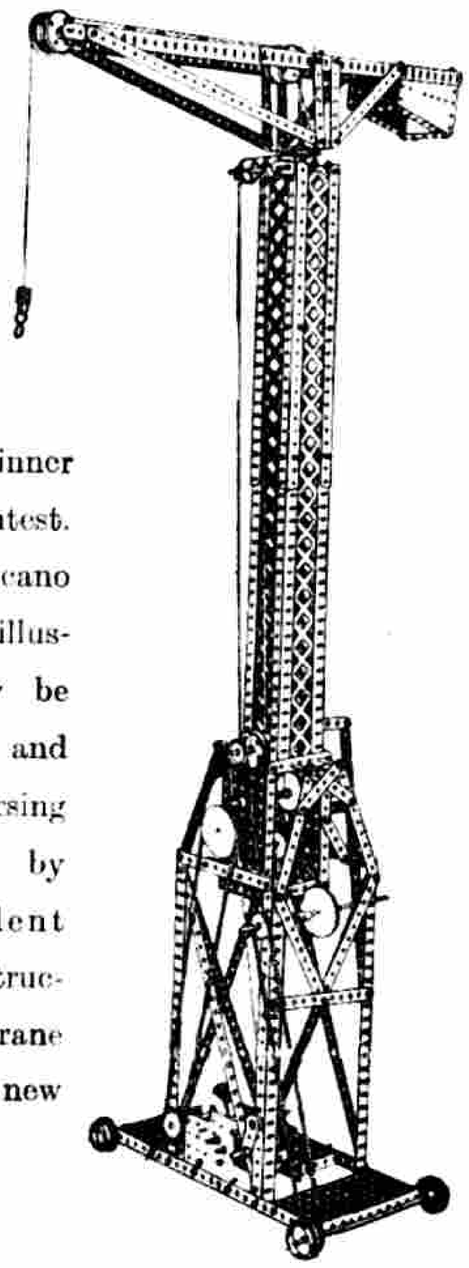
The next number of the Meccano Magazine will be published in November. Readers who wish to have the Magazine posted to them regularly should send us **2d.** in stamps for postage for one year.

VOL. 1. No. 1 SEPT.-OCT., 1916

THE MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS

A Fine New Meccano Crane



This is a Prize Winner in the last Meccano Contest. When run with the Meccano Electric Motor, as illustrated, the jib may be swung, the load raised and lowered, and traversing movement obtained by means of independent mechanism. Full instructions for building the crane will be found in the new Manual of Instructions.

A Message to Meccano Boys from the Inventor of Meccano

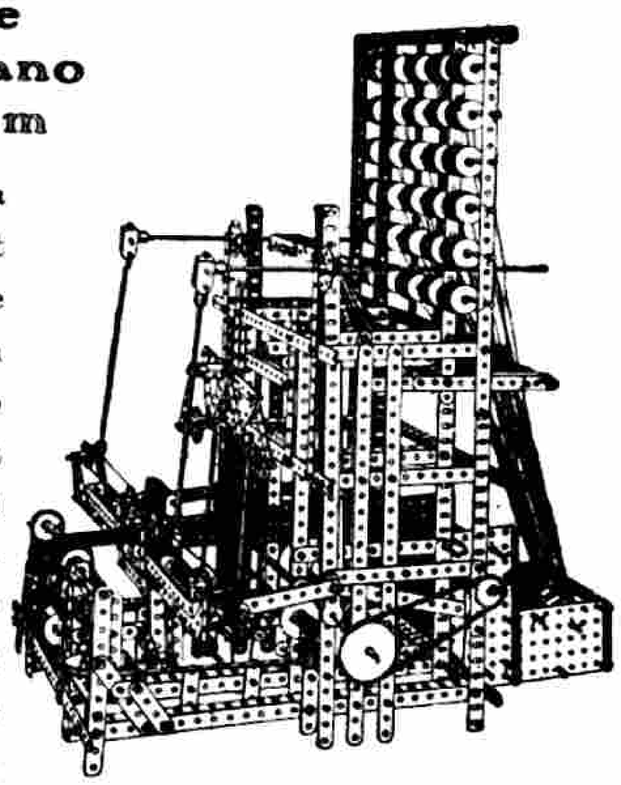
Since I first took out patents for Meccano in 1901, the hobby has made remarkable strides. I look back upon those days with keen pleasure, because even then boys recognised the merits and usefulness of Meccano parts and bought them eagerly. In those early struggling days, I had no factory to make the parts, or in which to work out new ideas. The difficulties were numerous and often almost insurmountable. Now Meccano is manufactured in the largest toy factory in the British Empire, equipped with the latest machinery, operated by many hundreds of skilled workpeople.

During these eventful fifteen years, a million boys of all nationalities and ages have bought and played with Meccano. Once they have started the hobby they have continued with it, buying the new parts and the new manuals as they came along. More boys play with Meccano than play football or cricket or any other hobby. I have corresponded with so many boys about Meccano, and I have got to know them so well, that I have come to look upon every Meccano boy as a personal friend, and I do not think that since the world began any man was so blessed with boy friends as I am. It is a great happiness to me to be able to send to them all a message of goodwill through the Meccano Magazine.

In future issues I want to tell you of some of the early struggles and experiences which I had in gaining opportunities for you to buy Meccano and in getting it manufactured, how some of the best parts and models were suggested to me, and plans which have been laid for the future development of the hobby. I want to know you all better, and I want you to know Meccano and myself better. My determination is the same now as it has been for fifteen years: to keep Meccano the happiest, most pleasurable, and most instructive toy which boys ever had.

Managing Director Meccano Ltd.

The Meccano Loom



This is a magnificent new Prize Model which every Meccano boy will want to build and use. It automatically weaves ties and belts in all colours. It was designed in Lancashire, the home of weaving, by a Meccano user, who took for his patterns the great looms at which he worked to earn his living. It is perfect in every detail, and, like all other Meccano models, the work of an expert. Every boy should build this wonderful model, and learn all there is to know about weaving.

Our First Number

Meccano boys have been asking us for some years now to start a Meccano magazine, and here it is at last. This is a modest little first number, but it will achieve its purpose if it makes all you Meccano boys feel that you know us a little better. We have a lot of interesting developments in store, all of which will be announced in the *Meccano Magazine*, and we want you boys to look out for them, as they will all mean more fun and pleasure for you. Some of you are apt to get into a rut and to think that you are having all the fun it is possible to get out of Meccano, whereas, as a matter of fact, we are going ahead all the time and discovering new models, new ideas, and new fun for you. Write to the Editor as often as you like; he is just a grown-up boy with a lot of experience, and he knows how boys feel about things, and how to help them out of their difficulties. If your letters to him are interesting enough, you will probably find them printed in the *Meccano Magazine*.

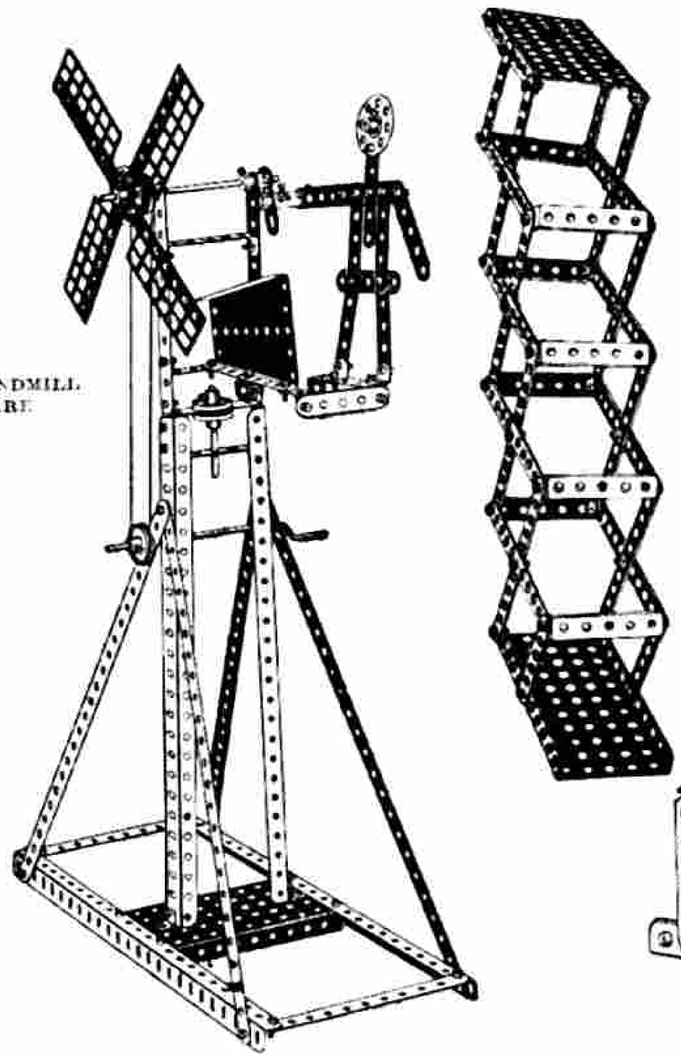
The Editor.

The New Meccano Manual of Instructions

If you want to really taste the joys of Meccano, you must obtain this new edition of the Meccano Manual of Instructions. For the first time it reveals the great possibilities of the hobby. It contains hundreds of prize-winning models with instructions for building them. There are models in this book which have taken years to bring to perfection. Models to play with, like the Helter-skelter, the Automatic Billiard Player, Joy Wheel, and Box Ball Alley; models to work with like the Meccano Loom, which automatically weaves ties and belts in all colours just as good as any you could buy in the shops, the Meccanograph for making thousands of exquisite designs with years of interest in it for children or grown-ups; engineering models like the Jack Knife Bridge, Stone Sawing Machine, Weighing Machines of various patterns, new Cranes and Bridges, scientific models, models of Guns, Armoured Cars, and others of war interest. By the time you have made all these models, you will have learned many useful engineering things, you will be a much brainier fellow than when you started, and you will be ready for the new supplementary editions of the Manual of Instructions which are in preparation. Every Meccano boy should keep himself up to date with new manuals. It is only by doing this that he can get the full value from his Meccano outfit. The new edition contains 326 models and costs 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. post free. You can obtain it either from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty.

