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position (2)
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This model is the same as No. 152 c , illustrated above, except that it is finished in a range of different colours. Price 4d. each.


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MECCANO LIMITED


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Fitted with detachable rubber tyres.
Silver-plated radiators.
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No. 36b $\begin{gathered}\text { Bentley (Two-seater Sports Coupe) } \\ \text { with driver and passenger ... .. } 11 \mathrm{~d} .\end{gathered}$
No. 36c $\begin{gathered}\text { with driver and passenger wer (Vogue Saloon) with } \\ \text { driver and footman ... ... ". 11d. }\end{gathered}$
No. 36d Rover (Streamline Saloon) with
11 d .
No. 36 e driver and passenger... .... " $\begin{gathered}\text { British Salmson (Two-seater } \\ \text { Sports) with driver ... ... ". }\end{gathered}$
No. $36 f \begin{array}{cll}\begin{array}{c}\text { British Salmson (Four-seater } \\ \text { Sports) with driver } \ldots\end{array} & " & 11 \mathrm{~d} . \\ \text { S/G }\end{array}$
Price of complete set 5/6

## railway signals



Dinky Toys No. 15
Dinky Toys No. 15
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Assorted colours.
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Dinky Toys No. 27 Assorted colours. Price 3d. each

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A game for two, based upon the characters in R. L. Stevenson's famous book "Treasure Island." Scouting, bluff and tactics are necessary to capture the opponent's treasure. Stockades, powder chests and prisons play an important part in the game.
EVERY BOY AND GIRL WILL WANT IT AT CHRISTMAS.

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THE RAIDER-wing span 13ü"
Complete with patent high speed winder and packed in specially constructed box

Without high speed winder-in carton $\mathbf{1 / 1 1}$
A similar, but smaller model named the AVENGER, is obtainable at only a shilling.

THE AVENGER—wing span $11^{\prime \prime}$ Complete with patent high speed winder and packed in specially constructed box
Without high speed winder-in carton $\mathbf{1}^{\prime}$ OBTAINABLE AT ALL GOOD TOYSHOPS \& STORES

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It is built on the lines of the latest R.A.F. bombers and will fly up to 200 feet under good conditions. The tubular fuselage, balsa wood wings and spring undercarriage make the model almost unbreakable.


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## NOW READY THE MODEL ENGINEERS' POCKET DIARY FOR 1938

Mr. Percival Marshall, A.M.I.C.E., has himself specially compiled the information supplement, which is packed with pictures, and gives details of all museums where models are to be seen, and lists of all clubs, flying grounds, etc., with pages of useful figures and tables for the model maker.

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## With the Editor

## Magazine Veterans

A flood of letters of congratulation followed the appearance last month of the twenty-first birthday issue of the "M.M." I think I have never before read so many interesting letters in so short a time; and although I knew how greatly the Magazine was treasured by its readers, I was surprised to find how many of them were able to tell me that they have in their possession every copy from the first issue. In most cases these are carefully bound and the volumes are in constant use for reference.

I was specially interested to note that Mr. Stewart Wilson, of Morden, Surrey, has all the issues and has every volume bound. Mr. Wilson was for many years leader of the Holy Trinity Meccano Club, Barnsbury, London, N.1, which has the honour of being the first Club in the world to be affiliated with the Meccano Guild. Incidentally, Mr. Wilson tells me that among his greatest treasures is one of the earliest Meccano outfits, which appeared under the name "Mechanics Made Easy" somewhere about 1901. I, too, have a collection of the parts produced during those early days, and it is extraordinarily interesting to compare them with the present Meccano parts.

Another reader, Mr. J. E. Brown, of Frampton, near Dorchester, writes: "As you said that only one reader has written saying that he has all the 'M.M.s' since the first number, I should like to say that my late younger son John took them from the first number, and since he died in August 1935, I have continued taking them. I have to cycle six miles to Dorchester to get them." Other letters, many of them from readers who have never written to me before, tell similar stories of continued interest in the Magazine. It has been a great pleasure to answer personally these welcome communications.

## Chimney or Funnel?

I see that the old argument has arisen again as to whether a steam locomotive has a "chimney" or a "funnel." My own impression is that the term "chimney" is correct, but apparently the question is not quite so simple as that. At Swindon, for instance, the term "funnel" appears to be in use, to some extent at any rate; whereas at Doncaster, where they appear to have a gadget known as a "chimney lifter," the use of the name "funnel" probably would cause surprise.

As usual in a case of this kind, the dictionaries do not help much. One I have before me describes a chimney as "a passage for the escape of smoke or heated air from furnaces." This is alright, but when I turn to the word
"funnel" in the same dictionary I find that it means "a tube or passage for the escape of smoke, etc.," which seems to lead in precisely the same direction. I have never heard anyone speak of a ship's "chimney," nor of a factory "funnel"; but there appears to be no reason why these names should not be so used. It seems to be a matter of usage, and I should like to know what my readers think about it. Possibly some of them may dodge the difficulty by suggesting the use of the name "smoke stack," which I believe is used in the United States in connection with locomotives.

## A Mystery of Mount Everest

When the first attempts were made to climb Mount Everest, stories were told by the Tibetans of dreadful creatures, half man and half ape, that prowled about the lower slopes of the mountain. The Tibetans called them "the abominable snowmen," and asserted that they were capable of killing large animals like the yak with a blow of the fist. At first these creatures seemed to be mere legend, but the members of successive expeditions have been surprised to find mysterious footprints at a height of $20,000 \mathrm{ft}$. These have now been photographed and measured. They were nine inches wide and many feet apart, and must have been made by some entirely unknown-animal, possibly a bear that is much larger than the grizzly of North America.

There is no reason why Everest should not hold a secret of this kind, for there are many parts of the world where mysterious creatures may lurk. There have even been rumours of giant dinosaurs in the forests and swamps of Central Africa, and tales of other survivals of past ages have reached us from the unexplored jungles of South America. No doubt it was stories of this kind that inspired Conan Doyle's famous book "The Lost World," which tells of dinosaurs and pterodactyls living on a great plateau isolated from the rest of the world by its precipitous sides. There are similar plateaux on a smaller scale in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. As described on page 658, these are now being explored.

## Our Special Christmas Issue

The Christmas issue of the "M.M." will be published on 1st December. As usual it will be specially enlarged, and will be full of interesting articles and other features, but there will be no increase in price. This issue is sure to be sold out very early. Every reader therefore should make sure of his copy by placing an order now with his usual dealer or newsagent, and he should also advise all his friends to follow his example.

# The Making of Steel Casting Ingots of More than 200 Tons 

THE melting department at the Vickers Works of the English Steel Corporation Limited has facilities for making ingots over 200 tons in weight. These ingots are used for the production of the huge forgings required for chemical and oil engineering processes, super power stations, and marine, electrical and general engineering work, and our cover shows the tapping of a 60 -ton acid open hearth furnace in readiness for casting one of them. The molten steel is seen running down the launder, or trough, from the furnace to the ladle, which is lined with firebrick and is suspended from a 200 -ton crane. From the ladle the steel is poured into the ingot mould. It runs through a small nozzle in the bottom of the ladle, and pouring is controlled by means of a stopper rod.

In casting ingots of exceptional weight, say over 150 tons, it is necessary to use the steel from three or more 60 -ton open-hearth furnaces. In this case, after tapping the first furnace, the ladle is placed over the ingot mould, which is below ground level, and the steel is allowed to flow in. In the meantime a second ladle filled with steel from another furnace is brought above the first. The steel from the second ladle is then poured into the first,


An ingot weighing 136 tons being withdrawn from a reheating furnace. We are indebted to the English Steel Corporation Limited for the illustrations to this article.
bricks they contain or choke the passages through them, a combination of circumstances that would shorten considerably the life of the furnace.

