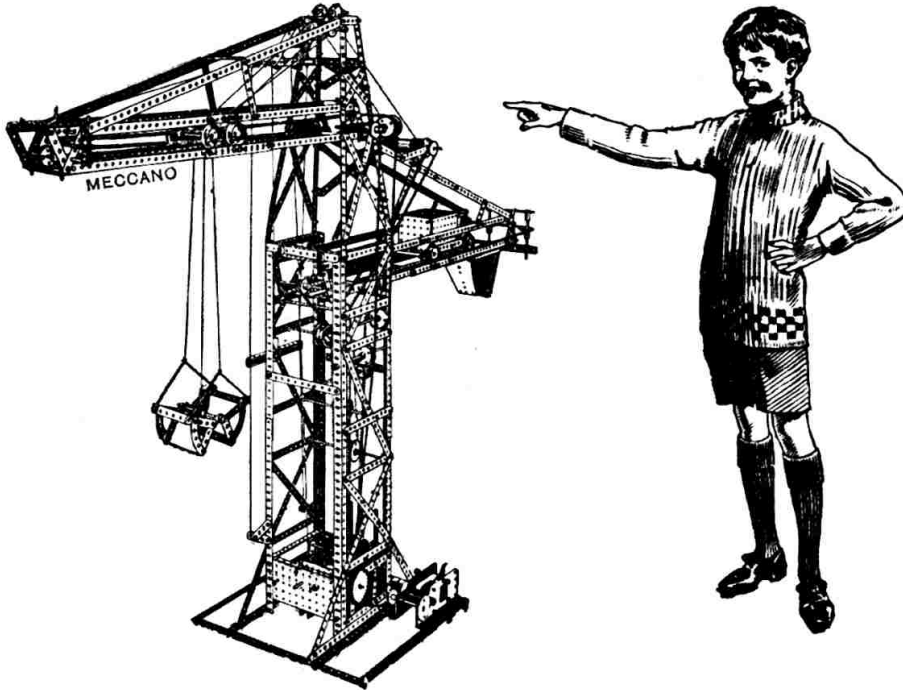


# MECCANO MAGAZINE

TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



## HIGH-SPEED SHIP COALER.

*This splendid Meccano model was a Prize Winner in the last Big £200 Competition.*

## EDITORIAL.

### The Meccano Guild.

The success of this fine movement has exceeded my highest hopes. There are splendid times ahead for Guild members, and I advise all Meccano boys to send in their applications for membership without delay.

### Bigger Meccano Factories.

The builders are hard at work erecting great new factories for us, and soon the Meccano works will be double their present size. We want to find employment for as many British workpeople as possible, and to play our part in the national movement for providing British boys and girls with British made toys.

### New Toys from the Meccano Works.

Before next Winter I shall be able to announce that we have ready for delivery the finest series of clockwork Railway Trains ever made, all designed and built on a new principle. Steam engines too for working Meccano models, and abundant supplies of the popular Meccano Clockwork Motor. Further information in future issues of the *Meccano Magazine*.

### Meccano Electrified.

I shall soon have much to tell you of a new and wonderful interest which will be given to the Meccano hobby. There will shortly be introduced new outfits which will make it possible for every Meccano boy to make fine electrical experiments all for himself. Watch the *Meccano Magazine* for future announce-

ments. We intend to make Meccano boys the happiest and brainiest boys in the world.

### To Our New Meccano Boys.

This Winter has brought some hundreds of thousands of new Meccano boys into existence. I welcome them, and the older Meccano boys welcome them to our ranks. We are all out for fine times, jolly Winter evenings and genuine comradeship, with Meccano as our bond of brotherhood. Our common sign of fellowship, the Meccano Guild Badge, is penetrating into every corner of the Empire. When you read our President's inspiring message on another page you will understand better all that this beautiful badge stands for, and will be proud to wear it.

### Our Competitions.

There are quite a number of Meccano Competitions running just now. The big £200 Competition, the entries for which are flowing in, the Inventor's Competition, and now three new Essay Competitions. Get into these good things boys, enjoy the fun, and get a share of the excellent prizes.

