

RESULT OF THE Grand Meccano Competition.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO EACH COMPETITOR.

It is always a real pleasure to me to go through the entries in our big Meccano competitions, and this year has been no exception. There are not a large number of models of outstanding interest this year, but there is a uniformity of merit, which pleases me much better. It shows me that Meccano boys are becoming more and more skilful in model-building and in inventing, and the increased number of entries also shows me how the hobby is spreading both in this and other countries. I have been able to select a large number of very excellent movements, many of which are illustrated in our new Manual, Book No. 2. I strongly recommend you Meccano boys to get this fine new Manual at once. Other winning models are being perfected in our model-making department, and will appear in future editions of our Manuals. In fact, I may say that we have hundreds of new and beautiful models by us, ready for the new Manuals as soon as they can be issued, and all you boys should watch carefully for these.

You will readily understand, I feel sure, that the many difficulties created by the war have prevented us from making all the improvements which we should have liked, but our plans are well laid, and as soon as we are able to devote all our time and plant to the work, there will be some notable additions to Meccano which will add a hundred-fold to your enjoyment of model-building. Even during the war we have much progress to record. When I remind you that in 1914 our Manual of Instructions contained 133 models only, whereas now we show 425, each one a complete and perfect toy, I think you will admit that we have much to be proud of.

As I write, the Allied Armies are fighting with their backs to the wall against tremendous odds, and the future is full of anxiety. Meccano boys in this country, and in America, France, and Italy, are leagued together in a common bond of sympathy, with eyes turned towards the battle fronts, their hearts full of confidence in our brave soldiers and sailors, who are fighting in the most righteous cause which has ever confronted nations in the history of the world. Thousands of Meccano boys of all allied nationalities are fighting, or in some other way are taking their share in the great struggle, and my heart warms to them. Letters reach me daily from these boys full of good cheer and confidence, and it has been my happy lot to be able to lighten the dark days for many of them, and to cheer up many of the captive and wounded.

I wish I could tell you of the many ways in which Meccano has played its part in the great war, but this is a story which must wait until brighter days come and peace is restored. Within the last few days I have received a communication from an inventor who has just been paid £150 by one of the Allied Governments for an invention worked out with Meccano parts, and this is only one of many similar incidents.

Prizes have now been dispatched to the lucky winners in the Meccano Contest, and to all competitors, both winners and losers, I want to express my good wishes and to add the hope that I shall see their names again in future Meccano Competitions,



Managing Director, Meccano Ltd.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

1st Cash Prize - - £50 0 0

Divided between two Competitors.

R. NEWTON, 65, Selwyn St., Leigh.....*Spinning Mule*
J. YOYALL, 76, Carleton St., Nelson.....*Dobby Loom*

2nd and 3rd Cash Prizes - - £35 0 0

Divided amongst four Competitors.

CHAS. TUSOLI, 13, Rue Ste. Hélène, Lyon.....*Steam Hammer*
R. MCKENZIE, 210, Lincoln Rd., Brooklyn, N.Y.....*Subway Excavator*
E. C. HERBERT, 16, Harradon Rd., Aintree, Liverpool.....*Cooler*
T. PARKES, 2, Gawber Rd., Barnsley.....*Harmonograph*

4 No. 5 MECCANO OUTFITS.

R. W. MERRICK, 3, Magdalen Rd., Bath.....*Wire Testing Machine*
E. H. TOWER, 311, Broadway, New York City.....*Battle Tank*
F. WHITE, 139, Victoria Rd., Aston, Birmingham.....*Wire Covering Machine*
E. W. KINBARK, 926, Michigan Ave., Evanston, Ill.....*Electric Fan*

6 No. 4 MECCANO OUTFITS.

A. JULLIEN, 9, Impasse des Changes, Chartres, Bure-et-Loire.....*Crane*
K. HORNER, Trimmingham, Burnley Rd., Halifax.....*Crimping Machine*
R. FIGGATT, 2,298, Creston Ave., Bronx.....*Stage Coach*
T. A. BALL, 26, W. 76th St., New York City.....*Ten Ton Truck*

4th Cash Prize - - £7 10 0

A. GRAWE, 10, Center St., Jamaica, N.Y.....*Car Unloader*

5th Cash Prize - - £5 0 0

P. HOYAUX, 6, Godfrey Rd., Newport, Mon.....*Testing Machine*

6th Cash Prize - - £2 10 0

L. BRUNET, 16, Rue Ste. Perpétue, Nimes.....*Morse Typewriter*

E. H. GOODYEAR, 7, Bright St., Darlington.....*Spirograph*
M. LALOE, 32, Rue Thiers, Cherbourg.....*Phonograph*

9 No. 2 MECCANO STORAGE CABINETS.

F. WHITE, 1, Cheltenham Villas, Stanley Rd., Croydon.....*Eidograph*
F. YATES, 26, Market St., New Mills, Stockport.....*Clay Treater*
F. PRICKETT, 29, Bartlemas Rd., Oxford.....*Typewriter*
E. H. BUCKINGHAM, School House, Frimley.....*Target*
S. THOMAS, Cricklewood, King Edward St., Merthyr Tydfil.....*Fretsaw*
C. F. LUMSDEN, Park View, Ross, Hereford.....*Spillmaker*
G. J. GREENSMITH, 60, Crosby Rd., West Bridgford, Notts.....*Windspeed Measurer*
E. S. INCE, 32, Leighton Rd., West Ealing, London, W.13.....*Money Box*
W. B. GADD, "Edale," 115, Atwood Rd., Didsbury, Manchester.....*Grip Tester*

MECCANO



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Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write on one side of the paper only.

