

A Brotherhood of Boys

Why You Should Join the Meccano Guild

Victoria (Glasgow) M.C.—A party of boys recently visited the Liner S.S. *Cameronia*, and greatly enjoyed being shown round. The club has been divided into sections and the scheme is proving quite a success. An interesting demonstration of levers was given recently by the secretary. "A trip through the Scottish Borderlands and Galloway" was the subject of a lecture delivered recently and slides for which were loaned by the L.M.S. Railway Company. The lantern was operated by Mr. Clarke, an old friend of the club. Unfortunately the club is still without a Leader and any gentleman who is willing to help in this capacity is asked to communicate with the secretary. Club roll: 38. Secretary: Henry C. Thompson, 4, Montgomerie Gardens, Scotstoun, Glasgow.

Albert Village M.C.—The membership of the club unfortunately shows a decrease but it is hoped to organise a Recruiting Campaign very soon. A Concert was recently held and proved quite successful. The chair was taken by the Leader and various songs were given. The play "Nonsense Nana" also figured in the programme and was well appreciated. A domino handicap was held and was won by H. Eames. The Hornby Section which has been formed is proving quite successful and a train layout has been procured. Plans are on foot for an Exhibition which it is hoped will be a great success. Several of the members united to form a stall at the Chapel Bazaar and this realised £10. Club roll: 20. Secretary: L. S. Adey, 239, Occupation Rd., Woodville, Nr. Burton-on-Trent.

Plymouth M.C.—Good progress is reported, Lectures and model-building being the main features of the programme. A model-building competition has been planned and the boys are quite keen about it. It has been proposed to start a Girls' Section and a Football Section is also under consideration. One member brought a model of Major Segrave's car of his own construction and this proved very fascinating to the younger members. Club roll: 40. Secretary: Kenneth Wills, 8, Beechwood Avenue, Mutley, Plymouth.

Australia

Swastika (Australia) M.C.—Meetings are well attended and an interesting programme is being followed. Several excellent papers have been read and a Library has been started. The Rev. J. French very kindly gave a talk on his travels in Europe, which was well received. Several models are to be displayed in a local shop window. Table Tennis is popular and frequently appears on the programme, and a Mock Trial has also been organised. The second Exhibition has been held and proved a great success. Club roll: 18. Secretary: Ronald Wood, 26, Jeffery Street, Solomontown, S. Australia.

Singapore

Singapore Chinese M.C.—This club was recently affiliated with the Guild and appears to be making excellent progress. Sports are to be a popular feature of the syllabus and will include Swimming, Badminton, Football, and Running. It has been decided to hold fortnightly meetings as this is more convenient for most of the members. The Leader is hoping to enrol many new members in the near future and intending new members should apply to him for full details. Club roll: 35. Leader: Mr. Choo Teck Hong, 57, Joo Chiat Terrace, Singapore.

Egypt

Cleopatra (Cairo) M.C.—The School holidays have finished and the members are now all back in Cairo. Arrangements for the Autumn Session are complete. In a competition that has been arranged, every member is to write a short essay entitled "How I Spent My Holiday this Summer." Several prizes are to be given and the idea is proving very attractive. Club roll: 33. Secretary: Abd El Hamid Amin, 2, Haret El Ismaily, Nasria, Cairo, Egypt.

New Zealand

Dunedin M.C.—A lecture on "Sailing Ships" was recently given by Mr. H. Cole. The lecturer offered a prize for the best drawing of a full rigged ship, and the members are eagerly awaiting publication of the results. Clay modelling is an interesting feature of the syllabus. Competitions are frequently held and Stamp Night is popular. Club roll: 24. Secretary: Tony MacLachlan, Art Studio, 66, Albany Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Clubs Not Yet Affiliated

Froyle (Hampshire) M.C.—A club has been started in Froyle and appears to be making excellent headway. There is room for more members, however, and intending members should communicate with Mr. W. B. Snelling, whose address is given below. Several attractive sections are to be formed and an interesting programme has been arranged. Leader: Mr. W. B. Snelling, Brewery House, Froyle, Hampshire.

Haileybury (Canada) M.C.—More new members are urgently required for this newly formed club. Those wishing to join should write to the secretary, who can assure them of a hearty welcome. A Leader has not yet been secured, but it is hoped that one will be found in the near future. Secretary: Edward Hincks, Haileybury, Ontario, Canada.

West Hartlepool M.C.—The secretary has been successful in securing a suitable club room and meetings are held every night at 6.45. New members will be made very welcome. Affiliation is to be applied for very soon. Secretary: E. W. Dickinson, 71, Arncliffe Gardens, West Hartlepool.