A number of boys have written to me to say that as they are at school until the end of March, they have no opportunity of completing their Competition models in time for the closing date. We have therefore decided to extend the £200 Competition until April 15th, so that everyone may compete.

*The Editor*

## The Life Story of Meccano

BY FRANK HORNBY.

(Continued.)

We were busy making plans for increased production in 1915 when, as you will remember, in the early part of the year the position of this country became very serious indeed. We consulted with officials of the Government and gradually the whole of our plant was diverted from the manufacture of Meccano to the production of munitions, and right up to the date of the armistice our employees worked loyally, day and night, to help to provide the ammunition which our soldiers needed to bring the war to a successful termination. Some day I may be able to put on record the number and variety and type of munitions which our factory provided for the Government, and the tale of this exacting and anxious period in the history of the Meccano factories will, I am sure, be found both a fascinating and highly creditable one.

I take great pride in the Meccano works, and I wish every Meccano boy in this country could have an opportunity of going through them and of seeing the wonderful machines at work, and the splendid conditions under which the Meccano parts are made. Many additions have been made to the workshops since 1914, and they are now more than double their original size, and still we keep on building.

I think it would surprise most of you boys if you could see the size and number of the machines required to produce Meccano parts, and the elaborate and careful organisation necessary before the completed outfits can be put into your hands. The steel required for the various sizes of strips is manufactured specially for us in Sheffield, and rolled down to just the right thickness. It comes to us in coils and sheets carefully wrapped and protected, and we always take care to have by us some hundreds of tons as a reserve stock. The strips, plates, and other flat parts are blanked out and pierced with equidistant holes in our presses, and the tools required for this process must be of the finest possible description. They are made of high-carbon steel, and must be able to stand tremendous wear and strain. Large and costly machines are used for shaping, milling, and grinding these tools, and great skill and accuracy are required from the workmen who produce these tools for us. We are proud of the quality of our tools and of the tool makers who produce them. You will all have noticed that our strips and plates are dead true and accurate, and free from all blemishes or burred edges. If low-grade tools were used the deterioration would at once become obvious, and there would be an end to that high finish and accuracy upon which we pride ourselves so much. After the strips, &c., come from the presses, they are conveyed to our Barrelling Department and poured into rumbling barrels, along with certain cleansing compounds, and for some hours they are turned over and over until the edges are smooth and every impurity has been taken from their surface. The strips are then passed singly through a series of rollers in order to straighten them, and from there they are conveyed to our Nickel-plating Department.

(To be continued.)



# The Meccano Guild

## A Fellowship of Meccano Boys



- To make every boy's life brighter and happier.
- To foster clean-mindedness, truthfulness, ambition, and initiative in boys.
- To encourage boys in the pursuit of their studies and hobbies, and especially in the development of their knowledge of mechanical and engineering principles.

### Guild Notes By the Secretary

I have very great pleasure in announcing that substantial progress has been made by the Guild since my last report. Every day the number of members increases steadily, and the enthusiasm for the Guild is keener than ever. I have received hundreds of letters from boys asking to be put into communication with a Club in their district, and where possible this has been done; the remainder have been advised to watch for the lists of new Clubs and names of boys anxious to form Clubs which will appear from time to time in the *Magazine*, but I feel that in most cases these boys would do well to set to work to form a Club for themselves and their chums.

A very pleasing feature has been the progress which the Guild has made in other lands. I have received many letters from boys living in Gibraltar, Egypt, India, and South Africa, expressing their warm approval of the Meccano Guild movement, and asking to be allowed to join in with it.

Reports from Club Secretaries should reach me at the end of each Club session. They should be written on one side of the paper only, and should give the following information:—

- Name and address of Club.
- Name and address of Club Leader and Club Secretary.
- Number of members on roll, and average attendance.
- A short account of each meeting.
- A short description of the work of the Club.
- Accounts.
- Programme for the following session.

Since the last publication of the *Magazine* further new and promising Clubs have been affiliated with the Guild. Each one is under the leadership of an adult, and in some cases, an adult Secretary also; each one has its own Club premises, and I feel that these Clubs will become permanent institutions in their respective towns, and instrumental in doing great good for the boys not only of to-day, but of years to come.

