last month's Editorial on page 141, the subject of this competition is to be: "The Editor of the 'M.M.' as I imagine him to be." In this competition the drawings may be of any size and the subject may be treated in any manner desired, i.e., it may be either in black and white, pencil, crayon or wash.

There are no restrictions, except that the drawing must, of course, be the unaided work of the competitor. 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, manufactured by the Kodak Company, will be awarded in each section. The closing date is 29th February, 1924, in the United Kingdom, and for entries Overseas, 30th April, 1924. I hope to receive a large number of entries for this, our first drawing competition, which, if well supported, will be followed by other similar competitions. The winning drawings will be published in the April or May "M.M."

Sixth Photographic Competition for Guild Members

Prizes will be awarded for the best indoor photograph of a Guild member or members, building a Meccano model. There will be two classes, (A) for members of 14 years of age and under, and (B) for members over 14 years of age. Closing date 29th February next. Prizes in each section, Meccano goods to the value of 10/6, to be chosen by the winners from the Meccano catalogue.

There is no Overseas section in this competition. The attention of Overseas readers is drawn to the Fifth Overseas Photo Competition, announced on this page.

MECCANO £250 CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST 21 Cups and 460 Medals

In the 1923-4 Model Building Contest 21 Championship Cups, 110 Silver and 350 Bronze Medals will be awarded, together with a number of Special Certificates of Merit. The total value of the prizes will amount to £250. The various countries have been divided into seven groups, and these, again, are divided into sections according to the age of the entrants.

The awards will be made for the best models submitted—particularly for those models that embody ingenious and original features. The winner of each cup will hold the title of "Meccano Champion" for his particular group and section for twelve months. The cups, which have been designed for us by a well-known firm, are of superb quality, and very handsome in appearance. Each cup will be engraved with the name of its winner, and provided with a suitable pedestal.

Meccano Gold Medallist

The competitor who submits the best model in the entire competition will be awarded a specially-designed Solid Gold Medal. He will be the "Meccano Gold Medallist" for a year, and his name will be engraved on the medal, which will, of course, remain his property. Full particulars and entry form may be obtained from any Meccano dealer, or will be mailed (post free) on request to the Editor.

OVERSEAS SECTION

"SHARP EYES"

The two best entries in the Overseas section were submitted by Master Alick Young, of 14, Trollope Street, Grahamstown, South Africa, and Master E. L. Thompson, of Russell Avenue, Lindfield, N.S.W., Australia, respectively, each of whom found over 100 mistakes. Mr. "X" has sent a Meccano Clockwork Motor to each of these boys and congratulates Masters Young and Thompson on their keen powers of observation and the wonderful patience they have shown in listing the errors.

Overseas Fifth Photographic Competition

This competition closes on 29th February, 1924, and is divided into two sections, (A) 14 years of age and under, and (B) over 14 years of age. The subjects are (1) A Family Group, (2) An Animal Study, (3) Miscellaneous Section. The First Prize in each section is a Hawk-Eye Camera (taking pictures $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$) made by the Kodak Co.

Improving the "M.M."

Overseas Section

I have been overwhelmed with entries for this competition from almost every country in the world. Every entry has been carefully considered, and the best suggestions are those from Master J. A. Sadler, of Adelaide, S. Australia, to whom the first prize of a Hornby Train has been despatched. The second prize of a Zulu Tank Loco has been awarded to Master F. Whitney, Ficksburg, South Africa, and I congratulate these two competitors on their well-merited success. This has been one of our most successful competitions, and I wish to thank the hundreds of readers who wrote to me for the helpful spirit they showed.



Now boys! altogether for a **"Kodak"**



Tell Dad you *must* have a 'Kodak' at Christmas. You can then make your own pictures of your own particular pastime; you can save forever the models you make; you can keep a picture record of your models in the course of construction; you can enter your very own pictures in your own magazine competitions. Ask Dad to take you to the nearest Kodak dealer. There are Brownies from 10/6 upwards—and you can learn to use any 'Kodak' or Brownie in half-an-hour.

Brownies from	10/6
Folding Autographic Brownies from	45/-
Vest Pocket Autographic Kodaks from	35/-
Autographic Kodaks Junior from	60/-

Kodak Ltd., Kingsway, London, W.C.2



Stamps with "Un-English" Names

In our last issue we mentioned that, broadly speaking, the stamps of all foreign countries may be divided into four main groups: (1) those on which the name of the country is in English spelling or nearly so, (2) those on which although the name is not in English it is in letters of the English alphabet, (3) those on which the name is in a foreign alphabet, and (4) those bearing no name of country.

We have already explained the classification of the first group and deal in this article with the remaining groups.

In group 2, where the word is entirely different from the English for the same place, but where the alphabet is still English, a little difficulty may be found at first. Below is a list of such names as you are likely to come across, with a key to the country under which they are classified. Those names that sound the same as the English when pronounced, or beginning the same, have been omitted.