The regenerators contain thousands of bricks, which are arranged to form a checker work exposing a large area of surface, and containing many zig-zag passages through which the gases must pass on their way to and from the melting chamber. By a suitable arrangement of valves and flues, the producer gas used as fuel and air are conveyed to entrances at the bottoms of their respective chambers at one end of the furnace. They pass through the hot checker brickwork, where they are pre-heated, and through the uptakes, to enter the melting chamber through separate ports at one end. The gas and air mix in the furnace and burn. The flame passes across the hearth, and the products of combustion make their exit through the gas and air ports at the other end and so into the regenerators there, heating the checker brickwork before finally passing out to the chimney. The direction of the gas and air is reversed at frequent intervals with the object of obtaining suitable checker temperatures.
Pre-heating the gas and air on these lines allows for a more effective heat in the furnace than would be the case if combustion of air and gas were to take place in what is generally understood to be the normal manner. The reversal of the gas and air at intervals has a cumulative effect, giving higher and higher temperatures in the furnace, and eventually it would be possible to melt the furnace itself. The temperature is controlled by the melter, who judges it by the appearance of the furnace, the flame and the condition of his bath, which is indicated by samples taken at frequent intervals.

The producer gas generally used as fuel in acid-hearth furnaces consists chiefly of nitrogen, carbon monoxide and hydrogen, with a smaller proportion of hydrocarbons. The nitrogen is a non-combustible and therefore of no value. The gas is made in circular producers of steel plate lined with fire brick. A current of air containing steam is led in at the bottom, and coal is fed from the top automatically. The gas evolved is led off through flues to the valves leading to the furnace.

The term "acid" hearth demands a little explanation. The element silicon combines with oxygen to give silicon oxide, which is known as silica. This is familiar in the form
of silica sand. Ganister and silica bricks are also very largely made up of silica. Silica is classed by the chemist as an acidic oxide, and the furnace is known as an acid furnace because the hearth of the melting chamber is lined with silica sand. In the same way the oxides of magnesia and lime are known as basic oxides, so that when the hearth is lined with these oxides, the process is known as the basic open-hearth process.

In order to start a furnace from the cold, a coal fire is placed on the hearth and the valves are opened to admit cold air and gas. The fire plays the same part as a match applied to the mixture of air and gas issuing from an ordinary Bunsen burner. It is required only until the temperature of the melting chamber and regenerators is high enough to raise the gas and air to a temperature at which they will ignite spontaneously. Special precautions are necessary when warming up a furnace and introducing gas for the first time, as there is danger of explosion.

When the melting chamber is new, a bricklayer leaves the hearth outlined in silica brick. The coal fire is put in the furnace in order to dry it, and when this process is complete, gas is admitted and the temperature raised cautiously for a few days. When the newly-lined furnace is hot enough, dry silica sand is glazed or fritted on to the hearth in successive thin layers. This operation requires great care, as a faulty hearth means time lost between charges, or sometimes the complete failure of the hearth, leading to the loss of the charge and damage to the structure.

The hearth is shaped so that from every direction it slopes towards the tap hole. When it is completed, which takes from five to seven days, the tap hole is cut and closed with a mixture of crushed coke and sand, backed with clay or ganister. Before charging on a new hearth, slag from previous acid charges is crushed and spread over it. The slag melts and sinks into the hearth, making it more dense and less liable to absorb iron. The furnace is now ready to receive its first charge.

The raw materials used in an acid open-hearth


A hot bar passing through the tinishing rolls of a 28 in. rolling mill. The dial shows the distance through which the top roll rises and falls, the bottom roll being fixed.
furnace are decided by the quality of the steel to be produced. In the working of this type of furnace, sulphur and phosphorus are not removed, and it is therefore essential that the percentage of these elements in the raw materials shall be very low in order to produce a good quality acid steel.

The base materials used are pig iron and scrap, the proportion of the former ranging from 35 to 60 per cent., according to circumstances. These form the charge for carbon steels. An electric overhead furnace charger is used for feeding in the raw materials. When the charge has been thoroughly melted, iron ore and small limestone additions are made as circumstances demand, their purpose being to remove carbon, silicon and manganese, and to give the required degree of refining. The finishings for these steels, which are added during the final stage of the working, generally consist of alloys of silicon and manganese, or ferro-silicon and ferro-manganese.

For alloy steels, similar proportions of pig iron are used. The scrap is very often alloy steel, however, and further additions of alloys are required. In the case of a nickel-chrome molybdenum steel, ferro-silicon or silico-manganese is added, as in making carbon steels, but raw nickel, ferro-molybdenum and ferrochromium are added at stages during the working in order to bring the steel to the analysis specified.

At frequent intervals, small samples are taken from which the condition of the bath is determined. Some of the samples are drilled and analysed, and the results obtained determine the quantities of finishing alloys to be added. The furnace is ready for tapping when the bath has been brought to the condition required, and the steel to the required analysis.

The ingots produced vary in weight from 1 ton up to over 200 tons. The smaller sizes, say up to 35 or 40 cwt., are taken to the Rolling Mill. The larger ones are used for forgings, the medium ones being hammered and the largest forged under a press.

For the information in this article we are indebted to the English Steel Corporation Ltd.

# AMERICA'S GREATEST DAM 



AMERICAN engineers have carried out some of the world's greatest feats of constructional engineering, but a colossal dam that they are now building across the Columbia River in the State of Washington will dwarf all their previous enterprises. This is known as the Grand Coulee Dam, and the illustration in the heading on this page shows what it will look like. It will be three times the size of the Great Pyramid of Egypt, and indeed will be the largest structure of any kind ever made by Man.
The Grand Coulee Dam forms only a part of a great project planned by the United States Government to control the water of the Columbia Basin. Although less famous than such rivers as the Mississippi and the Colorado, the Columbia has the second largest flow of all rivers in the country, and is the largest potential source of hydro-electric power. Between the Canadian border and the Pacific Ocean it falls through some $1,300 \mathrm{ft}$., and the entire scheme includes the building of 10 dams to make use of 92 per cent. of this fall.

The Grand Coulee Dam will be the key structure in this scheme, regulating the supply of water to the other barrages, and itself dealing with a fall of 355 ft ., or nearly 30 per cent. of the total drop in the level of the river. It will be $3,000 \mathrm{ft}$. long and 500 ft . thick at the base, and about $4,300 \mathrm{ft}$. long and 30 ft . thick at the crest. It will rise to a height of 550 ft . above bed rock, and therefore will not be as high as the 727 ft . Boulder Dam across the River Colorado in Arizona. In almost every other respect it will be much larger, however. For instance, it will contain 12 million cu. yds. of concrete, or more than three times the amount required for the Boulder Dam. Behisid it will be formed a mighty reservoir 151 miles long, with an average width of $4,000 \mathrm{ft}$. and a maximum depth of 375 ft . This artificial lake will be the longest of its kind in the world. It will extend to the Canadian border, 151 miles away, and an


An early stage in the building of the Grand Coulee Dam, showing the mile long conveyor used to remove the excavated material. The illustrations are reproduced by courtesy of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Washington.
arm 32 miles long will be formed on the Spokane River, which flows into the Columbia.
The colossal nature of the enterprise is shown by the fact that the galleries to be built into the Dam for inspection, gate control, cooling, drainage and other purposes will have a total length of eight miles. More than $1,200,000 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{ft}$. of water per second will be able to pass over its crest, a volume more than three times the greatest recorded flow of the river. This will pour over a spillway $1,650 \mathrm{ft}$. long in the central section of the Dam, and in addition there will be three sets of 20 outlets controlled by gates $8 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{ft}$. in width. The turbines of the power station to be erected at the foot of the Dam also will serve to regulate the water level in the reservoir, for when working at full capacity they will pass 81,000 cu . ft. per second.
The enormous volume of water passing over the spillway will plunge down the face of the Dam into great curved steel buckets placed to receive it, in order to avoid the erosion that would take place if the bed of the river were pounded by a waterfall nearly 400 ft . in height. It is estimated that when the spillway is passing its maximum flow the energy of the falling water will be approximately $32,000,000 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{p}$.