### How To Join The Guild

Boys wishing to join the Guild should send a postcard to the Secretary, Meccano Guild Head-quarters, Old Swan, Liverpool, asking for an Application Form. This must be filled in and returned, together with 7d. in stamps, to cover the cost of the enamelled badge of membership, which a member undertakes to wear on all occasions.

A parent, guardian, or some other responsible person must also sign the form, and if the applicant is a member of a Club, he should get the Club Secretary's signature.

### General Rules

- The General Association of Meccano Clubs shall be known as the Meccano Guild.
- The Meccano Magazine shall be the official organ of the Guild.
- A leader of a club shall be known as the Club Leader. In order to be eligible for affiliation with the Meccano Guild a club must be under the guidance of an adult Club Leader, and have a proper club-room.
- A club will not be recognised, unless registered with the Meccano Guild. A registered club will be granted a Certificate of Affiliation which shall be hung in the club-room; this certificate gives the club the right to all privileges and advantages offered by the Guild.
- Rates of subscription will be fixed by each club in accordance with local conditions.
- A club will arrange a Meccano Competition each year for its members.
- Membership of a club shall be open to any boy who possesses a Meccano outfit, and each member must on all occasions wear the Guild Badge. Where an individual boy is unable to join a Meccano Club, he may become an ordinary member, and wear the Guild Badge.
- A Meccano boy, on joining the Guild, must promise on his honour:—
  - To conform with the rules and regulations of the Meccano Guild.
  - To promote its objects by his own example; to be helpful to others in thought and habit; to be determined to learn and to make progress.
  - To wear the Meccano Guild Badge on all occasions.
  - To recognise and acknowledge all other members wearing the Guild badge, and to render them help in case of need.

### The President's Message to Members of the Meccano Guild

When I see the big number of Meccano boys who daily join the ranks of the Meccano Guild; when I see the hundreds of letters from members, club leaders, club secretaries, parents and prominent business men throughout the country, all expressing whole-hearted approval of the Guild and its objects, I feel a proud and happy man. I have watched Meccano slowly grow from an acorn until now it has become the stoutest oak in the forest. I have watched its fame extend to the uttermost ends of the earth, and its name become a household word wherever there are boys, but the pleasure which this has given me, great and deep though it has been, is not to be compared with the pleasure which the success of the Meccano Guild movement is now giving me. This is a movement, boys, which is going to bring lasting good to everyone who joins it. I once told you that I had a million boy friends. I felt at that time that they were the best boys in the world, and I thought what a wonderful thing it would be if I could bring them all together in some way and get them to know each other. Each one would then, like myself, have a million boy friends, and there would not be such a thing as a lonely and friendless boy in the world. All this is coming to pass, and the Meccano Guild is doing it for us. Members of the Guild, I count on your help, and I know I shall get it. You will treasure your Guild badge, wear it, and know what it stands for. Whenever you see another boy wearing it you will know that he is a good, straight, decent fellow, and that, like you, he has solemnly promised to live up to the objects of the Guild. Treat him as a friend and not as a stranger, and help him if you can in his play, his work, or his studies. Play the game with him and he will play the game with you. This is going to be the Guild of a million friends, and not one of us is going to do a thing which will bring discredit to the other 999,999.

Your friend,

*J. Hornby*

### Inventor's Competition

Prizes are offered for the best suggestions for the improvement of the models in the Meccano Manuals of Instructions by the use of the new parts recently introduced into the Meccano system.

First prize—a No. 6 Meccano outfit, value £9.

Second prize—a No. 5 Meccano outfit, value £5.

Third prize—a No. 5 Meccano Carton, value £3. 10s.

Additional prizes for entries of special merit.

Closing date, March 1st, 1920. No form of entry required. Send us a post card for fuller particulars of this competition.



MECCANO CLUB CERTIFICATE

### On Guilds.

Many of our readers have written to ask us why we have called the "Fellowship of Meccano Boys" a Guild. This is a very natural query, and we think we cannot do better than explain to our readers the full significance of the word "Guild" and the history of its origin.

From the very earliest times man has proved himself to be a sociable being. In the distant ages men formed themselves into tribes, in order to ensure protection against other tribes and their natural enemies, wild animals. As civilisation advanced, common interest and the social instinct drew the tribes together into nations, but in these again smaller bodies sprang up, drawn together by social, domestic, and commercial ties.

