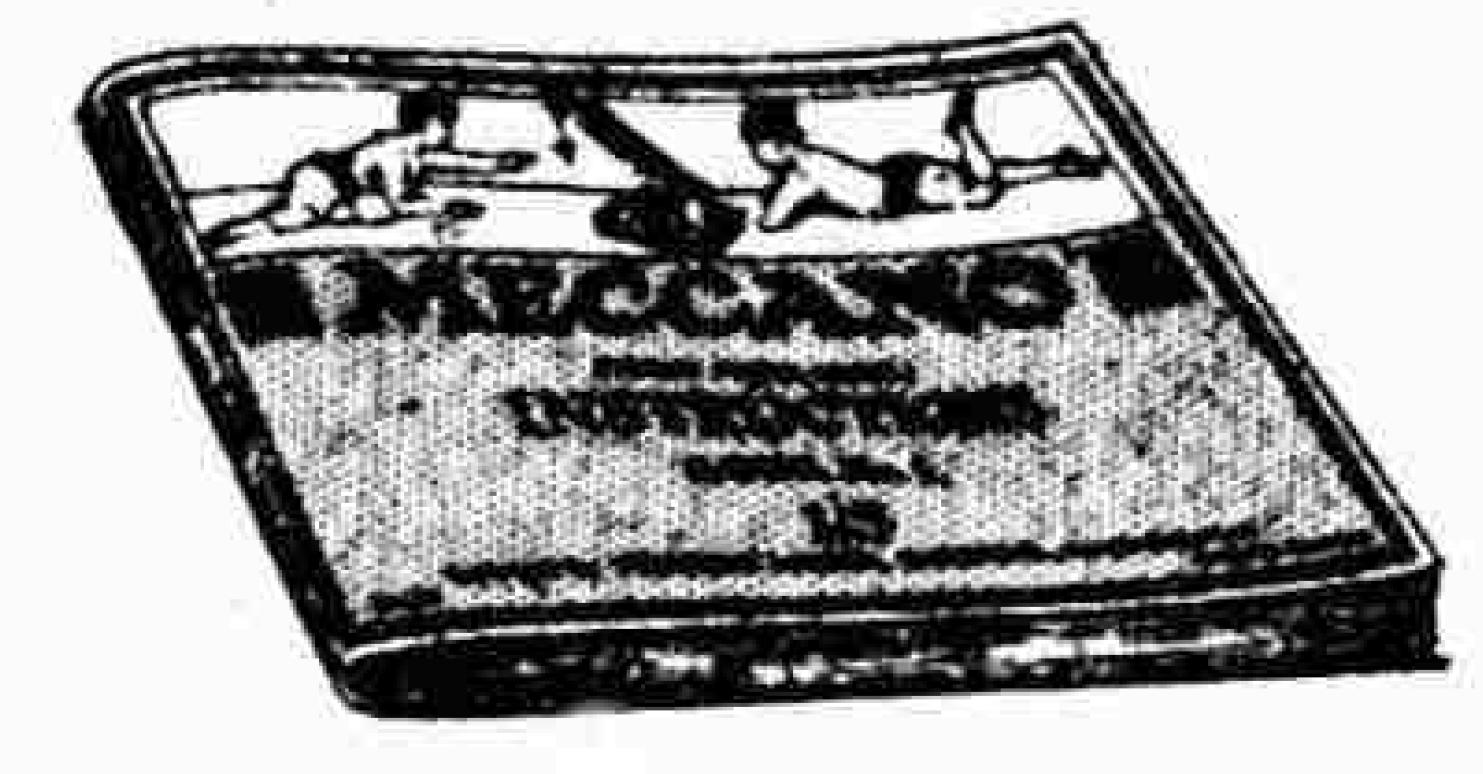
# MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



## 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.

## How to get the Meccano Magazine Regularly

Under the new Government regulations we are unable to send the "Meccano Magazine" to any one except those who directly apply to us for it. If, therefore, you wish to become a reader of the M.M. it will be necessary for you to forward to us a request for it to be sent to you regularly, accompanied by 2d. in stamps for postage on the next four issues. A double subscription of 4d. will, of course, ensure the next eight numbers being sent to you.

SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

AT ONCE TO

PREVENT DISAPPOINTMENT

# The Life Story of Meccano

By Frank Hornby.
(Continued.)

Over and over again I had read of the early struggles of other inventors to obtain recognition. I knew that in days gone by many inventions which had ultimately proved to be of the greatest benefit to mankind had at first been received coldly and even scornfully, and that the inventors had only triumphed after years of endeavour, their spirits and determination held up all the while by the abiding faith which they had in their work.

Such was the faith which I had in my own work, and I vowed that nothing should stand in the way of the success of my invention. Day and night I worked to improve the finish and design of Meccano parts and the number and variety of models which they would make.

You must remember that Meccano in those days was nothing like the finished product which you see now, and it was then only possible to make up a very limited number of models.

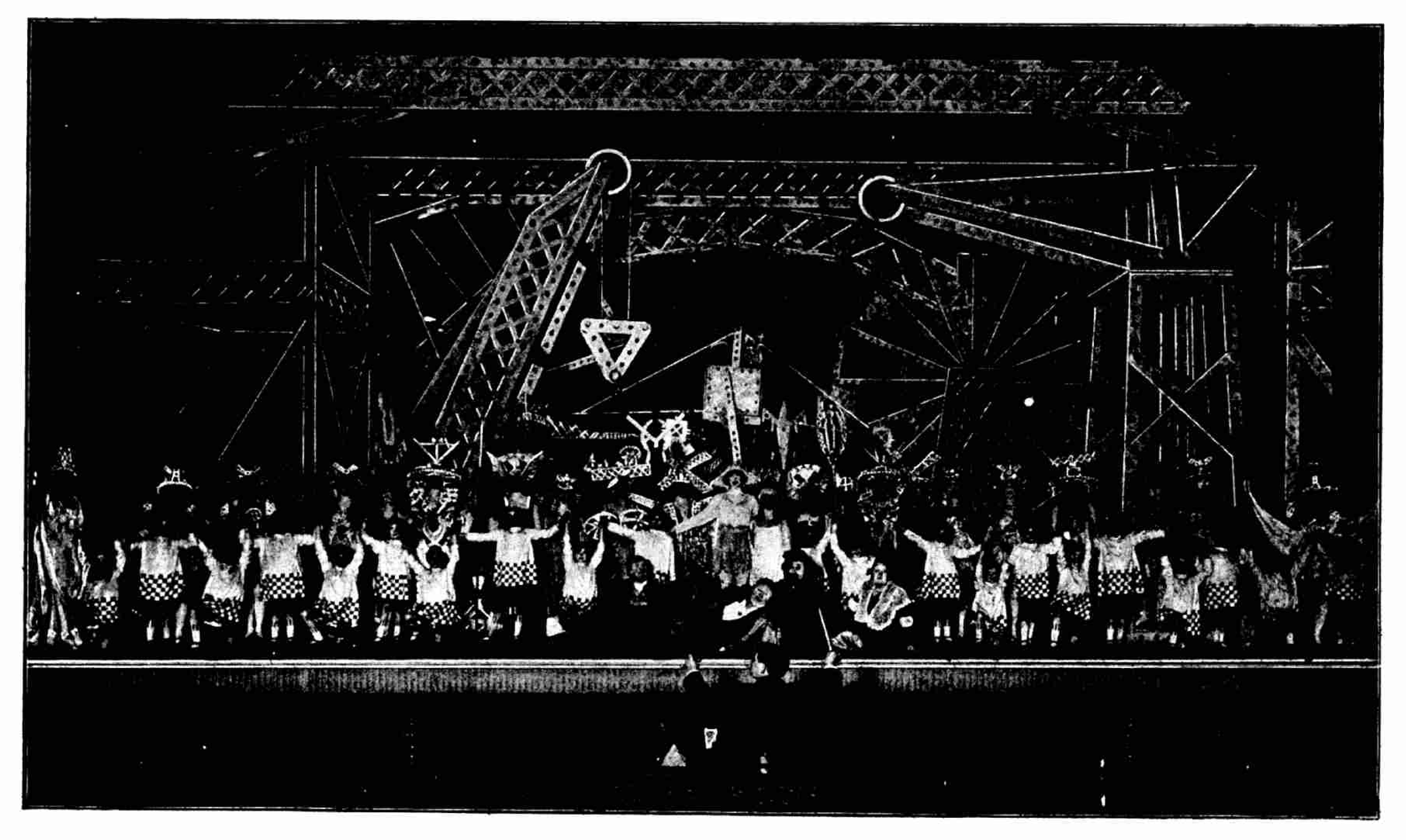
I had no cranks or couplings, flanged rectangular and sector plates, or any of the valuable patented parts which I have since introduced, and which have made Meccano model building so delightfully easy. The strips were made of tin with the edges turned over and the ends left square. Many older boys will remember these strips, and I have no doubt that large numbers of them are still in use. Sometimes I hear from an old Meccano boy who still possesses and treasures one of these early outfits, and my heart goes out to him as an old and tried friend of Meccano. I had all my wheels made of brass which were first cast in moulds and then turned, but they were nowhere near the standard of the highly finished and beautiful Meccano wheels of the present day.

There were 15 separate parts in the whole of the Meccano system in those days, and you may judge from this how difficult it was to obtain any kind of elaborate mechanism. At the present time there are 75 separate parts in the system with more being added to their number all the time.

I should like you boys to see my first Manual of Instructions, a copy of which lies before me as I write. It consisted of 18 pages, and contained illustrations of 12 models, all of them now obsolete with the exception of a Travelling Jib Crane, which is now illustrated on page 28 of our big 140-page Manual of Instructions—Model No. 110—one of the most popular models which we have ever introduced. I have an affection for this old model because it is a real good one, and because it has accompanied Meccano right through its career.

The illustrations in my first manual were from half-tone blocks, and were, of course, nothing like so clear as the illustrations in our later manuals, which are produced by a beautiful process which has now reached a high pitch of perfection. Still, the half-tone blocks answered their purpose, and gave a perfectly clear idea how to build the models.

(To be continued.)



## Meccanoland. A Wonderful Pantomime Scene

In our last number we told you of the big Meccanoland scene which was to be the feature of the "Babes in the Wood" pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester. The pantomime was produced on December 22nd, and the Meccanoland scene was an instant success. The inventor of Meccano and the editor of the "Meccano Magazine" inade a trip to Manchester recently, and helped to pack the Palace Theatre to its full capacity. A large number of Meccano boys had written to us that it was the best pantomime they have ever seen, and we are quite in agreement with them. It was brimful of fun and beautiful scenery, and we enjoyed every minute of it. When the curtain went up on the Meccanoland scene, we were as delighted as boys, and we applauded as loudly as anybody. No one knew who we were so it did not matter. Just try to imagine those great Meccano models with the strips and wheels shining like burnished silver and gold, the Cranes and the Big Wheel and the Windmill all working, and the delightful little Meccano boys in their check jerseys working at the models with giant screwdrivers.

The Meccanoland scene is a blaze of beautiful colourings, to which our photograph does but poor justice. Each member of the chorus wore a head-dress on which was mounted a representation of some Meccano model in silver or gold, and on their bright-coloured cloaks were reproductions of Meccano models and parts. It was a wonderful scene, and the applause from the audience was just as wonderful and pleasurable to us. After the fall of the curtain we were taken round to the back of the stage, where Wee Georgie Wood gave us a great welcome in his dressing-room. We had a talk with his mother, who takes care of him and is very proud of him. We were introduced to some of the principal members of the company, Miss Dorothy Ward, Miss Hilda Glyder, Miss Annie Rooney, Mr. Shaun Glenville, Mr. Ernie Mayne, Mr. Jack Cosgrove, and Mr. Arthur Reece, all of whom seemed to know Meccano intimately and to be highly delighted at the success of the Meccanoland scene. We arranged to have a photograph taken of the scene at the end of the performance, and the stage managers and scene-shifters got to work with a will the moment the audience were out of the theatre.

