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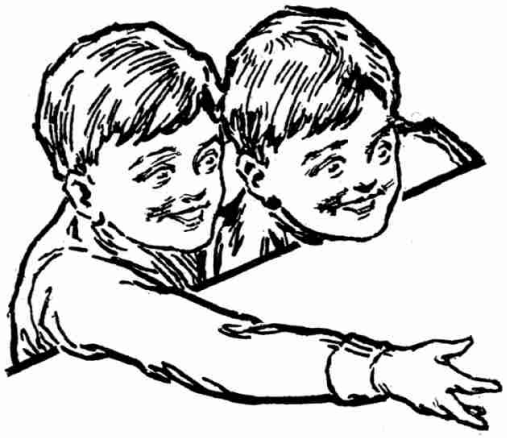
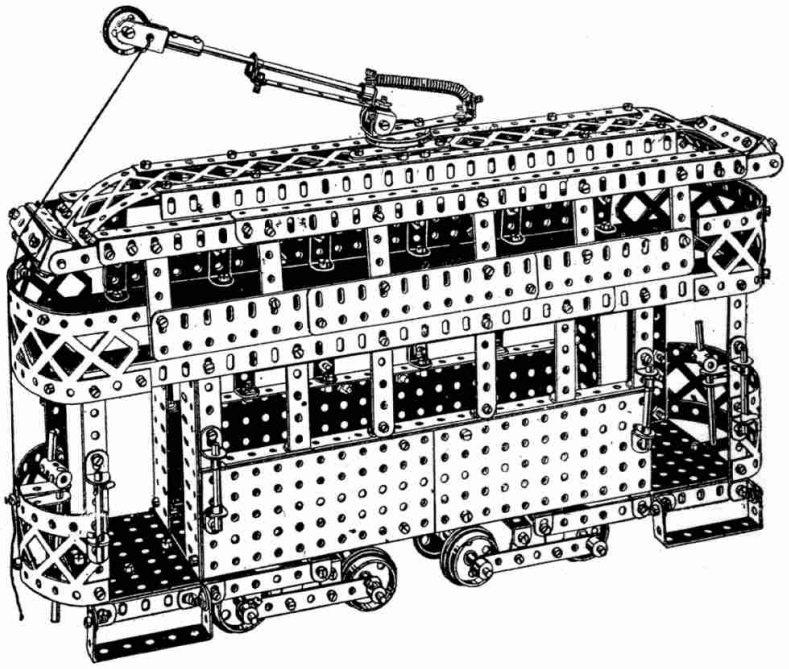
MECCANO MAGAZINE

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 splendidly.

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 maiming, 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.

The Editor

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 prize-winning 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 I had only one room, and I and my works manager used to stay 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.*)

Meccano 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, Southville, 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 headquarters 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 of 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 as much enjoyment as ourselves. These Competitions are proving a great success, and we shall certainly run more of them.

How I Came to Take up Meccano 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 Alnwick, 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.

I first owned a Meccano Outfit in 1912. I received it on Christmas morning amongst my other toys. The 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 it 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. I could hardly eat 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 I 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. 2a 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 looms, American 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. 5. 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, &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, "sky-scrapers," 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.

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.

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 *Meccano 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."

Wee 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 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.

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 Den 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 Clubs.

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

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.

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 made.

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

No.			
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	do.	do.	145/-

No. 6 in well-finished cabinet with lock and key.

Accessory Outfits

No.							
0a	converting a	No. 0	into a	No. 1	..		4/-
1a	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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