The Grand Coulee project has been undertaken principally for irrigation purposes. It will serve a vast area of more than a million acres of very fertile land lying in the Big Bend Country, to the east of the great curve of the river. In its present arid condition this land is unproductive and of little value, but when supplied with water it will produce a great variety of crops and will provide homes for a large number of people. The Dam also will be the source of the world's largest supply of electrical energy. Part of this energy will be used for pumping and other purposes, and the States of the north-west will provide a market for the remaining power.

The hydro-electric station will be built in two separate and similar parts, one on each side of the river. They will be about 765 ft . long and 112 ft . wide, and their height above their lowest concrete foundations will be 292 ft . They will be made watertight to a point several feet above the maximum flood level. In each power house nine main generating units will be installed, each driven by a 150,000 h.p. hydraulic turbine. The output of the plant is expected to be $1,890,000 \mathrm{~kW}$, equivalent to $2,520,000$ h.p., and this will surpass by nearly 800,000 h.p. the output of the hydro-electric power plant at Boulder Dam. Water will be carried through the Dam to the turbines by 18 steel penstocks, each 18 ft . in diameter, that are embedded in the concrete itself.

In order to follow the constructional work involved in the Grand Coulee project, and to understand how the irrigation scheme will work, it is necessary to go back many thousands of years in the story of the Columbia River. At one time this flowed directly from the western slopes of the Rockies to the gap in the Cascade Mountains through which it reaches the Pacific. Vast floods of lava from fissures in the Earth's crust pushed it out of this channel, and forced it right up against the granite rocks of the Cascade Mountains, so that it made a great bend. In this new position the river gradually cut out for itself a mighty canyon, which in places is a mile wide and $1,600 \mathrm{ft}$. deep. At the site of the Grand Coulee Dam there are granite rocks on both sides of the river, and these will form the foundation and abutments of the structure. The lava flows have weathered away into a very fertile soil.

The Columbia River was again displaced from its course thousands of years later, during the Great Ice Age, when glaciers coming down from the north blocked the gorge. Water then gradually piled up behind the icy barrier, and eventually overflowed the southern rim of the gorge, cutting a new channel at right angles to its former course. The canyon it formed was 50 miles long and from two to five miles wide, and at one point in it the river plunged over


Landslides that threatened an excavation were prevented by the frozen earth dam shown above. Pipes through which frozen brine was circulated can be seen projecting above the dam.
the brink of a precipice more than 400 ft . high, forming an immense waterfall three miles across and with a volume 100 times that of Niagara.

Eventually the ice receded. The Columbia River returned to its old channel, and the canyon was left high and dry, with only a few scattered lakes to show that it had once formed the bed of a mighty river. This canyon is known to-day as the Grand Coulee. It opens out into the valley of the Columbia more than 600 ft . above the level of the river, and the engineers building the Dam are planning to make good use of it.

The Dam itself will rise at the exact point where the ice barrier once blocked the gorge of the Columbia, and it will bring about a similar result. The lake behind it will not rise to the height of the prehistoric river, however, but will be 295 ft . lower. The river therefore will not overflow into the Grand Coulee, and this will be filled by pumping water into it from the lake 295 ft . below. The ancient canyon thus will be converted into a great storage lake 23 miles long, and in some places 880 ft . deep. The rock walls of the Grand Coulee will form the sides of the reservoir, and its ends will be closed by earthen barriers 90 ft . in height. The pumps that will lift the water into it will derive their power from the station at the Dam, and will be capable of raising nearly 450 tons of water a second. Later the water of the Grand Coulee Reservoir will flow 11 miles southward in a canal leading to the area over which it will be distributed through smaller channels.

Those who suggested, 21 years ago, that the Columbia could be dammed in order to supply the thirsty farms with water were laughed at. To-day the structure they dreamed of is rising, in spite of the immense engineering difficulties and the high cost, which is greater than that of the Panama Canal. This outlay will be amply repaid, for when the project is completed it will bring prosperity to thousands of people and add greatly to the country's wealth. How the work is being carried out will be described in a further article that will appear in next month's "M.M."


## Isle of Man Air Lines Re-organised

The air services operating between England, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man were until recently provided by the Manx Airway Section of Railway Air Services, on behalf of the L.M.S., the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, and Blackpool and West Coast Air Services Ltd., a subsidiary of Olley Air Services Ltd. These three companies have now merged their interests in these air routes, and have become associated with Isle of Man Services Ltd., the company holding the lease of the airport at Ronaldsway, Isle of Man. This company is now operating all the internal air services to and from the Island.
The growth of air travel to the Isle of Man is shown by the fact that from January to August this year 18,000 passengers were carried to and from the Island by the Manx Airway and Blackpool and West Coast Air Services. On the Saturday before August Bank Holiday these two companies between them flew 90 trips and carried a total of 600 passengers.

## Aerial War Against Mosquitos

A campaign is being waged against malariabreeding mosquitos in the Tennessee valley of the United States, and aeroplanes are being employed very effectively to drop chemicals that destroy mosquito eggs and larvæ. It has been found that with a single aeroplane as much work can be accomplished in one hour as two men operating from boats would do in a fortnight.

## America Regains International Speed Record

The Women's International Speed Record was recently regained for the United States by Miss Jacqueline Cochran, a well-known American airwoman. She flew over a twomile course at Wayne County Airport, Detroit, and averaged $293.05 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. on four successive trips. Her fastest trip was made at a speed of $304.6 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. She used a Seversky monoplane fitted with a Pratt and Whitney "Twin Wasp" engine.

The previous record was $276.53 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., and was set up in 1934 by Mlle. Helene Boucher, of France.

## A European Air Freight Line

A company to operate fast air freight services between London and the principal European cities has been formed in England under the title of International Air Freight Ltd. Curtiss "Condor" biplanes with two $680 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{p}$. Wright "Cyclone" engines have been chosen to fly the services. This type of American air liner weighs just over eight tons fully loaded, and of this total over two tons is payload. Its top speed is about $170 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.

The first service to be started by the new company operates between Croydon Airport and Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam. There are two trips daily in each direction from Croydon at 5.30 a.m. and 12 noon, and from Schiphol at $8.45 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and $3.15 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. Each flight takes two hours. Collection and distribution facilities have been organised in the London area and at Amsterdam.
The absence of passengers relieves the service from many restrictions as to the type of freight that can be carried. Considerable traffic in perishable and fragile goods is anticipated. When the service to Holland is well established, another will be started, and it is ex-
camel team. The aeroplane was employed to keep in daily touch with the team, and to drop additional food supplies as required.

The party were away from Brisbane just over 30 days, only six of which were occupied in flying to and from the Petermann Ranges, and their flight covered 5,195 miles. The survey would have taken many weeks to carry out, if only surface transport had been employed.

## Solo Flight from Australia to South Africa

Mrs. Dolores Bonney, an Australian airwoman, recently completed an interesting solo flight from Darwin, in Australia, to Capetown, South Africa. She flew a Klemm 32, a German type of three-seater low wing monoplane. No attempt was made to set up records, and the 18,000 mile flight took nearly four months. The countries visited on the way included Java, Burma, Siam, India, Egypt, the Sudan and East Africa.

## Survey Flight in Australian Desert

A party of Queensland business men recently made a flight from Brisbane to the remote Petermann Ranges in Central Australia to explore the inaccessible desert territory with a view to its possible exploitation from a gold-mining standpoint. The prospectors were flown in a Qantas Empire Airways' aeroplane to a point in the Ranges that afforded the nearest approach by air to the region to be surveyed, and the party then proceeded by


An unusual view of one of the five Lockheed "Electra" air liners of British Airways Ltd., by whose courtesy this photograph is reproduced.

## A New Fokker Fighter

The military monoplane shown in the upper illustration on this page is the Fokker G.I twin-engined fighter. It has been designed for attacking heavy bombers in the air, but can itself be used as a bomber, or for reconnaissance.
The machine is of unusual design for a large military aeroplane, and in appearance resembles certain American types of twin-engined light aeroplanes, such as the "Crusader" illustrated in the May 1936 "M.M." The fuselage is exceptionally short. It terminates just behind the trailing edge of the wing, and the engine nacelles project rearward in the

## Junkers "Jumo 210" Aero Engine

The latest Junkers aero engine is the "Jumo 210" shown in the lower photograph on this page. It is a petrol-driven, fourstroke, water-cooled engine of the inverted Vee type, and the 12 cylinders are arranged


The G. 1 twin-engined fighter, the latest type of Fokker military aircraft. The fuselage is very short, and the tail unit is carried at the end of long, tubular booms. Photograph reproduced by courtesy of N.V. Nederlandsche Vlietuigenfabriek, Amsterdam.