The origin of the Guilds is lost in antiquity, and although it cannot be claimed that they were originated in England, they were developed further in this country, perhaps, than in any other.

A Guild may be briefly described as a union of men formed for mutual benefit, responsibility, and protection.

A number of skilled artisans and traders left Flanders and Northern France in the wake of William I.'s army, to settle in the then newly-conquered England. They became very prosperous through hard work and successful trading, and as neither life nor property was safe in those lawless times, they joined together in the various towns and villages to resist the armed robber bands that infested the country. The more prosperous merchants and traders were the first to band themselves together, and in the twelfth century Royal authorisation was given to the founding of Merchant Guilds. As many of the members were wealthy men, they built their own halls in which to hold meetings and discuss their problems privately.

The Merchant Guilds were formed primarily for trading purposes, and they passed many stringent rules regulating the trade in various towns and villages. For instance, only members of the Guild were allowed to sell goods to the inhabitants of a town. A stranger might bring in goods, but he could only sell them to members of the Guild, and anyone found breaking this rule was very severely punished. It might be thought that the merchants, protected by Royal authority, and strongly organised in this way, would make exorbitant charges as there was no competition and no restraint, but wise rules were drawn up by all the merchants assembled together, and any member disregarding these for his own profit had his privilege of membership taken away, and he was thus deprived of the means of livelihood.

Gradually the scope of the Merchant Guilds widened, and when the liberties of the townsmen were threatened, there were large assemblages at the Guildhall to consider ways and means of defending their rights. Thus the Guild's affairs became more and more the town's affairs, and later on we find the Guild-halls became Town Halls and the Merchant Guilds became Town Councils.

As the Merchant Guilds gradually changed in character the Craft Guilds sprang up and replaced them as far as trading interests were concerned. The Craft Guilds, as was the case with the Merchant Guilds, were governed by very strict rules.

(To be continued.)

### New Essay Competitions

Each Essay Competition which we have run in the past has brought crowds of entries, and our readers evidently like this form of competition. We should have run more of them but they have been crowded out by other good things. However, here are three new ones which we think will be popular. The first two are for members of the Meccano Guild only, and we hope that every member will show his interest and enthusiasm for the movement by entering.

**Essay Competition No. 1.**—How each member can best help the movement and further its objects.

**Essay Competition No. 2.**—The best syllabus for the meetings of a Meccano Club during the summer months.

A first prize of a "B" Inventor's Outfit will be awarded in both the above competitions, and there will be additional prizes to members sending in essays which display special merit.

The third Essay Competition is open to all Meccano users and the subject is, "Which is the more enjoyable, building a Meccano model or playing with it, and why?" The first prize is a No. 2 Meccano outfit, with other prizes for essays of special merit.

The closing date for all three competitions is August 31st, 1920. Write on one side of the paper only, about 500 words. Give your name, address and age on the back of each sheet. Address the envelope "Meccano Limited, Essay Competition, Binns Road, Liverpool."

### Meccano Inventor's Accessory Outfits.

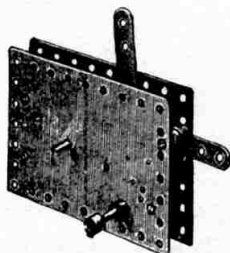


Every Meccano boy should know what hours of fun and pleasure are stored up in these splendid outfits. They increase the scope of Meccano enormously. They contain all the new Meccano parts which have been invented during recent years, none of which are in the regular Meccano Outfits. Every model in the Meccano manuals can be greatly improved by their use, and they are an absolute necessity in building and inventing new models.

"A" INVENTOR'S OUTFIT. Contains a set of big 3in. wheels, 2in. pulley wheels, the new and decorative braced girder, sprocket wheels and chain, for giving a positive non-slip drive, new gear and pinion wheels, rods and washers. Price, 10s.

