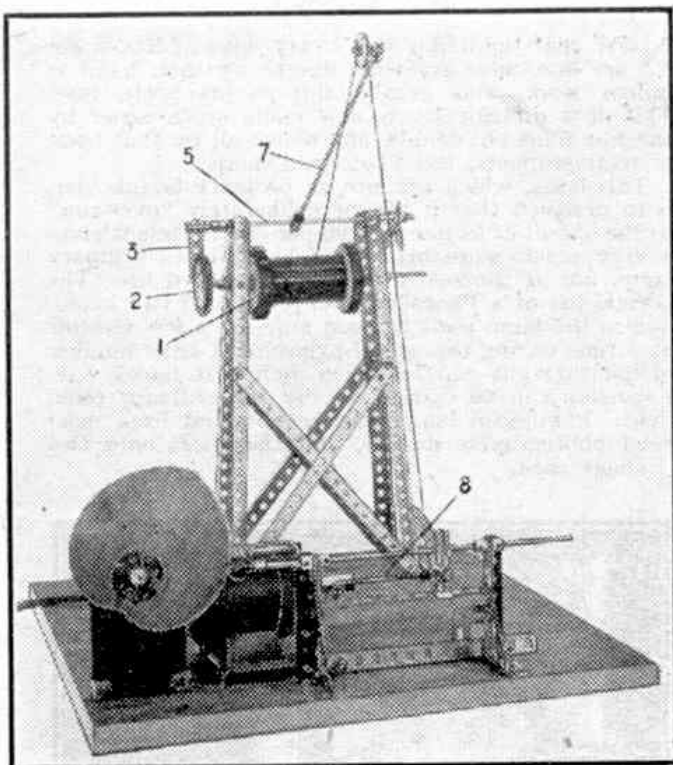


Meccano Helps with a War Job

How a Coil-winding Machine was built

READERS are aware that the Meccano factory and the wonderful machines that in peacetime turned out the famous Meccano parts, Hornby and Hornby-Dublo Trains, Dinky Toys and other products of Meccanoland, are now devoted entirely to important work for the war. In the March "M.M." the Editor referred briefly to some of the many ways in which Meccano was helping the war effort. Here is an interesting example of wartime help given by Meccano in the factory where it was made.

A few months ago the factory required to produce a very large quantity of small electrical bobbins that had to be wound with hundreds of yards of extremely fine wire. Coil winding is of course nothing new to the Meccano factory, which is fully equipped with specially-designed machines for winding the many different types of coils required in Meccano Transformers and Hornby Electric Trains. It was found, however, that the existing coil-winding plant was unsuitable for the special job owing to the extreme fineness of the wire involved. Each coil had to be wound with 14,000 turns of No. 42 S.W.G. enamelled wire, and this is so delicate that it could not be



handled on the ordinary machines without danger of snapping. It was therefore necessary to devise a more suitable form of machine, and this job fell to a member of the technical supervisory staff who in peacetime was in charge of the Meccano Model-building Department.

In order to work out a suitable mechanism it was natural that this expert should make use of Meccano parts, and with the aid of these he was able to try out quickly various ideas. Finally he succeeded in designing almost entirely in Meccano a really suitable full-size machine that met all requirements. This basic model was then used as a pattern for the construction of a number of machines on which the actual job was done with perfect success. The great advantage of using Meccano parts in carrying out the experimental work and producing the basic model was a considerable saving in time and expense.

The Meccano model is shown in the illustrations on this page, and the actual machine

