



A yard scene in Hornby-Dublo including the Goods Depot assembled from the standard kit.

Freight Handling in Hornby-Dublo

By "The Engineer"

ALTHOUGH on most miniature railway layouts a considerable amount of attention is given to the working and accommodation of passenger trains, provision for goods traffic—apart from the installation of sidings for the storage of rolling stock—is liable to be somewhat neglected. Most miniature railway owners hasten to provide at least one passenger station for their trains, but are not concerned so much about the freight side of things. There really is no excuse for this now, since the introduction of the Hornby-Dublo Kit, No. 5020, which provides the means of assembling a really splendid Goods Depot. The picture above shows the finished item in use and I am sure you will all agree that the Goods Depot is an effective and attractive addition to the Hornby-Dublo System.

Road Access Important

Naturally, space is required for the effective development of a freight yard of the kind shown and this can prove a little difficult on layouts where space is restricted. It is important to have road access, for Dublo Dinky Toys or other suitable vehicles, and on several layouts I have come across considerable ingenuity has been

exercised by the owners in fitting up overbridges crossing the main line so that the goods yard within the main oval can be reached from the "outside world".

In arrangements of this kind the activities of the engineer and of the layout expert are closely connected, and as in real life the engineer has to provide the track required by the traffic man I am sure you will not mind if I have a little to say about siding arrangements. If at all possible there should be a certain amount of space between the different tracks, otherwise the whole yard has a compressed and confusing aspect. Notice, therefore, that there is a respectable space between the tracks in the picture on this page. Obviously the staff must have room to move about while performing their different duties, in preparing trains or in disposing of them, or rather of the wagons of which they are composed.

Where a certain amount of yard space can be provided in addition to the goods depot itself there will usually be a track reserved for coal traffic, or for other loads that can be dealt with directly in the open by bringing the road vehicles alongside. This is the general situation in the sort of yard we have been considering, but matters