"B" INVENTOR'S OUTFIT. Contains a splendid assortment of the latest Meccano accessory parts. Bevel gears, 1in. gear wheels, flat plates (four sizes), double angle strips (four sizes), octagonal and strip couplings, threaded cranks, triangular plates, screwed rods, curved strips, architraves, face plates, rack strips, girder frames, hinges, buffers, and train couplings. Price, 25s.


### The Meccano Clockwork Motor.

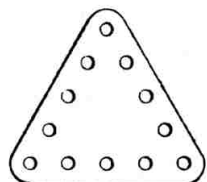


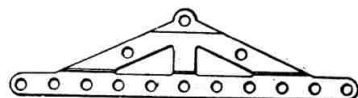
The demand for this fine motor has been phenomenal, and although we have been manufacturing heavily for some time we have not yet quite caught up with the orders. By the time this issue is in your hands, however, we expect to be able to take care of all orders immediately. The Meccano clockwork motor gives life to Meccano models. It operates cranes, elevators, trucks, motor-cars, &c., and it may be geared to any speed by the youngest boy. Simple, strong, and reliable. Price, 12s. 6d.

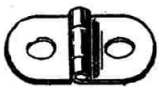
### New Meccano Parts


 s. d.  
No. 30. Bevel Gears ... .. each 1 6


  
No. 31. Gear Wheels, 1", 40 teeth ... each 1 9


  
No. 76. Triangular Plates, 2½" ... each 0 2  
No. 77. " " 1" ... .. " 0 1½

  
No. 113. Girder Frames ... .. each 0 4

  
No. 114. Hinges ... .. per pair 0 7

  
No. 115. Threaded Pins ... .. each 0 2

  
No. 120. Buffers ... .. each 0 2

  
No. 121. Train Couplings ... .. each 0 6

### The Block Accumulator.



This is a new and excellent type of accumulator. We have subjected it to most severe tests, and we believe it to be most suitable for use with any type of toy electric motor. It is non-spillable, cannot be spoiled through short circuiting, and it will retain its charge for many months. Sulphating to any serious extent cannot occur, and if neglected or left in inexperienced hands, no serious harm can be done.

Has remarkable recuperative powers, and will keep on working when nominally exhausted. A boon to any Meccano user who possesses a Meccano Electric Motor. Full instructions.

Price, 21s.



# MECCANO



## 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.

A. Dinham, Blackburn.—We much appreciate the very keen interest you show in Meccano, and your offer of the use of a club room for two nights a week is a generous one.

W. J. Brooks, Handsworth.—We are glad your children are so fond of Meccano, and that you recognise the wonderful value of the hobby. All the world over it is recognised as the cheapest and best of toys.

Ronald K. Greswell, Southport.—Many thanks for your thoughtful essay and for your photograph, which we shall treasure. We hope you will soon have a successful club running in Southport.

J. Kirkpatrick, Shiremoor.—

"A little ship was on the sea,  
It looked so very grand,  
Its cargo was very precious,  
Because it came from Meccanoland."

You started off in great style, John, but you seem to have struck trouble at the third line. We should like to print the complete poem, which tells how all the children finally formed a Meccano Club, but unfortunately we have no room for it.

T. E. Whitehouse, Wollescote.—Thanks for your interesting letter and poetry. We do not believe that the boys of Wollescote are so slow as you say, and in a little while we quite expect to see yourself and your friends running a successful club.

T. Holmshaw, Sheffield.—We are glad to have your suggestions for improving the *Meccano Magazine*. They are quite thoughtful and sensible, but there are grave difficulties just yet in the way of securing paper for larger issues.

Hubert Frankland, Bury.—

"The best of toys for all the boys,  
I vow it is Meccano."

What an enthusiastic family you come from, Hubert. It makes us happy to think that you all get such fun from model building.

E. G. Page, Sydney.—Thanks for cutting showing that a horse called "Meccano" won the £150 prize in your Ascot Races. We see that he won easily. Of course he would with such a name to encourage him.

Cecil J. Glew, Nottingham.—"As you say you have a million boy friends, more than two brothers and myself be counted as three more?" Mr. Hornby is happy to number you amongst his friends. Read his special message to you on another page, and try to prove worthy of his friendship. Thanks for good wishes.

G. Gallon, Tonbridge.—Your idea for announcing the joys of Meccano to your boy friends by means of your printing outfit is a neat one, and we are glad to hear from so enthusiastic a Guild member.