## "Cambria's" Record Atlantic Crossing

A new record for the crossing of the Atlantic by air was achieved by the Imperial Airways' flying boat "Cambria" on 27th-28th September last, when she flew from Botwood to Foynes in 10 hr .33 min . at an average speed of 190 m.p.h. The previous best time for the eastward trip was exactly 1 hr . longer, and was set up by the companion aircraft "Caledonia" on her eastward flight on 20th-21st August.

The "Cambria" also holds the record for the fastest westward flight over the same route. This was accomplished on the 27th August last, when she made the Atlantic crossing from Foynes to Botwood in 14 hr .24 min . The latest trip of the "Cambria" concluded the series of transatlantic experimental flights carried out during last summer. The flights have been notable for the accuracy of the weather forecasting and the precision of the wireless services, and have proved the practicability of a commercial air service across the North Atlantic.
The three pilots of Qantas Empire Airways, the company operating the Singapore-Brisbane section of the EnglandAustralia air route, who have been undergoing training at the Imperial Airways

## The England-India Flying Boat Route

A series of survey flights over the Imperial Airways flying boat route to Karachi, India, is being carried out to test the flying boat bases that have been provided in readiness for the introduction of the Empire air mail scheme on this route next year. The section being surveyed extends from Egypt to Karachi. The first flight was carried out by the Empire flying boat "Ceres," and stops were made at the new flying boat bases on Lake Galilee and Lake Habbaniyah, 50 miles from Baghdad, and at Basra, Bahrein, and Sharjah on the Persian Gulf. The second survey flight was carried out by the flying boat "Centaurus."

The organisation of the India-Australia section of the Empire flying boat route is in progress. Between Karachi and Calcutta the flying boat alighting points will be a lake at Raj Samand, in Udaipur State,

The Junkers "Jumo 210" water-cooled aero engine. It is of the inverted Vee type, with the 12 cylinders arranged in two inclined rows, and develops 680 h.p. Photograph by courtesy of Junkers Flugzeug- und -Motorenwerke A.G., Dessau.
"finishing school," have returned home. Four more of the company's pilots have arrived in England. Like the three who preceded them, they have been engaged in piloting the D.H. "Diana" air liners of Qantas Empire Airways, and further training is necessary to qualify them to take over the piloting of the Empire flying boats. The training they will undergo includes a special marine air course at Southampton, where they will master the technique of handling flying boats on the water as well as in the air.
a stretch of water at Gwalior and a river at Allahabad. At Calcutta the aircraft will land on a section of river within the confines of the seaport. Further eastward the organisation will include the splendid harbour that has been provided at Singapore, and flying boat bases in Australia.

The completion of the survey flights over this route will be followed by the establishing of regular flying boat services, at first to Karachi, then to Singapore, and finally to Australia.

# On the Footplate of the "Cork Mail" Heavy Pulling and High Speed 

By a Railway Engineer

S
OME of the heaviest express train workings in Ireland are Soperated over the Dublin-Cork main line of the Great Southern Railways. The calling at Queenstown of Atlantic liners tempts many American visitors to begin their European holidays by way of Ireland; tourist traffic to and from Killarney is always heavy during the summer, and in consequence train loads of 350,400 and even 450 tons have to be tackled on quite fast timings. The gradients, too, are in places exceptionally severe, and the big 4-6-0 locomotives frequently require pilot assistance. On the other hand there is no main line in the British Isles so absolutely free of speed restrictions. In this respect the 165.3 -mile stretch between Dublin and Cork is superior to the most famous racing tracks in Europe, including the main line of the L.M.S. between Euston and Crewe, the London-Doncaster section of the East Coast Route, and the main line of the Northern Railway of France between Paris and the Channel ports.

My footplate journey was made on the hardest train of the day, the 7 a.m. down mail. This express runs in connection with the L.M.S. "Irish Mail" which leaves Euston at 8.45 p.m. on the previous evening. On this occasion I crossed from Holyhead, and the arrival in Ireland, and the short run from Dun Laoghaire pier up to Dublin was an interesting prelude to the footplate journey itself. The "Hibernia" made the voyage with the usual clockwork-like adherence to schedule, and on landing we found through expresses for Belfast, Cork, and Galway drawn up in the pier station. Traffic from England is ordinarily quite heavy, but on this occasion no less than five through carriages from Dun Laoghaire to Cork were provided. In charge of a handsome 4-4-2 tank engine, No. 457, which belonged to the former Dublin and South Eastern Railway, we ran smartly enough along the south side of Dublin bay, and then threaded our way through the heart of the citypast Westland Row, with its newlycompleted electric signalling installation; over the River Liffey, with fine views of the North Wall quays, the Custom House, and many other fine buildings. Then a brief halt at Amiens St. Station to connect with the Great Northern system, and so round the northern fringes and into Kingsbridge, the Great Southern terminus.

Here the rest of the mail train was waiting. Post Office sorting vans, restaurant cars, and some lesser vehicles which were now added to the Dun Laoghaire portion made up a train of thirteen coaches, 323 tons tare, and 345 tons with passengers, luggage and mails. Our engine was No. 401, a two-cylinder 4-6-0, specially interesting in having Caprotti valve gear. But although this class are by far the largest express engines in Ireland, they are only moderate-powered machines by present-day standards. The cylinders are $19 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. dia., by 28 in . stroke; the coupled wheels are 6 ft .7 in . dia., and the boiler pressure is 175 lb . per sq. in. They are fitted with a Belpaire fire-box that is very wide, and permits only of a narrow rectangular look-out in the cab front, despite the extra width of loading gauge due to the 5 ft .3 in . gauge.

The most noticeable feature of a well-arranged cab is the reversing wheel for the Caprotti valve gear. This is mounted vertically, after the style of a "Schools" class 4-4-0 of the English Southern Railway, but a very small rotational movement is enough to produce quite a big variation in cut-off. In one complete turn of the wheel the gear is shifted from full forward to the full reverse position. The regulator is of the two-port type, with a double handle to make adjustment easier for the driver. On my trip No. 401 was


Cab view of one of the Great Southern 4-6-0 locomotives, showing the simple and convenient footplate arrangements. Photograph by courtesy of the Great Southern Railways of Ireland.
manned by Driver O'Neill and Fireman Brosnan of Cork shed, though in the course of a single day's work these engines are regularly handled by crews from both Dublin and Cork sheds.

With this substantial load a pilot was provided to give some help up the steep initial bank to Clondalkin; this was No. 328, one of the big 4-4-0s. Right at the platform end climbing begins at 1 in 117. Driver O'Neill started off on 60 per cent. cut-off, opening immediately on to the main regulator, and then, as we passed Islandbridge Junction, where the gradient stiffens to 1 in 84, cut-off was reduced to 50 per cent. and the regulator pushed hard over to the "full." By this time the two engines were fairly rousing the echoes, but although the pilot was doing her fair share of the work the speed had only reached $23 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. when we passed the Great Southern locomotive works at Inchicore, a mile and a half out.
Beyond this point the grade eases to 1 in 138, but No. 401 was still kept pounding away on 50 per cent. cut-off, and we came over the top of the bank at $38 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. This initial 4.4 miles, out to Clondalkin, had taken just 10 minutes. From here onward we could easily have dispensed with the pilot, but to stop and detach the 4-4-0 at this point would have nullified the advantage gained up the bank, and so she went through to our first stop, at Kildare. Throughout this length the line is rising, very gradually for most of the way, and through an intensely green countryside, the kind of landscape that gained for Ireland its subtitle of The Emerald Isle, we bowled along under very easy steam. No. 401 was now being worked on 25 per cent. cut-off with the first regulator only half open. A slack for permanent way repairs near Straffin troubled us but little. Speed then rose to $66 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. on the faint rise towards Newbridge, and then, without falling below 52 m. p.h., we mounted the $2 \frac{1}{4}$ mile bank at 1 in 172 that leads over the Curragh, that rolling downland that was once the Aldershot of Ireland. So we reached Kildare, 30 miles from Dublin, in $41 \frac{1}{4}$ minutes, three-quarters of a minute inside booked time.