R. & F. Cutting, Shepherd's Bush.—Sorry we have been so long in replying to you, but space is very limited. Drawing hardly suitable, but try again. We may find room for your acoustic later.

A. B. Eaton, B.E.F., France.—It makes us happy to know that the *Meccano Magazine* is so well known and liked amongst the boys at the Front. There are thousands of Meccano boys doing their bit. We wish you a safe and speedy return.

N. Bishop, Muswell Hill.—We are pleased to know our poem "It can be done" inspired you to complete your new model, after feeling so discouraged. We put little things of this kind in the *Meccano Magazine* now and again, mostly the thoughts of some of the world's finest brains, and we sometimes wonder if Meccano boys read and enjoy them.

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A. Snook, Greenock.—That was a tough experience you had in your air raid. We are sorry your house was destroyed and you were so much damaged. You seem to regret the loss of your Meccano Outfit most, but we hope that it was recovered from the ruins. We trust you are all right again now.

J. Irvine.—Our mail bag is full every morning, but we have had it enlarged again, and there is room for more letters from you. You may find your clever little sketch reproduced in the *Meccano Magazine* some day.

W. Anderson, Beith.—"My sister is learning the violin and required a music stand. I constructed one in an hour from my Meccano Outfit, but I am now in a fix because she will not let me take it to pieces." That's a bit rough on you, William, but we hope you succeeded in persuading her to buy you a new outfit.

W. Jones, Handsworth.—"I should like to add my appreciation of your Meccano. It has been a great source of delight and instruction to my little boy, who is only 6½. The only thing he insists upon is "Hands off, Dad—I can do it myself." This is just that spirit of independence and initiative which Meccano cultivates so strongly in boys, and which does so much to strengthen their characters. We hope Tudor himself will write to us soon.

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Billy Mountney, Hulme.—"Vice-President of the Cornbrook Meccano Club" sounds very fine, Billy. We are glad to know that you are all "Meccano mad" and that your Club is progressing wonderfully. We may start the Club which you suggest some day.

Cyril Grange, March, Cambs.—"I can hardly find words good enough to express the excellent qualities of Meccano. It is the grandest cure for the blues, it prevents anyone from being done brown and puts us all in the pink, so that you are a green'un no longer." Which brings a rosy red blush to our cheek, Cyril.

L. Pridesaux, Camborne.—"Don't you think Meccano boys should have a little badge with the word 'Meccano' on it?" Of course they should, Leonard, and what is more they are going to have the nearest thing you ever saw in this line, as soon as we can get them made.

Norman Colclough, Hanley.—How is your Meccano Club progressing? How many members have you now, and how often do you meet?

Cecil Hartshorn, Thurleston.—"I have been a Meccano boy for four years. I can ride a motor cycle, play the piano, and take photographs. I am making a model mouse trap and if I catch anything in it I shall send it in for competition." We shall not be in when the animal arrives, Cecil. Better send a photograph or sketch. For so young a boy, yours is a good range of accomplishments.

Francis Brown, Everton.—"The Onacem Seven" sounds like a secret society of some kind, but it looks peaceful enough when the mysterious middle word is reversed. You seem to be a very happy gang of friends, and we hope your numbers will increase. Thanks for particulars of your new Meccano model, which you call "The Opera."

J. T. G. Macleod, Ealing.—Glad you find Meccano a cure for the "funny feeling down below" as your father calls it, when the air raids are on. As you surmise, we are finding much difficulty in publishing the *Meccano Magazine* regularly, but we believe, we shall be able to hold on right to the end of the war.

Maudie Roessler, Westcliff-on-Sea.—It pleases us to know that your invalid brother gets so much pleasure from Meccano and the *Meccano Magazine*. Give Ernie our best wishes, and tell him we hope to often hear how he is progressing.

Herbert Matthews, New Southgate.—What is "Meccano Dibetus," Herbert, and why does your sister say you have got it? Thanks for interesting account of air raids on your town.

G. V. H. Garnett, Otford.—

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"Which do you think you'd like—

A big Meccano Outfit

Or a brand new motor bike?"

The son right quickly answered—

"Meccano! Daddy, please,

For that includes a motor bike

As well as all of these."

Quite a nice little effort, and we are sorry space will not allow us to print it all.

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F. Cornwell, London.—Thanks for your interesting letter about the air raids. Your cousin, Jack Cornwell, was a hero, and you have every reason to be proud of him.