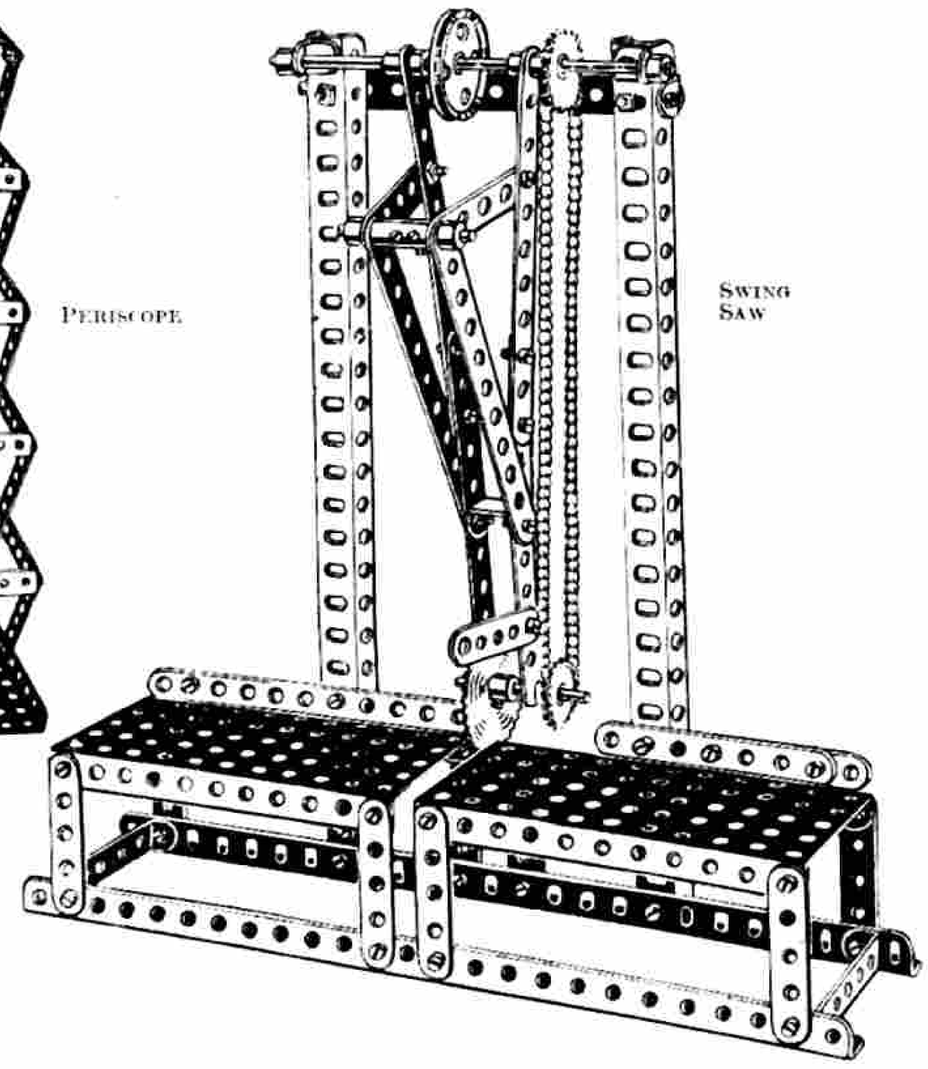
Mecca
Prize Mo

Each boy who designed one of these m
he did something which had never b
had troubles and difficulties, but he d
he got a prize for his pains, and after
faction of seeing his model published i

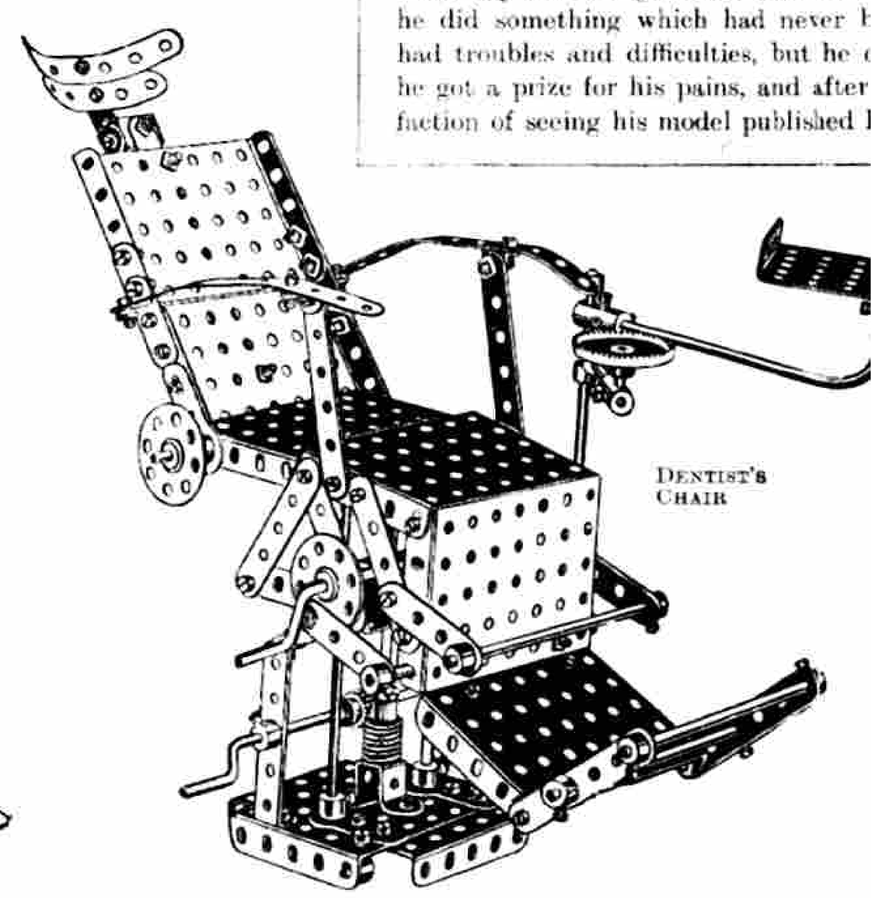


Windmill Scare

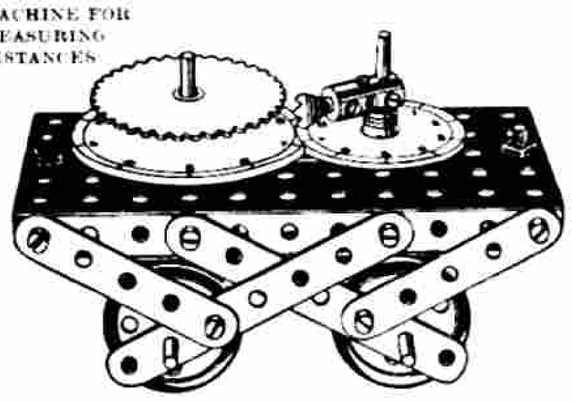
Periscope



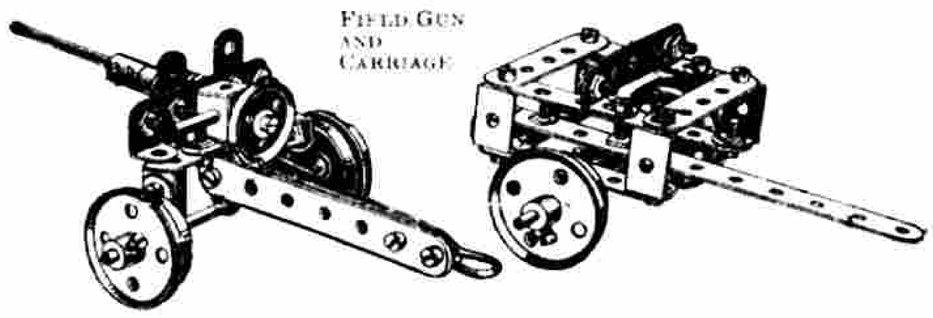
Swing Saw



Dentist's Chair



Machine for Measuring Distances



Field Gun and Carriage

All these models won prizes in the last grand Meccano Competition.

The Meccano Inventor's Accessory Outfit

No Meccano boy should be without this accessory outfit. No matter what regular outfit you have, the parts are useful. It contains a set of large wheels which can be used on motor cars, trucks, &c., two sizes of sprocket wheels with a length of chain for giving a positive drive and dispensing with the usual cord, which is apt to get slack and slip round the pulley. It also contains a supply of the new braced girder for building large, imposing models. There is also included in it a supply of healds, which are indispensable in building a Meccano Loom. It also contains other parts previously included in the higher-priced outfits only. It is a great help to the young Meccano inventor who desires to extend the scope of his outfit. The cost of the Inventor's Accessory Outfit is 7s. 6d.

"Dad"

When father has money we call him "Father." When he teaches Sunday School, we call him "Papa." If he shops with mother and wheels the baby carriage, we call him "Pa." But if he buys us Meccano and gives us a hand with the models till his fingers ache with screwing up the bolts with them instead of using a screw-driver, we call him "Dad."

World-famous Meccano Beats Germans Hollow

This is the verdict of Mr. A. W. Gamage, of the firm of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., London, expressed in an article which he has just written for "Pearson's Weekly." Mr. Gamage writes: "Luckily Germany did not capture every section of the toy trade. In some directions we are still pre-eminent. Britain's soldiers were second to none; they were perfect in every detail. *The world-famous Meccano toys beat the Germans hollow.* Our rubber balls were excellent, and our big wooden toys licked creation."

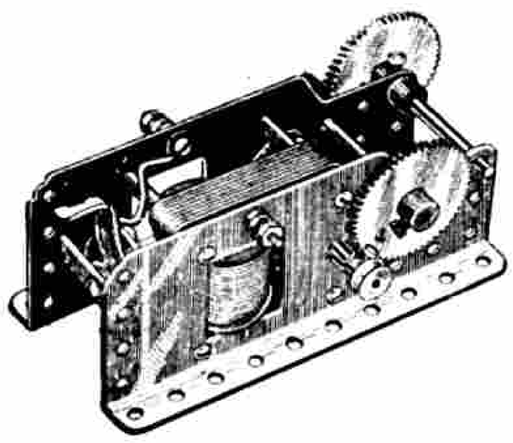
Mr. Gamage's verdict on Meccano is endorsed by every toy dealer and every boy in Great Britain. In some directions the Germans certainly did not have it all their own way, and when this terrible German-made war is over it will be our endeavour to see that much of the toy business which was formerly held by Germany and Austria will be wrested from those countries, and that the British public will know that when they are buying toys they are supporting British workmen in British factories.

Meccano Outfits as Prizes

The following well-known publications are offering Meccano Outfits as prizes in the competitions which they are running this winter:—

"The Scout."
"Home Notes."
"Pearson's Weekly."
"Everywoman's Weekly."

Some of you clever Meccano boys should have no difficulty in securing these outfits.