Name on Stamp	Country
Bayern ...	Bavaria
Belgie, Belgique ...	Belgium
Bosnien-Herzegowina ...	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ceskoslovenska ...	Czechoslovakia
C. X. C. ...	Jugo-Slavia
Danmark ...	Denmark
Deutsches Reichspost ...	Germany
Deutsches Reich ...	German (on German colonial stamps as in "Deutsch Neu Guinea")
Deutsch ...	German
Eesti ...	Estonia
Éire, Éireann, Éireann ...	Irish Free State
Emp. Ottomane ...	Turkey
España ...	Spain
Ethiopie ...	Abyssinia
Haute ...	Upper (on French colonial stamps as in "Haute-Volta")
Helvetia ...	Switzerland
K. Württ. ...	Württemberg
Latvija ...	Latvia
Lietuva ...	Lithuania
Magyar ...	Hungary
Norge ...	Norway
Oester, Oesterreich ...	Austria, or Austrian Levant, or Austrian Crete
Polska, Poczta ...	Poland
Sverige ...	Sweden
Toga ...	Tonga (not the same as Togo)

This guide to the name of countries on stamps should prove of considerable use to beginners and to those a little more advanced who wish to revise their collections. The lists are not complete, however, as countries the stamps of which are rare, have been omitted.

Foreign Alphabets

Stamps that carry inscriptions in letters that are not the same as those of the English alphabet may only be identified by the use of a Key and by experience. Below is a Key that will be useful, and as it includes all the countries that readers of the "M.M." are likely to come across it will enable stamps to be identified in almost every case.

The chief countries concerned are Greece, Crete, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Servia, Russia and Finland. Here are specimens of lettering on stamps of these countries.

Greece: ΕΛΛΑΣ
 Crete: ΚΡΗΤΗ
 Bulgaria: БЪЛГАРСКА, ПОЩА, СТОТ, ФЕРДИНА, or БЪЛГЛРИЯ
 Montenegro: БИЈЕГА ДОШТЕ ЦР. ГОРЕ
 Servia: ПОШТА, СРПСКА СРБИЈА

Russia or Finland, according to details of design of stamp: ПОЧТОВАЯ МАРКА

Stamps having some portion of their design composed of what appears to be a daisy, belong to Japan. It is often said that the centre represents the Sun and the petals its rays. In reality, however, it represents a chrysanthemum, the national emblem of Japan.

In Group 4 there are no common stamps excepting those issued by Great Britain (which may be recognised by the portraits) and the Indian Native States.

Classifying in Sets

When the stamps have been identified and sorted into their respective countries, we may proceed to classify them according to their particular "sets." When this has been done we shall be ready to arrange them correctly in the album. As everyone knows, a set is a group of stamps issued about the same date. They may all be of similar design, although of differing colours and values, or they may be of varied design. For instance, the set now in use in Great Britain bears the portrait of King George V, and consists of fifteen different values between ½d. and 10/-.

The long reign of Queen Victoria was marked by several sets, distinguished by differences in the portrait or in the frame of the stamps. To classify the stamps of each country into their respective sets is difficult without the guidance to be obtained from a catalogue. Without a catalogue the collector is as much at sea as a tourist without a guide-book or map, or a sailor without a compass. It is better to spend a little money on a catalogue than to buy more stamps or even a larger album. A stamp catalogue is really a dealer's price list. It contains details and illustrations of all postage stamps known to have been issued to the date of publication. The stamps of each country are placed in their order of issue under the heading of the country to which they belong, with dates of issue and prices in unused and used condition. There are many useful catalogues, but readers of the "M.M." will probably find the "Standard Catalogue of Postage Stamps" to be most suitable, as it does not deal with the intricate details of stamps required by the advanced collector.

Next month we shall describe the preparation of the stamps for the album and their arrangement therein. We shall endeavour to assist the beginner in the choice of an album. In the meantime it may be found convenient to store the loose stamps in envelopes marked with the names of the respective countries, and arranged in alphabetical order for ready reference.

* Published by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., Ipswich, price 6/6 post free.

SPECIAL ARTICLES I.

The King of Spain as Baby, Boy and Man

Alphonso XII, King of Spain, died in 1886, a few months before his son was born. Accordingly his son, the present King, bearing the title of Alfonso XIII, commenced to reign at the date of his birth (17 May, 1886).

In 1889, when the young King was three years old, a series of postage stamps was issued, showing his baby portrait. In 1900, when he was fourteen, a new set was issued, showing him as a boy, and nine years later still another set was issued showing His Majesty as a man. This is, perhaps, the only case in which one person appears on stamps first as a baby, then as a boy, and lastly as a man.

The stamps of the last two sets are all numbered on the back in blue, except the 15c. of the 1909 issue, which sometimes has the number in blue and at other times in red. Every stamp on the same sheet has the same number, but every sheet has a different number.

Postal officials are thus able to tell at once when a stamp was printed by looking at this number on the back. Sometimes, however, mistakes were made in the printing and so very occasionally different numbers are found on the same sheet. These errors are more valuable but, of course, they are not to be found in single stamps.