John Clark, Jr., Leith.—"A chum and I built a Meccano Tank. My grandfather displayed it in his shop with a notice on top:—Julien Jr. Collecting Subscriptions for Prisoners of War Fund."—We raised £2. 15s. 0d." Quite a good idea, which, as you suggest, might well be followed by other Meccano boys.

Private J. A. Dean, Gt. Ormesby.—Thanks for your letter with sketches showing how you ingeniously built rolling, lift, girder, swing, suspension and viaduct bridges with Meccano. Now that you are back home we hope you will resume Meccano model-building.

R. Royle, Leigh:—

"Little Jack Horner

Sat in a corner

The happiest boy ever seen

He had no Christmas pie,

But he'd got on the sly,

Meccano, which filled him with glee."

And now we expect to have all the old nursery rhymes rewritten by Meccano boys and girls. Any boy who, sends in a good one will hear of something to his advantage.

White, Stickler & Rundle, Bristol.—"In our Meccano Club we make speeches, discuss manuals, magazines and separate parts." We hope none of your members have had to be "jacked out" and that the "no fighting rule" is not really necessary.

John Preston, Grahamstown, S.A.—"I wonder if you would care to hear from a Meccano boy in South Africa?" We should just think we would. We hope you will realize your ambition and become a successful civil engineer; but first of all you must get thoroughly well, so that you won't have to stay away from school. Please write us often.

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In the competition for the best essay on "How I came to take up Meccano as a Hobby," the first prize of a Meccano Inventor's Accessory Outfit goes to Master Geo. C. Taylor, 6, Oswald Street, Ambie, Northumberland, and a consolation prize of a Water Motor is awarded to Master Harold Cooking, Carisbrooke, Warwick Road, Worthing. This competition has been a most successful one, there being close upon one thousand entries. Lack of space prevents us from publishing the winning essays in this issue, but we hope to be able to print them in the next number of the "M.M."

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No. 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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3a	do.	do.	3 do.	4	do.	18/-
4a	do.	do.	4 do.	5	do.	14/-
5a	do.	do.	5 do.	6	do.	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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MECCANO MAGAZINE

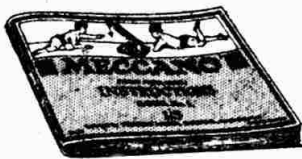
TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



THE BIG WHEEL.

This is an early Meccano Model, and one of the best ever introduced into the system. It works perfectly, either by hand or with a Meccano Electric Motor.

The New Meccano Manual of Instructions



Have you secured your copy of this fine new Manual yet? No Meccano boy should be without it. It means happy evenings the entire winter through. If you were to commence now to make the 326 fine models which it contains, it would take you years to get through them. It establishes the superiority of Meccano once and for all, and it puts every other toy in the shade. It contains a large number of prize-winning models in the last two Meccano competitions, the work of boys, who have shown most extraordinary genius. It trebles the value of any outfit purchased last year or earlier. Get your copy at once from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty. Price 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. post free.

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.

**SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
AT ONCE TO
PREVENT DISAPPOINTMENT**

The Life Story of Meccano

By FRANK HORNBY.
(Continued.)

Over and over again I had read of the early struggles of other inventors to obtain recognition. I knew that in days gone by many inventions which had ultimately proved to be of the greatest benefit to mankind had at first been received coldly and even scornfully, and that the inventors had only triumphed after years of endeavour, their spirits and determination held up all the while by the abiding faith which they had in their work.

Such was the faith which I had in my own work, and I vowed that nothing should stand in the way of the success of my invention. Day and night I worked to improve the finish and design of Meccano parts and the number and variety of models which they would make.

You must remember that Meccano in those days was nothing like the finished product which you see now, and it was then only possible to make up a very limited number of models.