C. F. Mayson, Aldenham School.—If yourself and the other Guild members at the school meet together regularly and become firm friends, you will soon attract other boys who will want to join in the fun, and will have no difficulty in forming a club. Everything is in your favour.

T. B. S. Shingler, Coalbrookdale.—

"Tis the voice of the lobster, I heard him declare,  
'My nuts are all lost, my strips are downstairs.'  
As a duck with its eyelids, so he with his nose,  
Joins the girders together with his tail and his toes."

Does this come from reading "Alice in Wonderland," Tom, or had you been eating lobster and duck the night before?

A. E. Fletcher, North Shields.—Glad you like the *Magazine* so well, and interested to learn that Meccano has turned the hours of the long winter nights into minutes. You and Alex. Ramsey must have good times together. You should start a club.

Frank Sutcliffe.—If you will send me your address Frank, I can send a reply to your letter.

Lawrence Port.—"I would be pleased if you could inform me of any club near here . . . I would go about two miles to be able to join a club." We shouldn't like you to have to do this, Lawrence. Why not form a club yourself nearer home.

H. P. Young, Alton.—"I cannot speak too highly of Meccano, for when my boy was only 4½ he completed by himself a model of an aeroplane and other models." Your tribute is very welcome. We hope your boy will enjoy building the fine models in his No. 2 Manual.

L. Hardcastle, Kirknewton.—Your poem, "Who-killed Flat Bracket?" is quite too harrowing to be printed here, Leonard. Let your next effort be something a little less tragic.

John Durrant, Crowborough.—That was a fine letter which you sent to us, John. We are quite sure you value your new Meccano parts more because you had to earn the money to buy them.

R. J. Greensmith, West Bridgford.—A keen enthusiastic boy like yourself will do splendid work in a Club. Set to work with a will, and you will get all the help you need.

C. Microni, Alexandria.—We found your letter very interesting. That your friends should abandon the imitation system and return to Meccano was inevitable, and from now on you will find them the most enthusiastic members of your club. Yours is the first Meccano Club in Egypt, and we shall follow your progress with special interest.

H. Reed, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Your mother is right when she says that Meccano is a "noble" toy for you. She thinks of your future career as an engineer and she is helping you to become a man more than you can properly understand just yet.

R. G. Good, Maidenhead.—Your idea of a special certificate for Meccano boys to hang in their bedrooms is a good one. We wonder what other boys think of this.

Ida Scott, Barkeston.—

"With a silver sheen in the big wooden box,  
Meccano sparkles bright,  
The son of the house is happy again  
With his outfit bought that night.  
The gloom is past and the boy at last  
Is filled with wild delight."

Splendid! Ida. The lines go with a rare lilt and they have been dancing through our brain all day. When we need an official poet we shall consider your claims.

W. Lewis, Bournemouth.—We enjoyed your entertaining letter, and in spite of your humorous tilt at your own qualifications as a Club Leader, we see in you a man who has the ability to encourage, cajole, and insist upon your own and other boys having happy, joyous, and profitable hours of recreation. Help us in the big work which we are doing.

Frank Wilson, Handsworth.—We have had hundreds of letters written in praise of Meccanoland, and we quite believe you when you say "The Meccanoland Booklet is the most interesting book I ever cast eyes on. I thought I was turning the loom handle."

Fred Welsh, Haverstock Hill, N.W.5.—You are quite right in believing that the Meccano Guild badge is banding together and encouraging all the inventive and ingenious boys of the country, and we are pleased to hear that wearing the badge has helped you to take more interest in your outfit and make you keener than ever.

Geoff. Tharratt, South Willingham.—We too are sorry that you cannot join a club living as you do in the country, for meeting with other boys at a club is one of the jolliest things imaginable. However, the feeling that you *must* wear the badge as a true Meccano boy is one we wish to encourage, and you will soon find that the Guild is a real fellowship for lonely boys.

David K. Jones, Treccynon.—We hope you are better now and able to go to school again; also that your brother has had his camera mended so that he can photograph your models. Pleased to know that you are proud of your badge.