The pilot was now detached, two small vans were taken off the rear, and with this slightly reduced load of 320 tons No. 401 and her crew buckled to it in real earnest. With a pleasing backward glimpse of Kildare Cathedral, and the Round Tower of St. Bridget high on the hillside, we got away in great style. Full regulator and 50 per cent. cut-off produced a very rapid acceleration down the 1 in 180 bank, and Driver O'Neill soon changed over to the first valve, full open, and 30 per cent. cut-off. Four miles from the start we were doing $68 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. and then over the slight ups and downs past Monasterevan and Portarlington we kept up a steady 57 to $65 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. One could now appreciate not only the fine riding qualities of the engine but the superb alignment of the track. On the footplate it goes without saying that there was plenty of racket, but the beautifully steady way in which the engine negotiated curves and junctions at high speed was most impressive. The 20.9 miles from Kildare to Maryborough were thus reeled off in $23 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes, $2 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes inside schedule.

Harder work is required on the next section. With another van detached from the rear, and load thus reduced to 310 tons, O'Neill started up the 1 in 230 rise out of Maryborough on 60 per cent. cut-off, opening well out on to the main regulator. The engine responded with a roaring exhaust and a splendid acceleration, passing Clonkeen, just two miles out, at slightly over $40 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. She was then let go full tilt downhill on the main regulator and we
raced through Mountrath at $67 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. I was very interested in the method of firing. Although the fire-box is wide at the top it tapers down to the usual fairly narrow grate that one finds on 4-6-0 engines, and yet each shovelful of coal was being placed with the same meticulous care that one notes on the L.N.E.R. wide fire-box types. At each firing the driver assisted his mate by closing the fire doors between each shovelful; normally the two sliding doors were left just ajar so that the state of the fire could be seen.

By this time we were past Cuddagh, going 64 m.p.h., and just beginning the three-mile climb at 1 in 128 that leads to Ballybrophy. O'Neill opened right out to full regulator, increasing cutoff at the same time to 35 per cent., and we got up the bank without speed falling below $41 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.an excellent piece of work. A minute later we were running into Ballybrophy, having covered the 15.7 miles from Maryborough in $20 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes; here again booked time had been improved upon by $2 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes. On the

G.S.R. No. 401, the engine on which the journey described in this article was made. It is one of two fitted 01 , the engine on which the journey described in this article was made. It is one
with Caprotti poppet valves, and the valve boxes are prominent above the cylinders.

Limerick Junction is the safety valve of the whole Irish railway system. Throughout their country Irishmen planned and constructed a thoroughly logical and orderly transportation scheme, and although the train running was not as fast on some lines as it might be, it certainly was straightforward. But when it came to connecting up the old Waterford and Limerick Railway with the main line from Dublin to Cork, national characteristics could be restrained no longer, and in one glorious "fling" they packed more railway Irish-isms in to one square mile of countryside than are to be found in all the rest of Erin put together. Without Limerick Junction the Great Southern would not be an Irish railway!

But in spite of all the complications, the conflicting cross-over movements, reversals of direction, and the fact that modern express trains have far outgrown that one long platform, traffic is operated very smoothly. Procedure has been reduced to a fine art. In spite of the varying lengths of train, drivers seem to know the exact spots at which to stop on the main line; while points operation and the backing movements are carried out very quickly. On this trip of mine Driver O'Neill ran through to a very smart stop at the south end, and a minute-and-a-half later we had backed right across the up main line and were at rest in the station. The $20 \frac{1}{2}$-mile run from Thurles to our stop on the main line before backing in took just 24 minutes, another very smart piece of work.

After a halt of five minutes we got away again on the longest non-stop run of the whole journey, the 37.6-mile stretch to Mallow. On each successive stage the locomotive work seemed to be getting finer and finer, and now with full regulator and 60 per cent. cut-off No. 401 boomed her way up the 1 in 156 ascent out of Limerick Junction. Eastward lay the Galtee Mountains, a noble range of frowning crags dominated by the shapely cone of Galteemore. Once up the first bank No. 401 was quickly into her normal stride and we swung through Emly at $65 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. , but just along here a very slight "spot of bother" developed on the footplate. The live steam injector was giving some slight trouble, and this, combined with a particularly dusty patch of coal, caused the boiler pressure to fall.

Driver O'Neill's handling of the engine during this awkward stage was very skilful. Down the racing descent past Kilmallock he shut off steam altogether, but impetus and the astonishingly free running so characteristic of Caprotti valve gear engines enabled us to keep up a steady 66 m.p.h. This gave a useful respite to the boiler. The moment we I reached the foot of the bank is characteristic of the Great Soum Dublin approaching Cork. The well-kept perman Cork O'Neill opened well out on to the main regulator, and this with 30
per cent. cut-off sharpened the blast, drew the fire, and took us up per cent. cut-off sharpened the blast, drew the fire, and took us up The pressure gauge needle was still inclined to droop, but the engine was fairly "let fly" on the moderate grades beyond, and at Buttevant we touched $75 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.
We went splendidly up the three-mile ascent to the oddly-named summit of Two Pot House, mounting this grade of 1 in 142-230 at a lowest speed of $51 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., and once speed was up to 60 again on the descent to Mallow, Driver O'Neill shut off steam and let the engine coast. In spite of these hindrances the 37.6 miles from Limerick Junction were covered in $44 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes, just on the right side of
schedule time, while in response to this fine enginemanship the boiler pressure steadily rallied until it reached blowing-off point while we stood in Mallow station.

We needed every ounce of steam now, for the last stage into Cork is very heavily graded. Mallow lies in the Blackwater valley, at the junction of the Killarney branch, and the main line climbs southward between the Nagles and Boggeragh Mountains. Here the railway rises at 1 in 125-140 for nearly seven miles. On getting away there is a glorious view, eastward from the viaduct, of the Knockmealdown Mountains, while in the opposite direction may be glimpsed some of the heights of Killarney. Now the run was working up to a really glorious climax. On full regulator and 60 per cent. cut-off No. 401 literally roared up among the hills; speed rose to $34 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. on the 1 in 125 pitch, and then as we came on to the

G.S.R. No. 401 running on to the turntable at Cork. This photograph shows very well the characteristic appearance of these engines, which are the largest in Ireland.
away, and speed was up to $30 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. ere we were out of sight of Mourne Abbey, a fragmentary ruin standing sentinel on the hillside. As we roared our way up cut-off was reduced little by little, but even when we topped the summit we were still going on 50 per cent.; speed had then risen to $36 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. There was no restraining the engine downhill now, and on 30 per cent. cut-off and the first regulator we went pellmell for Cork. Rathduff was passed at $59 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. and speed leaped up through the seventies; eighty, and yet faster, till we tore through Blarney at 83 m.p.h. We continued at a terrific pace right to the top of the precipitous incline that leads down into Cork, and then as we began the descent O'Neill checked the speed to about 50 m.p.h. We coasted smoothly down the 1 in 60 gradient, braking carefully all the way, until we entered Kilbarry tunnel at about $30 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. A couple of minutes later we emerged rounding the curve into Cork. In spite of that nasty check at Mourne Abbey we had almost kept time, covering the 20.8 miles from Mallow in $29 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes.
At most of the intermediate stations we stayed slightly overtime on account of heavy traffic, but these arrears were more than recovered by the splendid work that Driver O'Neill got out of No. 401. Indeed he gained in all $11 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes on schedule time and made the complete run from Dublin in 3 hours 52 minutes, instead of the 3 hours 55 minutes booked. A very spirited and entertaining performance.