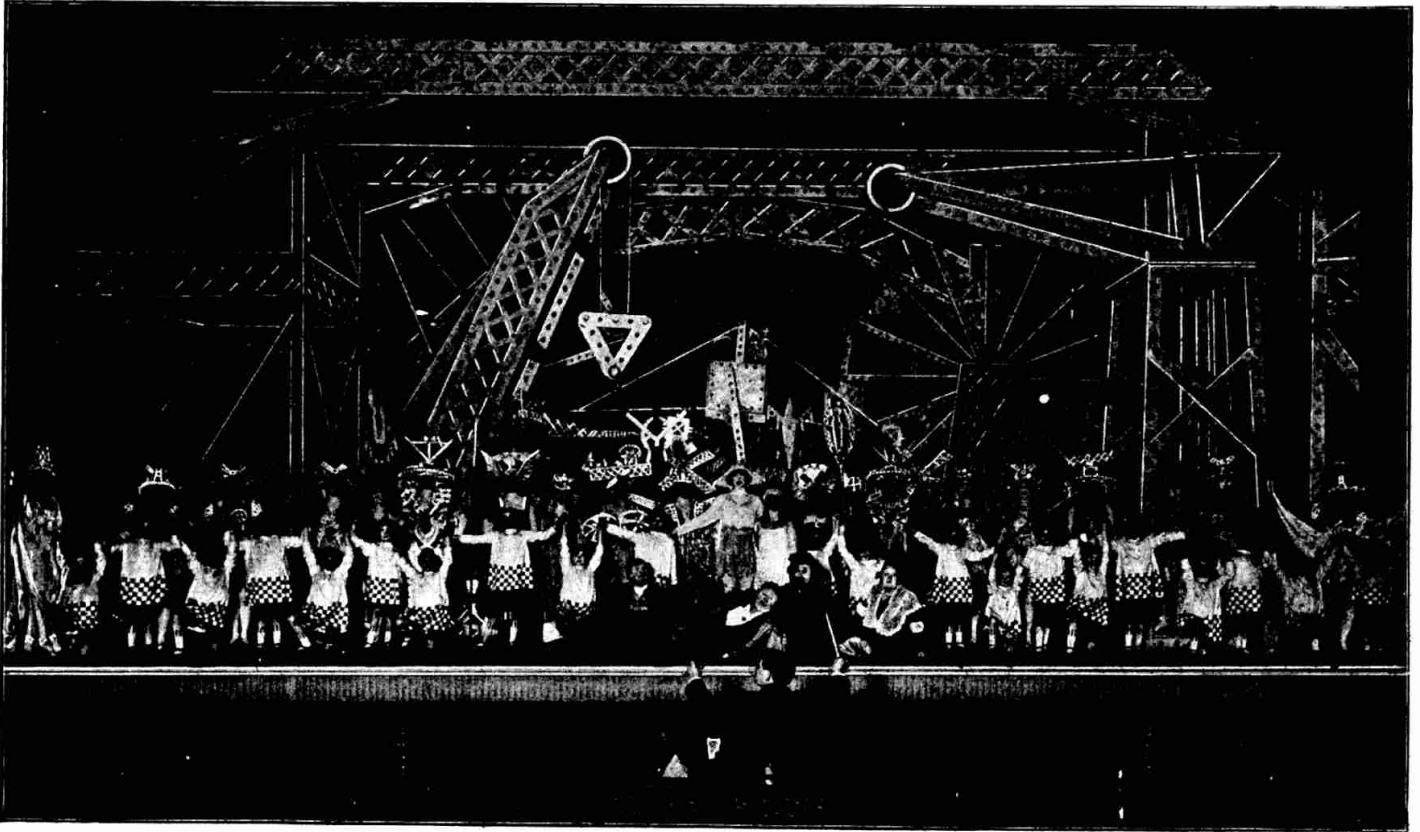
I had no cranks or couplings, flanged rectangular and sector plates, or any of the valuable patented parts which I have since introduced, and which have made Meccano model building so delightfully easy. The strips were made of tin with the edges turned over and the ends left square. Many older boys will remember these strips, and I have no doubt that large numbers of them are still in use. Sometimes I hear from an old Meccano boy who still possesses and treasures one of these early outfits, and my heart goes out to him as an old and tried friend of Meccano. I had all my wheels made of brass which were first cast in moulds and then turned, but they were nowhere near the standard of the highly finished and beautiful Meccano wheels of the present day.

There were 15 separate parts in the whole of the Meccano system in those days, and you may judge from this how difficult it was to obtain any kind of elaborate mechanism. At the present time there are 75 separate parts in the system with more being added to their number all the time.

I should like you boys to see my first Manual of Instructions, a copy of which lies before me as I write. It consisted of 18 pages, and contained illustrations of 12 models, all of them now obsolete with the exception of a Travelling Jib Crane, which is now illustrated on page 28 of our big 140-page Manual of Instructions—Model No. 110—one of the most popular models which we have ever introduced. I have an affection for this old model because it is a real good one, and because it has accompanied Meccano right through its career.

The illustrations in my first manual were from half-tone blocks, and were, of course, nothing like so clear as the illustrations in our later manuals, which are produced by a beautiful process which has now reached a high pitch of perfection. Still, the half-tone blocks answered their purpose, and gave a perfectly clear idea how to build the models.

(To be continued.)



Meccanoland. A Wonderful Pantomime Scene

In our last number we told you of the big Meccanoland scene which was to be the feature of the "Babes in the Wood" pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester. The pantomime was produced on December 22nd, and the Meccanoland scene was an instant success. The inventor of Meccano and the editor of the "Meccano Magazine" made a trip to Manchester recently, and helped to pack the Palace Theatre to its full capacity. A large number of Meccano boys had written to us that it was the best pantomime they have ever seen, and we are quite in agreement with them. It was brimful of fun and beautiful scenery, and we enjoyed every minute of it. When the curtain went up on the Meccanoland scene, we were as delighted as boys, and we applauded as loudly as anybody. No one knew who we were so it did not matter. Just try to imagine those great Meccano models with the strips and wheels shining like burnished silver and gold, the Cranes and the Big Wheel and the Windmill all working, and the delightful little Meccano boys in their check jerseys working at the models with giant screwdrivers.