The Meccano Electric Motor

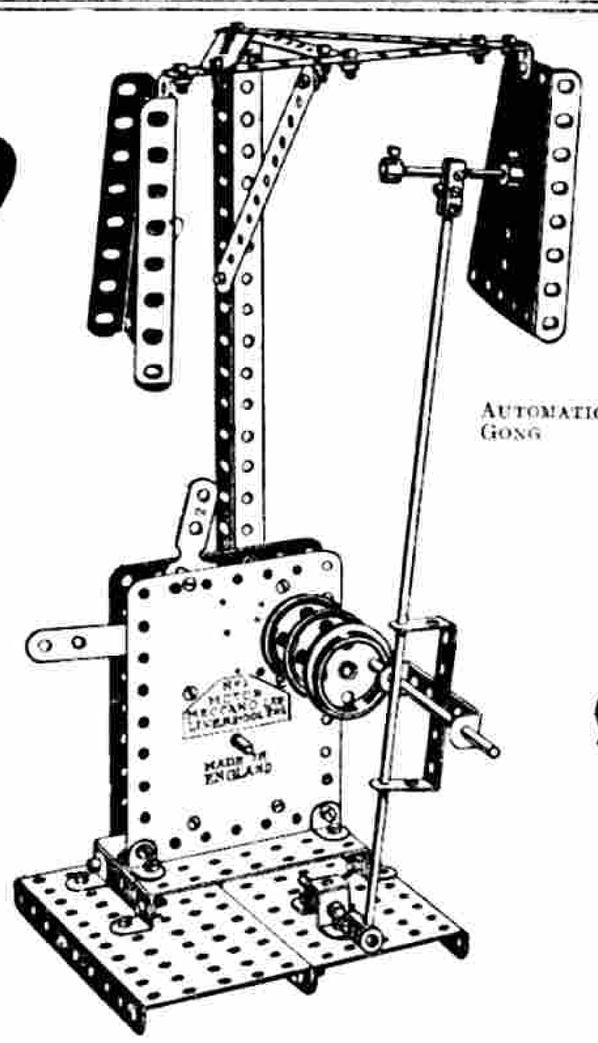
This is a perfectly designed motor which makes it possible for a boy to run his models continuously. Properly geared, it has enormous lifting power. It has the Meccano equidistant holes along the base and edges, and can be fitted into the Meccano models without difficulty. It is simple to use, and there is no danger whatever attached to it. It may be run with dry batteries, an accumulator, or direct from the home supply with a transformer. Where possible, we recommend that an accumulator be used giving four volts. This lasts for a long time, is very reliable, and can be easily recharged at small cost.

The motor is supplied in two patterns, one without reversing gear, costing 7s. 6d., and the other with reversing, stopping, and starting gear, costing 12s. 6d. Instructions go with each motor. Ask your dealer to show it to you.

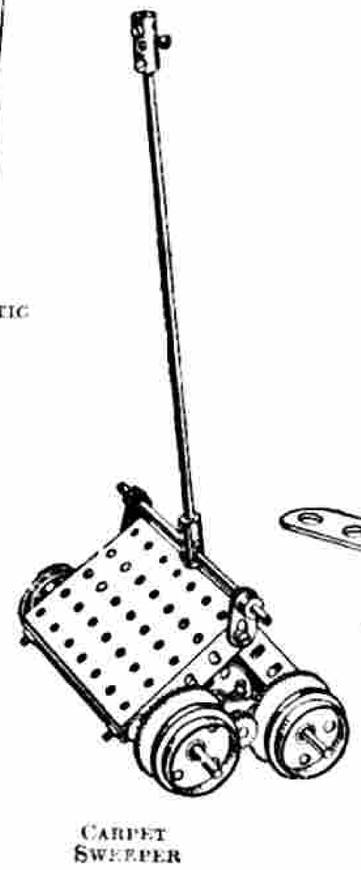
ecano Models

one of these models is a discoverer; h had never been done before. He alties, but he overcame them. Then ains, and after that he had the satis- del published here.

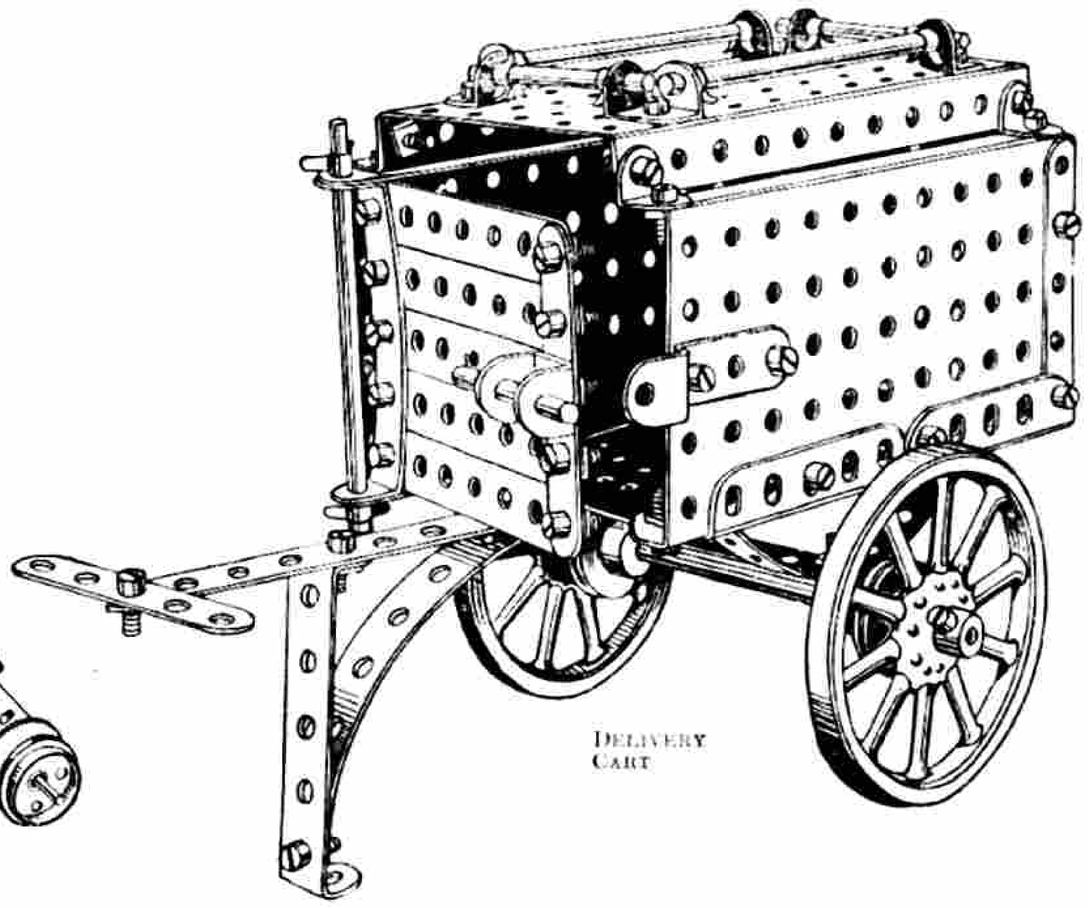
TIST'S IR



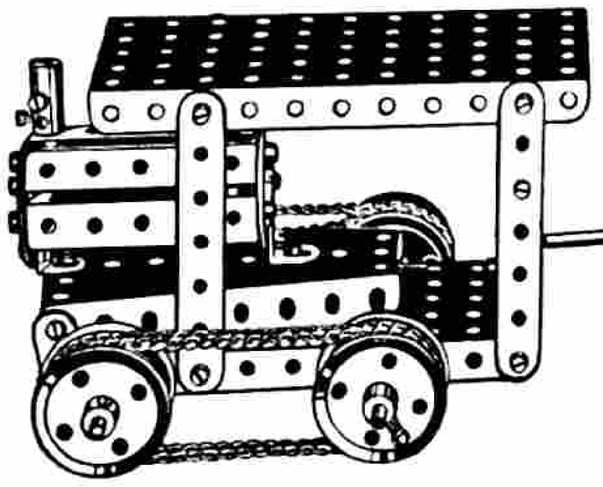
AUTOMATIC GONG

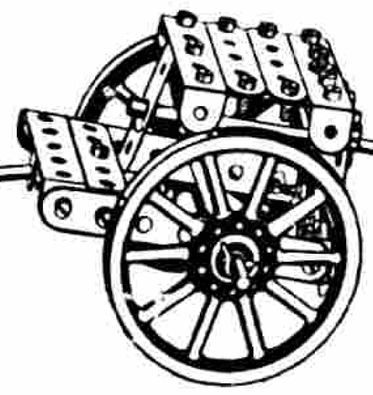


CARPET SWEEPER

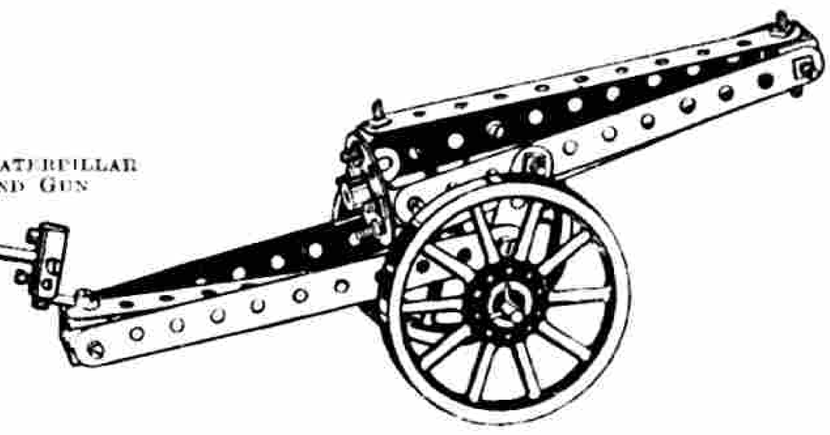


DELIVERY CART





CATERPILLAR AND GUN



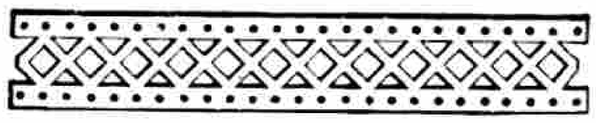
They are included in the new Manual of Instructions

A New

£200 PRIZE CONTEST

1st Prize £50 in Cash. 140 other prizes

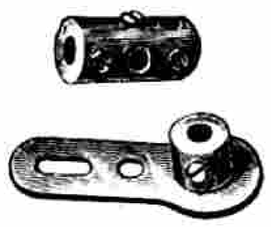
Another grand Meccano Contest has started, and we want every boy to have a try for one of the big money prizes. These contests help the Meccano fun along and make model-building worth while. If you invent something new you prove yourself to be an original thinker, and if there is merit in it you get well paid for your work. The first thing to do is to study all the models which you make from the Manual of Instructions, and think out improvements on them. This gets your brain at work on new ideas, and it is just those ideas which we want. If you are contented to simply copy the Meccano models as you see them, you will never be successful in inventing anything new. Get to work now. See what the other fellows have done in the last two big competitions, and then go to work on something better. Do not forget the entry form; your dealer will give you one or we will post one to you on request.



