



Die casting the cab and chassis section of the Big Bedford Lorry, Dinky Toys No. 522.

THERE is no need for me to introduce Dinky Toys to you. Practically everybody in Great Britain knows them, as do millions in other parts of the world, for there can never have been toys that have had so much fascination for their owners.

Why Dinky Toys have sold in millions for many years past is easy to find. A mere glance at any one of them is sufficient to show that they are well made and beautifully finished, and it is now well established that a Dinky Toy is almost indestructible. Its enamel may suffer a little from really harsh treatment, but the toy itself will retain its shape, even if its owner jumps on it or hits it with a hammer—provided of course that he does not use a steam hammer or a giant hydraulic press, or exerts the power of a Samson!

So there are two reasons for being interested in how Dinky Toys are made. One is the attractions of the toys

themselves; the other is the high quality that is given to them in the making. A few of you may have visited the Meccano Works at Binns Road here in Liverpool and have seen some at least of the processes involved; for the rest, I must try to let you picture their production, with the aid of illustrations that show actual work in the new Dinky Toys factory at Speke, on the outskirts of Liverpool, and incidentally, not far from the airport from which holiday makers fly to the Isle of Man and to Dublin.

Suppose we start with a fairly simple Dinky Toy—the Big Bedford Lorry, Dinky Toys No. 522. Those of you who have this model will have noticed that it is in two main parts, the cab and chassis on the one hand, and the body on the other,

with of course the wheels, axles and cab base in addition. Both the cab and chassis and the body are die cast, which means that they are made by forcing molten metal into a mould, or die, that gives the metal the required shape when it cools and solidifies.

This sounds simple. You just make a mould of the right shape, pour in the molten metal, let the mass cool, and

there you are!

Actually the whole process is far from being as simple as that. To begin with, the

How Dinky Toys are Cast

By the Editor

die must be made with the utmost accuracy in order to give a product that is of exactly the right shape and size. This means careful and patient work on the part of the toolmaker who is responsible for the production of the die. In the second place, the die requires the utmost care in design. In general, it is made in two main sections, which can be slid together so that between them is the space that the molten metal is to fill.