The Meccanoland scene is a blaze of beautiful colourings, to which our photograph does but poor justice. Each member of the chorus wore a head-dress on which was mounted a representation of some Meccano model in silver or gold, and on their bright-coloured cloaks were reproductions of Meccano models and parts. It was a wonderful scene, and the applause from the audience was just as wonderful and pleasurable to us. After the fall of the curtain we were taken round to the back of the stage, where Wee Georgie Wood gave us a great welcome in his dressing-room. We had a talk with his mother, who takes care of him and is very proud of him. We were introduced to some of the principal members of the company, Miss Dorothy Ward, Miss Hilda Glyder, Miss Annie Rooney, Mr. Shaun Glenville, Mr. Ernie Mayne, Mr. Jack Cosgrove, and Mr. Arthur Reece, all of whom seemed to know Meccano intimately and to be highly delighted at the success of the Meccanoland scene. We arranged to have a photograph taken of the scene at the end of the performance, and the stage managers and scene-shifters got to work with a will the moment the audience were out of the theatre.

The entire company took the greatest interest in the photograph, and they all worked hard to make it successful. It was very delightful to see the principal artistes arranging and re-arranging the little Meccano boys so that they might come out well in the photograph. This is always a trying business for children, but the little ones were handled so gently and patiently and had such good fun that a successful picture was secured in record time.

We wish we could tell you more of our experiences, but space does not permit. Before we left, Wee Georgie Wood promised to write us an account of the Meccanoland scene, and although he is leading a very busy life, giving two full performances a day, with a little food and sleep pushed in where he can, he has been able to send us a short article, which we are printing on this page. Wee Georgie Wood is a Meccano boy himself, and he assured us of the great big interest he feels in all other Meccano boys. We hope to arrange for him to contribute frequently to the columns of the "Meccano Magazine."

A Letter from WEE GEORGIE WOOD to Meccano Boys.

Dear Meccano Boys,

Last time I wrote for the "Meccano Magazine" I said I would tell you all about the wonderful models we have in the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester—"The Babes in the Wood." I don't think I need do that, because you can see them on the photograph, although they are much more beautiful than any photograph could make them. Therefore, I content myself by explaining the action of the scene.

The Babes are brought out of the woods by good Fairy Joy and taken through Pixie-land to a land of Giant Meccano models. Here we see all the happy little Meccano boys in their familiar check jerseys; we are introduced to the sturdy Captain of the Screwdrivers, who calls upon Father Christmas to show us this wonderful place. The Babes take the journey in a Meccano Motor-car but are followed by the wicked robbers. Robin Hood has them arrested and put away with the spare parts, then arranges for them to get away in a Meccano Aeroplane. The Aeroplane ascends, two massive Cranes start working, a Flip-flap starts working, the Big Wheel goes round, there is a whirling Windmill, and all the inhabitants of Meccanoland turn out; there is singing and dancing, and general merriment whilst the Babes fly to safety, and everything ends happily.

All the models are built to scale, and it takes 15 men to keep them working.

The Aeroplane is taken up by means of wires worked by three men, whilst Reggie (that's me) turns a handle to work the propeller. There is a story attached to this: one day I could not get the handle to turn, so the propeller would not work; however, the three men pulled us safely up in the direction of the sky. We had just got to the part when there is a lull in the proceedings, and we heard a small voice from the audience chirp out: "Father, it is not working properly, why don't they have an electric Meccano motor?" I thought it would take a pretty good-sized one. No more now, but I will write some jokes for Meccano boys in the next issue, if the Editor will let me.

Cheerio,

Wee Georgie Wood.

EDITORIAL.

My Thanks to Meccano Boys.

Let me thank the very large number of boys who have sent me Christmas and New Year cards, and letters full of affection and good wishes. Each letter and card was very welcome, and will be treasured. I hope that all the senders, and indeed all the Meccano boys, will be very happy through the year.

Meccanoland.

The Meccanoland scene in the pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, was a wonderful success, and it has brought delight to the thousands of Meccano boys who have seen it. It has been received with so much applause that the producers of the pantomime have arranged to include another big Meccanoland scene in another pantomime in one of the largest cities in the kingdom next year. I will tell you more about this in a future issue.

Our £200 Competition.

The closing date for our big Meccano Competition is rapidly approaching, and I want to warn my readers that they must send in their entries before March 1st. This competition promises to be another big success, with record entries. The work of judging will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, but owing to a depleted model-building staff it will probably be about the middle of June before the results can be announced.

Book No. 2, Meccano Manual.

I hoped to be able to tell you that this was ready for delivery at once, but owing to difficulties of block-making and printing there has been much delay. It will be ready about May or June, and the cost will be 1s. 3d., with postage in addition. It will contain a large number of models, all of them new, and mostly models of sterling merit, which have taken prizes in our big contests. Orders may be placed at any time now for execution in rotation. It may be obtained from your regular dealer, or from us if you have any difficulty.

Scarcity of Meccano.