R.K.G.



1889-1900



1900-1909



1909-1923

Stamp Enquiries

F. Graham (Nottingham).—We hope to explain the different kinds of water-marks in one of our future issues. We shall also deal with the differences in perforations.

Geo. Williamson (Chester).—You will be interested to know that we are contemplating an article on engineering wonders of the world as depicted on stamps. We think this subject will be of great interest to Meccano boys who are stamp collectors.

G. Chapman (Luton).—Plate numbers in the English penny red stamps are to be found on the sides of the stamp in the column of tracery. We shall illustrate plate numbers and give interesting details in one of our future issues.

F. Johnson (Birmingham).—The article on this page will help you in the identification of your Greek stamp.

A. E. Lea (Cardiff).—We hope to deal with interesting new issues from time to time in this column. There are so many new issues, especially from the European countries, however, that to "give illustrations of every new issue each month" would require a very large number of pages. We shall select only the more interesting for description.

E. Partington (Leeds).—You are quite correct in supposing that "printing that has been put on a stamp wrong way up" increases its value. The technical description of this is an "inverted surcharge."

For Stamp Collectors

The attention of stamp collectors is drawn to the Special Essay Competition announced on page 193 of this issue.

FREE MECCANO OUTFITS.

YOU MUST enter the simple and fascinating Competition in this week's "*Scout*." Besides Meccano Outfits there are many other Splendid Prizes, including

CHRISTMAS CARD AND CALENDAR also given free inside every copy of *THE*

TUCK HAMPERS, FRETWORK OUTFITS, CONJURING OUTFITS, FOUNTAIN PENS, FOOTBALLS, Etc., Etc.

Don't miss the first instalment of our new thrilling Serial "THE RIVER RIDERS."

SCOUT XMAS No. just out--2d.



**FREE
SAMPLE
OF
FELS-NAPTHA**
Send for it!

Send a post card, giving your name and address, to A. C. Fincken & Co., Sole Consignees (Dept. 90A), 197, Gt. Portland Street, London, W.1.

Now Boys! what do you know about SOAP?

Who said "nothing"? Take no notice of him. He himself is probably ignorant of the fact that even the greatest scientists do not know *all* there is to know about soap, in spite of the fact that they use it every day of their lives! However, any boy can find out enough about soap to be able to tell mother if she is using a good one or not. All dirt is held to fabrics by a thin film of invisible oil. Ordinary soap breaks up this film and allows the water to get at the dirt and swill it away. But it won't come away without boiling and rubbing the clothes first. That's why mother so dislikes washdays. They mean such hard work. FELS-NAPTHA Soap is different. It has real naptha in it. Naptha *dissolves* grease. The clothes just have to be soaped with it and soaked in warm water. The stubborn oil film is gently dissolved away and the soapy water loosens the dirt. Then a rinse swills the dirt away, and the washing is done, quickly, easily, safely. Which method is the easier? The second, undoubtedly. Give mother a surprise! Send for a free sample of FELS-NAPTHA, explain to her how to use it (the directions are inside the wrapper) and never more will she have to endure the old-fashioned wash-day. *Won't* mother be pleased! Send to-day.

FELS-NAPTHA
SOAP

FELS-NAPTHA COSTS 5½d. A BAR, AND WASHES WITHOUT BOILING WATER.



Fireside Fun

The vicar said he felt sure they only ate 1.

The curate said he didn't think that could be right because Eve 81 and Adam 812. Total 893.

The warden said that both were quite mistaken, because Eve 814 herself and Adam 8124 himself. Total 8938.

The sexton thought they were all wrong. He said that Eve 8142 know how it tasted, and Adam 28142 know what it was like. Total 36284.

Is anyone able to improve on this?

We are offering 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.

We hope to announce next month a special
Puzzle Competition for Guild Members.

A lady, who was engaging a new maid, showed the girl a valuable Persian rug, of which she was very proud. Pointing to the rug she said "When you clean the parlour, Mary, be very careful of this beautiful rug. It is very old!" "I can see it is, ma'am" replied the maid sympathetically, "but I dare say we can make it last the winter if we're careful!"

"Did you ever ride a horse before?" shouted the sergeant. "Never," replied the recruit. "Ah!" returned the sergeant with a sour smile, "Here's just the animal for you! He's never been ridden before. You can start out together!"

Officer (angrily):
"Button up your
coat."

Married recruit
(absent-mindedly) :
" Yes, my dear ! "

A young man while fishing on the Wye landed a wallet containing twenty-two £1 Treasury notes. A correspondent writing from North of the Tweed enquires what bait the fellow was using.

Tell him to think of the number of the month of his birth, counting January as 1 etc. Multiply it by 2; add 5; multiply it by 50; tell him then to add his age; then subtract 365; then add 115. The month of his birth will then be indicated by the first figure and the age by the last two figures.