The Meccano Braced Girder

This is a new flexible girder enabling large constructional models to be built, such as bridges, elevators, towers, etc., and forming a most effective decoration for many of the smaller models. It is a perfectly designed part on the lines of actual girders used in building construction. It is sold in two sizes, 5½" costing 1s. per ½-doz., and 12½" costing 1s. 6d. per ½-doz.

The Meccano Crank and Coupling

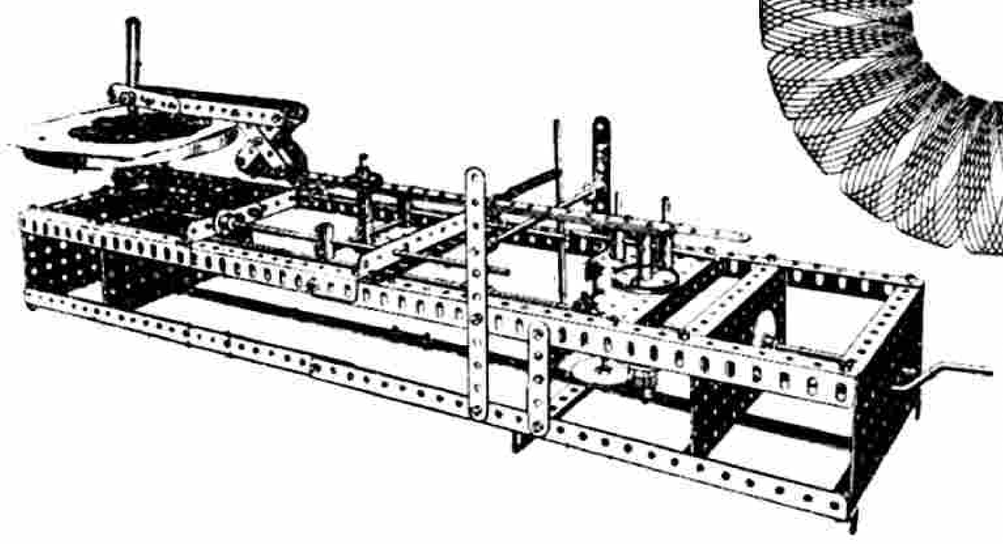


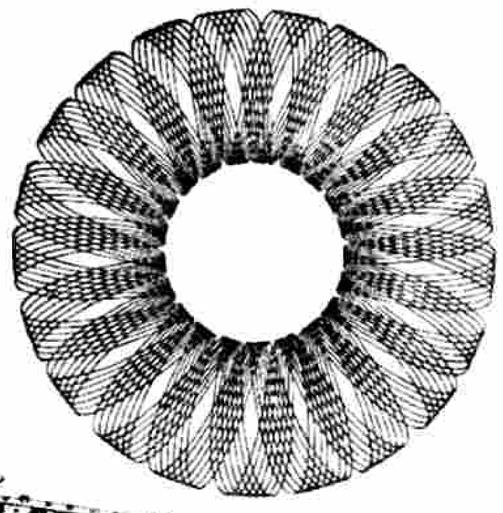
These are specially patented parts without which it is impossible to build many of the best Meccano models. They are perfect in design, and are adapted to hundreds of different uses. It is such parts as these which give Meccano its supreme position amongst constructional toys. New uses for them are being devised every day, and every Meccano boy should study them carefully. The cost of either crank or coupling is 6d.

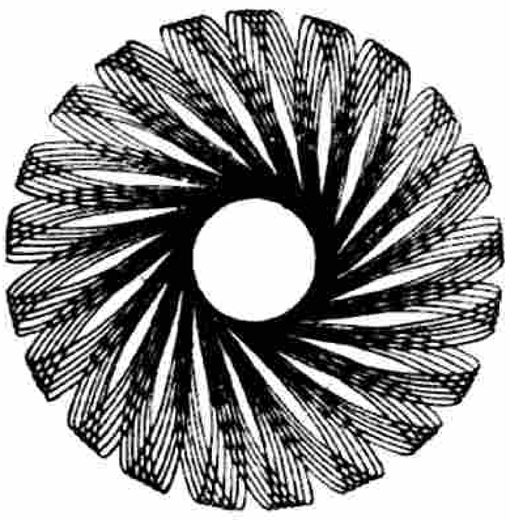
More Prizes for Meccano Boys

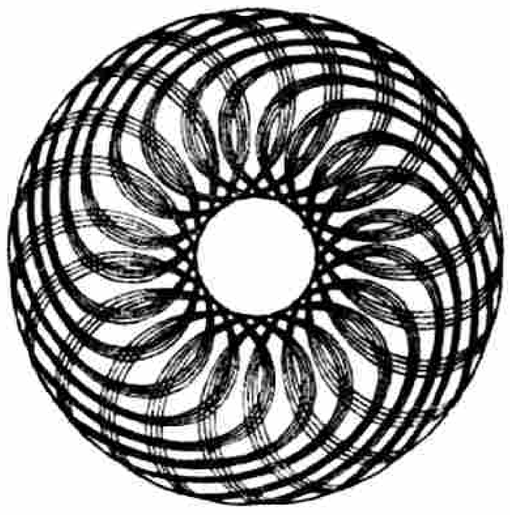
We often receive very interesting letters from enthusiastic boys telling us of the pleasure they derive from their Meccano outfits, and some of these letters show unusual literary merit. We now offer a prize of a No. 2 Meccano outfit for the best essay on "Meccano as a Toy," and a similar prize for the best essay on "Meccano as a help to the study of Engineering." The essays should not consist of more than 500 words, and must be received by us not later than January 1st, 1917. Any user of Meccano may try for these prizes.

The Meccanograph









These are a few of the wonderful designs which may be made with the Meccanograph. By simply altering the adjustments slightly, thousands of exquisite designs may be made, all different. There is no difficulty anywhere, and even a young boy can make the machine for himself and use it. It is only necessary to pin the paper on the table, place the pencil in the proper position, and turn the handle. The machine itself gives you the design. We ourselves are experimenting with this machine all the time, and we shall have further useful suggestions to make regarding it in the next issue of the *Meccano Magazine*. In the meantime, we offer a prize of a No. 3 Meccano Outfit for the best set of 12 designs made with the machine sent in to us before January 31st, 1917. Full instructions for building this model will be found in the new Meccano Manual of Instructions.

The Premier Toy

Every boy who takes up Meccano finds it the liveliest and finest hobby which ever brightened up his play hours. It gets hold of you. Once you take it up, you never drop it again. It takes for ever to do all the fine things possible with Meccano. Scores of boys who have had their outfits for many years write to us and say that Meccano is the only winter hobby really worth while.

When you are building a Meccano model, you feel all the while that you are getting somewhere, that you are doing something, and that you will have something to show when you are through. And, really, a finished Meccano model is a thing to be proud of. That isn't all, though. You know just how you feel after you have got through a game of football, or cricket, or had a round of golf. You know perfectly well that next time you can play a much better game. That's exactly how you feel about Meccano. You can always see how to improve on your work next time. The most perfect machine in the world can be improved upon, and the most perfect Meccano model can be bettered. And, do not forget that when you are improving a Meccano model you are inventing just as surely as the man who invented the motor-car or wireless telegraphy, or the telephone; and inventing pays these days. Scores of engineers and designers, architects and others, use Meccano in their business, and they tell us there is nothing so good for working out their ideas and inventions. The reason is that Meccano parts are just like parts of real machines, and they work beautifully together and give you all kinds of both simple and complicated movements. All the Meccano parts are called by their right engineering names, and you learn them off without any trouble. You come to know how big engineering feats are accomplished, and you take the biggest interest in them. Thousands of boys all over the world owe their success to the time they put in on Meccano, and whether you become an engineer or not a little sound knowledge of engineering and mechanical movements is always useful.

MECCANO

Gems from our Mail Bag

G. T., Torquay, writes: "My Meccano boy is immensely pleased with the Inventor's outfit, and we both think the Girder Strips are lovely. I don't suppose you ever get to know the ages of your many little engineers, but I often wonder if my son is one of the youngest? He is only seven, and has been a real keen—and more or less inventive—Meccano boy for two years. I can't tell you what a boon it is on wet days."

It is always specially gratifying to us to know that Meccano is giving pleasure to very young boys. We wonder if any of our readers can beat this record?—Ed.

N. L. J. writes us from Batavia, Illinois, U.S.A.: "It gives me pleasure to state that furnishing my son with his Meccano outfit we found to be one of the very best investments that we have been able to make for him. The only difficulty experienced is to get him away from his planning and work long enough to give him the necessary food and rest."

Yours is the kind of letter we like to receive, N. L. J. An eminent engineer once told us that he preferred to have Meccano boys in his office. They came to him fascinated with engineering problems, which was a good start, and they had also learnt habits of diligence and orderliness.—Ed.

W.K., of Walney, writes: "I am a user of Meccano, and I and all my pals say it is the best hobby a boy can have. One lad has a ——— outfit, and he says it is as good as Meccano. He nearly got mangled, and has a thick ear and a swelled nose, and went out of school on his neck."

We hope this gentle treatment convinced the erring one.—Ed.

M. A. L. writes from Tarquah: "With much regards to your Meccano book which I am saw in 'London Opion' to-day and it was very funny as you described to all the nations. Being that I am inced off, but I hope the discrition shall pay me or shows me the way of doing good and to leave in a good health and I beg to ask you too if ever you know somebody else called Astrologier. Please direct me their addresses but when something discurtion to me I has been lost all—but do not overcharged me for your Meccano Prizes. Yours newly customer a Trial."

You seem to be in a dreadful trouble, M. A. L. We wish we could help you.—Ed.

K. A., Alvechurch, writes: "I live well out in the country, and Meccano is my only amusement. I have had it about five years now, and in all the outfits I have not had one part that did not fit exactly. It is an ideal toy."

This is an excellent tribute to the thoroughness of our Inspection and Testing Departments.