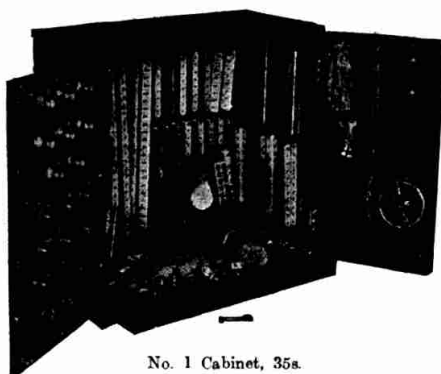
I am afraid Meccano boys will not be able to get all the Meccano they require this year, as our output is restricted. All our machines which are suitable are devoted to Government work, which must receive first consideration in this time of national emergency. We are, of course, still manufacturing Meccano on machines which cannot be used for Government work, but we cannot hope to provide sufficient to meet the enormous demand throughout this and other countries. When the war is over we shall concentrate the whole of our factory, with all the new machines we have added, on to Meccano, and the new parts and models which we have ready will receive a great welcome from all Meccano boys.

Old Meccano Manuals.

I am anxious to secure copies of early editions of Meccano Manuals, and if any of my readers have by them complete copies of Manuals which were issued between 1902 and 1911, and will send them to me, I will either replace them with one of our latest Manuals or buy them at the rate of 1s. per copy for as many as I require. Up to 1908 our Manual was printed in upright form with a blue cover, and after that date the shape and size were exactly the same as our present manual.

The Editor

Meccano Storage Cabinets



No. 1 Cabinet, 35s.

Splendidly made and finished in Cypress, with accommodation for the contents of any outfit up to No. 6. There are suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, wheels, &c., and a sliding tray with divisions, to hold the smaller parts. The dimensions of this Cabinet are 16½ in. high by 16 in. wide by 8 in. deep. It is fitted with lever lock and key.

No. 2 Cabinet, 60s.

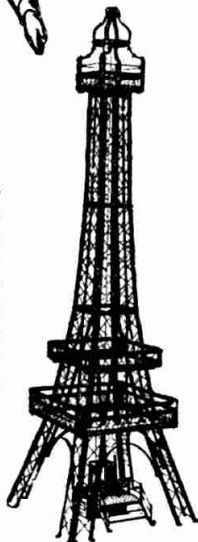
This Cabinet is made in oak, beautifully finished, 18 in. high by 17 in. wide by 8½ in. deep, fitted with lever lock and key. It holds the contents of any outfit up to No. 6, with suitable hooks for the strips, girders, plates, &c., and studs for the wheels. There is good drawer space for the nuts and bolts and other small parts. This Cabinet, well stocked with parts, is something for the Meccano boy to be proud to possess.

Our illustration shows the Cabinet stocked with Meccano parts, but, of course, these are not included in the prices given.



The Paris Eiffel Tower

A magnificent Meccano model designed by a French boy, who took the greatest pains to give an exact representation of the famous Tower. A delightful model for Meccano boys to build. The lift operates either by hand or with a Meccano Electric Motor.



That man or boy is happiest in this world who has most things to give him pleasure. Did you ever stop to think that your education is directed almost as much to opening your mind to new pleasures as it is to training you for money-making usefulness? Think it over. Isn't the man who gets pleasure from reading good books, from looking at beautiful pictures, from listening to wonderful music, from being able to see and understand the processes of nature, in the way of getting more happiness out of life than the fellow whose only joy is stuffing his stomach or going to a prize fight?

To Parents.

What is a Good Gift for a Boy?

Something that he will not merely like when it is new, but that he will go on liking.

Many thousands of pounds are spent every Christmas, and some thousands every day (for every day is some child's birthday) on toys, often expensive, which are broken in a few days and cease to give pleasure, even before they have ceased to be capable of giving pleasure.

Giving Thoughtfully

Toys which do not keep their interest are no kindness as a gift. Real kindness in giving is not measured by the cost of the gift, but by the thought behind it. Giving thoughtfully is an art, but it is also an economy.

The waste of money in toys which give pleasure for a moment, or an hour, is staggering. To give something which will give pleasure for many hours, month after month, which will set up, unknown to the boy, habits of exactness and perseverance, and teach manual dexterity and neatness, is intelligent generosity.

This is What Meccano Gives.

Putting the claim for Meccano on the lowest grounds, there is a good deal to be said for a toy which will amuse a boy and keep him quiet on wet days all through the year, which engages the attention of younger brothers and sisters too, and which has interest enough to draw older people into the game.

Meccano is not like any other toy ever invented, because it only becomes a toy when it is being played with. It is not like a one-game contrivance, like a clockwork toy or a mechanical tumbling-acrobat, that has one trick and ends its power of amusing there. It is only limited in its possibilities by the ingenuity of the possessor, and the uses described in the Meccano Manual of Instructions provide hundreds of hours of real amusement.

Boys and Toys.

When boys play with one toy for a year or more, and ask for more of it for their next birthday present, it is not because the toy teaches them something; it is because the toy is lastingly interesting.

Meccano teaches boys how machines and mechanical appliances are made, but they play with it for pleasure.