The entire company took the greatest interest in the photograph, and they all worked hard to make it successful. It was very delightful to see the principal artistes arranging and re-arranging the little Meccano boys so that they might come out well in the photograph. This is always a trying business for children, but the little ones were handled so gently and had such good fun that a successful picture was secured in record time.

We wish we could tell you more of our experiences, but space does not permit. Before we left, Wee Georgie Wood promised to write us an account of the Meccanoland scene, and although he is leading a very busy life, giving two full performances a day, with a little food and sleep pushed in where he can, he has been able to send us a short article, which we are printing on this page. Wee Georgie Wood is a Meccano boy himself, and he assured us of the great big interest he feels in all other Meccano boys. We hope to arrange for him to contribute frequently to the columns of the "Meccano Magazine."

## A Letter from WEE GEORGIE WOOD to Meccano Boys.

Dear Meccano Boys,

Last time I wrote for the "Meccano Magazine" I said I would tell you all about the wonderful models we have in the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester—"The Babes in the Wood." I don't think I need do that, because you can see them on the photograph, although they are much more beautiful than any photograph could make them. Therefore, I content myself by explaining the action of the scene.

The Babes are brought out of the woods by good Fairy Joy and taken through Pixie-land to a land of Glant Meccano models. Here we see all the happy little Meccano boys in their familiar check jerseys; we are introduced to the sturdy Captain of the Screwdrivers, who calls upon Father Christmas to show us this wonderful place. The Babes take the journey in a Meccano Motor-car but are followed by the wicked robbers. Robin Hood has them arrested and put away with the spare parts, then arranges for them to get away in a Meccano Aeroplane. The Aeroplane ascends, two massive Cranes start working, a Flip-flap starts working, the Big Wheel goes round, there is a whirling Windmill, and all the inhabitants of Meccanoland turn out; there is singing and dancing and general merriment whilst the Babes fly to safety, and everything ends happily.

All the models are built to scale, and it takes 15 men to keep them working.

The Aeroplane is taken up by means of wires worked by three men, whilst Reggie (that's me) turns a handle to work the propeller. There is a story attached to this: one day I could not get the handle to turn, so the propeller would not work; however, the three men pulled us safely up in the direction of the sky. We had just got to the part when there is a lull in the proceedings, and we heard a small voice from the audience chirp out: "Father, it is not working properly, why don't they have an electric Meccano motor?" I thought it would take a pretty good-sized one. No more now, but I will write some jokes for Meccano boys in the next issue, if the Editor will let me.

Cheerio, Wee Leongie Wood.

## EDITORIAL.

### My Thanks to Meccano Boys.

Let me thank the very large number of boys who have sent me Christmas and New Year cards, and letters full of affection and good wishes. Each letter and card was very welcome, and will be treasured. I hope that all the senders, and indeed all the Meccano boys, will be very happy through the year.

#### Meccanoland.

The Meccanoland scene in the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, was a wonderful success, and it has brought delight to the thousands of Meccano boys who have seen it. It has been received with so much applause that the producers of the pantomime have arranged to include another big Meccanoland scene in another pantomime in one of the largest cities in the kingdom next year. I will tell you more about this in a future issue.

### Our £200 Competition.

The closing date for our big Meccano Competition is rapidly approaching, and I want to warn my readers that they must send in their entries before March 1st. This competition promises to be another big success, with record entries. The work of judging will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, but owing to a depleted model-building staff it will probably be about the middle of June before the results can be announced.

### Book No. 2, Meccano Manual.

I hoped to be able to tell you that this was ready for delivery at once, but owing to difficulties of block-making and printing there has been much delay. It will be ready about May or June, and the cost will be Is. 3d., with postage in addition. It will contain a large number of models, all of them new, and mostly models of sterling merit, which have taken prizes in our big contests. Orders may be placed at any time now for execution in rotation. It may be obtained from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty.

## Scarcity of Meccano.

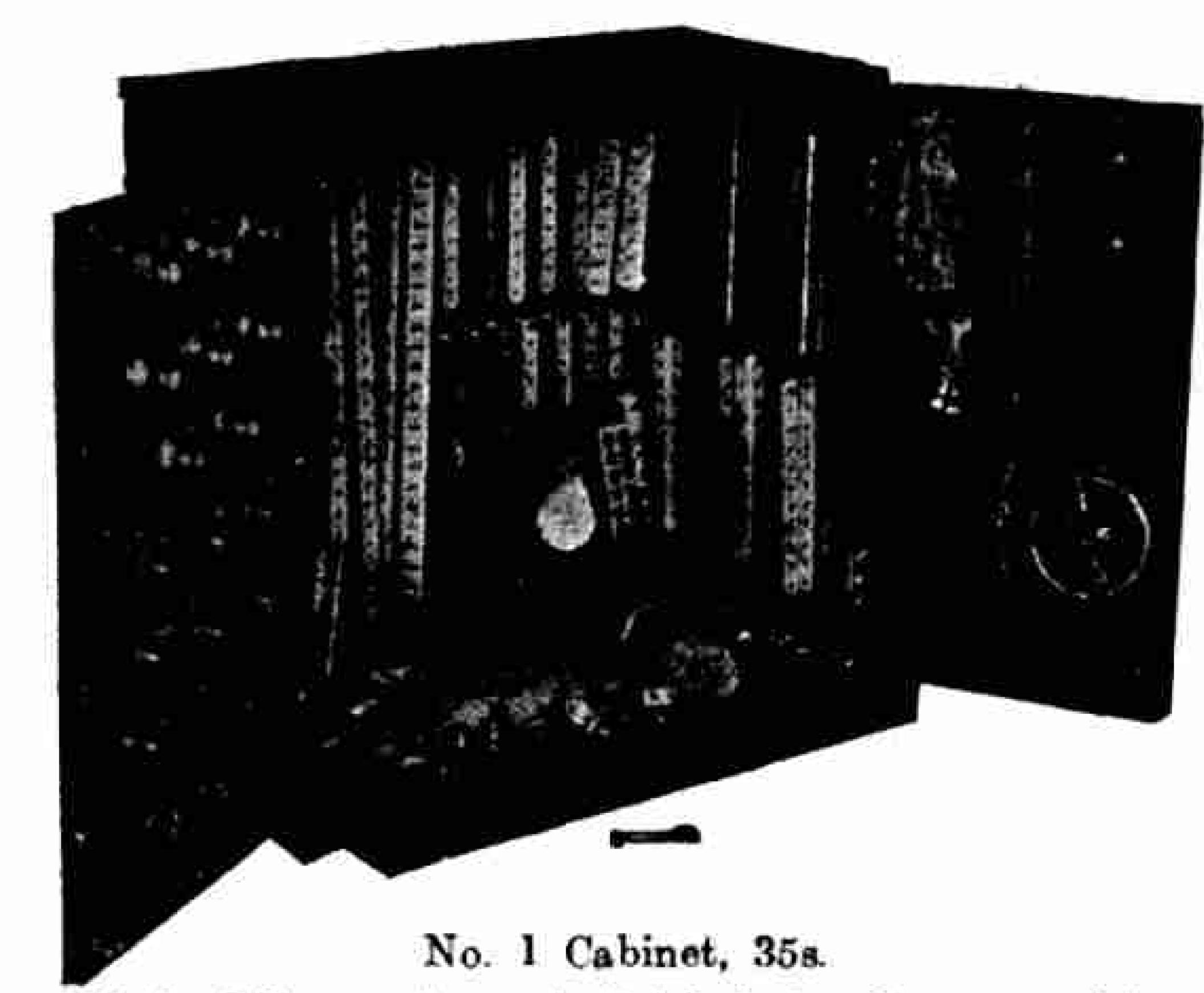
I am afraid Meccano boys will not be able to get all the Meccano they require this year, as our output is restricted. All our machines which are suitable are devoted to Government work, which must receive first consideration in this time of national emergency. We are, of course, still manufacturing Meccano on machines which cannot be used for Government work, but we cannot hope to provide sufficient to meet the enormous demand throughout this and other countries. When the war is over we shall concentrate the whole of our factory, with all the new machines we have added, on to Meccano, and the new parts and models which we have ready will receive a great welcome from all Meccano boys.

#### Old Meccano Manuals.

I am anxious to secure copies of early editions of Meccano Manuals, and if any of my readers have by them complete copies of Manuals which were issued between 1902 and 1911, and will send them to me, I will either replace them with one of our latest Manuals or buy them at the rate of 1s. per copy for as many as I require. Up to 1908 our Manual was printed in upright form with a blue cover, and after that date the shape and size were exactly the same as our present manual.



## Meccano Storage Cabinets



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 16‡in, high by 16in, wide by 8in, deep. It is fitted with lever lock and key.

No. 2 Cabinet, 60s.

This Cabinet is made in oak, beautifully finished, 18in. high by 17in. wide by 8½in. deep, 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.

Our illustration shows the Cabinet stocked with Meccano parts, but, of course, these are not included in the prices given.



That man or boy is happiest in this world who has most things to give him pleasure. Did you ever stop to think that your education is directed almost as much to opening your mind to new pleasures as it is to training you for money-making usefulness? Think it over. Isn't the man who gets pleasure from reading good books, from looking at beautiful pictures, from listening to wonderful music, from being able to see and understand the processes of nature, in the way of getting more happiness out of life than the fellow whose only joy is stuffing his stomach or going to a prize fight?

#### To Parents.

#### What is a Good Gift for a Boy?

Something that he will not merely like when it is new, but that he will go on liking.

Many thousands of pounds are spent every Christmas, and some thousands every day (for every day is some child's birthday) on toys, often expensive, which are broken in a few days and cease to give pleasure, even before they have ceased to be capable of giving pleasure.

#### Giving Thoughtfully

Toys which do not keep their interest are no kindness as a gift. Real kindness in giving is not measured by the cost of the gift, but by the thought behind it. Giving thoughtfully is an art, but it is also an economy.

The waste of money in toys which give pleasure for a moment, or an hour, is staggering. To give something which will give pleasure for many hours, month after month, which will set up, unknown to the boy, habits of exactness and perseverance, and teach manual dexterity and neatness, is intelligent generosity.

#### This is What Meccano Gives.

Putting the claim for Meccano on the lowest grounds, there is a good deal to be said for a toy which will amuse a boy and keep him quiet on wet days all through the year, which engages the attention of younger brothers and sisters too, and which has interest enough to draw older people into the game.

Meccano is not like any other toy ever invented, because it only becomes a toy when it is being played with. It is not like a one-game contrivance, like a clockwork toy or a mechanical tumbling-acrobat, that has one trick and ends its power of amusing there. It is only limited in its possibilities by the ingenuity of the possessor, and the uses described in the Meccano Manual of Instructions provide hundreds of hours of real amusement.

### Boys and Toys.

When boys play with one toy for a year or more, and ask for more of it for their next birthday present, it is not because the toy teaches them something; it is because the toy is lastingly interesting.

Meccano teaches boys how machines and mechanical appliances are made, but they play with it for pleasure.

Keep this in mind. The greatest merit of Meccano is the pleasure which it gives. Meccano is ever varying. It delights because it is progressive.

#### How to Start Meccano.

Just buy the Outfit which suits your purse. If you decide to spend 7s. 6d., you will buy the No. 1 Outfit.