## The "Silver City Comet"

The "Silver City Comet" is the first of four high-speed semi-streamline Diesel trains to be placed in regular service between Parkes and Broken Hill, on the New South Wales Railways of Australia. Broken Hill is a famous metalliferous mining centre, and in the days of steam travel passengers wishing to reach it from Sydney found the journey long and tiresome. They are now able to leave Sydney at night by a sleeping-car train, and change over to the "Silver City Comet" at Parkes the following morning, arriving at Broken Hill, 427 miles away, the same evening.

The power car of the train is divided into three main compartments, with a driver's cabin at each end. The central compartment is the main engineroom, on each side of which is an auxiliary engineroom and a baggage compartment. Motive power is supplied by two 8-cylinder two-cycle Diesel engines each developing $330 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{p}$. Two 34-h.p. fourcycle Diesel engines are installed in the auxiliary engine compartment. Each of these is coupled to a generator for the purpose of supplying power for train lighting, air conditioning of the passenger cars, heating and cooling requirements of the buffet and compressed air for the braking system. The air brake is the Westinghouse automatic straight air


The "Silver City Comet," the Diesel-electric train introduced on the New South Wales Railways. This photograph and the information co information conta
system and it incorporates a "dead-man" control as well as a "retardation" controller. At high speeds the maximum braking force is available and by a pendulum action the braking force is reduced as the train slows down, thus minimising the risk of the wheels skidding.

The seats are reversible, and so enable passengers to face whichever direction they prefer. Each car has a centre corridor and an entrance vestibule at each end. In order to ensure the steady riding of the train the axles of each car run in self-aligning roller-bearing axle-boxes. Rubber pads are used exclusively throughout the bogie springing system, so that the wheels are entirely insulated from the body of the car. This arrangement reduces the noise and vibration to a minimum.

Light meals are served throughout the train and an electrically-equipped buffet is part of the equipment. This buffet is the first of its kind to be established in Australia. It is fitted
A powerful headlight assists the driver to see the road ahead during periods of darkness and a novel feature, similar to that used on some American trains, is a vertical beam of light that is provided to enable drivers of road vehicles about to use the level crossings to ascertain the position of an oncoming train.

The "Silver City Comet" is a wellappointed train and provides something new in railway travel in Australia. The cars are of the saloon type, with large windows similar to those now fitted to the vehicles of modern British expresses.
with a refrigerator and other appliances necessary for the preparation of meals during the journey. All exposed metal work in the buffet is of stainless steel or polished aluminium, or is chromiumplated.

The passenger cars are fitted with airconditioning apparatus of the most modern type. Fresh air is drawn in through a louvred recess in the roof, and after being cleaned it is heated or cooled according to requirements. Insulation is provided in the floors, sides and ceilings, and double windows are fitted.

# Searching for Oil in Great Britain How a Rotary Drill Works 

ARE there any underground reservoirs of oil in Great Britain? This is a question that has long engaged the attention of experts. During the Great War, when difficulties were encountered in obtaining the necessary supplies from abroad, wells were drilled in Derbyshire and other parts of the country, but with little success; and except for the comparatively small yield from the shale beds of Scotland, we depend entirely on imported supplies. During the last two years a thorough search has been undertaken to ascertain definitely whether oil exists or not. The Anglo-American Oil Company Limited have been actively engaged in this search, for which they hold a prospecting license covering an area of 490 sq. miles, and have discovered several promising rock formations. An unsuccessful effort has recently been made to find oil at Hellingley, Sussex, and drilling has now begun for a well at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh. The site of this is near a well drilled in 1919, from which a few barrels of crude oil were obtained.
Many people think that oil occurs in underground lakes or rivers, but really it is found in porous rocks such as sandstone and limestone. It was probably formed thousands of years ago from vegetation, marine plants or organisms, which decomposed under the influence of heat and pressure, producing the liquid known to-day as crude oil. This is lighter than water, and immediately after its formation floated upon any water that happened to be present. Thus it gradually worked its way upward, and where all the rocks above it were porous it eventually reached the surface of the earth and evaporated
In some places, however, the progress of the oil was barred by nonporous formations, such as clay, which had been distorted by earth movements into shapes resembling underground hills. These hills are known as anticlines, and the oil trapped in them gradually accumulated, forming the reservoirs that drillers strive to reach to-day. The oil is under great pressure, from gas dissolved in it and from water beneath, so that care must be exercised in completing the wells. The holes during drilling are always full of heavy mud, which exerts a pressure greater than the oil and gas. As this mud is slowly baled out, the oil is allowed to come to the surface, and is conducted to tanks through heavy steel pipes.
It is a difficult task to find these hidden stores of wealth. The surface rocks of the area to be prospected are first examined, for their slope is a clue to the hidden formations in the depths of the Earth beneath them. When an underground hill of the right kind has been found, the manner in which it has been formed and the nature of the strata below the surface must be taken into account. Thus if there are layers of volcanic rock there will be no oil, for such rock is too solid to allow the oil to soak through it. On the other hand, porous sandstones, limestones and sands form suitable layers for the movement and collection of oil.
When the geologist has found conditions that seem to indicate suitable underground formations, the work is turned over to the engineer, who erects drilling machinery capable of penetrating if necessary $10,000 \mathrm{ft}$. or even more into the Earth, in order to reach oil-bearing rock. Drilling is an expensive process, and if no oil is found, the cost of the operations is a complete loss. Even if oil is present the bores may just miss the porous rock reservoir, and the sinking of one or two unproductive wells could easily ruin a company that had not a large financial backing.
Rotary drilling, in which a bit is rotated at the end of a hollow pipe, is most commonly employed, and the necessary gear is


The opening ot a trial oil well recently bored at Hellingley, Sussex, showing the type of rotary drill used in the operations. Photograph by courtesy of the Anglo-American Oil Company Limited.
suspended inside a derrick that may be 130 ft . high. The drill pipes are very heavy steel tubes from 4 in . to 6 in . in outside diameter. They are made in 30 ft . lengths that can be screwed together, and the bit is screwed into the bottom of the pipe. The bit is lowered to the surface of the ground and the whole assembly is given a rotary motion that causes it to dig its way into the Earth under its great weight. Until recently steam engines were used for operating the machinery that rotates the drill, but Diesel engines are now often employed for the purpose.

After the drill has penetrated 30 ft . another length of drill pipe is added, and so on with fresh sections as the bit forces its way through the ground. A mixture of clay and water known as rotary mud is pumped down through the interior of the drill pipe and is ejected with terrific force through two holes in the bit near the cutting edge. The rotary mud washes the cuttings and pieces of rock to the surface, where they settle in pits, and the mud is re-circulated. This circulation also tends to have a cementing action on the walls of the hole, and prevents it from caving in.

The fishtail bit, the name of which indicates its shape, is employed when drilling through relatively soft material, such as clay or sand, and special rock bits are used for boring through harder rocks, such as gypsum, limestone and sandstone. The latter bits are equipped with cones having very sharp teeth, and with the weight of the drill pipe above them they grind their way through the rocks.

It is often necessary to take samples of the strata through which the drill is penetrating, and for this purpose a core bit is used. This cuts a hole in the shape of a ring, leaving the central portion untouched. As the cores are taken they are drawn to the surface in pieces 15 ft . to 20 ft . long, and are inspected by a geologist, who is able to identify the characteristics of the rock.

Near the surface the diameter of the hole is usually from 15 in . to 20 in . When a few hundred feet have been drilled steel casing is inserted, and cement is pumped up between the outside of the casing and the walls of the hole in order to prevent the latter from crumbling, and also to keep out surface water. The hole is then drilled deeper with smaller bits, and more casing of a smaller size is inserted. This continues until the oil-bearing layer is encountered.

Once drilling operations are started they proceed day and night without break, the rig being operated by three crews of men, who work eight bours each. It would be impossible to shut down operations during the night-time, for the portion of the well that had not been encased might collapse, and sand and clay settling out from the rotary mud would choke the bottom of the hole.