Keep this in mind. The greatest merit of Meccano is the pleasure which it gives. Meccano is ever varying. It delights because it is progressive.

How to Start Meccano.

Just buy the Outfit which suits your purse. If you decide to spend 7s. 6d., you will buy the No. 1 Outfit.

Additional parts can always be obtained either separately or in the form of Accessory Outfits, and the most convincing fact that can be cited in proof of the fascination exercised by Meccano upon the boy mind, is that a boy who has been presented with one outfit invariably asks for the Accessory Outfits to enable him to progress to more complicated and interesting models.

A No. 1A Accessory Outfit, costing 7s., would now convert the original outfit into a No. 2. This again could be converted into a No. 3, by the purchase of a No. 2A Accessory Outfit, costing 8s., and so on up to the No. 6 Outfit, covering the whole series of models.

Your boy will soon have learnt enough to want Accessory Outfits, and when the constant and untiring pleasure which Meccano gives has been recognised, the expense will not be grudged.

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.

Percy Bradley, Dukinfield.—We note your suggestion that you and your chums build a number of Meccano models and hold an exhibition to which you would invite boys who do not possess Meccano, and we quite approve of the plan. You and your chums will get a lot of pleasure from it, and you will be doing all the visitors to your exhibition a good turn. Write again.

Harold Porter, Lincoln.—We are very glad to hear that you are so much better, and that Meccano kept you bright and cheerful during your illness. We are quite sure that it was through noting the effect of Meccano building on you that caused your doctor to buy one of our big outfits for his boy.

James Hunter, Glasgow.—Sorry you and your Meccano outfit have had the measles. From your cheery letter we should say you have both made a very complete recovery. We hope the doctor didn't get the treatment mixed up, giving the outfit the medicine, and spraying you.

Sidney Lofthouse, Scarborough.—Yours is a nice little letter to receive from a boy of eight. We are pleased to know that you and your four-year old brother have ripping times with Meccano. We agree with all you say about Meccano, and the *Meccano Magazine*, and the war, and we treasure your good wishes.

W. H. Johnson, Weaste.—We also thought it was the best pantomime we had ever seen, and we laughed at the places where you laughed. The Meccanoland scene we thought was wonderful, and Wee Georgie Wood took us round to the back of the stage and showed us his giant models, and promised he would write for us a lot of funny experiences he has had with Meccano.

Frank Ryder, Farnworth.—"I hail the *Meccano Magazine* with right royal enthusiasm." We similarly "hailed" your breezy letter when the postman handed it to us.

Jack Merrilees.—"I am now a soldier of the king and jolly sick of it too, but still carrying on." That's just how we all feel, Jack, but we shall continue to carry on until we have won the war. We will see that the *Meccano Magazine* is sent to the old address. Many thanks for Christmas wishes.

S. Walker, Yeaton.—"I have plenty of toys, but Meccano is the best. If you want a toy and you have Meccano, all you have to do is to build the toy you want." That is the message we are trying to give to every boy in the world.

J. J. Miller, B.E.F., Somewhere in France.—We have sent the *Meccano Magazine* to your boy Cyril, and we will see that a copy of this issue is sent to you. We wish you a safe and speedy return. Write us again.

T. H. Paddy, Bedworth.—"The *Meccano Magazine* is the best magazine I have ever read, and it is a great success. Good luck, and I hope you are in the best of health."—There it is, Paddy, just as you wanted us to print it. Your kind wishes make us happy, and our health is first-rate.

A. Vaughan, Sheffield.—"Meccano Eager Children Can Always Number Others. That means that Meccano boys will always add more to their numbers."—We've got it, Arthur, now you have explained it—and it's quite true.

Billy Martin, Lancaster.—We very much wish we could come to see you, Billy, but we are much too busy just now. Thanks for sticking up for us so stoutly when the lady spoke unkindly of us. We hope you will be very happy when you remove to London.

R. Bratby, Denby.—"My motto is—'Meccano is the Joy of Life.'"—Your motto will look first-rate on your coat-of-arms, later on, when the King confers a title on you. We will try to make the *Meccano Magazine* larger when the war is over.

L. Franchel, London.—
"Of all the toys that are so sweet,
Meccano is the best;
For that's the finest thing yet made,
Other toys are but a pest."

That's all we can find room for, Lordy. With a little careful watching as you go along, we should think your poem would go well to the tune of "Sally in our Alley," as you suggest.

Basil Bristow, New Malden.—Three operations in five months is very severe indeed, and we sincerely hope that you will now make rapid progress, and soon be restored to health. We will see that you get the *Meccano Magazine* regularly when you go back to India. We are very glad you get so much pleasure from your Meccano.

Norman Reid Adam, Buxton.—You promised to write us a very nice letter after we had sent the No. 2A outfit to you. Did you forget?

Norman Gee, Eccles.—Your poem on Meccano is good, but rather too long to be printed in the *Meccano Magazine*. We appreciate your kind wishes.

William C. Howlett, Walthamstow.—We are pleased to know that the members of your family are interested in Meccano, and that your father has a high opinion of it. It really is unkind, though, of your sister to call your model a "laughing and snivelling jib crane."