ENIZAGAMONOMAGAZINE
NIZAGAMONANOMAGAZIN
IZAGAMONACANOMAGAZI
ZAGAMONACCCANOMAGAZ
AGAMONACCECCANOMAGA
GAMONACCEMECCANOMAG
AMONACCEMEMECCANOMA
MONACCEMEHEMECCANOM
ONACCEMEHTHEMECCANO
MONACCEMEHEMECCANOM
AMONACCEMEMECCANOMA
GAMONACCEMECCANOMAG
AGAMONACCECCANOMAGA
ZAGAMONACCCANOMAGAZ
IZAGAMONACANOMAGAZI
NIZAGAMONANOMAGAZIN
ENIZAGAMONOMAGAZINE

Starting with the **T** in the middle of the above parallelogram of letters, how many times can you find the words, "*The Meccano Magazine*?" You must always read in a straight line, but you are allowed to turn at right angles as often as you please.

THERE is a curious sentence that many of us were asked to say when we first went to school. Here it is:—"Of all the saws that ever I saw I never saw a saw that saws like this saw saws." That is not difficult to say, but there are many sentences with the same word, syllable or sound that *are* difficult, especially when we try to repeat them several times in quick succession. These sentences are called tongue-twisters. "Truly rural" and "A pound of mixed biscuits" seem quite simple expressions, and yet there are very few people who can say either of them quickly, several times running, without twisting them into something that sounds like "toorelooral" and "missed bixis."

A well-known tongue-twister, a favourite even in our grandfathers' times, is the verse :

* Peter Piper picked a peck of pepper ;
Did Peter Piper pick a peck of pepper ?
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pepper,
Where's the peck of pepper Peter Piper picked ?

Here is another similar form of tongue-twister in the verse:

Oliver Oglethorpe ogled an owl and oyster;
Did Oliver Oglethorpe ogle an owl and oyster?
If Oliver Oglethorpe ogled an owl and oyster,
Where are the owl and oyster Oliver Oglethorpe ogled?

These verses should be repeated half-a-dozen times, as quickly as possible. Anyone who does this without a slip may spend Christmas with a clear conscience!

Perhaps even more difficult to repeat than either of these is a verse in which the letter q occurs in almost every word.

Quixote Quicksight quizzed a queerish quid-box.
Did Quixote Quicksight quiz a queerish quid-box.
If Quixote Quicksight quizzed a queerish quid-box,
Where's the queerish quid-box Quixote Quicksight
quizzed?

Sandy (receiving doctor's bill)—"But the bill is not right, Doctor. You've charged me for seven days instead o' six. Dinna ye mind I was dileerious one day, and was not aweer of your presence?"

A little boy complained that his shoes hurt him. His mother looked at them and saw that in his hurry to get dressed he had put the right shoe on the left foot, and the left shoe on the right foot.

"You've put your shoes on the wrong feet, dear," she explained.

The little boy looked up in wonder. "No, I haven't, mummy," he said, "*They're on my feet.*"



By permission of]

[*"The Captain"*]

Pat, with the aid of the Meccano Outfit Aunt Maria gave him, "re-models" her precious Binks (who is getting rather fat) as a 2-4-2 Tank locomotive!

BUILD A HOUSE

SPECIAL OFFER to Meccano Boys

WE have a limited number of model house sets which we have decided to offer at special prices to all readers of the "Meccano Magazine."

These model houses are beautifully printed on stout card, and the material for each model is contained in a special envelope, on the outside of which is shown a picture of the model when made up.

All that is necessary to make a house is to cut and score the card as shown in the clear instructions given with each set. The parts are then built up by affixing them with a little SECCOTINE. When the model is complete, additions such as red roofs, plaster walls, gardens, etc., can be made as desired by the modeller, and much ingenuity can be exercised in the making of these additions. We give three suggestions :—

1. Grass can be indicated by smearing the base card with a thin solution of SECCOTINE, and then imitation or real moss attached. This is very effective, especially as footpaths can be shown by leaving the moss and Seccotine off where desired.
2. Plaster walls can easily be made by smearing the sides of the house with Seccotine, and then ordinary sand sprinkled over.
3. Windows can be made by sticking small pieces of glass or clear gelatine into the spaces allowed for the panes. These models can be used in many attractive ways in conjunction with Hornby Trains and rail sets.

The list of models available is :—

Model No.	1—Two Semi-Detached Villas	Any Box for 1/6 Postage Paid
" "	2—Detached House, to stand in its own grounds	...	...	...	...
" "	3— " " "	...	...	...	...
" "	4—(a) Village School, (b) Two Semi-Detached Villas, (c) Villa	...	...	...	...
" "	5—(a) Church, (b) Blacksmith's Forge, (c) Village Shop	...	...	...	...
" "	6—(a) Villa, (b) Cottage, (c) Village Inn	...	...	...	...
" "	7—(a) Row of Cottages, (b) Detached House, (c) Monument	...	...	...	...

EACH BOX CONTAINS

Material for Construction.
Tube of Seccotine.

Straight Edge.
Sheet of Instructions.



This is a picture of a model made up.