Additional parts can always be obtained either separately or in the form of Accessory Outfits, and the most convincing fact that can be cited in proof of the fascination exercised by Meccano upon the boy mind, is that a boy who has been presented with one outfit invariably asks for the Accessory Outfits to enable him to progress to more complicated and interesting models.

A No. 1a Accessory Outfit, costing 7s., would now convert the original outfit into a No. 2. This again could be converted into a No. 3, by the purchase of a No. 2a Accessory Outfit, costing 8s., and so on up to the No. 6 Outfit, covering the whole series of models.

Your boy will soon have learnt enough to want Accessory Outfits, and when the constant and untiring pleasure which Meccano gives has been recognised, the expense will not be grudged.



### 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 froin 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.

Percy Bradley, Dukinfield.—We note your suggestion that you and your chums build a number of Meccano models and hold an exhibition to which you would invite boys who do not possess Meccano, and we quite approve of the plan. You and your chums will get a lot of pleasure from it, and you will be doing all the visitors to your exhibition a good turn. Write again.

Harold Porter, Lincoln.—We are very glad to hear that you are so much better, and that Meccano kept you bright and cheerful during your illness. We are quite sure that it was through noting the effect of Meccano building on you that caused your doctor to buy one of our big outfits for his boy.

James Hunter, Glasgow.—Sorry you and your Meccano outfit have had the measles. From your cheery letter we should say you have both made a very complete recovery. We hope the doctor didn't get the treatment mixed up, giving the outfit the medicine,

and spraying you.

Sidney Lofthouse, Scarborough.—Yours is a nice little letter to receive from a boy of eight. We are pleased to know that you and your four-year old brother have ripping times with Meccano. We agree with all you say about Meccano, and the Meccano Magazine, and the war, and we treasure your good wishes.

W. H. Johnson, Weaste.—We also thought it was the best pantomime we had ever seen, and we laughed at the places where you laughed. The Meccanoland scene we thought was wonderful, and Wee Georgie Wood took us round to the back of the stage and showed us his giant models, and promised he would write for us a lot of funny experiences he has had with Meccano.

Frank Ryder, Farnworth.—"I hail the Meccano Magazine with right royal enthusiasm." We similarly "hailed" your breezy letter when the postman handed it to us.

Jack Merrilees.—"I am now a soldier of the king and jolly sick of it too, but still carrying on." That's just how we all feel, Jack, but we shall continue to carry on until we have won the war. We will see that the Meccano Magazine is sent to the old address. thanks for Christmas wishes.

- S. Walker, Yeadon.—"I have plenty of toys, but Meccano is the best. If you want a toy and you have Meccano, all you have to do is to build the toy you want." That is the message we are trying to give to every boy in the world.
- J. J. Miller, B.E.F., Somewhere in France.—We have sent the Meccano Magazine to your boy Cyril, and we will see that a copy of this issue is sent to you. We wish you a safe and speedy return. Write us again.
- T. H. Paddy, Bedworth.—"The Meccano Magazine is the best magazine I have ever read, and it is a great success. Good luck, and I hope you are in the best of health."—There it is, Paddy, just as you wanted us to print it. Your kind wishes make us happy, and our health is first-rate.
- A. Vaughan, Sheffield.—" Meccano Eager Children Can Always Number Others. That means that Meccano boys will always add more to their numbers." -We've got it, Arthur, now you have explained itand it's quite true.

Billy Martin, Lancaster.—We very much wish we could come to see you, Billy, but we are much too busy just now. Thanks for sticking up for us so stoutly when the lady spoke unkindly of us. We hope you will be very happy when you remove to London.

R. Bratby, Denby.—" My motto is—' Meccano is the Joy of Life.' "-Your motto will look first-rate on your coat-of-arms, later on, when the King confers a title on you. We will try to make the Meccano Magazine larger when the war is over.

L. Franchel, London:-

"Of all the toys that are so sweet,

Meccano is the best: For that's the finest thing yet made, Other toys are but a pest."

That's all we can find room for, Lordy. With a little careful watching as you go along, we should think your poem would go well to the tune of "Sally in our Alley," as you suggest.

Basil Bristow, New Malden.—Three operations in five months is very severe indeed, and we sincerely hope that you will now make rapid progress, and soon be restored to health. We will see that you get the Meccano Magazine regularly when you go back to India. We are very glad you get so much pleasure from your Meccano.

Norman Reid Adam, Buxton.—You promised to write us a very nice letter after we had sent the No. 2A outfit to you. Did you forget?

Norman Gee, Eccles.—Your poem on Meccano is good, but rather too long to be printed in the Meccano Magazine. We appreciate your kind wishes.

William C. Howlett, Walthamstow.—We are pleased to know that the members of your family are interested in Meccano, and that your father has a high opinion of it. It really is unkind, though, of your sister to call your model a "laughing and snivelling jib crane."

Eric Helsby, Ince.—We read your long letter with much pleasure and interest. Although you have been an invalid for 10 years, and the doctors are not too hopeful, we trust that you will make better progress in the future, and ultimately regain your health and strength. It is pleasing to us to know that you are absorbed in Meccano, and in mechanical problems. We will send the Meccano Magazine to your friend George. Your suggestion in regard to the size of the Meccano Magazine is quite good, and we will give it consideration.

Eric Bramall, Leicester:-

"I know a boy who's always gay, He sings and whistles all the day; But do not think he's wasting time For he has got that toy sublime-The toy that all the boys should know, The dear old, world-famed Meccano."

What a lot of budding poets we number amongst the readers of the Meccano Magazine. They drop into poetry as easily as did Boffin and Silas Wegg, of old. Did you ever hear of these two gentlemen, Eric?

Etta Wilkins, Cheltenham:-"Meccano is the best of toys, Meccano is the best of joys; It never makes you a bit annoyed, And doesn't make a bit of noise."

I thought of this in bed this morning. It rhymes all right doesn't it?—Well! very nearly, Etta, and the sentiment is beyond reproach. We should be very pleased to have the photograph which you promised us.

H. W. Roddam, Bishop Auckland.—Your verses are very good, but as our space is so limited, we are unable to find room for them. We are sure you will make a very successful engineer, and we are glad Meccano is such a help to you.

G. Watts, Ealing.—It is a very excellent idea to devote your Meccano Fund to providing outfits for the Coast Guard Scouts, and we are glad to hear they appreciate your kindness so much.

John Abraham, Elmina, Africa.—"Please send me envelopes and ink powder and penholders and nibs, as I have none. Tell me the story about the Great War between the English and the Germans."-Rather a tall order, John. Why not use a lead pencil, and let us have your views on the "Great War?"

H. Garlick, Market Harborough.—Lack of space prevents our publishing your nice long letter in the Meccano Magazine, but we are pleased to know that nine out of every ten boys in your class selected Meccano as the subject for their essays on "My Hobby."

W. Gilbert, Buxton.—" Meccano is like a fortune to me. I take out my set of jewels, and forget all my troubles."—That is a very delightful way of describing your outfits. We are pleased your father gets so much pleasure from helping you to build your models.

W. Green, Birkenhead.—Girls stand just as good a chance as boys in our competitions, and we are very glad to receive their entries.

Wilfrid Whaley, Boston.-We do not think there is a great likelihood just yet of changing the name from Liverpool to "Meccano City," but who knows what the future may bring?

- W. Belchamber, Shepton Mallet.—"Couldn't Mr. Hornby be made the patron saint of boys? St. Hornby sounds rather grand."-It sounds very grand, William, but you see that title is only conferred on dead benefactors, and Mr. Hornby hopes to live with his Meccano boys for a very long time yet.
- G. Thorpe, Rhuddlan.—We are always glad to hear from you, and we take great interest in your boy who, we remember, claimed a record as the youngest Meccano boy. We hope to receive his entry in the big competition which closes on March 1st.
- J. Stott, Oldham.—We have not heard of a "mechanical whirlwind," but if you have made a model of one, send it in for the Competition.

Edwin Gorse, Blackburn.—" Why not print tales about Meccano Adventures contributed by Meccano Boys?"-We shall always be happy to publish anything of interest sent to us by our readers.

Mrs. Wrohan, Y.M.C.A., Gt. Brington.—"It would give you great pleasure I am sure if you could see about a hundred of our boys—none of whom are yet 19—flocking to the Meccano tables the minute their duties are over, and sticking steadily there till bedtime, and very often if a boy has to get up he pays another to keep his seat. May I add my own appreciation of your wonderful and instructive toy."-It gives us the very greatest pleasure to read your letter, and to know that Meccano is such a boon in your camp.

## It's all im the State of the Mind.

If you think you are beaten, you are; If you think you dare not, you don't; If you'd like to win, but you think you can't, It's almost a cinch you won't. If you think you'll lose, you've lost; For out in the world you find Success begins with a fellow's will-It's all in the state of the mind.

From the Delecta Magazine.

## Prices of Meccano

0	Outfit	with full	instructions for building	4/6
1		do.	do.	7/6
2		do.	do.	13/6
3		do.	do.	20/-
4		do.	do.	32/6
5		do.	do.	47/6
6	No	do. . 6 in well-fi	do. nished cabinet with lock and key.	115/-

## Accessory Outhits

No.							
0a	converti	ng a No	. 0	into a	No. 1	•	3/6
1a	do.	do.	1	do.	2		7/-
<b>2</b> a	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	13/6
,,,	2x	,,	2.7	,,	19/6
,,	3x	,,	reversing moto	r	30/-

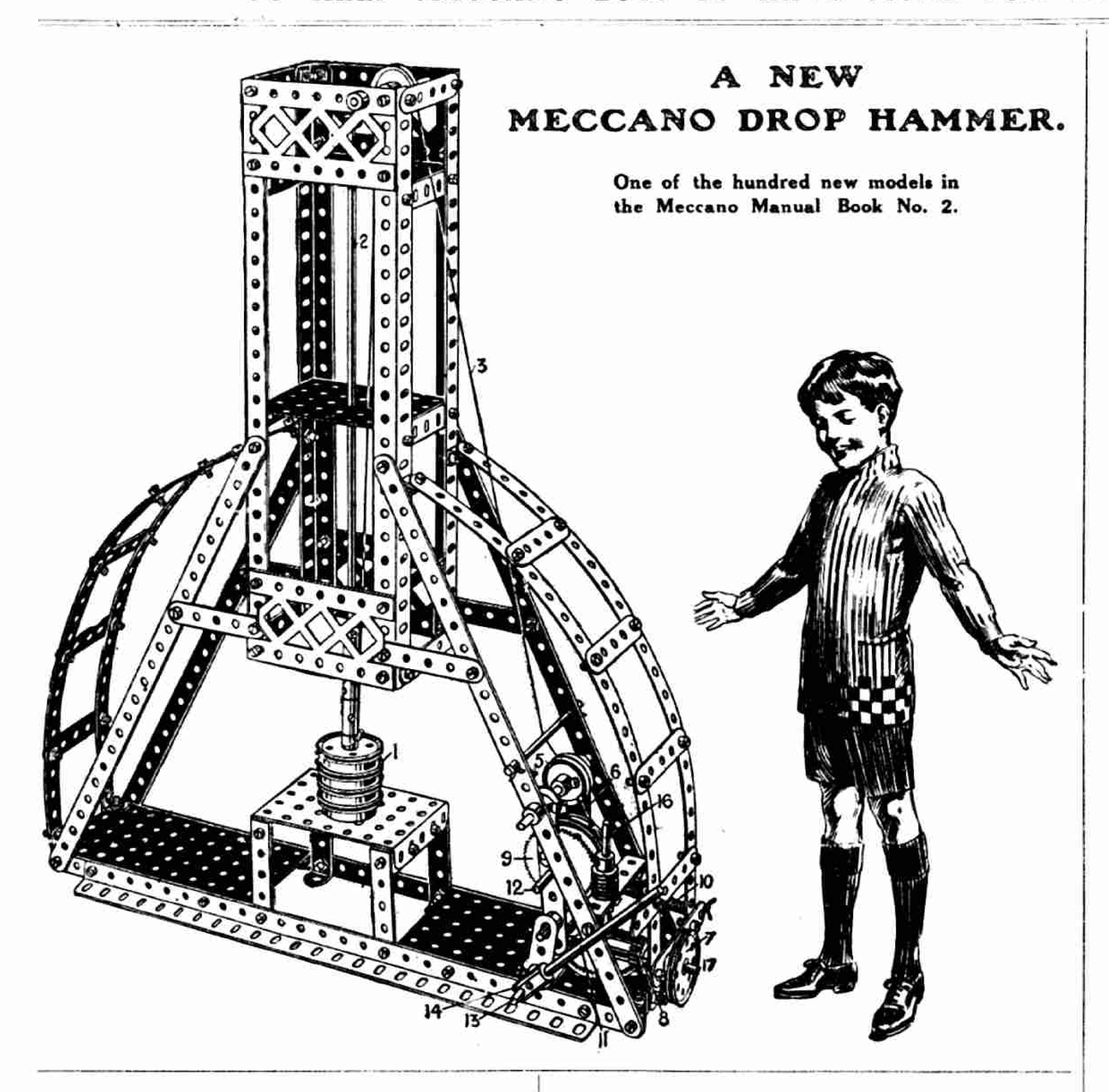
Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional 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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# MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