Prices of Meccano

No.			
0	Outfit with full instructions for building		3/9
1	do.	do.	6/6
2	do.	do.	12/6
3	do.	do.	20/-
4	do.	do.	32/6
5	do.	do.	47/6
6	do.	do.	115/-

No. 6 in well-finished cabinet with lock and key

Accessory Outfits

No.							
0a	converting a	No. 0	into a	No. 1	..	3/3
1a	do.	do.	1	do.	2	..	7/-
2a	do.	do.	2	do.	3	..	8/-
3a	do.	do.	3	do.	4	..	13/6
4a	do.	do.	4	do.	5	..	14/-
5a	do.	do.	5	do.	6	..	37/6

Meccano Outfits with Electric Motors

These are the regular Meccano outfits with the Meccano Electric Motor added. Each one is a magnificent present for any boy.

No. 1x	with non-reversing motor	12/6
,, 2x	,, ,, ,,	18/6
,, 3x	,, reversing motor	30/-

Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional parts may also be purchased separately, at prices given in our published lists.

Remember that though boys play with Meccano for pleasure, and though they get more genuine fun from it than from any other toy, it also gives them a sound knowledge of engineering. Through playing with Meccano, many a bright boy has been started on a prosperous career in one of the most important and profitable professions—engineering and mechanics.

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VOL. 1. No. 2 NOV.-DEC., 1916

MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS

Editorial

Thanks, boys!

I want to thank all you boys who have written me such nice things about the first number of our Magazine. Many of your letters are replied to in this number, but I appreciate those which I have not been able to deal with just as much. Every letter which you send me is carefully read, and, if I think it will interest the other boys, it will be replied to in the Magazine.

The New Manual.

Every post brings me enthusiastic letters of praise for the splendid prize-winning models which the 1916 Manual contains. To get full value from his outfit every Meccano boy *must* have this Manual.

Secure your Meccano.

Do not put off buying Meccano this year. Owing to great scarcity of materials and labour, the supply is limited, and many boys are going to be disappointed, I am afraid. Buy early—that is the only way to be sure of your outfit.

Meccano and the Air Raids.

Did you notice how many of the daily papers referred to the resemblance between the Meccano parts and the constructive parts of the recently wrecked Zeppelins? We are told that one boy asked his father why the Government allowed the Germans to buy Meccano from us.

The New £200 Competition.

The new competition is going very strong and entries are beginning to flow in. Don't be afraid to send in your new ideas, even if you only have one of the lower-priced outfits. A small model, if it contains a novel idea, stands just as good a chance of winning a prize as a big one.

Meccano Cheers up the Prisoners of War.

We have sent over a number of Meccano Outfits to Prisoners of War in Germany. Time drags heavily with most of our poor fellows over there, and a number of them have asked us to send them a good outfit for the use of their camp. I shall have some very interesting things to tell you of these incidents a little later.

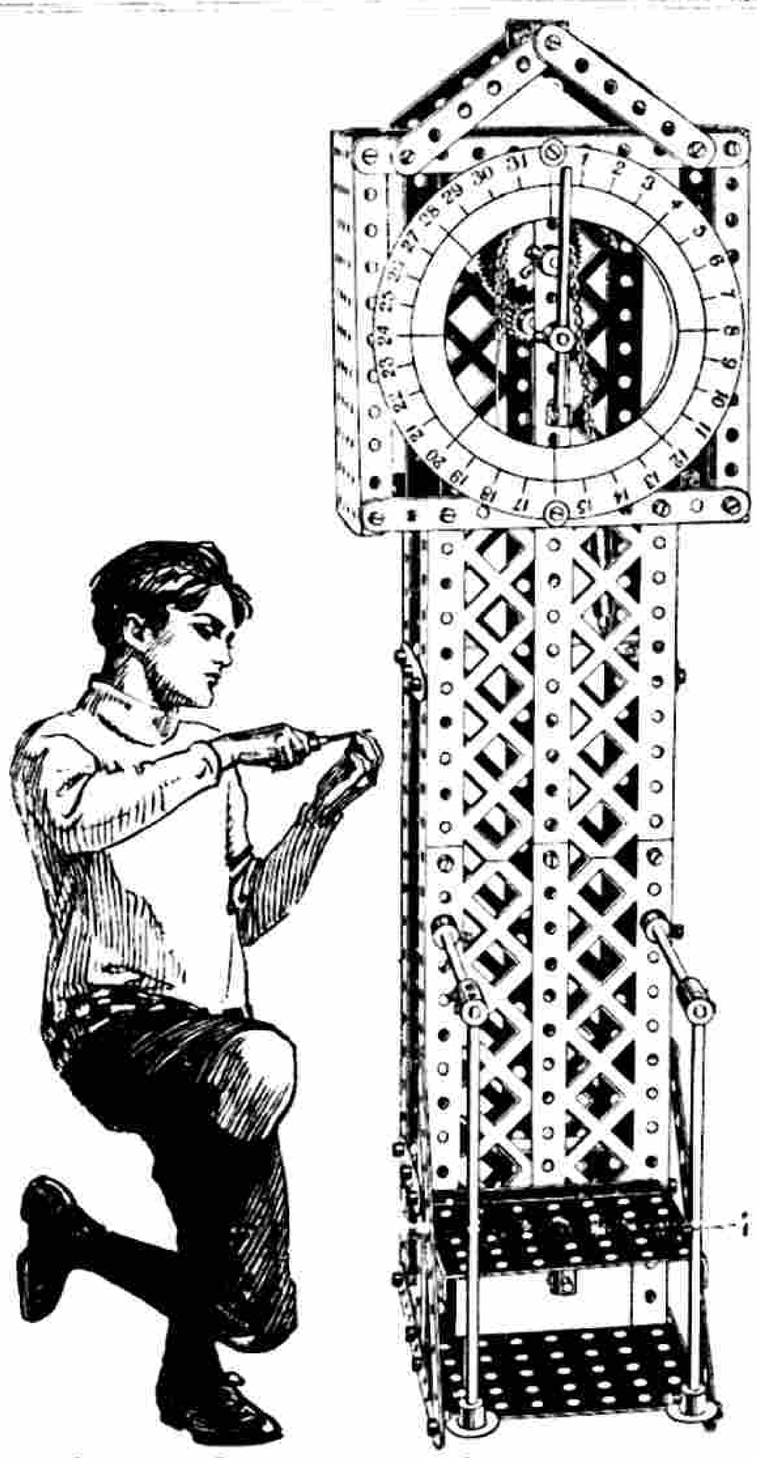
Boys who Hold the Record.

In our last issue I gave an instance of a boy of seven who had been a keen Meccano boy for two years. I have received a large number of letters from boys who tell me they commenced Meccano model-building at the age of 5, and now comes one from G. A., Rock Ferry, who says: "I think I can beat the record of G. T. I started Meccano when I was four, and I am now thirteen." That, I think, is a record which is not likely to be beaten. Perhaps some of the older Meccano boys will tell me how long they have been building with Meccano.

Novel Uses for Meccano.

The main purpose of the Meccano parts is of course to build working models, but I hear of many novel uses to which they have been put. The other day I saw a boy wheeling his little brother in a pram, the broken parts of which had been neatly repaired with Meccano strips. Certain Meccano parts have lately been used for a very serious purpose in connection with the war. I should like any of my readers who know of any strange or useful purposes to which Meccano has been applied, to write me.

The Editor



The Meccano Automatic Weighing Machine

This is a splendid new model, easy to make and most useful. The inventor, who is a very ingenious Meccano boy, was awarded a good prize for it in our last Grand Contest. The model can be scaled to weigh small parcels accurately. Full instructions for making it will be found in the New Meccano Manual.

More Prizes for Meccano Boys

We often receive very interesting letters from enthusiastic boys telling us of the pleasure they derive from their Meccano outfits, and some of these letters show unusual literary merit. We now offer a prize of a No. 2 Meccano outfit for the best essay on "Meccano as a Toy," and a similar prize for the best essay on "Meccano as a help to the study of Engineering." The essays should not consist of more than 500 words, and must be received by us not later than January 1st, 1917. Any user of Meccano may try for these prizes.

The following well-known publications are offering Meccano Outfits as prizes in the competitions which they are running this winter:—

"Pearson's Weekly," "Everywoman's Weekly," "The Scout," "Home Notes."

Some of you clever Meccano boys should have no difficulty in securing these outfits.

Our Next Issue.

A number of very interesting and useful articles on Meccano are crowded out of this number, and will have to be reserved for the next issue, which we hope to have ready early next year. Readers who desire to have the *Meccano Magazine* sent to them regularly should send us stamps to the value of 2d. to cover postage for the next four issues.

Meccano Fifteen Years Ago

By the Inventor of Meccano.

I suppose that to most of you boys, 15 years looks a very long time. Well, that's exactly how old Meccano is. I marketed it for the first time in 1901, under the name of "Mechanics Made Easy," and I can assure you that compared with Meccano of the present day it was a very crude article. There were no rectangular or sector plates, or cranks or couplings, and only a few patterns of wheels. The strips were made of tin and no attempt was made to display and box the parts as you see them nowadays. The foundation of the system was there, however, and has in no wise changed. The standardisation of the whole system, the equidistant holes, are the same now as they were then, and without these features the Meccano system would fall to pieces.

Experts who ought to have known, gentlemen who had sold toys all their lives, consulting engineers of some repute, whilst commending the idea assured me that the possibilities were so limited that the system would die an early death.

Still I pushed on, my greatest encouragement coming from boys like yourselves, strong sturdy boys, studious boys, weakly and ailing boys, who used to write and tell me how the hobby amused them, helped them, or relieved their dark hours of suffering I believed in my invention and felt that its development was certain, and dependent only on its merits becoming understood. I improved all the parts, devised new ones, had others suggested to me, and with these I invented new models and improved the old ones, and greatly enlarged the scope of the hobby.

This constant and steady improvement had a great effect on the minds of the sceptics who had at first prophesied disaster, and by degrees their voices were hushed and they ceased to shake their heads over what they considered my folly. Boys and parents had been my staunchest friends from the beginning, but now engineers began to give me encouragement and prophesy great things for Meccano.

Dealers in toys woke up to the fact that a new era in toys had commenced; that boys were no longer contented to play with something which gave pleasure for an hour and was then thrown away, or which broke even before it had ceased to have the power of giving pleasure; that boys had brains and could be interested in things which stimulated serious thought and which called forth powers of invention and ingenuity hitherto stifled for lack of an outlet. They commenced to study the hobby for themselves, and with study came appreciation. They became as eager as I was to get as much of it into British homes as they could, and as confident as I was that it would become part of the family life wherever there were boys in the home. All the leading dealers in London and in the Provinces co-operated with me in a manner which was most gratifying, to make Meccano as widely known as possible, and I number amongst my best friends many of the keen-brained men in this country who have built up successful toy businesses.

