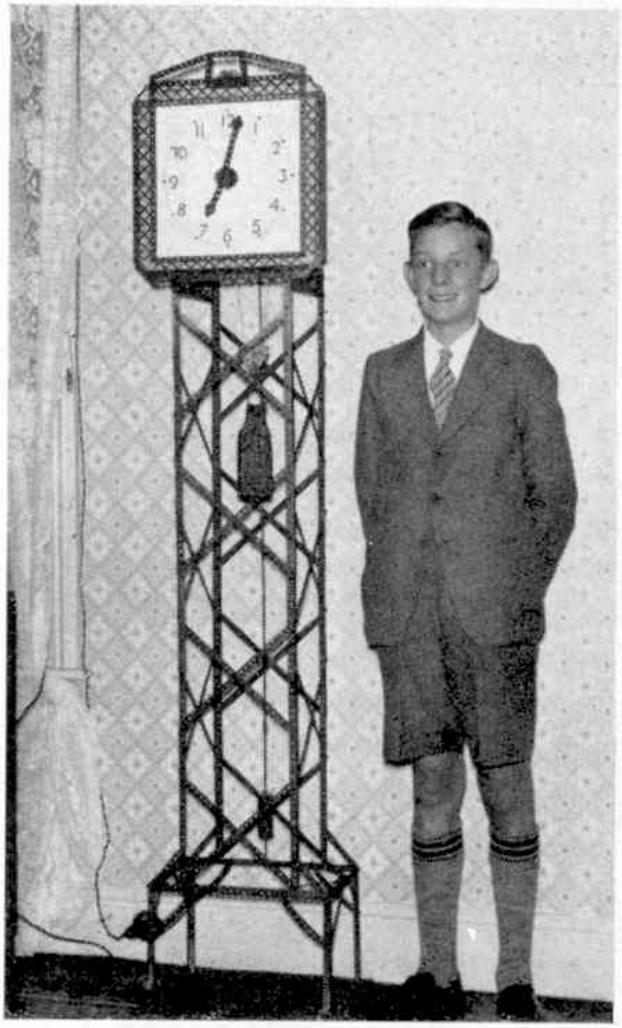
News and Ideas for Meccano Model-Builders

By "Spanner"

A Meccano Clock's Fine Record

Many of my older readers will remember the fine Grandfather Clock that was described and illustrated in a Super Model Leaflet that was available between the wars. It was a model that attracted a lot of attention from advanced model-builders and hundreds were built by those who were fortunate enough to possess all the Meccano parts required in its construction. It was an excellent timekeeper and I know of many of these Clocks that have been in use for some years. Recently, however, I heard of one such Clock that is still going strong after almost continuous running for over a quarter of a century! It was built over 25 years ago by Mr. Ernest Alvis, Eastleigh, Hants., when he was a youth, and it is still working as well and as accurately as ever! Even the original escapement mechanism is still in action, and has not been altered or parts replaced since the day it was made. Mr. Alvis is now married and has a boy of his own. Alan is 13 years old, and is seen standing alongside this record-breaking Clock in the picture on this page. While the fine performance of this Clock is undoubtedly an excellent testimonial to the durability and precision of Meccano parts, its long working life is also largely due to the standard of construction and workmanship put into the assembly of the model by Mr. Alvis, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his achievement.



The Meccano Grandfather Clock built by Mr. E. Alvis, of Eastleigh, 25 years ago. Alongside is his 13-year-old son, Alan.

A Mechanism of Interest to Crane Builders

Readers who like building cranes and have the necessary parts to enable them to go in for the larger types should find the winding mechanism shown in Fig. 1 of interest as it is quite easily adaptable to suit particular requirements.

It will be seen that the shaft of the winding handle 1, carrying a $\frac{1}{2}$" Pinion 2, is engaged at one end by a $3\frac{1}{2}$" Strip 4. The latter is bolted to the framework at 5 and is bent out a little to allow a Collar and a Washer to be placed on the shaft between the Strip and the frame of the gear-box. The Strip 4 thus serves as a spring and tends to retain the operating shaft in such a position that the Pinion 2 is out of engagement with the Gear Wheel 3 on the winding drum shaft. Consequently, in order to rotate the drum, the handwheel 1 must be pressed inward while it is rotated; immediately it is released the Strip 4 returns it to its former position, throwing the Pinion 2 out of gear with the Gear Wheel 3. On the other end of the drum 6 a Flanged Wheel 7 and a Bush Wheel 8 are mounted. These form a small brake drum around which a cord brake band 9 is wound. One end of the band is tied to a Flat Bracket mounted on a Rod 10, and the other end is given a few turns round the Rod, and is secured to a Bolt inserted in a Collar on Rod 10.

On operation of the handle 11, the Rod 10 winds up the Cord 9, so exerting a