## EDITORIAL.

#### Competition Results.

The difficulties of judging the Grand Meccano Competition this year have been greater than ever, as you boys will easily understand, but I am glad to be able to publish a list of prizewinners in this issue. The number of entries and the quality of the models sent in have been well up to the standard of past years and the competition has been an enormous success.

### Difficulties in Producing the "M. M."

These are troublous times for everyone, and even editors get their fair share of worries. My greatest worry is shortage of paper, and this accounts for the delay in getting this issue out and for the limited number of copies which can be posted to you boys. I have many good things by me which you boys will read with keen interest, but these must be held over until we can publish the M. M. oftener, and perhaps make it bigger.

## Results of Essay and Scientific Competitions.

I am sorry that there has been so much delay in announcing the results of these competitions, but this of course is due to the impossibility of getting this number of the M. M. out earlier. Both competitions have been wonderfully

successful, and I hope to be able to publish the winning entries in our next issue.

## Meccano Manual Book 2.

At last I am able to announce that Meccano Manual Book No. 2 will be ready on August 1st, and I think you will all agree that the new models which it contains are of extraordinary merit. The issue is limited, owing to paper difficulties, and I hope that every boy who reads this will get his copy without delay in order to prevent disappointment. The price is 1/3 from your dealer, or post free, 1/5½.

#### Shortage of Meccano.

Unfortunately Meccano will be more scarce than ever during the coming winter, owing to the greater portion of our plant being engaged on work for the Government. There will be a fair quantity available, however, and this will be rationed throughout the country in order to give each section a fair proportion. Let me advise readers of the M. M. to place their orders with their dealers early. The Meccano Spring Motor will not be on sale until after the war, when we shall at once resume its manufacture.



## The Life Story of Meccano

BY FRANK HORNBY.

(Continued.)

On the whole, however, the Meccano system at that time was crude, and the outfits did not present a very attractive appearance. Still, the fact remained—and this gave me the greatest possible encouragement—that when a boy commenced to use the system and build up the models, he almost invariably took the greatest interest in his work and came back for more parts. This fact told me that my system was right, and that I had only to persevere in order to ultimately succeed. Those boys who possessed outfits asked their boy friends to come along and help them to build models, and these boys in turn began to buy outfits.

It was a very slow process, of course, and you may be sure that I had a very anxious time, but I continued almost daily to improve the finish and design of the parts and to increase the number of models. Every now and again I would issue a fresh manual, and this always gave a good fillip to the sales. Soon I began to do a little advertising, and this, of course, helped to increase the public demand for my

outfits.

After a while the sales began to improve so much that I was able to induce one or two of the large stores in London to put up a special stand round Christmas time to demonstrate Meccano, and to have some one there to explain the models and the uses of the outfits. Immediately this was done the sales went up by leaps and bounds, and it was all that I could

do to keep pace with the orders. I began to experience difficulties in getting all the supplies of the various parts from the makers, and I commenced seriously to consider starting a little factory and making some of them myself. I made a few enquiries and finally hit on premises in Duke Street, Liverpool, which I thought I could convert into a workshop. I took a look over these premises quite recently, and they look tiny enough to me now, but, my goodness, boys, at that time they locked as big as the Crystal Palace, and I wondered if I should ever have enough machinery to fill them. I bought a few hand presses and one or two lathes, and a small gas engine, and, bit by bit, I began to build up my factory organization. Those were happy days, boys, and I look back on them with pride and pleasure, although every minute was fraught with difficulty and anxiety. J often had to complain of the finish and accuracy of the parts which I had had made for me, and the first resolution I made when I started my own factory was that nothing should come from it which was not of the best workmanship and finish. I have never swerved from that resolution, and to this I largely attribute the generous measure of praise and approval which Meccano has always received from expert engineers and mechanics. I knew that it was only by placing perfect Meccano parts in the hands of boys that they could build models which would work with true and mechanical accuracy and precision, and that it was only in this way that I could hope to establish my

To be continued.

business on a sound basis.

# RESULT OF THE Grand Meccano Competition.

## A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO EACH COMPETITOR.

It is always a real pleasure to me to go through the entries in our big Meccano competitions, and this year has been no exception. There are not a large number of models of outstanding interest this year, but there is a uniformity of merit, which pleases me much better. It shows me that Meccano boys are becoming more and more skilful in model-building and in inventing, and the increased number of entries also shows me how the hobby is spreading both in this and other countries. I have been able to select a large number of very excellent movements, many of which are illustrated in our new Manual, Book No. 2. I strongly recommend you Meccano boys to get this fine new Manual at once. Other winning models are being perfected in our model-making department, and will appear in future editions of our Manuals. In fact, I may say that we have hundreds of new and beautiful models by us, ready for the new Manuals as soon as they can be issued, and all you boys should watch carefully for these.

You will readily understand, I feel sure, that the many difficulties created by the war have prevented us from making all the improvements which we should have liked, but our plans are well laid, and as soon as we are able to devote all our time and plant to the work, there will be some notable additions to Meccano which will add a hundred-fold to your enjoyment of model-building. Even during the war we have much progress to record. When I remind you that in 1914 our Manual of Instructions contained 133 models only, whereas now we show 425, each one a complete and perfect toy, I think you will admit that we have much to be proud of.

As I write, the Allied Armies are fighting with their backs to the wall against tremendous odds, and the future is full of anxiety. Meccano boys in this country, and in America, France, and Italy, are leagued together in a common bond of sympathy, with eyes turned towards the battle fronts, their hearts full of confidence in our brave soldiers and sailors, who are fighting in the most righteous cause which has ever confronted nations in the history of the world. Thousands of Meccano boys of all allied nationalities are fighting, or in some other way are taking their share in the great struggle, and my heart warms to them. Letters reach me daily from these boys full of good cheer and confidence, and it has been my happy lot to be able to lighten the dark days for many of them, and to cheer up many of the captive and wounded.

I wish I could tell you of the many ways in which Meccano has played its part in the great war, but this is a story which must wait until brighter days come and peace is restored. Within the last few days I have received a communication from an inventor who has just been paid £150 by one of the Allied Governments for an invention worked out with Meccano parts, and this is only one of many similar incidents.

Prizes have now been dispatched to the lucky winners in the Meccano Contest, and to all competitors, both winners and losers, I want to express my good wishes and to add the hope that I shall see their names again in future Meccano Competitions,

## LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

Managing Director, Meccano Ltd.

## 

4	th Cash Prize	. £7	10 0	
A. GRAWE, 10, Cente	r St Jamaica, N. N			nloader
5	th Cash Prize	. £5	0	
P. Hoyarx, 6, Godfr	ey Rd Newport.	Ion		lachine
6	h Cash Prize	- £2	10 0	
L. BRUNET, 16, Rue	Ste. Perpétue, Nim	es	Morse Tun	ewriter

4 No. 5 MECCANO OUTFITS.
R. W. MERRICK, 3, Magdalen Rd., Bath
6 No. 4 MECCANO OUTFITS.
A. Jullien, 9, Impasse des Changes, Chartres, Burc-et-Loire
K. Horner, Trimmingham, Burnley Rd., Halifax
R. Figgatt, 2,298, Creston Ave., Bronx

E. H. Goodyear, 7. Bright St., Darlington	Spirograph
M. LALOE, 32, Rue Thiers, Cherbourg	
9 No. 2 MECCANO STORA	AGE CABINETS.
F. White, I, Cheltenham Villas, Stanley Rd., Cr	oydon
F. Yates, 26, Market St., New Mills, Stockport.	
F. Pickett. 29, Bartlemas Rd., Oxford	Tupewriter
E. H. BUCKINGHAM, School House, Frimley	
S. Thomas, Cricklewood, King Edward St., Mert	hyr Tydfil
C. F. Lumsden, Park View, Ross, Hereford	
G. J. GREENSMITH, 60. Crosby Rd., West Bridgfor	d. Notts Windspeed Measurer
E. S. INCE, 32, Leighton Rd., West Ealing, London	
W. B. GADD, "Edale," 115, Atwood Rd., Didsbu	

## LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS—Continued.

12 No. 3 MECCANO OUTFITS.	W. Daltry, 8, Malby St., Oldham
P. Bonifas, 12, Rue Lamarck, Paris	R. Shimwell, 86, Normandy Ave., High Barnet
F. Dergint, 2, Rue Boulard, Paris	A. F. Howard, 17. Priory St., Bedford
C. Collins, 1,021, E. 49 Place, Los Angeles, Cal	C. R. Booth, Mill Cottages, Barnham, Near Bognor
12 No. 1 MECCANO STORAGE CABINETS.	The state of the s
G. Carter, 45, Taylor St., Blackburn	B. Gardner, Mt. Carmel, Utah, U.S.A
18 No. 2 MECCANO OUTFITS.	Improvements in Meccano Parts
G. DE CHAMBERET, 9, Rue de Prony, Paris	W. L. Jepson, 606, Halsey St., Brooklyn, N.Y
B. Young, 11, North Ave., Leicester	24 No. 0 MECCANO OUTFITS.
J. Becker, 205, Ward Ave., Tomkinsville, N.Y	P. Turquet, 14, Place Saint Venerand, Laval Mayenne
J. Perret, 3a. Place d'Armes, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switz Match Box Distributor P. Larbalestier, 1. Melrose Ave., Kirkdale, Liverpool Grain Elevator P. Bruneau, 123, Rue de Sèze, Lyon, Rhone Balanced Bicycle J. Leroi, Rue des Orfévres, Blois, Loir-et-Cher	J. Choulet, 21, Ave. Flachat, Asnières, Seine
24 MECCANO WATER MOTORS.	H. BOULOGNE, 27, Rue Baudin, Paris
A. Holmes, 11, Lester Rd., Chatham	B. Hutchinson, Ault Hucknall, Rowthorn, Chesterfield



## 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.

R. & F. Cutting, Shepherd's Bush.—Sorry we have been so long in replying to you, but space is very

Drawing hardly suitable, but try again. We

may find room for your acrostic later. A. B. Eaton, B.E.F., France.—It makes us happy to know that the Meccano Magazine is so well known and liked amongst the boys at the Front. There are thousands of Meccano boys doing their bit. We wish

you a safe and speedy return.