Fill in the attached Coupon and send it to us with a Post Office Order covering the boxes required, and by return you will have the sets ready for working on

COUPON

To be cut out and forwarded with Postal
Order for number of boxes required.
Please send

Box	Model	House	No. 1
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7

at 1/6 per box post paid.

Name _____

Full Address

McCAW, STEVENSON & ORR LTD.
The Linenhall Works, BELFAST

SOLE **SECCOTINE** **Which Sticks**
MAKERS OF **Everything**



The Secretary's Notes

I wish you boys, members of this great Meccano brotherhood, could spend a day at my elbow. I wish you could share my pleasures in seeing how the scope of the Guild is increasing every day. I wish you could see how new members are joining us by the hundred every week, how numerous new Clubs are being formed every month, and what great promise these new Clubs hold for future development. Many of these new Clubs are being founded at the suggestion of local gentlemen, who realise what splendid work may be done through the medium of a real live Club.

Progress of the Guild

The Guild movement, the largest brotherhood of boys in the world, has been a great success ever since its inception some four years ago. I am not content to rest with the success that has been achieved, however, and I want to make the Guild an even greater success. In the first place I want to be sure that every member is getting the best out of the Guild. To make this possible, it is important that all individual members should support the Club in their district. Clubs have now been formed in nearly all large towns in this country, as well as in many countries Overseas, and if any of you who read these lines have not joined a Club you are missing heaps of fun. I hope that you will support your local Club, and shall be glad to send you full particulars of the nearest Club on request. Should there not be any Club established in your neighbourhood you should have a talk with your chums and see if you cannot form one together. I am always ready to give all the information and advice possible and to help in any way in my power, not only by assisting in starting new Clubs, but also in making them a success once they have been opened.

Many boys have written to ask me how to start a Club, and I think that a few words in this column will be of interest to new Guild members. The first step in starting a Club is to obtain a copy of the booklet "Suggestions for Club Secretaries." This will be mailed, post free, on request. It tells you just how to set to work and shows that the essentials of a successful Club are a proper Club room and an adult Leader. These sometimes present difficulties, but my experience is that both are absolutely necessary to the successful working of a new Club. The difficulties are not so great as they may appear at first sight, however, and it is surprising to find how people will help if they know just what you want.

Starting a Club

In regard to obtaining a Leader, my advice is that you should approach your schoolmaster, Sunday-school teacher, or local Y.M.C.A. Secretary on the subject. Any of these gentlemen will be willing to help you, if they are able to do so. Should you experience any difficulty, however, I am always pleased to endeavour to obtain Leaders. Similarly, in the obtaining of a Club room I offer to write to local authorities on the subject and to interest local gentlemen in the work of the Club.

I want you to realise, however, 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 which still holds good in regard to many things, but in regard to forming a Meccano Club in particular. If the members are keen and enthusiastic they will often be able to arrange for both a Club Leader and a Club room without having to seek my assistance.

(Continued in third column)

Club's Happy Outing

Pleasant memories of summer days and country rambles are recalled by this photograph of the Leader and members of the Southall Meccano Club. The photo was taken on the occasion of the Club's outing to Burnham Beeches, some very beautiful woods just outside London. We are well able to imagine that these happy-looking Guild members had a very jolly time out in the open. The Leader of the Southall M.C., Mr. G. Carpenter, who is seen in the centre of the group, has recently succeeded in obtaining a new and larger Club room to accommodate the steadily increasing membership of this enthusiastic Club.



Meccano Club Leaders

No. 8. Mr. H. W. R. COUSENS.

Mr. H. W. R. Cousens, the Leader of the "Westview (Nottingham) Meccano Club" took over the Leadership of this Club a little over a year ago. Since then



rapid progress has been made in every direction of the Club's activities, which are not confined to model-building, but include other hobbies introduced from the Leader's versatile store. The social side of the Club is not neglected and Mr. Cousens tells me that he derives great pleasure on Club nights in seeing the boys turn up with smiling faces in anticipation of a good time. I feel sure they are not disappointed and they are fortunate in having a leader who is so well able to cater for their many interests.

(Continued from first column)

In the October "M.M." the Editor mentioned that the 1923 Meccano Model-building Competition is the biggest thing in Competitions of its kind ever held. He mentioned that his particular interest

Meccano Championship Competition

would be in the destination of the gold medal and the title "Meccano Gold Medallist." I should like to say that I also am particularly interested in this award, and I sincerely hope that the coveted title will be won by a member of our Guild. The Meccano Guild members have always been to the front in the list of prize-winners in this great annual Competition, and it will indeed be pleasing—not only to myself but also to the 30,000 members of the Guild—if one of our number carries off the supreme award in the Competition now running. Full particulars of the Competition are given elsewhere in these pages and I want all Guild members to "put their thinking caps on" and to devise a model that will do them justice.