G. Howarth, Ashton-in-Makerfield.—Glad to hear that you are such a loyal Meccano boy. You are quite right, the imitations can never be so good as the original, and Meccano can always hold its own easily.

## 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 3d. in stamps for postage on the next six issues. A double subscription of 6d. will, of course, ensure the next twelve numbers being sent to you.

## 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 2s. 6d. (postage 3d. extra).

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. (postage 2d. extra).

## Prices of Meccano

No.	Outfit with full instructions for building:	Price
0	do. do.	6/-
1	do. do.	10/-
2	do. do.	20/-
3	do. do.	30/-
4	do. do.	50/-
5	do. do. (Carton)	70/-
*5	do. do. (Wood)	100/-
*6	do. do.	180/-

\* In well-finished cabinet with lock and key.

## Accessory Outfits

No.	0a	converting a No. 0 into a No. 1	..	5/-			
1a	do.	do.	1	do.	2	..	11/-
2a	do.	do.	2	do.	3	..	12 -
3a	do.	do.	3	do.	4	..	22/-
4a	do.	do.	4	do.	5	..	17/6
5a	do.	do.	5	do.	6 (Carton)	65/-	
5a	do.	do.	5	do.	6 (Wood)	95/-	
	Inventor's Outfit	...	...	...	...	10/-	
	Meccano Clockwork Motor	...	...	...	...	12/6	

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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## Extracts from Club Reports

We are overflowing with good things for Meccano boys this issue, and it has been found necessary to add a supplement. I especially want to tell Members of the Guild what the Clubs are doing, and it also gives me great pleasure to reproduce a photograph of one of the most progressive and successful Meccano Clubs in the country. Mr. S. H. Wilson, the active and capable Club Leader, is to be complimented on the excellent work he has done amongst his boys.

**DOWANHILL.**—A very business-like report reveals the fact that members are engaged with lectures, model building and inventing. The membership is as yet not very large, but I have no doubt it will increase considerably as time goes on.

**GOSPORT.**—*Press Announcement.*

### EXHIBITION OF GOSPORT LADS' WORK

Instituted only 11 weeks ago, the Gosport Meccano Club, affiliated to the Meccano Guild, held its first exhibition in the Nicholson Memorial Hall, on Tuesday afternoon. The local club is composed of young boys who are particularly keen on constructing models, and the members meet weekly in the Christ Church Institute. The exhibition was arranged by a committee, of which Mr. Harold Beane is the Secretary, assisted by his father, Mr. J. Beane.

In all about three dozen models were exhibited, comprising derricks, transporter bridges, trams, aeroplanes, carts and other interesting toys. On each model was placed a War Memorial Hospital box, for all the proceeds of the exhibits were for the Hospital Fund.

In connection with the exhibition a concert was held in the evening, presided over by the Rev. R. L. Franks, M.A. The artistes were Mrs. J. Beane, Miss E. Burden, and Messrs. Holmes, Beane, and E. P. Dash, whilst the Misses Draper and Turner provided pianoforte duets. All were encored, and their efforts were appreciated. The performance concluded with a farcical comedy, "Contempt of Court."

In a subsequent letter the Secretary reports that, "Since our exhibition and concert the fame of the club has spread far and wide in Gosport. At the last meeting nine new members came, so that altogether we now have 31 members on roll."

**BRIGHTLINGSEA.**—A splendid start has been made by this club under the leadership of Mr. D. Went, and Pastor A. B. Grosvenor as Secretary. A short account of the club's doings will be found below, and it will be seen that the promoters have plenty of enthusiasm and initiative.

**Secretary's Report. EXHIBITION OF WORKING MODELS.**—"On Thursday last the club held its first exhibition. It was a distinct success. About 60 people assembled in the Primitive Methodist Schoolroom to view the wonderful models that were displayed. A large model of the Rolling Lift Bridge, fitted with electric light, worked fine. A wonderful contrivance seemed to wake up and stretch itself as the electric motor was started, and very soon the boys knew that it was a new Meccanograph. Designs were made and presented to the people. The people were delighted to have a view of Meccanoland, and soon realised that there, indeed, dwell the happy boys.