N. Bishop, Muswell Hill.—We are pleased to know our poem "It can be done" inspired you to complete your new model, after feeling so discouraged. We put little things of this kind in the Meccano Magazine now and again, mostly the thoughts of some of the world's finest brains, and we sometimes wonder if Meccano boys read and enjoy them.

F. Andrews. Alvechurch.—It interests us to know that you and another Meccano boy were the only ones to gain first-class honours in your district in the Oxford Junior, and that it was mainly through Meccano that you were induced to take up engineering as a profession. We should like to have your opinion of the experiments in Applied Mechanics in our No. 2 Manual. Thanks for your suggestion, which will be considered.

J. A. Jaggers, Walthamstow.—We should much have

liked to see the models of the Inclined Plane and Block and Tackle which you made for your teacher, and we can quite understand that the boys of your class found them interesting. We hope you will build all the new Scientific Examples in the No. 2 Manual. We agree with you about the German peace terms.

A. Snook, Greenock.—That was a tough experience you had in your air raid. We are sorry your house was destroyed and you were so much damaged. You seem to regret the loss of your Meccano Outfit most, but we hope that it was recovered from the ruins. We

trust you are all right again now.

J. Irvine.—Our mail bag is full every morning, but we have had it enlarged again, and there is room for more letters from you. You may find your clever little sketch reproduced in the Meccano Magazine some day.

W. Anderson, Beith.—"My sister is learning the violin and required a music stand. I constructed one in an hour from my Meccano Outfit, but I am now in a fix because she will not let me take it to pieces." That's a bit rough on you, William, but we hope you succeeded

in persuading her to buy you a new outfit.
W. Jones, Handsworth.—" I should like to add my appreciation of your Meccano. It has been a great source of delight and instruction to my little boy, who is only 61. The only thing he insists upon is "Hands of, Dad—I can do it myself." This is just that spirit of independence and initiative which Meccano cultivates so strongly in boys, and which does so much to strengthen their characters. We hope Tudor himself will write to us soon.

J. B. Hartley, Barnard Castle.—"My only regret is that I can't sit up all night and make models, for now have got nearly everything in connection with Meccano. I got a No. 5A from Dad, and a Meccano table specially built and filled with drawers to keep the parts in from my Mother. I have also got a Spring Motor and an Inventor's Outfit." You are a very lucky boy, Blair, to have parents so anxious and able to help you. It pleases us to know that you all think so highly of Meccano.

Billy Mountney, Hulme.—" Vice President of the Cornbrook Meccano Club'' sounds very fine, Billy. We are glad to know that you are all "Meccano mad" and that your Club is progressing wonderfully. We may start the Club which you suggest some day.

Cyril Grange, March, Cambs.—" I can hardly find words good enough to express the excellent qualities of Meccano. It is the grandest cure for the blues, it prevents anyone from being done brown and puts us all in the pink, so that you are a green'un no longer." Which brings a rosy red blush to our cheek, Cyril.

L. Prideaux, Camborne.—" Don't you think Meccano boys should have a little badge with the word 'Meccano' on it?" Of course they should, Leonard, and what is more they are going to have the neatest thing you ever saw in this line, as soon as we can get them made.

Norman Colclough, Hanley.—How is your Meccano Club progressing? How many members have you now, and how often do you meet?

Cecil Hartshorn, Thurmaston.—"I have been a Meccano boy for four years. I can ride a motor cycle, play the piano, and take photographs. I am making a model mouse trap and if I catch anything in it I shall send it in for competition." We shall not be in when the animal arrives, Cecil. Better send a photograph or sketch. For so young a boy, yours is a good range of accomplishments.

Francis Brown, Everton.—"The Onaccem Seven" sounds like a secret society of some kind, but it looks peaceful enough when the mysterious middle word is reversed. You seem to be a very happy gang of friends, and we hope your numbers will increase. Thanks for particulars of your new Meccano model, which you call

The Opera."

J. T. G. Macleod, Ealing.—Glad you find Meccano a cure for the "funny feeling down below" as your father calls it, when the air raids are on. As you surmise, we are finding much difficulty in publishing the Meccano Magazine regularly, but we believe we shall be able to hold on right to the end of the war.

Maudie Roessler, Westcliff-on-Sea.—It pleases us to know that your invalid brother gets so much pleasure from Meccano and the Meccano Magazine. Give Ernie our best wishes, and tell him we hope to often

hear how he is progressing.

Herbert Matthews, New Southgate. - What is "Meccano Dibetus," Herbert, and why does your sister say you have got it? Thanks for interesting account of air raids on your town.

G. V. H. Garnett, Otford:— Said Father to his little boy: Which do you think you'd like-A big Meccano Outfit Or a brand new motor bike?" The son right quickly answered-"Meccano! Daddy, please, For that includes a motor bike

As well as all of these."

Quite a nice little effort, and we are sorry space will not allow us to print it all.

J. Bernard Pim. Chaplain R.N., H.M.S. Dido.—" We are getting the greatest pleasure out of the Meccano Outfit, and the owners of it are envied by all the other members of the mess, who crowd round with delight to watch the progress of the models." We read your letter with much pleasure. The Meccano Magazine will be sent to you regularly.

F. Cornwell, London.—Thanks for your interesting letter about the air raids. Your cousin, Jack Cornwell, was a hero, and you have every reason to be proud of

John Clark, Jr., Leith.— 'A chum and I built a Meccano Tank. My grandfather displayed it in his shop with a notice on top: - Julien Jr. Collecting Subscriptions for Prisoners of War Fund."--We raised £2. 15s. 0d." Quite a good idea, which, as you suggest. might well be followed by other Meccano boys.

Private J. A. Dean, Gt. Ormesby.—Thanks for your letter with sketches showing how you ingeniously built rolling, lift, girder, swing, suspension and viaduct bridges with Meccano. Now that you are back home we hope you will resume Meccano model-building.

R. Royle, Leigh:-"Little Jack Horner Sat in a corner

The happiest boy ever seen He had no Christmas pie. But he'd got on the sly,

Meccano, which filled him with glee." And now we expect to have all the old nursery rhymes rewritten by Meccano boys and girls. Any boy who, sends in a good one will hear of something to his advantage.

White, Stickler & Rundle, Bristol.—"In our Meccano Club we make speeches, discuss manuals, magazines and separate parts." We hope none of your members have had to be "jacked out" and that the "no fighting rule '' is not really necessary.

John Preston, Grahamstown, S.A.—"I wonder if you would care to hear from a Meccano boy in South Africa?" We should just think we would. We hope you will realize your ambition and become a successful civil engineer; but first of all you must get thoroughly well, so that you won't have to stay away from school. Please write us often.

## Mow to get the Meccano Magazine Regularly

Under the new Government regulations we are unable to send the "Meccano Magazine" to any one except those who directly apply to us for it. If, therefore, you wish to become a reader of the M.M. it will be necessary for you to forward to us a request for it to be sent to you regularly, accompanied by 2d. in stamps for postage on the next four issues. A double subscription of 4d. will, of course, ensure the next eight numbers being sent to you.

## Competition Results.

In the competition for the best essay on "How I came to take up Meccano as a Hobby," the first prize of a Meccano Inventor's Accessory Outfit goes to Master Geo. C. Taylor, 6, Oswald Street, Amble, Northumberland, and a consolation prize of a Water Motor is awarded to Master Harold Cocking, Carisbrooke, Warwick Road, Worthing. This competition has been a most successful one, there being close upon one thousand entries. Lack of space prevents us from publishing the winning essays in this issue, but we hope to be able to print them in the next number of the "M.M."

In the competition for the best essay on "The Meccano Model I like best, and why," the first prize of a Meccano Inventor's Accessory Outfit goes to Master Samuel Sumnall, 293, High Street, Alsagers Bank, Nr. Newcastle, Staffs., and a consolation prize of a Meccano Water Motor goes to Master Jack E. Hawkins, 150, Widdrington Road, Coventry. This competition was also most successful, and I am quite sure that all Meccano boys will enjoy reading the winning essays in the next issue of the "M.M."

In the Meccanograph Competition for the best set of 12 designs, the first prize of a No. 1 Meccano Storage Cabinet goes to Master Jack Plowright, 20, Brompton Ave., Liscard, Ches., for a very fine series in coloured inks, and a further special prize of a Meccano Water Motor is awarded to Master Jas. A. Broadbent, 33, Boston St., Sowerby Bridge, for a set of very neat

and clever designs.

The Meccano Scientific Competition has produced a number of very excellent models, and has been a most gratifying success. We may mention that we have recently run a similar competition in France, which has produced a number of fine scientific models which compare very favourably with the efforts of the British Meccano boys: In future numbers of the "M.M." we shall reproduce the winning models in both competitions, so that all Meccano boys may have an opportunity of building them for themselves.

The first prize of a No. 5 Meccano Outfit is awarded to Mr. Thos. Parkes, 2, Gawber Road, Barnsley, Yorks. The second prize, a No. 4 Outfit, is awarded to Master G. G. Jacob, 35, Conduit Road, Bedford, and the third prize, a No. 3 Outfit, is awarded to Master Wm. P. R. Parker, Ardmohr West, Kilcreggan, Dumbarton. Additional prizes have also been awarded to Masters P. E. Austin, Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Road, St. Albans, N. Daglishe, 91, Cartsworth Road, Gateshead-on-Tyne, J. Barber, 200, Chapel Road, Hollinwood, Oldham, and J. Price, 14, Heron Street, Pendlebury, Manchester.

## No. Prices of Meccano

0	Outfit	with	full inst	ructions	for	building	5/6
1		do.		do.			9/-
2		do.		do.			16/6
3		do.		do.			25/-
4		do.		do.			42/-
5		do.		do.			57/6
6	No	do. 6 in v	vell-finishe	do. d cabinet v	vith I	ock and key.	145/-

## Accessory Outfits

No.							
0a	converti	ng a N	o. 0 i	nto a N	o. 1	•	4/-
1 a	do.	do.	1	do.	2	•	9/-
<b>2</b> a	do.	do.	2	do.	3		9/6
За	do.	do.	3	do.	4		18/-
4a	do.	do.	4	do.	5	• •	14/-
5a	do.	do.	5	do.	6		50/-

