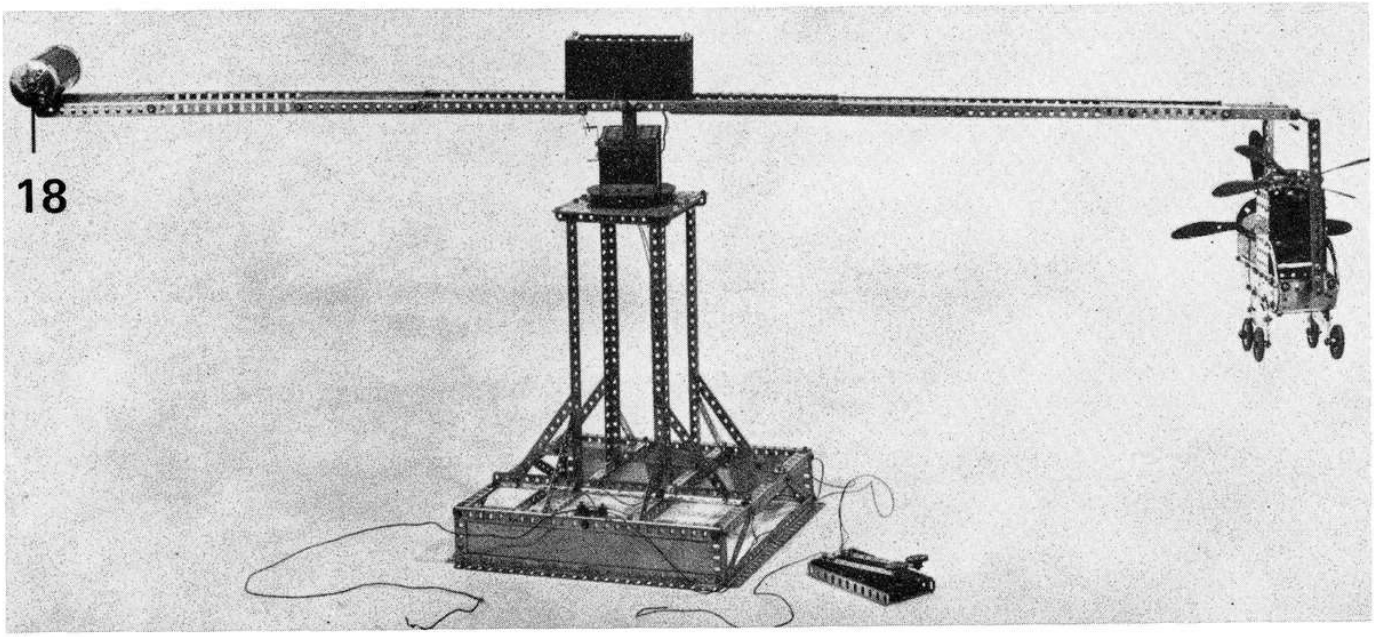
CHOCKS AWAY, CHAPS!



Take to the air with our

MECCANO HELICOPTER

Inspired by Stuart Yule * Described by "Spanner"

SOME MECCANO MODELS are simple little things, knocked together in a couple of hours, while others are precision engineering masterpieces that can take years to perfect. Then, again, some other models are not simple and perhaps are not masterpieces either, but are certainly the greatest of "fun" – fun to build and fun to operate.

In my years with MMQ, and the M.M. before it, I have seen and operated countless hundreds of models of all shapes and sizes; large and small, complex and simple, but few, if any, have given me so much unashamed pleasure as the Remote Control Helicopter featured here. A 'working' model in the real sense, it will keep all ages enthralled for hours! The Helicopter, suspended from a counterweighted beam which is free to both revolve and pivot on its support tower, is powered by two independently-motorised propellers, one giving vertical 'lift' and the other forward 'push'. By using remote switch gear, one or both motors can be operated – to literally 'fly' the Helicopter. Ingenious!

Full credit for the original model design goes to Mr. Stuart Yule of Bearsden, Glasgow, although we simplified it somewhat to reduce the number of parts required to build it. As a result, it is perhaps not quite as sturdy as Mr. Yule's original, but it certainly worked well enough to captivate the whole of your MMQ staff!

CONSTRUCTION

Dealing first with the Helicopter itself, it should be stressed that this is a functional machine and is not designed for beauty! Bolted to the side flanges of a 5½" x 2½" Flanged Plate 1 are a vertical 4½" x 2½" Flat Plate 2 and a horizontal 5½" x 1½" Flexible Plate 3, the former projecting two holes beyond the front of the Flanged Plate, and the latter projecting four holes beyond the Flanged Plate. The Flexible Plate is itself extended forward by a Semi-circular Plate 4, as well as being extended rearwards by a 2½" x 1½" Triangular Flexible Plate. The lower corners of Plates 3 at each side are connected by 2½" x ½" Double Angle Strips, another similar Double Angle Strip being used to connect the forward corners of the Semi-circular Plates at each side. Note that the securing Bolts in the latter case also fix two 3" Stepped Curved Strips 5 in place to serve as the cockpit window frames, the upper ends of the Strips being bolted to Flat Plate 2.

Now fixed by one of its flanges to the top of Flanged Plate 1, through the third row of holes from the front, is a 3½" x 2½" Flanged Plate 6. This is bent forwards slightly and the upper end bolted to a 2½" x ½" Double Angle Strip 7 secured between the upper rear corners of Flat Plates 2. Fixed to the front of the Flanged