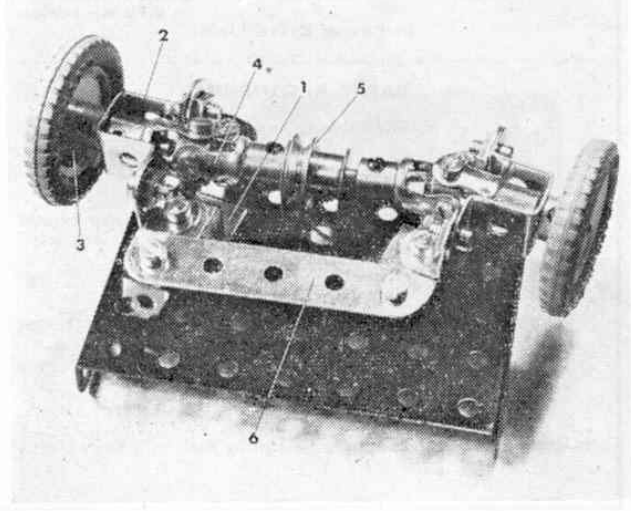
AMONG THE MODEL BUILDERS

with Spanner

IT IS generally assumed that Meccano front wheel drive mechanisms are only suitable for fairly large models and, under normal circumstances this is quite true. The complexity of an F.W.D. system is such that the Meccano parts required to make a working reproduction result in a good-sized mechanism which, of course, needs a good-sized model to accommodate it. However, it is certainly possible to produce a simple front wheel drive system for small models which, although not based on a real-life mechanism, nonetheless operates perfectly successfully. M.M. reader James Grady of Dundee, Scotland has in fact sent me details of just such a system he has designed and which you will find featured here.

Construction is pretty obvious from the accompanying photograph. The mounting, which might vary in a model, is supplied here by a $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Flanged Plate to which two Double Bent Strips 1 are lock-nutted. Attached at right-angles to each of these Double Bent Strips by Angle Brackets is another Double Bent Strip 2, in the centre of which a 1 in. Rod is held by a 1 in. fixed Pulley with Motor Tyre 3. One end of a Universal Coupling 4 is mounted on the inside end of the Rod.

Below: Suggested by James Grady of Dundee, Scotland, this simple, belt-driven Front Wheel Drive system is ideal for small models. At right: A multiple Drive Mechanism rebuilt from the pre-war Meccano Standard Mechanisms Manual. It is based on a type " frequently employed in multiple drilling machines and similar apparatus . . ."



The free ends of the Universal Couplings at each side are now joined by a $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Rod centrally journalled in a Stepped Bent Strip 5. A $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pulley with boss is fixed on the Rod between the lugs of the Bent Strip, as shown, then two Fishplates are bolted one to the rear lug of each Double Bent Strip 1. To complete the unit, a $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Strip 6 is lock-nutted between these Fishplates.

I leave the last word on the subject to James, only adding that I heartily agree with him. " Many of the smaller set users," he says, " will I think, like the idea of being able to make a front wheel drive that steers and can be fitted with 1 in. Pulley Wheels with Tyres and can be driven from a Magic Motor, using a Driving Band and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Pulley ".

PARTS REQUIRED

1—5	2—22	4—45
2—10	1—23a	1—53
4—12	17—37a	2—140
1—18a	13—37b	2—142c
2—18b	1—44	

Pre-war mechanisms

Changing the subject, now, I have been looking through a file copy of the old Meccano Standard Mechanisms Manual which was published before the last war. I don't know if many readers have seen this rare publication but it contains a wealth of mechanisms of tremendous variety, the great majority of which are just as applicable today as they were thirty or so years ago. For interest's sake I have re-built a couple of the items shown and I think you will agree that their age in no way limits their present usefulness.