

HERE'S HOPPY. THE ROBOT

Eyes aglow,
Arms swinging,
Head turning,
'Hoppy'
perambulates
in a most
unusual manner.
Build him
with Spanner

SCIENCE fiction writers—those prophets of the mechanical age—have long foretold the existence of man-like machines, capable of movement and able to perform all sorts of physical tasks. In these days of automation the prophecies of science fiction are well on the way to realization. Already men in a wide variety of industries are being superseded by machines which are doing the job better, faster and at a greatly reduced cost, but as yet, none of these machines could, even by the widest stretch of the imagination, be described as 'human-looking'.

In spite of this, it is an easy matter to produce a man-like machine, or robot, as is proved by the fact that Meccano owners have been doing just that for close on half a century! It has been some considerable time, however, since we actually featured a robot in the 'M.M.', so I thought I would make up the deficiency this month with the typical example described below. Admittedly, it cannot do anybody's work for them, but it does walk, swing its arms and move its head, thanks to the Power Drive Unit it incorporates. The only thing to remember is that it does not walk like we do with two legs, but moves both feet forward together, while standing on its 'legs', then swings its body forward to repeat the movement. Construction should present no problem.

In this view of the model construction of the feet is clearly shown. Note that the back of the 'legs' has been removed to show the drive to the feet