In future issues I hope to tell you some interesting things about our patents and registrations, how our Manuals have come to be improved so greatly, the wonderful evolution of

the models, and the still greater possibilities which the new Meccano parts have opened up. I want to tell you also of my experiences in advertising Meccano, how we came to know and use the wonderful boys whom you see so busily working at the models in our Magazine advertisements and in our booklets. I should like to take all Meccano boys through our manufacturing departments and show them the fascinating processes by which our raw materials are converted into the beautiful parts which they build with, but our factory, big as it is, would never hold them all. Still, I hope very shortly to tell you many interesting things about this side of our business.

Managing Director, Meccano Ltd.

The New Meccano Manual of Instructions

Have you secured your copy of this fine new Manual yet? No Meccano boy should be without it. It means happy evenings the entire winter through. If you were to commence now to make the 326 fine models which it contains, it would take you years to get through them. It establishes the superiority of Meccano once and for all, and it puts every other toy in the shade. It contains a large number of prize-winning models in the last two Meccano competitions, the work of boys, who have shown most extraordinary genius. It trebles the value of any outfit purchased last year or earlier. Get your copy at once from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty. Price, 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d., post free.

The "Evening News" says Meccano is First Favourite

In September this year the "London Evening News" offered prizes to its boy readers for a description of their favourite toys. The following extract from their issue of Sept. 30th shows what happened :—

To-day I am giving the result of the recent competition set for Section A, the members of which were asked to describe their favourite toys.

The prizes have been won by two boys, whose entries are most tidy, and the writing excellent in each case.

With few exceptions the favourite toy among boys is Meccano, with which the most wonderful toys may be constructed. I recently saw a fine bridge which opened, and a large windmill. I have also seen a crane.

So the first prize is awarded to a persevering nephew, Dennis Chaddock, who values his Meccano set more than anything else in the world. This is what he says :—

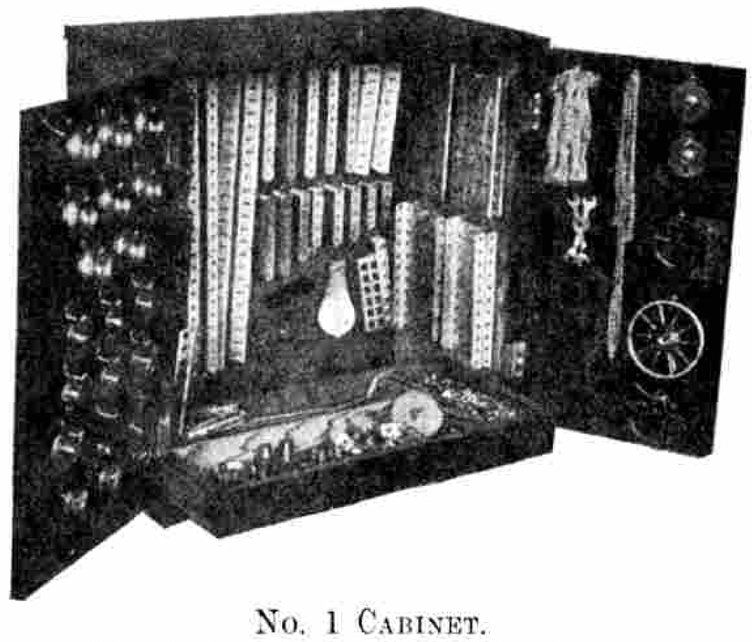
"My favourite toy is called Meccano, to build up real models and make them work. It is made of steel and brass, no wood. There are angle girders, steel plates, long and short strips, with holes in them to put nuts through and bolt them the other side.

"There are different sorts of wheels—flanged and grooved wheels, pulley wheels, worm wheels, and cog wheels of three sizes, contrate wheels, and bush wheels.

"A Meccano clockwork motor was given to me on my birthday to drive the models."

Meccano Storage Cabinets

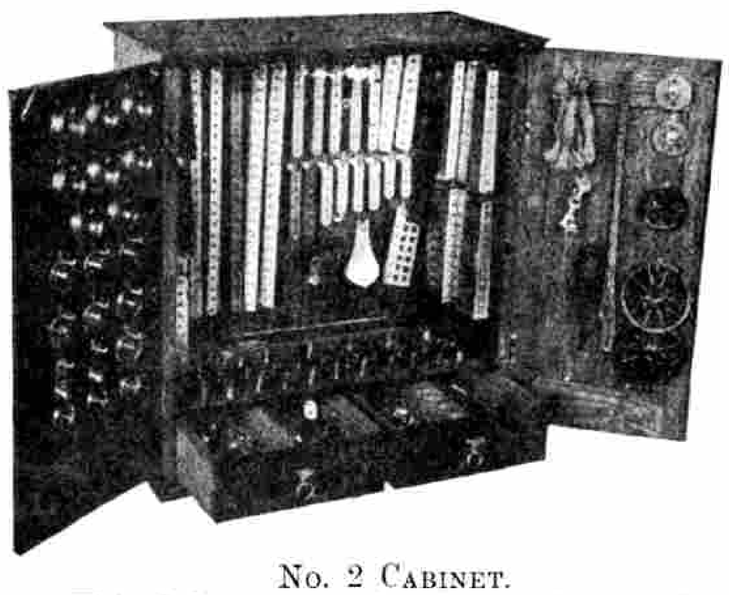
These are just what Meccano boys require to store their Meccano parts in when not in use. The cardboard boxes in which most of the outfits are supplied, whilst strongly made, will not bear hard usage, and, if they become damaged, the parts are liable to get scattered or lost. The Meccano Cabinets provide strong, orderly accommodation for good supplies of each part and add to the comfort and pleasure of model-building.



No. 1 Cabinet.

Splendidly made and finished in cypress, with accommodation for the contents of any outfit up to No. 6. There are suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, wheels, &c., and a sliding tray with divisions, to hold the smaller parts. The dimensions of this Cabinet are 16¼in. high by 16in. wide by 8in. deep. It is fitted with lever lock and key.

No. 1 Cabinet, 35s.



No. 2 Cabinet.

This Cabinet is made in oak, beautifully finished, and an ornament in any house. It stands 18in. high by 17in. wide by 8½in. deep, and is fitted with lever lock and key. It holds the contents of any outfit up to No. 6, with suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, &c., and studs for the wheels. There is good drawer space for the nuts and bolts and other small parts. This Cabinet, well stocked with parts, is something for the Meccano boy to be proud to possess. No. 2 Cabinet, 60s.

Our illustrations show the Cabinets stocked with Meccano parts, but of course these are not included in the prices given.

New Meccano Boys, Please Note

Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional parts may also be purchased separately, at prices given in our published lists.

Remember that though boys play with Meccano for pleasure, and though they get more genuine fun from it than from any other toy, it also gives them a sound knowledge of engineering. Through playing with Meccano, many a bright boy has been started on a prosperous career in one of the most important and profitable professions—engineering and mechanics.

Meccano in Other Lands

As our readers will readily believe, the distribution of Meccano amongst boys who reside abroad is fraught with great difficulties just now. Before the war, German and Austrian boys were very fond of Meccano, which they purchased in large quantities through our branch in Berlin. This business is all stopped now, of course, and we have information that the German Government have appropriated all our assets in that country. Our Berlin manager was interned in Ruhleben for 12 months, and was sent home as an invalid last December. That, however, is another and very interesting story, which we hope to tell you in a future issue. In the meantime, all business with enemy countries is at an end.

In France and Italy, in common with all toys, Meccano can only be imported after a special license has been granted. The boys in these and in all the allied countries are playing with Meccano in increasing numbers. The *Meccano Magazine* is published from our branch in Paris, and the letters we receive from boys on the Continent show us that they are second to none in their enthusiasm for Meccano.

Colonial boys are keen Meccano boys, and we export plenty of Meccano to them. They take the greatest interest in our new models, and are becoming formidable competitors in our Prize Contests. We get letters from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, where we have Meccano depôts; and in India and all the smaller Colonies Meccano fires the mind and brightens the play hours of thousands of boys.

The Neutral Countries have long succumbed to the fascination of Meccano, and in America, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark the demand grows greater year by year.

Meccano literature is published in fifteen languages, and there are seven distinct editions of our big Manual of Instructions, for various countries. Wherever there are civilised boys, there you will find Meccano. The little Dutch boy in his wide trousers and funny little wooden shoes is building windmills with Meccano after the pattern of those which make his country so quaint and picturesque; the little Chinese boy in pigtail and gown is fitting together his Meccano parts after the fashion of the wonderful pagodas which abound in his land; the American boy builds model skyscrapers, wonderful creations fitted with elevators to raise the passengers up to the dizzy heights. Boys in every land build models peculiar to their country, and all get their pleasure and fun from it in their own way.