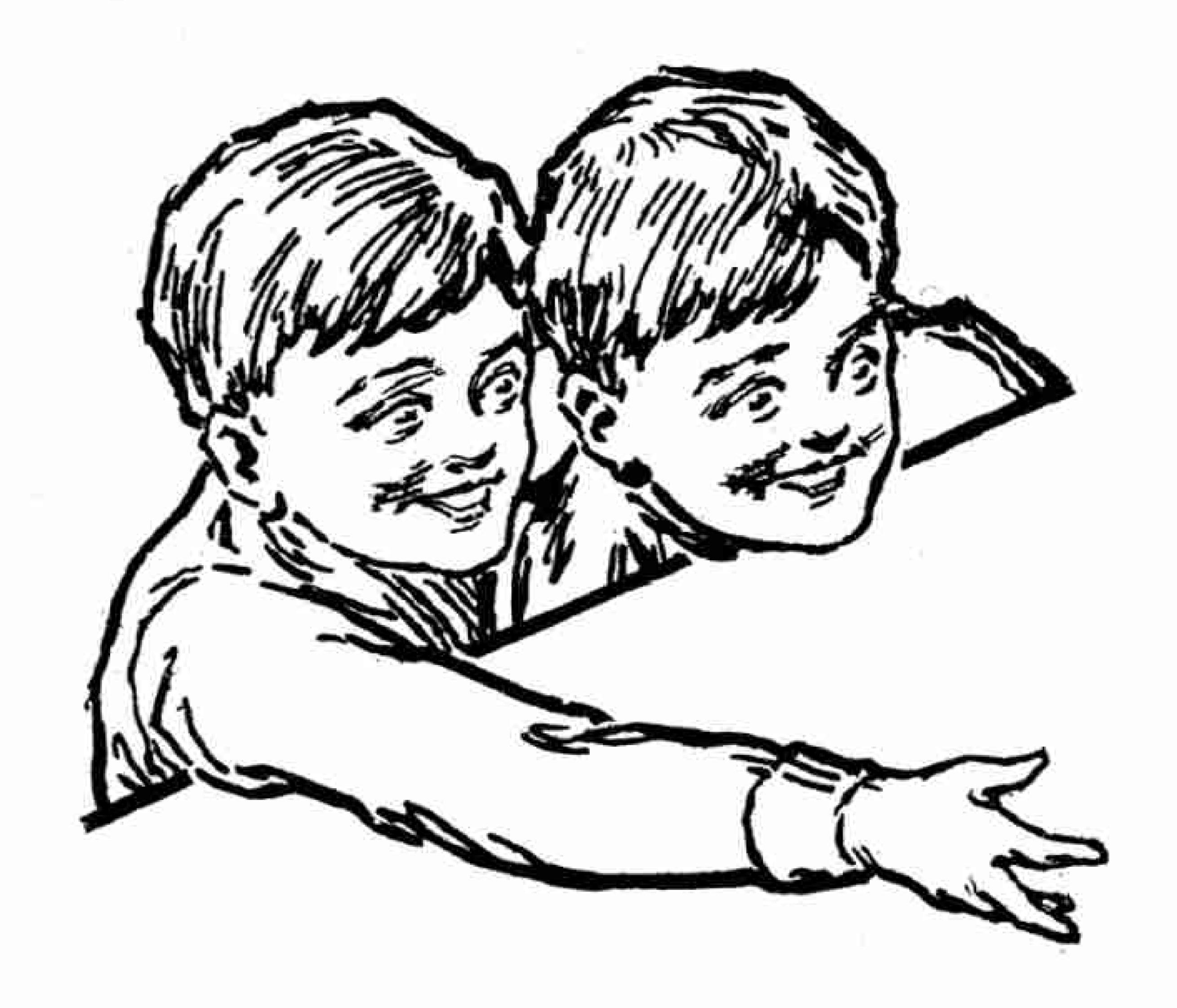
Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional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

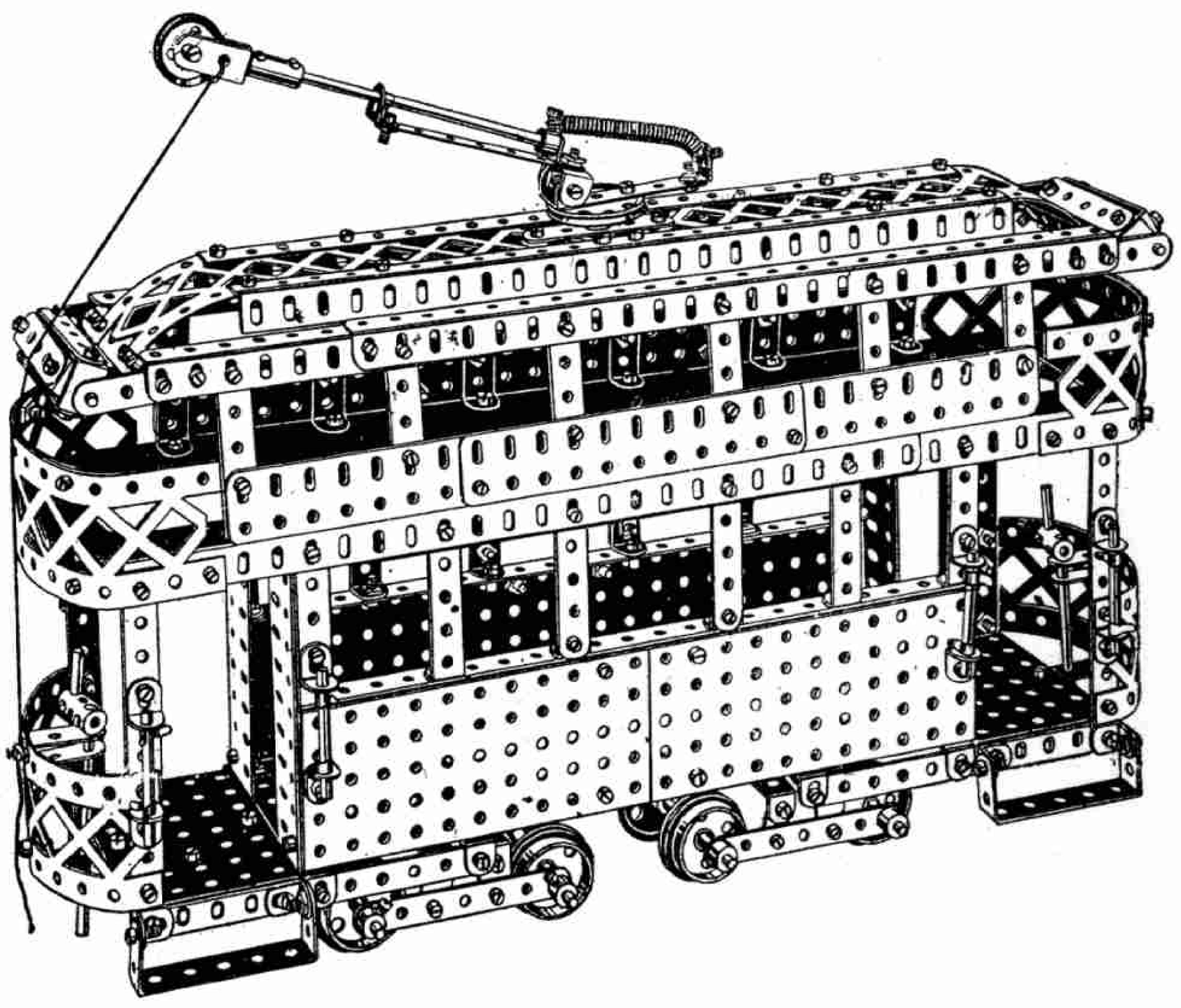
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# MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



## THE MECCANO TRAMCAR.



This is one of the hundred new models contained in the new Meccano Manual, Book No. 2. It has a most realistic appearance, and you Meccano boys will be able to make it with little trouble. You can fix seats inside and give the dolls a ride, and collect the fares from them and give them tickets. It runs stlendidly.

### EDITORIAL.

## A Fine Reception.

The Meccano Manual No. 2 has met with a great reception, and thousands of boys are now spending happy evenings making the many beautiful models which it contains. The war models, the Tank, Searchlight, Submarine, Heliograph, Anti-aircraft Gun, Lifeboat Launching Gear, and the wonderful series of Scientific Experiments, are special features of this book which no Meccano boy should miss.

#### Meccanoland Pantomime.

Meccano boys in Birmingham are favoured this year by having the wonderful Meccanoland Pantomime in their city. It will appear at the Theatre Royal in the New Year, and Wee Georgie Wood will again fly from the wicked robbers in a Meccano Motor Car, and finally escape in a Meccano Aeroplane. The final Meccanoland scene with the giant working models is a feature of great beauty.

## More Essay Competitions.

Our essay competitions have been so successful that they promise to become a permanent feature of the *Meccano Magazine*. We are commencing two more in this issue, and I hope all the old competitors and many new ones will have a serious try for one of the prizes.

### PEACE.

Just as we go to Press with this issue the news comes through that an armistice has been signed. Thank God for that, boys! There will be no more killing and maining, and your fathers and brothers will soon be restored to you, safe and sound, I hope. All our works and office staffs have gone off to rejoice over the glorious victory, and I am going to follow them in a few minutes. When we come back we shall set to work on Meccano in real earnest, and you may look out for great improvements and new features. Soon, I hope, there will be plentiful supplies of Meccano and all accessory parts, including the new ones which you are so anxiously awaiting. Meccano boys are going to be the happiest and busiest boys in all the world.



## Meccano Manuals of Instructions



There are two Meccano Manuals of Instructions, and no Meccano boy is properly equipped unless he has them both. Book No. 1 is the regular manual which goes with the main Meccano outfits. It contains illustrations and full instructions for making 326 fine models; some of the models have been designed by our own staff of experts, and others are prizewinning models contributed by Meccano boys, from every country in the world. Price, 1s. 6d., or 1s. 9d. post free.

Meccano Manual, Book No. 2, has only just been published, and it contains illustrations and instructions for building 100 entirely new models, very many of them prize winners. It contains Tanks, Guns, Submarines, Searchlights, and other warlike models; also a new series of simple and intensely-interesting scientific experiments which any boy can make, and which impart a lot of useful knowledge. Price, 1s. 3d., or 1s. 6d. post free.

## The Life Story of Meccano.

BY FRANK HORNBY. (Continued.)

Most of the machinery which I bought for my first factory is still doing excellent service for us. My first milling machine, for instance, was the best which money could buy, and even now it is the best milling machine we possess. When the strips come from the presses the edges are often very sharp, and there is a certain amount of burr on them, all of which is taken off in what are called rumbling barrels. The strips are placed in these barrels along with suitable cleaning materials, and are then revolved by machinery for a number of hours. This has the effect of leaving the edges in a nice smooth condition for handling, and it also cleans and polishes the strips ready for immersion in the nickel plating vats. My first three rumbling barrels are still doing excellent service alongside of rows of other newer barrels, and I don't know how many millions of strips they have not polished up for you Meccano boys.

When Meccano wheels and other brass parts first come from the presses they are in a dirty and tarnished condition, and in order to obtain the brilliant surface which you see in the finished parts when you buy them, they are first dipped in a strong acid and afterwards lacquered to prevent further tarnish. In my first factory Lhad only one room, and I and my works manager used to stav behind after the other employés had gone home, bring out the acid vats, and dip the wheels. The fumes from the acid often used to very nearly choke us, and we had to dash out into the open air when they got too bad, and give the room a chance to clear up again. Gas masks had not been thought of in those days, but they would certainly have been very useful to us. With such a primitive system, things were always going wrong, of course, but somehow I always managed to deliver my goods on time, and no one else but myself ever knew what grave difficulties I often had to encounter in getting all my Meccano parts made.

It was during the time that I was in this factory that I decided to change the name of my outfits from "Mechanics Made Easy" to "Meccano." It was a handier and shorter name, and I thought it would enable you boys to identify my goods more easily. I could also register this name, so that no one else could come along at any future time with imitation goods which they could palm off to the public as being the real thing. They can never use the word Meccano, and of course without this name no parts are genuine.

It was at this period that I found that our old style of Manual of Instructions was hardly good enough for the now greatly improved scope of the hobby, and in collaboration with experts I set to work to design a manual which should be a standard type of book which boys in any part of the world would recognise at once as coming from my firm. Have you ever noticed that the word "Meccano" is always printed by us in our advertisements, books, and leaflets, &c., in exactly the same type? You will see that the letter "C" is rather unusual in its formation, and that the final "O" slopes a little. These and other little peculiarities give the word a very artistic appearance. This type was specially designed for us and is our own property. Then there is the little drawing at the top of the manual, of the two boys in easy boyish attitudes working at a Meccano model. Although the model itself has been changed from

time to time, the boys are just the same and the drawing has not been otherwise altered. I think that you will agree with me that the cover of the Meccano Manual is a most artistic production, and you may be sure that no changes will be made in it without very good reason. The same cover is issued in every country in the world, but we make a little distinction by changing the colours, and always using certain colours for certain countries.