During the boring it is continually necessary to withdraw the drill pipe from the hole in order to change the bit. A good team of men can do this at a remarkable speed, withdrawing over a mile of pipe in from three to four hours. The pipe is hoisted up until a length consisting of three sections extends above the surface. This length is unscrewed in one piece and detached, and the process is repeated until all the pipe has been removed.

When the well is ready for production, tubing 2 in . to 4 in . in diameter is often inserted, and through it the oil and gas come to the surface. The well may be a "gusher," with the oil flowing to the surface under its own pressure. When the natural $p$ ressure is exhausted it becomes necessary to pump the oil to the surface.


## A Large Surface Condenser with $63 \frac{1}{2}$ miles of Tubes

In modern electric power stations the generators are driven by steam turbines From the turbines the steam passes into a condenser that performs two important duties. It turns into water the steam that has done its work in the turbine, so that it can be used again to feed the boilers, and in conjunction with an air ejector it maintains a high vacuum on the exhaust side of the turbine, thus ensuring a steady flow of steam.

There are many types of condensers, but those used for turbines are nearly always of the surface type. In these the exhaust steam is condensed by coming into contact with a cold surface, in the same way that steam from a kettle can be condensed by discharging it on to a cold plate. The cold surface is provided by brass tubes, through which cold water is pumped.

The illustration on this page shows the largest condenser so far made in this country. It was built by Worthington-Simpson Ltd., Newark-on-Trent, and contains nearly 18,000 brass tubes, each of $\frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. inside diameter, which provide a cooling surface of 65,000 sq. ft . The total length of tubes is $63 \frac{1}{2}$ miles. Two large pumps discharge $3,000,000$ gallons of water through the tubes every hour. The pressure in the condenser is about $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{lb}$. per sq. in. absolute, that is,
about 14.2 lb . per sq. in. below the average about 14.2 lb . per s.
of the atmosphere.

The exhaust steam enters through a hole 16 ft . by 12 ft . in the top of the condenser. The water formed falls into a vessel underneath, and from there is pumped through heating equipment to the boilers. Two openings are provided on the side of the casing for connections to an ejector, which withdraws the air from the condenser and discharges it to the atmosphere.

The end covers of the condenser are hinged, so that access can readily be gained to the tubes when they require cleaning or repairs. Although the covers weigh 7 tons each, they can be swung on their hinges by the pull of one finger.

The weight of the condenser in working order is over 250 tons, and it is carried on springs so that it can expand and contract freely under changes of temperature.

## Millwall Dock Scheme

The Port of London Authority has decided to carry out a number of improvements at the Millwall Dock. The East Quay, Inner Millwall Dock, which is $1,310 \mathrm{ft}$. in length, is to be widened, and the dock itself will be deepened by dredging to give a uniform depth of water of 29 ft . The No. 4 dolphin, at which vessels from West African ports have hitherto been

## An All-Electric Open-Air Swimming Pool

A giant open-air swimming pool, in the successful operation of which electricity plays an important part, has been constructed at Croydon. The pool is 200 ft . long and 70 ft . wide, and is surrounded by flower beds, grass lawns and shingle sunbathing beaches. Rectangular bays, 60 ft . wide, have been constructed in each of the longer sides, giving an overall width at the centre of 100 ft . The depth varies from 3 ft .6 in .


A giant condenser for a turbine power plant. It has a cooling surface of $65,000 \mathrm{sq}$. It. and is the largest made in this country. Photograph by courtesy of Worthington-Simpson Ltd., Newark-on-Trent. at each end to 6 ft . 6 in . at the centre, with a 15 ft . deep diving pool in one of the bays.

The water for the pool is warmed by means of an electrode boiler, and is sterilized by ozone, which is produced electrically. The installation is considered to be the first in which electricity is used for both purposes in such a manner. The electrode boiler was constructed by Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd., and has a capacity of 750 kW . The hot water from it is circulated through a heat exchanger by means of a pump coupled directly to a $5-\mathrm{h} . \mathrm{p}$. motor, and its temperature is maintained by automatic thermostat control.

The rapid filtration plant employed is capable of treating the 650,000 gals. of water contained in the pool once in six hours. After passing through the filter plant the water is returned to the pool through
discharged, will be removed. The work will take about 18 months to complete and is estimated to cost nearly $£ 110,000$.

## Supplying London's Gas

During the past five years the Gas, Light and Coke Company, London, have laid over 200 miles of gas mains annually. Recently a length of gas main laid down at Woodford brought the total mileage of the company's mains up to 6,000 , a figure greater than that of any other similar company in the world. About 1,800 men have been employed continually in laying the pipes and in repair work.

An area of 540 square miles is served by the Company, the number of consumers of gas being about $1,500,000$. The distributing system now consists of some $2,650,000$ pipes, with diameters varying from 2 in. to 4 ft . and having a total weight of 560,000 tons.
the heat exchanger, where it is re-warme by the heat produced by the boiler.

The ozone for sterilizing the water is produced in special generators in which air is subjected to the action of an electric discharge. The ozone is fed into the filtered water delivery main, and also is blown directly into the pool through small tubes, fitted in the floor.

At night the pool is illuminated by electric lights contained in 36 port holes built into the sides below the water level. Each port is covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. plate glass, and contains a $1,000-\mathrm{W}$ lamp backed by a stainless steel reflector.

## San Gabriel Dam

The San Gabriel No. 1 Dam near Los Angeles, in the United States of America, is now completed. It is a rock-fill structure 355 ft . in height above bedrock, and is the highest dam of its type yet built.

## An Interesting 12-wheel Trailer

The upper illustrations on this page show a 40 -ton low loading trailer designed for carrying highly concentrated loads, suclf as transformers. The trailer is 16 ft . in length and 8 ft . wide, and has the very low loading height of 2 ft . $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. It was built by R. A. Dyson and Co. Ltd., Liverpool, for the Johannesburg Municipality.

The trailer was supplied in chassis form, and the body, which consists of $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. chequered steel plate, was fitted in South Africa. It has 12 wheels, four at the front in line, and two lines of four at the rear, each being equipped with twin tyres. The wheels are steel castings, and are mounted on axles in such a manner as to ensure their being kept rigidly in line.

Each axle is fitted with two springs, which are capable of oscillating to allow the wheels to conform to lumps, ruts and other irregularities in the road surface when travelling over rough country. Brakes are provided on one line of wheels at the rear, and are operated in pairs by independent hand brake screws and wheels at the rear of the trailer.

To steady the trailer while it is being loaded or discharged, six hydraulic jacks are supplied, three of which are placed on each side of the vehicle. When not in use the jacks are carried in special boxes.

To ensure safety in the handling of such a heavy vehicle the Dyson Patented three-piece drawbar is fitted. In this design the centre leg of the drawbar takes all the pull, whilst the side members simply actuate the lock. Safety chains also are provided.
Testing the Strength of a Bridge
An old brick arch bridge built to carry road traffic over the Stratford-on-Avon Canal at Birmingham, is to be replaced with a new bridge of reinforced concrete. Before it is demolished, however, experiments are to be made by the Building Research Station of the De partment of Industrial and Scientific Research to ascertain the strength of the bridge. The Ministry ing information regarding the strength various types of bridges, and this Birmingham bridge is among those that are to be tested to breaking point.

To enable the experiment to be made without closing the route, the first half of the new bridge will be built adjacent to the old one and connected to the existing approaches by means of a temporary roadway.

## A New Funicular Railway

A funicular railway that will rise to a height of $3,000 \mathrm{ft}$. in a distance of $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles is now being built from the Bernina Pass above Pontresina, Switzerland, to the

## Extensions to Battersea Power Station

Extensions costing about $£ 1,500,000$ are to be made to the Battersea Power Station of the London Power Company. This work constitutes the beginning of the second half of the station, the first half of which is complete and in operation. The Central Electricity Board has authorised the company to install plant with a generating capacity of $100,000 \mathrm{~kW}$. This will include a $16,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ high-pressure turbo-alternator, a $78,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ low-pressure set and a $6,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ house set.