Eric Helsby, Ince.—We read your long letter with much pleasure and interest. Although you have been an invalid for 10 years, and the doctors are not too hopeful, we trust that you will make better progress in the future, and ultimately regain your health and strength. It is pleasing to us to know that you are absorbed in Meccano, and in mechanical problems. We will send the *Meccano Magazine* to your friend George. Your suggestion in regard to the size of the *Meccano Magazine* is quite good, and we will give it consideration.

Eric Bramall, Leicester:—

"I know a boy who's always gay,
He sings and whistles all the day;
But do not think he's wasting time
For he has got that toy sublime—
The toy that all the boys should know,
The dear old, world-famed Meccano."

What a lot of budding poets we number amongst the readers of the *Meccano Magazine*. They drop into poetry as easily as did Boffin and Silas Wegg, of old. Did you ever hear of these two gentlemen, Eric?

Etta Wilkins, Cheltenham:—

"Meccano is the best of toys,
Meccano is the best of joys;
It never makes you a bit annoyed,
And doesn't make a bit of noise."

I thought of this in bed this morning. It rhymes all right doesn't it?—Well! very nearly, Etta, and the sentiment is beyond reproach. We should be very pleased to have the photograph which you promised us.

H. W. Roddam, Bishop Auckland.—Your verses are very good, but as our space is so limited, we are unable to find room for them. We are sure you will make a very successful engineer, and we are glad Meccano is such a help to you.

G. Watts, Ealing.—It is a very excellent idea to devote your Meccano Fund to providing outfits for the Coast Guard Scouts, and we are glad to hear they appreciate your kindness so much.

John Abraham, Elmina, Africa.—"Please send me envelopes and ink powder and penholders and nibs, as I have none. Tell me the story about the Great War between the English and the Germans."—Rather a tall order, John. Why not use a lead pencil, and let us have your views on the "Great War?"

H. Garlick, Market Harborough.—Lack of space prevents our publishing your nice long letter in the *Meccano Magazine*, but we are pleased to know that nine out of every ten boys in your class selected Meccano as the subject for their essays on "My Hobby."

W. Gilbert, Buxton.—"Meccano is like a fortune to me. I take out my set of jewels, and forget all my troubles."—That is a very delightful way of describing your outfits. We are pleased your father gets so much pleasure from helping you to build your models.

W. Green, Birkenhead.—Girls stand just as good a chance as boys in our competitions, and we are very glad to receive their entries.

Wilfrid Whaley, Boston.—We do not think there is a great likelihood just yet of changing the name from Liverpool to "Meccano City," but who knows what the future may bring?

W. Belchamber, Shepton Mallet.—"Couldn't Mr. Hornby be made the patron saint of boys? St. Hornby sounds rather grand."—It sounds very grand, William, but you see that title is only conferred on dead benefactors, and Mr. Hornby hopes to live with his Meccano boys for a very long time yet.

G. Thorpe, Rhuddlan.—We are always glad to hear from you, and we take great interest in your boy who, we remember, claimed a record as the youngest Meccano boy. We hope to receive his entry in the big competition which closes on March 1st.

J. Stott, Oldham.—We have not heard of a "mechanical whirlwind," but if you have made a model of one, send it in for the Competition.

Edwin Gorse, Blackburn.—"Why not print tales about Meccano Adventures contributed by Meccano Boys?"—We shall always be happy to publish anything of interest sent to us by our readers.

Mrs. Wrohan, Y.M.C.A., Gt. Brington.—"It would give you great pleasure I am sure if you could see about a hundred of our boys—none of whom are yet 19—flocking to the Meccano tables the minute their duties are over, and sticking steadily there till bedtime, and very often if a boy has to get up he pays another to keep his seat. May I add my own appreciation of your wonderful and instructive toy?—It gives us the very greatest pleasure to read your letter, and to know that Meccano is such a boon in your camp.

It's all in the State of the Mind.

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't;
If you'd like to win, but you think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost;
For out in the world you find
Success begins with a fellow's will—
It's all in the state of the mind.

From the *Delecta Magazine*.

Prices of Meccano

No.	Prices of Meccano	
0	Outfit with full instructions for building	4/6
1	do. do.	7/6
2	do. do.	13/6
3	do. do.	20/-
4	do. do.	32/6
5	do. do.	47/6
6	do. do.	115/-

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

Accessory Outfits

No.	Accessory Outfits	
0a	converting a No. 0 into a No. 1	3/6
1a	do. do. 1 do. 2	7/-
2a	do. do. 2 do. 3	8/-
3a	do. do. 3 do. 4	13/6
4a	do. do. 4 do. 5	14/-
5a	do. do. 5 do. 6	37/6

Meccano Outfits with Electric Motors



These are the regular Meccano outfits with the Meccano Electric Motor added. Each one is a magnificent present for any boy.

No. 1x	with non-reversing motor	13/6
" 2x	" " "	19/6
" 3x	" reversing motor	30/-

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.

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