(To be continued.)

## My Adventures in Meccanoland.

BY "SPANNER"

Whenever I pay a visit to any of my friends nowadays. I find that Meccano is the great indoor pastime which they pursue. Boys and myself always were the greatest of pals, and recently I have been pulled into this Meccano game so often that I am beginning to fancy myself as an engineer, and to put on superior airs about my skill in making models in record time.

I have put so many boys into the way of building with Meccano that I have thought it worth while to send to the Editor of the M.M. a few notes telling boys how to start on the hobby and how to get fun from it.

The first time I helped to build a Meccano model was one night in the early days of last winter. I went over to stay with a friend and to say good-bye to his two boys who were going to college to take up an engineering course, and the first night that I was there the boys produced a big Meccano Outfit and commenced to build up a working model of a big Transporter Bridge. The picture in the book they were working from looked good to me. but I didn't think they could do it, it looked so fine and complicated. However, they set to work, and you would have laughed to see those bits of strips and wheels and rods go together so snugly. I got to fingering the nuts and bolts myself, and I soon found myself offering to build a part of the bridge for them. and actually doing it. Then my friend Curtis said he didn't see any reason why he shouldn't do his bit, and the first thing we knew we wanted four books of instructions.

We started building about eight o'clock, and a few minutes later I looked at my watch and found it was 11-30. The boys gave it up on an ultimatum from mother, and went to bed. and friend Curtis and I fixed up to carry on the good work and surprise the boys in the morning by finishing off the model and decorating it with flags. We didn't say much, but by Jacks! we worked hard, and do you know, boys, it was five o'clock the next morning before we got it finished. But we did finish it at last, and it looked fine. We fixed it to work with a little handle, and Curtis and I were as amused as children to see the Transporter making trips backwards and forwards across the river.

We set it up on the dining table and then crept up to bed, and that night I dreamt I was starting a big company to sell men's collars, made of Meccano braced girders, and another to open a chain of stores to fix buttons on clothes with set-screws. I dreamt that I stood on the street corner with my hat in my hand begging, but I wouldn't take money, only nuts and bolts and strips and wheels, and a big fellow set his dog on me and I ran for it, but he grabbed hold of me with his teeth, at the back, and the pain woke me, and I found that I was lying on

the teeth of a contrate wheel which I had evidently taken to bed with me without knowing.

I got up tired and a bit hazy, but I landed down safely to breakfast after a futile effort to fasten my front collar stud with a screw driver. which I discovered I had brought upstairs with me. I was thinking of the Transporter Bridge again at breakfast, when I noticed Mrs. Curtis looking very oddly at me, and I suddenly realised that I had dropped the contrate wheel into my coffee, and was stirring it up with my screw driver. I blushed and commenced to apologise for my preoccupation, when I saw her face assume an expression of dismay as she caught sight of Curtis, who was counting the currants in his cake to find the right place to bite it off. The equidistant hole microbe had certainly got him.

(To be continued.)

## Meccamo Clubs

There is a new and very vigorous movement spreading throughout this country, which we are glad to encourage. Meccano boys are banding themselves together and forming Meccano Clubs, which enable their members to meet together regularly for the purpose of exhibiting models, inventing new ones, comparing notes, and getting on good social terms with each other. In some cases special exhibitions of models have been arranged by the club secretaries to raise money for local charities, with very excellent results.

To those Meccano boys who are trying to form clubs in their towns, we suggest that they write to us, and we will help them to overcome their difficulties.

Below we give the names and addresses of a few very active secretaries who would be glad to correspond with other secretaries and give them help from their own experiences.

- E. Rundle, 144. Coronation Road. South-ville, Bristol.
- P. Bradley, 22, Clarendon Street, Dukinfield, Cyril Booth, 122, Borough Road, Middlesbrough.

Albert Rogers, 46, Bonneville Gardens, Clapham Park, S.W.4.

## New Essay Competitions

We are starting two new Essay Competitions in this issue, and are very anxious that all our readers should take part in them.

A prize of a No. 2 Outfit will be given to the writer of the best essay on "How I would run a Meccano Club." Meccano boys all over the country are forming clubs amongst themselves, and they are getting all kinds of fun and enjoyment from them, and our object in starting this competition is to get all the ideas of the brightest Meccano boys together on this subject and publish them for the benefit of the rest of the great Meccano world. We would like competitors to say whether they think it would be better to have a local club in each town, or one big Meccano Club, with head-quarters in Liverpool.

A prize of a No. 2 Meccano Outfit will be given for the best essay on "What Meccano has done for me."

Essays should be on one side of the paper only. Additional prizes will be awarded in both Competitions to essays of special merit. The closing date in each case will be March 1st, 1919.

## Results of the Meccano Essay Competitions

In our last issue we briefly announced the results of these Competitions, and we are now able to print the winning essays.

There were nearly a thousand essays sent in for each Competition, and it has been a real pleasure to read them all. Each essay was nearly as good as the winning ones, and we know of no higher praise.

Most of the competitors in the "How I came to take up Meccano as a Hobby" competition tell the same story of how they had long wished for an outfit, and how delighted they were when they received one as a Christmas or Birthday present. How they wanted to sit up all night making models, how their fathers helped them, and the interest their fathers and mothers took in the models. In fact, it seemed to us that we were reading one long unbroken story of happy winter evenings which years of use had only served to intensify. Each competitor tells us how he drew his friends, or how he was drawn by them, into the great game of Meccano model building, and of the establishment of a close brotherhood between him and his chum if helpfulness and friendly endeavour to excel.

The essays on "The Model I like best, and why" were equally delightful. There were those from Lancashire and Yorkshire from boys who could appreciate the wonders of the Meccano Loom from actual knowledge of the real looms. There were essays from boys employed in engineering workshops, telling us how they enjoyed building cranes, lathes, &c., and what a close resemblance there was between their models and the real machines. The big play models, Joy Wheel, the Big Wheel, Eiffel Tower, &c., all had their champions, and the Transporter Bridges, the Tower Bridge, and all the other bridges came in for high praise.

We hope all our readers will read these essays with us much enjoyment as ourselves. These Competitions are proving a great success, and we shall certainly run nore of them.

# Meccamo as a Hobby Prize Essay, by George C. Taylor, 6, Oswald Street, Amble, Northumberland.

Master Taylor is 14 years of age, and attended the Amble Council School for eight years, until he was 12, when he won a County Scholarship in September, 1916. He has since attended Duke's School in Almwick, and his most successful subjects have been Latin and Arithmetic. He expects to take up teaching as a profession, and all Meccano boys will join in wishing him a successful career.



first owned a Meccano Outfit in 1912. I received it on Christmas mornmag among st mv other toys. reason that I got Meccano was that a gentleman had told my father that his son had a Meccano Outfit, and what an excellent toy it was. So perfectly did this gentleman describe t that my father decided to buy me one, so on Christmas morning I found a No. 2 Meccano

Outfit lying at my bedside. I had never seen Meccano before, so after looking at the models on the outside of the lid for a while. I opened the box. I then looked through the book, and after a while I sat down and made a truck: After that I dressed myself and went downstairs carrying my Meccano with great care. could hardly cat my breakfast for excitement, and after I had eaten it I retired to the drawing-room and played with my Meccano till it was time for dinner. After dinner I continued to play with my Meccano till evening, when my mother and two sisters went to a concert. My father stayed at home to help me to build a Travelling Jib Crane. When it was finished I was delighted with it, and my father was almost as delighted as myself. I began to lift ornaments, and some of them were very heavy, but the string stood the strain. When my sisters came home they were also delighted, and they wanted me to make "Go-Chairs" and "Cots" for their dolls. For weeks afterwards my friends and played with my Meccano. Two of my particular friends played with me almost every evening, and you can imagine their delight upon receiving No. 2 Meccano Outfits on the following Christmas morning. We played with our Meccano Outfits for about three more years, and then my friends and I were sent to a Secondary School in Alnwick. I was surprised to see how many boys had Meccano Outfits in my form. Two of the boys in my form have Meccano Outfits No. 5.

Then I found out a shop where separate parts of Meccano were sold. My friends and I called this the "Meccano Shop." My friends and I buy separate parts every day. I sometimes get separate parts for other friends who do not go to school at Alnwick.

It was in this way that I took up Meccano as a hobby. Since then I have received a No. 24 Accessory Outfit, and my two particular friends have received similar Outfits.

GEORGE C. TAYLOR.

## The Model I Like Best, and Why

Prize Essay, by S. Sumnall, 293, High Street, Alsager's Bank, Newcastle, Staffs.

Master Sumnall is 15 years of age, and for the past three years has attended Orme's Boys' School in Newcastle. He is in the 4th Form and is now taking a course of Science and Chemistry. He is also studying mechanics at home. He intends taking up Engineering as a profession. We are quite sure from his letters that he has a special aptitude for mechanical subjects, and we are confident that he will make excellent progress in his adopted profession.



Living in a mining village, I should not particularly favour such models as the Lancashire American looms. sky scrapers, nor yet Dutch windmills. I should naturally turn to the inventions that deal with the work I see going on here every day. In a word, my favourite model is the Pit Head Gear." Model No. 267, made by Meccano set No. J. There one has a splendid

example of the Pit Head Gear or, as the miners say, the head sticks. My friend and I have made this model scores of times, and to watch it working with the motor has always been our delight. I have a spring motor which acts quite as well as the electric motor shown in the illustration. To see the cages ascending and descending with the utmost regularity, the whole model running quite smoothly, makes one glad to know that it is his own. In a former essay a boy said (I forget his name) "As if by magic the little strips transform themselves into bridges, cranes, wagons, s.c.! Probably he had seen those cranes once or twice-I mean the reality, working. I see the reality of my model working every day. My father goes down the pit in larger cages, but exactly the same as those in the model, and I myself have seen the engines, throbbing monsters, that take up all the space of a great engine-room. So, as you see, all this gives an added enjoyment to this model. Just a fortnight ago. on the Saturday afternoon of January 12th. I was working at my favourite model as gladly as ever. Then came news which sent a thrill of horror through the entire village. The very pit whose head gear is so much like the model was the scene of a great turmoil. I am speaking of the ill-fated Minnie Pit. I suppose the boy who invented this model had no idea of the lives that depended on the real Pit Head Gears. We think of the miners down below, working in dark, narrow, and extremely dangerous passages, and feel thankful that the head gear is all right. We feel thankful that the men have brought the head gears to such a high state of perfection and therefore safety. And now I suppose you will see why I favour this particular model. The Dutch boy would say, if asked of his favourite models, "windmills"; the American, "skyscrapers, and so on. Most boys, I have no doubt. would say the Meccanograph, which is world-famous. When I say world-famous, I mean the world of Meccano boys, for truly they form a world of their own. So I say, that I think there is no better model in the whole Manual of Instructions of the 326 models.

S. SUMNALL.

## Mow to get the Meccano Magazine Regularly

Under the new Government regulations we are unable to send the "Meccano Magazine" to any one except those who directly apply to us for it. If, therefore, you wish to become a reader of the M.M. it will be necessary for you to forward to us a request for it to be sent to you regularly, accompanied by 2d. in stamps for postage on the next four issues. A double subscription of 4d. will, of course, ensure the next eight numbers being sent to you.

## It's Worth Fighting For

BY WEE GEORGIE WOOD.