Remember that the award will be given for the best model in the whole Competition and that models are judged from the point of view of originality and ingenuity displayed. The boy who enters a model that is copied from some model in the Meccano Manuals cannot expect to win a prize. He has not exercised his brains or his inventive powers, the very thing that the Competition has been organised to bring about. It is not necessary to have a No. 7 Outfit to win a prize, but it is important that the models entered are built with skill and that the subjects selected are reproduced correctly and carefully. No boy who enters this Competition with a model that shows faulty construction or is badly built, can expect to win a prize. The title of "Meccano Gold Medallist" is one that thousands of boys covet, and the builder of the winning model will fully deserve the honour that the title conveys.

In some recent notes I announced that a number of Guild members in Canada were anxious to correspond with English boys. These Canadian members have now all been fixed up with correspondents in this country and they are enjoying exchanging letters with one another.

Correspondence Club

I have this last week received a number of names from the local Secretary of the French Meccano Guild. These French boys wish to correspond with English boys and they desire to write to their correspondents in English and to receive letters from them in French. This will be excellent practice for any Guild members who wish to improve their French, especially as there are no black marks or other penalties for any mistakes made! Any Guild member who wishes to open up correspondence with a French boy should send to me for full particulars of the Correspondence Club and enrolment form. Next month I hope to give a full list of boys abroad who desire me to find them correspondents in England.

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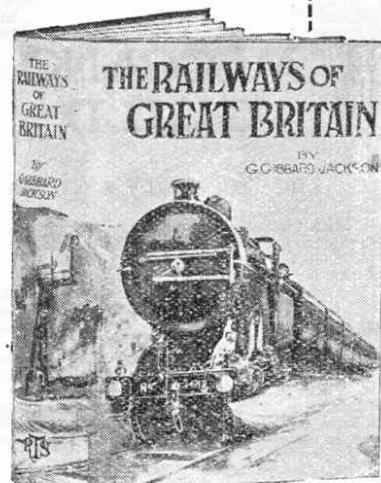
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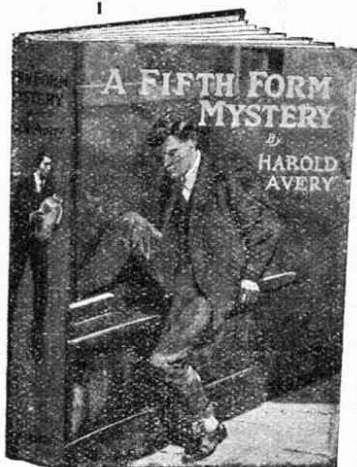
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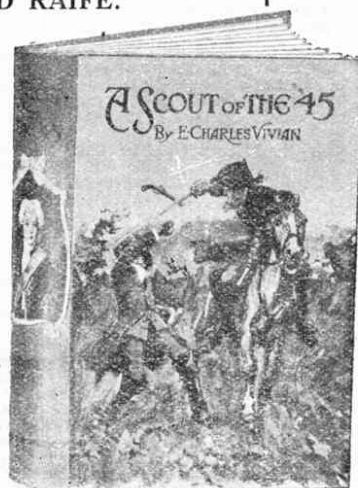
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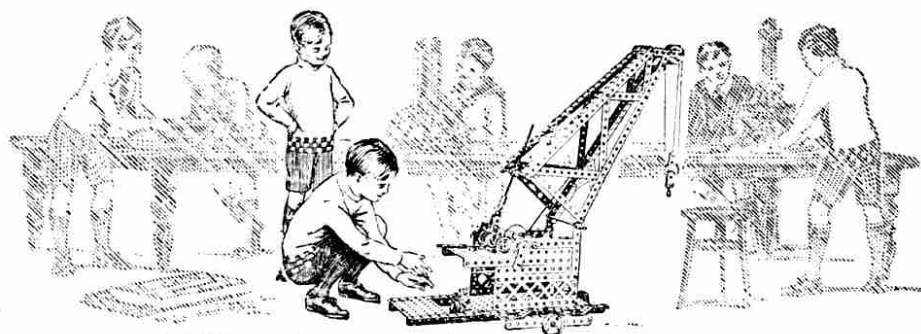
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CLUB NOTES



Luton M.C.—The first Winter Session is proving very successful. A Radio evening proved so popular that the Club Leader has decided to give a series of short lectures on the "Elementary Principles of Wireless." *Secretary:* Master W. Humby, 11, Napier Road, Luton, Beds.

Southall M.C.—This Club has recently succeeded in obtaining a new club room, so there is now more room for model building and entertainments. The room was obtained chiefly through the efforts of Mr. Haigh, the Vice-President, who is a good friend of long standing. *Secretary:* Master G. Gray, 26, St. John's Road, Southall.

Barnaby (St. Barnabas) M.C.—Club meetings are being held regularly, and Part 2 of the Meccano Lecture entitled "The Story of our Ships" was greatly enjoyed on a recent club night. The Club's football team promises to be a great asset. *Secretary:* Master R. H. Ward, Laurel Villas, Victoria Road, Barnaby, Lincs.