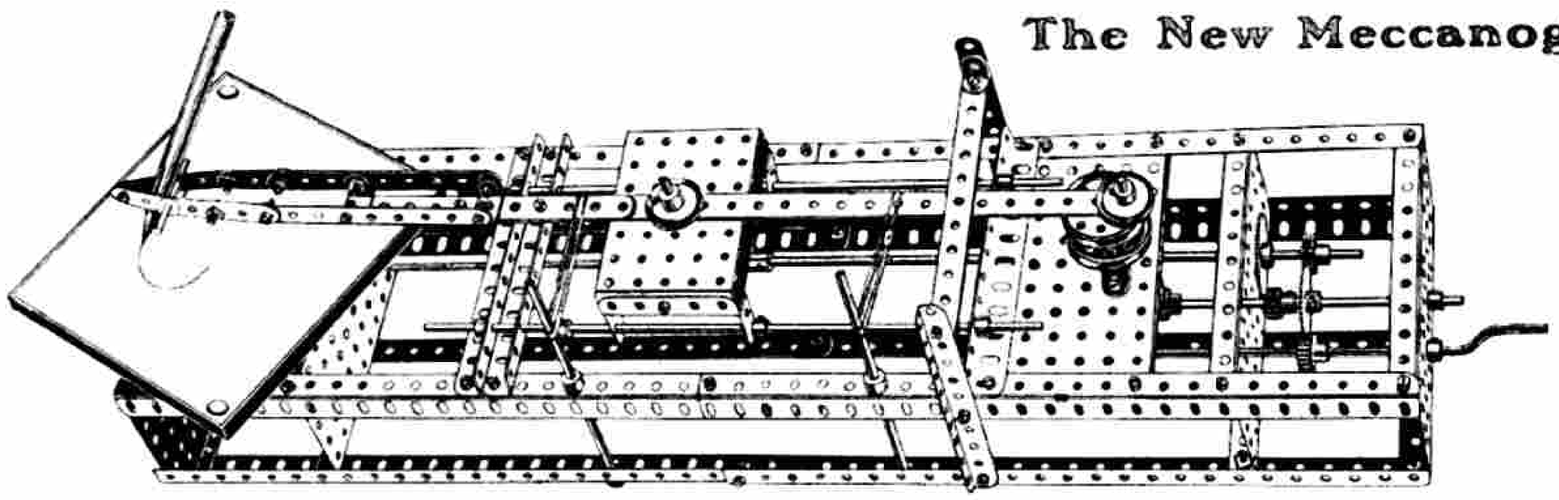
Meccano Sprocket Wheels and Chain

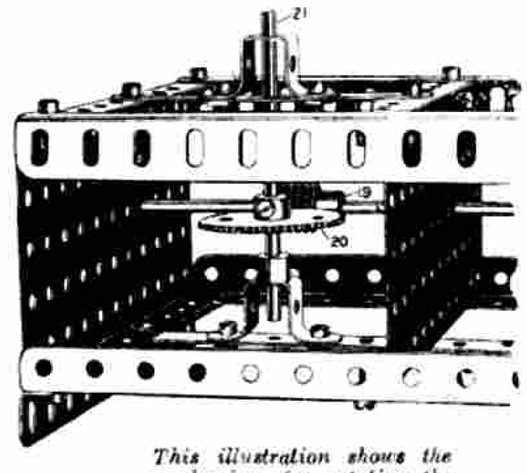
These are new Meccano parts which every boy will find useful. The old way was to use two pulley wheels with a cord. After a little use, the cord stretched a little and commenced to slip, causing the model to stop. By using the sprocket wheels and chain you get a positive drive without fear of slipping and the model runs with the greatest certainty. The cost of the 2in. sprocket wheels is 6d. each, and the 1in. wheels 4d. each. Sprocket Chain, 9d. per yard length.

A New Meccano Wheel

These are most useful when constructing Motor Cars, Trucks, Carriages of all kinds. They are 3in. in diameter, and they greatly improve the appearance and working of the models. Finished in black. Price, 1s. 4d. set of four.

The New Meccanograph



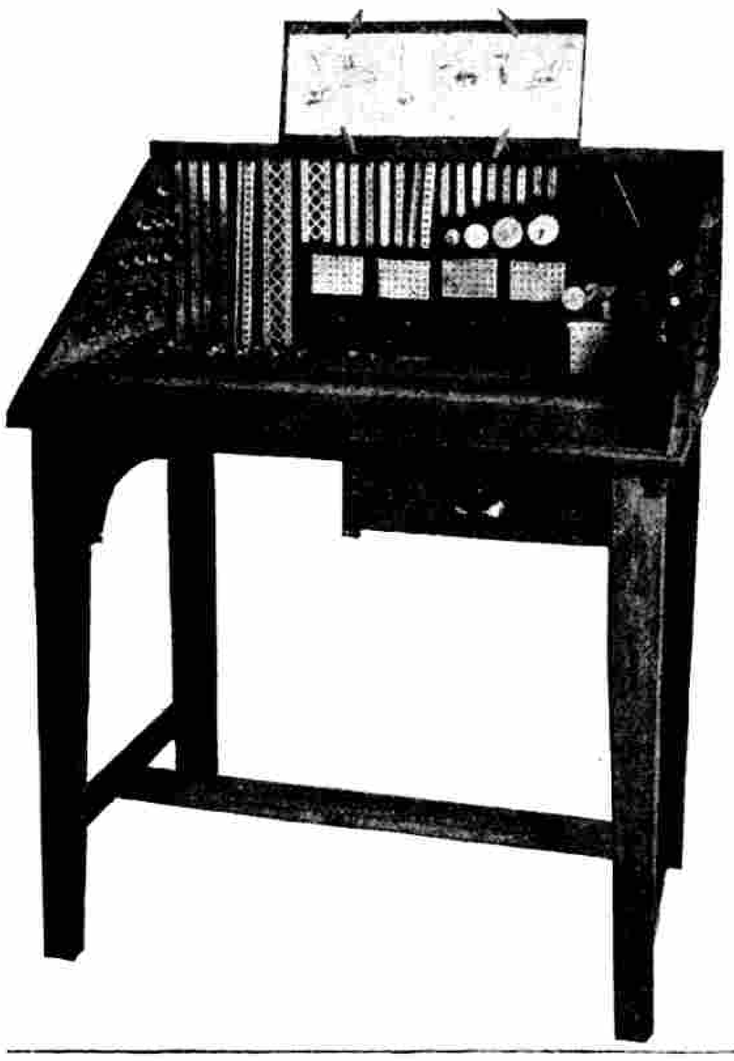


This illustration shows the mechanism for rotating the table.

As we hinted in our No. 1 issue, we have been devoting considerable attention to this model, as we consider it to be one of the very finest which Meccano makes. The model which is now illustrated is an improvement on the one in our Manual of Instructions, which it supersedes. We have endeavoured to show the construction as clearly as possible, and we do not think that any boy will experience difficulty in building it. Care should be taken to oil all the working parts and to see that the handle turns smoothly and easily. In making designs the best plan is to use a fine, hard, fountain pen, and good, hard, smooth paper. It will be noticed that elastic bands are used to hold the arm steady. These are necessary in a transverse movement of the arm. They also keep the arm steady in a slidable movement. A small weight placed on the arm just behind the pencil is also effective for this purpose.

Every Meccano boy should make and enjoy this model; the designs which it makes are beautiful and without limit. We are issuing a special Meccanograph Manual, which will be ready very shortly and which will show in detail the various types of designs obtainable, and how the Meccano standardised parts enable definite results to be obtained. The cost will be 6d. or 8d. post free. This should be ordered at once.

As already announced, we offer a prize of a No. 3 Meccano Outfit for the best set of 12 designs made with the Meccanograph sent in to us before January 31st, 1917. Mark envelopes "Meccanograph."



The Meccano Bench

This bench will be more than welcome to every Meccano boy who has accumulated a large number of Meccano parts. Each strip, plate, wheel, &c., has its proper place, and there are receptacles for the nuts and bolts and other small parts. The Manual is held conveniently for reference. Although there is ample room for making the biggest Meccano models, the bench is compact and does not take up a large space.

The measurements are 3ft. 10in. high (without Manual holder), 3ft. 2in. long, and 2ft. deep.

It is very strongly made of the best materials, and the finish is of the highest grade.

Price of bench (without parts) £5.

A New £200 PRIZE CONTEST

1st Prize £50 in Cash. 140 other prizes

Another grand Meccano Contest has started, and we want every boy to have a try for one of the big money prizes. These contests help the Meccano fun along and make model-building worth while. If you invent something new you prove yourself to be an original thinker, and if there is merit in it you get well paid for your work. The first thing to do is to study all the models which you make from the Manual of Instructions, and think out improvements on them. This gets your brain at work on new ideas, and it is just those ideas which we want. If you are contented to simply copy the Meccano models as you see them, you will never be successful in inventing anything new. Get to work now. See what the other fellows have done in the last two big competitions, and then go to work on something better. Do not forget the entry form; your dealer will give you one or we will post one to you on request.

Paragraphs which we want all Meccano Boys to Read

THE TEST OF SUCCESS. If you want to know whether you are destined to be a success or not, you can easily find out. The test is simple and infallible. Are you able to save money? If not, drop out. You will lose. You may think not, but you will lose as sure as fate, for the seed of success is not in you.—James J. Hill.

NEAR SUCCESS. It is the people who do a little more than others who walk away with the prizes In a competitive examination the marks of the two highest competitors differed by the fraction of one per cent. The winner was given a travelling scholarship, entitling him to a year in a foreign university with all expenses paid. The other got nothing.

Some people are fond of telling by what a narrow margin they have missed success, and if they get any consolation out of the practice they should take it, for that is all they do get. To come near to succeeding is only failure, after all. —"Young People's Weekly."

Chaff

The Editor of the *Meccano Engineer*, the American edition of the *M. M.*, when writing us of some of his experiences recently, says:—

The other morning we handed to our shiny-faced negro messenger two bottles of gum to try out. "Here, John," we said, "try these and see which is the stickiest!"

John did not show up at the office again till next day. He approached our desk, and gingerly deposited thereon the two bottles of mucilage.

"Well, John," we asked, "which did you find the stickiest?"

"It wuz lak dis, boss," was the reply. "Dis one gummed up my mouf de most; but de other one, de taste lasted de longest."

And that reminds us that once when we were taking a walk through a very small village in Kentucky, we dropped across an old negro who was fishing with a rod and line in a pool of water in the middle of the road. We said to him: "You won't catch any fish there, Jake."

"Ah know dat, boss."

"Why, that's only a pool of water left there by the rain this morning."

"Ah know dat too, boss."

"Then what are you fishing there for?"

"Well, it's lak dis, boss. I'se jes showing my old woman dat ah ain't got no time to tu'n de mangle."

OUR MAIL BAG

The Editor has a little talk in this column with his Meccano boys. Whether he has space to reply to them all here or not, he is always glad to hear from them. He receives hundreds of letters each day, and only those which deal with matters which are likely to interest other Meccano boys can be dealt with here.

Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write on one side of the paper only.

B. M. A.—Thanks for your interesting letter. We look upon you as an old friend. Very pleased to note that after so many years you are keener than ever.

J. A. J., Walthamstow.—Pleased to hear that your teacher thinks Meccano better for demonstrating than the school apparatus, and that you enjoy your science lessons so much.

W. J., Briton Ferry.—"The *M. M.* is a paper to be proud of."—And so say all of us. Good luck to all the Meccano boys in Briton Ferry.

W. F. N., B.Sc., Forest Hill.—Glad to hear that Meccano has been such a help and an economy to you in designing new machinery. We hope your boy will follow in his father's footsteps. If he can build models at four years of age he promises well. Your praise for Meccano is greatly appreciated.

G. H., Richmond.—That's right; write us occasionally and let us know how you are progressing. The word "Meccano" is our registered trade mark. Our Meccano boy in the check jersey is just a sturdy British boy who helps us to make Meccano known to all you other boys.

P. D., Ashford.—Send on your book of inventions to us whenever you like; we shall be glad to see it. Each model sent in for competition should be accompanied by a separate entry form.