"The members gave a fine gymnastic display during the evening and proved themselves to be as smart in their exercises and grouping as they were clever in their inventions.

"Flashlight photographs were taken during the evening by the club Leader. The club Certificate, of which the boys are very proud, was hanging in the room. It has been very nicely framed. Three applications for membership were received at the close of a very successful effort."

**HOLY TRINITY (BARNSBURY).**—REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET FOR FOURTH SESSION. September-December, 1919.

After giving a detailed account of each club meeting, Mr. Wilson says: "The session has been a successful one. Several new boys have joined, and our membership is now 17. The general behaviour of the boys has been very good, if not better than last session; enthusiasm, which seemed perhaps to wane a little at the beginning of the session, revived strongly towards the end, and was just as keen as ever. Average attendance, about 12.

"The final result of the Competition was as follows: 1st, E. Redrupp, 166 marks; 2nd, F. Budden, 155 marks; 3rd, S. E. Stretton, 150 marks"

Mr. Wilson's balance-sheet shows a balance in hand.



### A PROGRESSIVE AND SUCCESSFUL MECCANO CLUB

**SELWYN CLUB.**—Mr. Adams, the Club Leader, applying for affiliation, writes: "The Meccano Club of the Selwyn Avenue Boys' School here has now been running for more than six weeks. There are two meetings weekly at the school, on Mondays and Fridays, under my supervision. There are 20 members."

**WHITELEY AND MONKSEATON.**—Mr. G. W. Noble, writing on the progress made by the club, says: "I note your remarks re Affiliation Certificate, which we shall be glad to receive at an early date. Following the press announcement, we had within three days 10 new members, and several ladies and gentlemen who are interested in the welfare of the boys have expressed a desire to support the club. At the time of writing we have 16 active members and several further applications for membership; two vice-presidents; seven honorary members. Further, a gentleman who is a practical engineer is interested, and at our next meeting we propose to elect him as 'Engineer' to our club."

#### Report of First Session.

"It gives me great pleasure to inform you that this club is making splendid progress. We have now secured the use of a first-class lecture hall for club meetings; our membership stands at 41 active members, and many ladies and gentlemen are giving support by becoming honorary members.

"The Certificate of Affiliation which we received is much appreciated; we have had same framed in oak."

**ST. THOMAS' (EXETER).**—This club has been in existence for some time, but has not had an adult leader or a clubroom. Through the untiring work and steady perseverance of Master L. Palk and Master F. Stoneman, it is now under the leadership of Mr. W. S. Willmin, with a splendid clubroom kindly lent by the Exeter Freinhay Young Men's Club.

**WYNBERG (SOUTH AFRICA).**—English clubs will have to look to their laurels, for the new South African club, under the wise leadership of Father Graham, has made a very promising start. The club is fortunate in having such an energetic Secretary as Master A. J. Lewis, and I expect this fine Colonial organisation will be followed by many others.

**FERRYHILL DISTRICT.**—The boys of Ferryhill can count themselves very fortunate in having such a splendid President as Mr. J. F. H. Banner. Not only has he brought the boys together, and secured a clubroom for them, but he has generously provided badges for the members, at his own expense. Over 100 boys were present at the preliminary meeting, besides a number of adults, and the club now has 79 members on roll.

**DOUGLAS (I.O.M.) and others.**—Space will not permit me to give full details of every club, but I feel confident that clubs founded by such earnest, enthusiastic boys must, and will, become permanent institutions in the various towns, filling a great need and bringing pleasure and happiness to all their members.

## A New Grand Meccano Prize Competition

### £200 in Prizes. 1st prize, £50 in cash

Now that conditions are getting a little nearer normal we are able to resume our big Contests, and we are again offering prizes to the value of £200 for the best Meccano models. The conditions will be the same as usual, and every boy who has a Meccano outfit has an equal chance of carrying away one of the big prizes.

Don't forget that more prizes are awarded to simple models than to complicated ones. Get your entry form without delay from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any trouble.

There are no entrance fees or restrictions of any kind. The entry form tells you just what to do. The competition closes on April 15th, 1920.

The closing date for the Colonies will be extended to May 31st, 1920.

ANY BOY CAN ENTER. MORE THAN 200 PRIZES.