The really happy boys throughout the world to-day are those who have a hobby in which they take an enthusiastic and lasting interest, and the happiest of all are Meccano boys, for their's is the greatest of all hobbies. When a boy takes up a hobby, whatever it may be, he feels a great desire to meet other boys having interests similar to his own, and to compare notes and talk things over with them. This is particularly the case with Meccano. No Meccano boy is content to "play a lone hand" for long. He very soon wants to meet other Meccano boys, to see their models and to show them his own, and to discuss plans and schemes for other and bigger models.

How the Guild Began

It is more than 20 years since Meccano began to take its place as the greatest of all hobbies, and even in those early days Meccano boys were forming themselves into little clubs and societies. These organisations steadily increased in strength and numbers but by degrees they began to realise that they were suffering from a very serious defect—they were isolated, each doing good work in its own little sphere, but knowing nothing of what other similar organisations were doing.

Presently we at Meccano Headquarters began to receive letters asking us to set up some form of central organisation to which all the individual clubs and societies might look for guidance and which would weld them all into one great body. Day by day these letters increased in number, and we realised that the desire for a central organisation was genuine and widespread. We were only too willing to do all that we could in the matter but, realising the immense responsibility and the enormous amount of work involved in taking such a step, we delayed action until we felt that we had the means and facilities for carrying out the task successfully. By 1919 we felt that we were in a position to tackle the job and in that year the Meccano Guild came into existence.

It is important to remember that the idea of a Guild did not originate at Meccano Headquarters. The Meccano Guild was organised solely as the result of urgent representations from boys all over the world. They, as Meccano boys, felt the need of attaining unity by means of such an organisation and we at Headquarters felt it our duty to do everything we could to satisfy the demand.

A Unique Brotherhood

So the Meccano Guild, the most remarkable brotherhood of boys in the world, came into being in the year 1919, with Mr. Frank Hornby, the inventor of Meccano, as its president. The announcement of its birth was received with the utmost enthusiasm throughout the great army of Meccano boys of all nations, and applications for membership began to come in immediately in large numbers. Since that time the membership of the Guild has grown enormously, and a special feature of its growth has been its steadiness, year in and year out.

Objects of the Guild

The three objects of the Guild, set forth in the form of application for membership, are as follows:—

- (1) To make every boy's life brighter and happier.
- (2) To foster clean-mindedness, truthfulness, ambition and initiative in boys.
- (3) To encourage boys in the pursuit of their studies and hobbies, and especially in the development of their knowledge of mechanical and engineering principles.

In order to join the Meccano Guild it is necessary for the form of application to be filled up, signed and witnessed. This form is then sent to the Secretary with a remittance to pay for a badge. The applicant is then duly enrolled as a member of the Guild and his badge and membership certificate are sent to him. The neat little triangular badge—its three corners representing the three objects of the Guild—and the handsome certificate are always received with enthusiasm. Most members have their certificates framed and hung in their own rooms, where they can always see them. The price of the Guild badge is 7d., or 1/- if sent overseas.

The Correspondence Club

Although the Guild was originated for the benefit of Meccano Clubs it includes to-day a very large number of "lone" members. In many cases these members live far away from a Meccano Club and sometimes far away from any other Meccano boy. It is a great joy to such members to have someone to write to who is really interested in the Meccano hobby, and it was the realisation of this fact that led to the inauguration of a Guild Correspondence Club. Through the medium of the Correspondence Club boys living in the remotest parts of the world are placed in touch with other boys of their own age and of similar interests. In most cases correspondence is carried on regularly, and results in the formation of firm friendships, although the boys may be living hundreds or even thousands of miles apart. Boys who have become acquainted through the Correspondence Club have even visited one another, each spending a happy holiday as a welcome guest in the home of the other.

The "Meccano Magazine" is the official organ of the Guild, and each month two or three pages are devoted to Guild matters. The progress of the various clubs all over the world is reported briefly and photographs are published of Leaders, and secretaries and club groups. Thus, by means of the "Meccano Magazine," each club is kept acquainted with the progress of all other clubs.

Every Meccano boy should be a member of the Guild. As soon as he receives his badge and certificate of membership he has the right of entry into the innermost circles of Meccanoland. His pleasure in his hobby is increased enormously and he has the keen satisfaction of knowing that, instead of being an isolated unit, he belongs to a great brotherhood of boys with members in every country in the world.