Leamington M.C.—Several new features have been included in the programme for the present Session. One of these is Boxing, in which the members are to be trained by a qualified instructor. Competitions are being arranged with other clubs in the town and I take this opportunity of wishing the Club every success. Club work is not neglected, and interesting lectures on all branches of engineering are delivered to the members from time to time, while other evenings are devoted to Club Competitions and model building. I hope to pay a visit to this Club in the near future. *Secretary:* Mr. G. Hare, 36, Willes Road, Leamington.

Wisbech M.C.—Owing to the rapidly-increasing membership of this Club, a Joint Leader, Mr. A. Beck, has recently been appointed, and his assistance will be greatly appreciated. The first anniversary of the Club was celebrated by a Social, which was voted a great success. *Secretary:* Master S. Ketteringham, 99, Norwich Road, New Walsoken, Wisbech.

Glevum (Gloucester) M.C.—In August last a camp was organised at Brimscombe, nr. Stroud, and many of the Club's members spent an enjoyable time on the Cotswolds, some 500 ft. above sea-level. Winter activities are now in full swing and the Club intend to install a wireless set, which will enable the members to listen to broadcast while building their models. The members attend a gymnasium every week. A concert party has been organised and toys are being made for the Children's Hospital for Christmas. *Club Leader:* Mr. L. C. Hobbs, 32, Vicarage Road, Gloucester.

House (Guernsey) M.C.—Winter activities have again commenced and many new members have joined. It is the Club's endeavour to make this a record Session, and there is certainly no lack of enthusiasm. *Secretary:* Master H. Griffith, Elizabeth College, Guernsey, C.I.

Bloemfontein (South Africa) M.C.—Interesting visits have been arranged to the local railway shops and printing works in addition to the ordinary Club programme. The Club members recently passed a vote of thanks to the Editor of the "M.M." and unanimously decided that it was "just fine." *Secretary:* Master F. H. Lupton, 4, Loop Street, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Sparkbrook M.C.—The programme for the present Session includes Lectures, Debates, Model Building, Speed Tests, Competitions, Games, Riddles, etc., and a Grand Social will be held later. An interesting evening will also be held on 3rd January, when members will each describe "How I Spent Christmas." *Secretary:* Master Francis Hubbard, 71, Turner Street, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

Ethorsall Nelson M.C.—This newly-affiliated Club recently held an Exhibition, which was highly successful, both from a financial and general point of view. Many ingenious models have been constructed at the regular meetings, and last month an enjoyable visit was paid to the Printing Works of Messrs. H. W. Bateson & Son, of Barrowford, through the kindness of Master L. Horsfield, one of the members. After a tour through the works the boys listened to a Radio Concert from Manchester. The Secretary was recently awarded a Gold Medal for his achievements in the cricket field and I am sure that all the Guild members will join in congratulating him. *Secretary:* Master H. Dewhurst, 145, Waide House Road, Nelson, Lancs.

Clubs Recently Affiliated

Adelaide (South Australia) M.C.—This Meccano Club was formed a short time ago, and as excellent progress has already been made, affiliation with the Guild has now been granted. Some interesting meetings have been held, with Demonstrations, Lectures and Model Building. An interesting Lantern Lecture on "Merrie England" was very well received. *Secretary:* Master R. E. W. Cornish, Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville, Adelaide, South Australia.

Silchester M.C.—Established under the supervision of Mr. F. C. Harris, the Headmaster of the Silchester C. E. School, this Club has already made excellent progress. *Secretary:* Master A. Toms, Pine View, Silchester, near Reading, Berks.

Westcliff & District M.C.—Was established early last May, and affiliation with the Guild was granted towards the end of August. The members are keen and enthusiastic, and there is every prospect of a successful future. *Secretary:* Master D. S. Cecil, 22, Valkyrie Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

Footscray (Australia) M.C.—This is the fifth Club in this country to become affiliated with the Guild, and, at the present rate of progress will soon become one of the leading Clubs in Australia. *Secretary:* Mr. H. L. Roach, 48, Stirling Street, Footscray, Victoria, Australia.

Clubs not yet Affiliated

Cloughton (Birkenhead) M.C.—It is hoped to establish a Meccano Club in Birkenhead in the near future. All Guild Members who live near the Secretary should communicate with him without delay. *Secretary:* Master E. R. Hudson, 7, Upper Brassey Street, Birkenhead.

St. Helens Y.M.C.A. M.C.—A successful Club has been organised in St. Helens, and as soon as this comes under the supervision of an adult Club Leader it will be affiliated. Any St. Helens boys who are interested should call at the Junior Department of the Y.M.C.A. between the hours of 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Wednesdays or Fridays. *Secretary:* Master W. Mousdell, 14, Tennis Street, St. Helens, Lancs.

Albion Field (London, S.E. 13) M.C.—This Club has every prospect of being affiliated with the Guild at an early date, for already an adult Leader and Club room have been obtained. Meetings are held every Friday evening at 7 p.m., and any boy desirous of joining should communicate with the Secretary. *Secretary:* Master L. Jones, 39, Wellmeadow Road, Lewisham, S.E. 13.