Long years ago when you were not
And I was—hardly—quite!
A man could keep what he had got,
Providing—he could fight!
Like knights of old, Meccano boys
Guard their "sets" many ways;
They'll "box" to keep their "box of joys,"
The sunshine of winter days.

After my last contribution to the Meccane Magazine I received the above, together with a letter in which the sender invited me to tea, and stated he was the "oldest-youngest" boy in the world, and claimed he was the father of "Peter Pan," the boy who wouldn't grow up. I accepted his invitation and was told the following story, which he vouched for. Here it is!

Not so long ago there lived two brothers named Jim and Harry Maxwell. Jim was the Meccano boy of the family (there is at least one Meccano boy in every self-respecting family), whilst Harry was a bookworm. Football, cricket, swimming, Meccano, and games, in fact all the things that real healthy British boys love, had no attraction for Harry; he really thought he was very clever, but Jim thought otherwise, because when he had built a really fine Meccano model, Harry would look at it and say, "But look what a lot of holes you've wasted." Now what could you do with a brother like that?

The great war came and their father answered the call. Money was not so plentiful in the Maxwell family, and Harry had turned from his books to picture palaces, but Jim was happy with his Meccano; he made Meccano supports to strengthen the box which carried the weekly dainties to his dad, and other things which he invented were accepted by the War Office, but they won't let me tell you about them until after the war.

Eventually dad got leave and found that whilst Jim could make many useful things, Harry could only make a Charlie Chaplin moustache! Then came the Spanish flu; Harry was one of the first to get it, and although he did not usually share with Jim. he gave him that. Jim was ill, but although they were both confined to the bedroom he was perfectly happy with his beloved Meccano! Harry soon became interested and started building the easy models; then as he began to make the more difficult ones. Jim found he was losing his set. He complained to his dad, who, being perfectly sensible, said: 'If a thing is worth keeping, it's worth fighting for." That started it. Harry was not of an athletic disposition, but had come to be so fond of Jim's Meccano that he hated to part with it, and Harry, the milksop, actually boxed Jim! The contest lasted for four rounds (with dad as referee); of course our hero, James, won-but for his magnificent fight of four rounds Harry was most appropriately presented with a No. 4 set. Both fought for their sets like Britons, and like Britons they will "hold fast."

Wes Georgie Wood.

#### Meccano Motors

Whilst our factory has been fully occupied on war work, we have had to entirely suspend the manufacture of Meccano motors. Work will be resumed on these just as soon as we can get our machines turned over and secure the necessary materials. We hope soon to be able to make deliveries of No. 1 Clockwork Motors, and Meccano Electric Motors both reversing and non-reversing.



### 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 in-Serest other Meccano boys can be dealt with here.

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

J. M'Whirter, Glasgow.-We are not downhearted any more, now that you have promised to come and see us. We will see that your visit is made very enjoyable.

Stephen Sunter, Glasgow.—Thanks for sketch, which unfortunately we cannot find room for just at present. It pleases us to know how highly you think

of Meccano. Nursery rhymes received.

W. Gernon, Kirkdale.—We are very pleased with your first letter to us. You will notice that we have anticipated your suggestions in the Meccano Manual No. 2, where you will find the curved strips and flat plates.

Leslie Robson, Stockton.—Your poetry which commences "Meccano, the pride of the nation," finishes up rather tamely, after a promising beginning. Try again, Leslie, and take a little more pains with the rhymes and the metre.

Henry L. Barr, Paisley.—Why not start a club yourself instead of waiting for someone else to start one. No doubt lots of Paisley boys would be glad to help

you. Thanks for the nursery rhymes.

H. F. Curry, Kirkby Fields.—"Alfred Meccanofingers. who, it will be remembered, bought the only Meccano Motor in Pawlton, has been found in his bed with a Meccano dagger stuck in his shirt, at his home at Flatbracket Cottage, in Sprocket Wheel Lane. The motor is missing and the police are on the track of several small boys who are suspected." Horrible! Horrible! Why! oh, why have you harrowed our feelings with such dreadful tidings!

Hugh Hembry, Glastonbury.— Of all the toys I ever loved. I love Meccano best; For that, I think, without a doubt, Is far above the rest.

The rest of your neat poem is not quite so good, but your affection for the hobby is evident, and we shall treasure your letter.

Reginald Palmer, 18, Orchard Street, Ipswich, wishes to know of Meccano boys in Ipswich who will help him to form an Ipswich Meccano Club. Now ye Ipswich boys!

Private W. Elsegood, West End, Cork.—We sympathise with you in your wish to go over to France, but as your health is evidently not too good we are sure you are serving your country just as effectively where you are. Thanks for poetry. Meccano Magazine will be sent to you regularly.

Julious Rosenberg, London.

When I was sick, and lay abed, I had Meccano beside my bed, And all the parts beside me lay To keep me happy all the day.

Well, Julious, that's not a bad little effort for so young a boy. It has the true ring of sincerity, which after all

is the supreme test of real poetry.

Leslie Winks, Hoyland.—We have been compelled to hold our big Meccano Prize Competition over this year on account of the shortage of Meccano, and the impossibility of dealing with the enormous number of entries which have to be so carefully dealt with. We shall resume them as soon as possible. Some of your nursery rhymes are quite good.

E. C. Herbert, Aintree.— 'After taking a prize in your competition I received congratulations from various parts of the globe, which goes to show with what spirit Meccano boys enter these competitions." Meccano boys are broad-minded boys, and they always

play the game.

T. Hyler White, Croydon.—We trust Frank is quite well again now, and that his prize storage cabinet pleased him. You will see that in our Manual No. 2 we have anticipated your suggestion of curved strips.

N. Kingsley Strack, Pymble, N.S.W.—Thanks for your congratulations, and for suggestions for new parts, which will be considered. A number of excellent new parts are announced in the No. 2 Meccano Manual, and others will be added when we are able to manufacture them. It will interest you to know that we are making arrangements to publish a special Meccano Magazine for Australasia.

L. Beckwith, Tottenham.—We are very sorry that you are finding it so difficult to obtain Meccano parts, but we hope this will be remedied before very long. We are glad to have your suggestions for cutter blocks and cutters. Your drawings are quite clear.

Albert E. Rogers.-We wish every success to your Meccano Club, and we hope your Meccano I'en will always be crowded with members. We are quite sure that it will help you considerably if you get into correspondence with secretaries of other Meccano

Southville Meccano Club.-We shall treasure the photographs you have sent us of the members of your club. As you say, these are tres bon. The No. 2 Manual was certainly a long time in making its appearance, but you will agree that it was well worth waiting

B. Bowles, South Woodford.—Your letter was not "the last straw which broke the mail-bag's back." We read it with pleasure, and hope to hear from you again. We, too, wish the war would "suddenly stop." It's coming to an end though now, and soon we shall all be getting on with the real work of life again.

John S. Cope, Bloxwich.— 'I have had this Spanish influenza; it is very nice, I.D.T.!" It's very nice, what, John? We appreciate your wishing to send us raspberries from your garden. The Meccano Magazine will

be sent to you regularly.

George Hay, Glasgow.—" I noticed in reading over the Competition results that there are no Scottish winners. Do the Scotch boys not take an interest in the Competition? I would like to appeal to them through the Meccano Magazine to go in next time determined to win the big prizes." Now, you boys from the North, what have you got to say about this?

W. H. E. Jukes, Stourbridge.—Thanks for a suggestion for a Meccano badge. This is neat, and will

be considered.

made.

C. Reniere, Haverstock Hill.-No. Charles, the Meccano Magazine is not suffering from nervous breakdown. You see, one of its main articles of diet is paper, and this is even more closely rationed than sugar nowadays.

J. Button, Scottsdale, Tasmania.—We hope you passed the Junior Public Examination and received the promised Meccano Outfit. Forty-seven miles to school every week is a long trip. The inventor of Meccano is on his way back from a trip to Australasia. and he writes to say what a fine reception he had.

W. T. E. Kemm, Wepener, South Africa.—We have read your letter with great interest, and we hope your Meccano Club will be a great success. Let us know of any difficulties you encounter, so that we may help you. We should like to see a photo of your model of Victoria Falls Bridge.

M. A. N. Heathcote, Stevenage.—Thanks for photo of aeroplane, which seems well designed. The best method of driving your electric motor is with an accumulator, which lasts a long time and can easily and cheaply be recharged. We hope you have completely recovered from your accident.

Evelyn Belsey, Putney.—We are glad you like the Meccano Magazine so much. It is hard luck to have to spend a year in bed. Are you better now? Some day when you come to Liverpool you must pay us a visit, and we will show you how our big mail bag is opened and dealt with by the Editor, and how Meccano is

## Nursery Rhymes

In our last issue we published a new nursery rhyme by a Meccano boy, and we invited our readers to compose and send in others. The response has been very prompt, and for the past few weeks we have been inundated with the efforts of budding Meccano poets. Below we are printing a selection of the rhymes which have been sent in, most of which show originality and humour. In each case the author has heard something to his advantage as promised.

From G. Harold Hill, 82, Mansfield Road, Buxton:-There was an old woman who lived in a shoe. She had so many children she didn't know what to do. Meccano. however, suggested a way Of keeping them merry and happy all day.

> "Sisters and brothers, little maid-How many may there be? " "How many? None at all," she said; "But Meccano's company."

Under the spreading chestnut tree, The village laddie stands, And chuckles he, with honest glee, Meccano in his hands.

From Miss M. M. Hollinshead, 9, Palmerston Gardens. Rathmines, Dublin.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul, And a merry old soul was he: He called for his pipe, And he called for his bowl. And he called for his Meccano No. 3.

"Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" "I'm going a-marketing, sir," she said.

"What will you buy there, my pretty maid?" "Meccano Outfits, sir," she said.

"And what do you want them for, my pretty maid?" "For a wee boy to play with sir," she said.

"And what is your fortune, my pretty maid?" "Meccano's my fortune, sir," she said. "Then I shall marry you, my pretty maid!" "Mr. Hornby's before you, sir," she said.

From Fred Cotton, 299, Station Road, Bamber Bridge.

> Ride a cockhorse to Banbury Cross, To see a fine lady get on a white horse, With rings on her fingers and bells on her toes, She talks of Meccano wherever she goes.

From E. Taylor, Hazelbrow.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does your Meccano grow With puffer trains, And lovely cranes, And tanks to fight the foe.

From David C. Ramsden, 257, Hyde Park Road, Headingley.

Little Miss Muffett. Sat on a tuffett. And with Meccano she started to play. This did so enthral her, The spider failed to appal her, And turned disgusted away.

## Nuts and Bolts.

There has been a great scarcity of nuts and bolts for a long time, but now peace has been declared we have been able to turn more machines on to them, and we can fill all orders without delay. We are, as rapidly as possible, turning all our machines over to Meccano work, and soon we hope to have plentiful supplies of all outfits and parts. You can order at once through your regular dealer. Let us know if you have any difficulty.

## Prices of Meccano

0	Outfit	with	full	instructions	for	building	5/6
1		do.		do.			9/-
2		do.		do.			16/6
3		do.		do.			25/-
4		do.		do.			42/-
5		do.		do.			57/6
6	No	do.	rell-fi	do.	vith l	ock and kev.	145/-

## Accessory Outfits

No.	Q.						
0a	converti	ng a	No. 0	into a No	. 1	•	4/-
12	do.	do.	1	do.	2	: • · · · •	9/-
2a	do.	do.	2	do.	3		9/6
3a	do.	do.	3	do.	4		18/-
4a	do.	do.	4	do.	5		14/-
5a	do.	do.	5	do.	6	( ) ( ( · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	50/-

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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