R. B. L., Eastbourne.—*All* Meccano boys are "our most welcome friends." There are hundreds of thousands of you.

A. D. R., Kirkcaldy.—Why be disheartened because you did not win a prize in the last contest? That is not the British spirit. Come, come, A. D. R., we shall expect another effort from you.

A. R. D., Blackburn.—You seem very anxious about our health. Yes, we have heard that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away," and we believe it. We have also heard that "an onion a day keeps everybody away," and we believe that also. We will take care of ourselves, A. R. D.

A. D. K.—The word Meccano should be pronounced with the "a" broad, as in father. You will receive your entry form by post.

Val Dack.—Sorry we made such a mistake. Next time we will call you "Miss." We always extend a cordial welcome to Meccano girls.

S. D. O., Kentish Town.—Pleased to hear you find the *M. M.* "perfectly ripping." For pronunciation see reply to A. D. K.

J. F. S., Birmingham.—Prize list sent to you by post. We *may* enlarge the *M. M.* a little later. Your remarks about the clergyman who is so fond of Meccano are very interesting.

H. C. C., West Kensington.—Very interested in knowing how you boys get up every morning at 5-30 to make models. Your "tip" to oil the spindles and gear wheels of the motor is a useful one.

C. D. R., Ipswich.—Your brother *must* be fond of Meccano if he makes a saint of it. Hope he is better now. Good luck to you both.

L. V., Manchester.—Your suggestion for a Meccano Correspondence Club is noted. We have a scheme along these lines under consideration.

A. R., Stroud Green.—Glad to have you say "the *Meccano Magazine* is a jolly fine idea." It's jolly fine of you to say so. Best wishes for a quick recovery.

H. H., York.—Every boy stands an equal chance in the prize competition. Any model which shows merit is sure of a prize. Your friend was wrong, and you were quite right.

J. E., Denton.—"I had a shot at your last competition, but drew a blank; however, I see where I failed, and intend to try again."—That's the spirit, J. E. Robert Bruce's spider figured it out in just the same way.

T. E. B., Barrow.—It is always a pleasure to have such a nice letter as yours from parents. Hope your son will win a prize.

L. T., Alderley Edge.—You shall hear all about those early struggling days. Watch the next few issues.

O. E. K., Boston, Lincs.—"The other night I was playing with Meccano and a knock came to the door. A voice said 'All lights out!' which means that there is a Zeppelin raid on. It was a great nuisance to have to put away my Meccano because of the Germans. Our form had for an essay 'Your favourite toy.' All the boys (15 in number) except two wrote about 'Meccano.'"—We have read your interesting letter several times. Write us again.

C. S., Shoreditch.—If you have been using Meccano since 1901 you must be one of our oldest Meccano boys. I note that you saw a soldier with his broken ankle bound up with Meccano strips. Many are the uses to which they have been put, from stirring tea to spanking naughty children.

W. K. J., Cambridge.—If your wishes bear fruit we have a very prosperous career before us. Thanks for suggestion re pawl. This will be kept in mind.

F. G. P., Dublin.—We wouldn't breathe a word to a soul about your trouble. Still the price is low, and think of the wonderful value you will get. Write again.

W. B., Battersea.—Your letter makes us blush. We are glad to know that Meccano gives such pleasure to yourself and your friends.

G. S., Richmond.—"I find that vaseline is a very good thing to clean Meccano parts with; it stops the rust."—Other Meccano boys please note!

J. P., Brixton Hill.—We like your letter and note your appreciation of the No. 0 Outfit. No boy need hesitate because he can only afford a No. 0 or a No. 1. With the No. 0 he can build 78 models, and with the No. 1, 105 models, each one excellent, and capable of giving hours of play.

W. H. V. D., Worcester.—Your suggestions all seem practical, and are welcome. We will consider them very carefully. In filling in your entry form it will be sufficient for you to say that you have a No. 0 with additional parts.

Henry, Kent.—"Meccano is lovely on rainy days."—How about the other days, Henry, and the dark Zeppelin nights?

G. A., Beckenham.—Do not worry about the danger of the *M. M.* going under because of the shortage of paper. We will publish it if we have to use tissue paper.

W. L. C., Walton.—"I often feel sorry for the boys who do not know of the pleasure and fun afforded by Meccano."—They do miss a big lot, W. L. C., but they are all coming in by degrees.

J. B. H., Barnard Castle.—"The *Meccano Magazine* is just what is needed to make all Meccano boys feel like a sort of brotherhood, all interested in a real good means of learning and having ripping fun."—We could not have expressed it better ourselves.

W. S., Nelson.—Mention the matter to your father. He knows Father Christmas, and a hint from him would go a long way. Don't stay up late at night again, even to read the *M. M.*

S. M., Kensington.—Because another boy told you he had an outfit which beat Meccano hollow, you "beat him hollow with a black eye." You are hereby appointed Meccano light-weight champion of Kensington.

C. S., Belvedere.—Thanks for very nice letter. You will be even more interested in future articles by Frank Hornby. A more absorbing story of early struggling days was never written.

E. H. M., Birmingham.—Glad to know that Meccano is "an endless source of pleasure and instruction" to yourself as well as to your boy. Spend an hour with the Meccanograph, and then write us again.

H. S., Johnstown.—"When I came here none of the lads had heard of Meccano, but I've wakened them up."—We have thousands of friends just like you, H. S., and you occupy the warmest spot in our heart.

T. R., Matlock Bath.—"I am very pleased to be remembered by you and it plainly shows what a jolly good pal you are to all Meccano boys throughout the world."—We shall try to live up to this very flattering description.

S. P., Hawarden.—Your statement that yourself and your father made "thousands of models" with Meccano is a tall one, but we believe you. Thanks for your gear-wheel suggestion, which will be considered.

Hy. P., Dalston.—"My daddy bought me a Meccano for a present. On looking at the lid I notice that the little boy's hair is parted on the wrong side."—You have put us in a corner, Henry. We have looked in the mirror but this has given us no help. Our parting commences just over the left ear and finishes just over the right. Our artist is coming round to see us next week, and if you will keep quite still you will hear the thud from where you are.

C. J. S., Bletchingley.—Your foreman was evidently impressed with your knowledge of engineering. Glad Meccano has been such a help to you. Thanks for good wishes.

B. B., Shrewsbury (Miss).—We welcome you as a reader of the *M. M.* and a Meccano devotee. Thousands of girls get as much pleasure from Meccano as the keenest boy. Write us again soon.

W. P., Brightlingsea.—There are many Meccano Clubs throughout the country, and we are arranging a scheme for each of these to get the benefit of the others' labours. Let us know how you run your club, what rules you have, and how often you meet.

S. C., Norwich.—The increase in the price of the Manual is of course due to the enormous increases in the prices of paper and printing. Unfortunately, these prices are going up all the time, due largely to the restrictions on the import of paper, as you suggest.

R. C., Kelvedon.—Your friend will have received the *M. M.* by now. We hope your daddy will soon be safely back again helping you to build more models. Please send our best wishes to him.

E. M., Glasgow.—"My father bought me a No. 1 outfit when I was three years and two months old, and he said it was a sight for sore eyes to see my grandfather, nearly 70 years old, and I, making the Telpher Span, and enjoying it."—We should think so indeed. We are glad to know that after eight years of model building you are a keener Meccano boy than ever.

S. S., Southampton.—You say you know that it would be a "great trouble" to us to bring out a magazine for each Meccano outfit. It would be worse than that, S. S. For you even to suggest such a thing is unkind.

D. P., Harold Wood.—It is impossible to publish full instructions for building models in the *M. M.* Why not get a new Manual?

J. C., Middleton.—Don't worry beause you are only a little Meccano boy. All little Meccano boys grow into big useful Meccano boys.

W. P., Horwich.—Thanks for your good wishes which you have expressed so nicely. We may increase the size of the *M. M.* later, but, apart from other considerations, the present paper restrictions make things difficult, as you most thoughtfully point out.

E. T., Manchester.—"I got a No. 1 Meccano Outfit for last Christmas, and Christmas Day was a day of pleasure for dad and I."—Meccano has brought a merry Christmas to many thousands of boys in past years, and will gladden many a young heart this coming Christmas Day.

J. E., Penzance.—"I purchased a No. 2 Meccano for my little boy about two years ago, and I can honestly say I have never spent money to better advantage. It has been the means of bringing him untold hours of delight, in which I have often participated."—In our advertisements we used to say "You buy it for your boy and you play with it yourself," but what brings most happiness to us is the knowledge that Meccano, in countless instances, such as your own, brings father and son together in affectionate co-operation.

Letters from Meccano Boys

We receive many very fine letters from Meccano boys, and as we believe that some of them would interest our readers, we propose printing them in the *Meccano Magazine* occasionally. Below we give two which have recently been addressed to us. One is in French from a successful competitor in our last contest, and we hope many of our boys will find pleasure in translating it.

Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital,
Alton.

Dear Sir,—I am a cripple, and have spent four years on my back. For two years I have had a Meccano, from which I and the other boys have had fun and amusement, and the boys often say to me they wish they had a big Meccano like I have got. A little time ago I made a Roundabout. It was my idea, and Sir William Treloar came round the wards and he saw my model. At first he did not believe that I made it, but after he was so pleased that he shook hands with me and congratulated me. Ever since then I have felt more pleased with myself for being a Meccano boy and to be able to shake hands with Sir William Treloar. My father came a little time ago to see me, and he never knew I had a Meccano till then, and when he saw a model I made he told me not to give it away and I am sure I will not, because I like it so much. I like the new girders very much, and the models look much better with them. I cannot write very well as I am on my back, so I hope you don't mind. Will you please tell me when results come out?—Yours truly,

P. SINGER.

Pertius du Sault,
Neuchatel,
Suisse.

Monsieur,—Si vous saviez avec quelle joie j'ai reçu votre lettre et votre cheque; je vous en remercie infiniment. Ce prix m'encourage énormément; et j'ai deja commencé les plans d'une nouvelle construction pour le prochain concours. Mon petit frère s'intéresse aussi beaucoup en Meccano, donc vous voyez ce que le Meccano est pour nous le plus beau de nos jeux.

Mes parents m'avaient conseillé de m'acheter une bicyclette avec mon prix mais j'ai préféré la boîte Meccano No. 6 que je desirais depuis longtemps.

Pouriez-vous, s'il vous plait monsieur, m'envoyer quand il aura paru le livre du concours 1915/16 contre remboursement, j'aimerais beaucoup l'avoir.

Recevez, monsieur, mes sincères salutations et encore tous mes remerciements et ceux de mes parents, votre reconnaissant.

PIERRE ATTINGER.

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