Red Triangle (Halifax) M.C.—Every effort is being made to increase the membership of this promising Club. Any Guild boy living in Halifax will receive a cordial welcome. Full particulars of the Club may be obtained from the Secretary or from the Red Triangle Hut in Commercial Street. Club Meetings are held every Thursday evening. *Secretary:* Master E. Littlefair, 4, Clare Street, Halifax.

Lahore (India) M.C.—Has been in existence for some time, and when an Adult Club Leader is found will be affiliated with the Guild. One of the Club's most enthusiastic members died recently, and I feel sure that all Guild members will extend their sympathies to the Club in its sad loss. *Secretary:* Master H. C. Manchanda, 39, Ramour Mozang Road, Lahore, India.

Clubs Print Magazines

The Holy Trinity (Barnsbury, London, N.) is the first Meccano Club to issue a printed Magazine. The St. Mary (Newington) Meccano Club has not been far behind, however, for a copy of their Magazine reached me only a few weeks after the Magazine from the first-named Club. Both Magazines are similar in design, and both are printed by the Holy Trinity Meccano and Radio Club Press. The subscription is 1/- per annum or 1/6 (post free).

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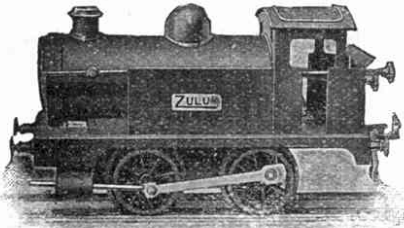
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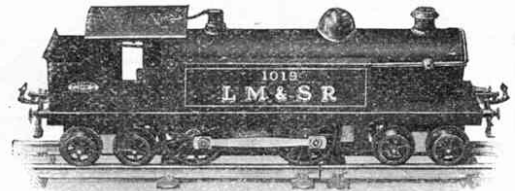
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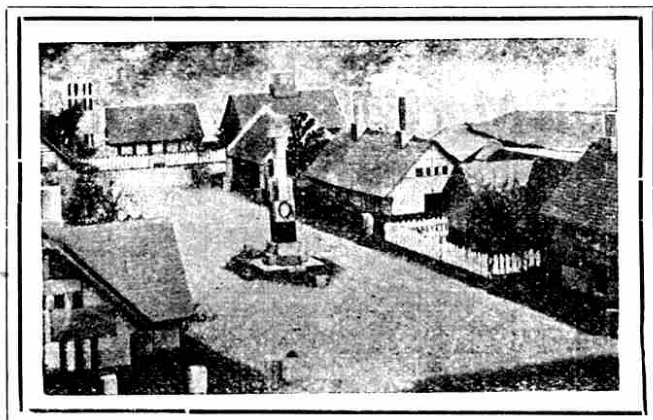
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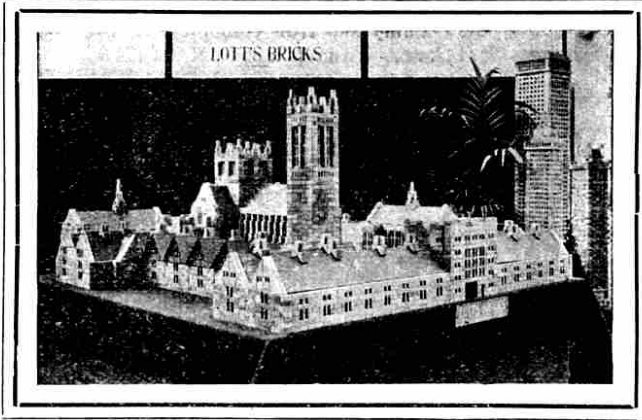
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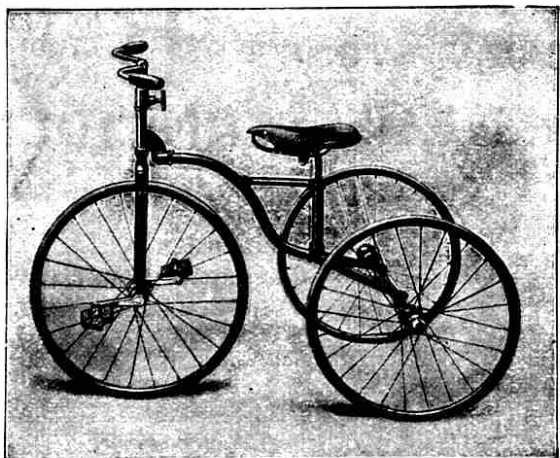
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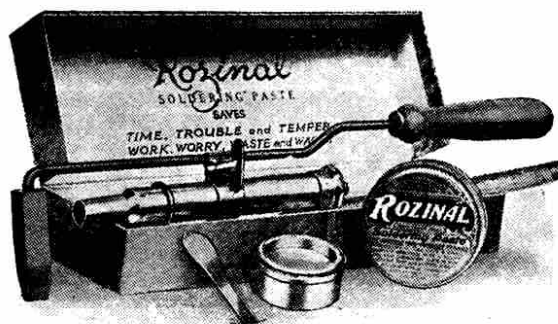
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