## More Hydro-Electric Schemes

- Work is at present in progress on several large hydro-electric power schemes in various parts of the world. In Russia several power stations are being built on the Volga to develop an annual output of 50,000 million kW . A new section of this scheme now to be commenced includes the building of a dam on the Volga that will increase the depth of the river above it by about 100 ft . Two generating plants are to be built, one of $1,500,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ capacity at the dam, and the other of $1,000,000 \mathrm{~kW}$ capacity, which will be situated about 62 miles downstream. These two stations will be capable of producing annually 14,000 million kW of electric energy.

Another interesting scheme is to be carried out in the Laxapana

Diavolezza Glacier. The new railway will connect with the Bernina line running from St. Moritz past Celerina and Pontresina over the Bernina Pass into Italy, and will cost about $£ 100,000$ to build.

## Largest German Motor Road Bridge

The largest of all the many bridges so far erected in connection with the construc-


A Priestman Dredging Crane at work on the Great Ouse. An article describing this work, and the machines engaged in it, appeared on page 684 of the "M.M." for December 1936. Photograph by courtesy of Priestman Bros. Ltd., Hull. Valley, Ceylon. This entails the construction of a dam 345 ft . long, the top of which will be 94 ft . above the level of the original river bed, and $2,844 \mathrm{ft}$. above sea level. The water from the lake formed behind the dam will be conveyed through a tunnel $7,863 \mathrm{ft}$. long, to a surge chamber on the hillside, and from there it will be conducted through pipe-lines to a power station 1,500 ft. below.
The power station will house three turbines coupled direct to 11,000 -volt threephase alternators, which will produce $25,000 \mathrm{~kW}$.

## German Buses de

 LuxeRoad coaches equipped with restaurants in which tea, coffee, wines, chocolates, eggs and cold meat will be served, are being placed in service in West Germany. These great vehicles seat 35 persons, and the dining saloon is a separate compartment con-
tion of the new German motor roads is being built near Limburgam-Lahn. The bridge will measure $1,500 \mathrm{ft}$. from end to end, and will stand nearly 200 ft . high. It will consist of 13 arches, each having a span of 90 ft .

The new bridge is being erected near the 700-year-old Cathedral of Limburg, and will provide a striking contrast with that ancient edifice. taining a table for eight. A well-equipped library is also carried.

Sleeper coaches also are becoming popular in certain parts of the country. These are luxury saloons fitted with specially built seats that can be reversed in a few moments to form comfortable beds. Radio equipment is provided for the entertainment of passengers during the day.

# The Railways of Iraq The Growth of an Interesting System 

By A. Meyer Shalom

THE story of the Iraq Railways is of special interest, for the whole of their development has taken place within less than 25 years. The present system has grown largely from the lines of various gauges constructed for military purposes during the Great War. The first line in Mesopotamia, as Iraq was formerly known, was builtearlier, however, -when the country was under Turkish rule. This was a German enterprise of standard gauge, running over the 74 miles from Baghdad to Samarra, its course being roughly parallel to the River Tigris. It was built for political and strategic reasons, the idea being to complete rail communication between Berlin and Baghdad by way of Constantinople, Aleppo in Syria and Mosul in the North of Iraq, and for this reason it was known as the BerlinBaghdad Railway. The Great War put a stop to the scheme.
Rail transport was soon found to be necessary for the conduct of the British campaign in Mesopotamia during the War. River transport on the Tigris was slow and two lines of railway were put in hand, one from Basra to Nasiriyah, roughly following the River Euphrates, and the other from Qurnah, which is near the supposed site of the Garden of Eden, along the Tigris to Amarah. The first line was laid to the metre gauge, 3 ft . $3 \frac{3}{8} \mathrm{in}$. It was thought that it would eventually join up with the Baghdad line, however, and it was laid on standard gauge sleepers so that only one rail would have to be moved in the event of the conversion of the gauge.

At first the Amarah line was laid to a gauge of 2 ft .6 in ., but traffic was so heavy that it was soon converted to metre gauge, and eventually rail communication was completed from Basra to Qurnah. The use of various gauges requires some explanation, but was due to the fact that much of the rolling stock and material was brought from India, where different gauges were in use. Later the metre gauge was standardised for Mesopotamian use.
Another 2 ft .6 in . gauge line afterwards converted to metre gauge was that from Kut-el-Amarah to Baghdad.


A 2-8-0 locomotive of German design on the standard gauge section of the A 2-8-0 locomotive of German design on the standard gauge section of the
Iraq Railways. This is one of the largest passenger engines on the system

Like the Basra to Amarah line, this has been dismantled since the War, as it was considered unsuitable for military or commercial purposes.

The present metre gauge line connecting Basra with Baghdad follows what may be termed the Euphrates route, and incorporates the section as far as Ur of the first line from Basra to Nasiriyah. Ur was linked up with Hillah, a point to which a line from Baghdad had been brought in 1918. Other extensions were made during the military operations and in the civil administration period that followed.
By an Agreement of 1924 the Iraqi Government became responsible for the administration of the railways, but they continued in British ownership. After prolonged negotiations with the British Government, however, the ownership of the Iraq Railways was at last transferred to the Iraqi Government on 1st April, 1936, at a nominal cash value of $£ 400,000$. The agreement reached provides that for a period of 20 years from the date of the transfer of ownership there shall be a partlyBritish Board of Management appointed by the Iraqi Government. Various executive posts also are to be filled by British officials.
The Iraq Railways have at present a total mileage of 735 miles, 132 miles of which are standard gauge lines and 603 miles of metre gauge. The standard gauge now reaches from Baghdad to Baiji, the Samarra to Baiji section being an extension of the original German-built Baghdad-Berlin Railways. The metre gauge runs from Basra to Baghdad, following in the main the course of the Euphrates. At Hindiyah Barrage, known as "Saddat Al Hinduyah," a branch goes off to Kerbala, a holy city of one of the Mohammedan Sects. The metre gauge line also connects Baghdad with Khanaqin, a city situated on the frontier of Iraq and surrounded by innumerable oil wells. At Qaraghan on this line an important branch completed during the post-War period runs to Kirkuk, 200 miles from Baghdad. From this point a fleet of beautifully-appointed Rolls-Royce cars owned by the Iraq Railways at present link the system twice a week
with Simplon and Taurus Expresses at Tel Kotchek, in Syria.

In order to provide through rail connection between Iraq and Europe, the Iraqi Government have determined to extend the standard gauge Baghdad-Baiji line to Mosul, and further on from Mosul to the IraqiSyrian frontier. The laying down of the first rail at Baiji was officially performed last November by the Prime Minister of Iraq in the presence of other ministers, the DirectorGeneral of Railways and other high officials of the Iraq Railway Directorate.

This 176-mile line follows principally the German survey made prior to the Great War. In due course when the track has reached Mosul, the four principal cities of Iraq will be connected by rail for the first time. It will take probably a couple of years to complete the construction, and to reach the Syrian frontier at Tel Kotchek. It will then be possible for travellers and tourists from London or Paris to reach Mosul, the ancient religious centre, Baghdad, the capital, Kirkuk, the city of oil, and finally Basra, the "Venice of the East," by through railway service with only a single break to cross the Bosphorus by ferry.

The Iraq Railways, besides connecting most of the important cities in Iraq afford tourists the means of visiting the famous ancient ruins in Iraq, such as Babylon and Ur of the Chaldees, the birthplace of Abraham. Railway "Rest Houses" with modern equipment and furnishing are maintained for the comfort of tourists and passengers at Hillah, Dinwaniyah, Ur of the Chaldees, now the junction for Nasiriyah, and Basra. The Railways have some splendid passenger coaches, and luxurious dining cars and saloons have been built at their own workshops at Schalchiyah.

There are six locomotive depots, of which two are engine-changing stations. One of these is at Ur Junction and the other at Qaraghan Junction, mid-way between Baghdad and Kirkuk, a section in which every train has to pass through Table Mountain Tunnel, which is a quarter of a mile long. The maximum speed now allowed is $35 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., but with the gradually improving conditions of the road, there is a possibility of running at $40 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. in the near future. The locomotives used are of British make, manufactured by various firms, but over the standard gauge system German engines still hold
their own. Every engine is sent to the Railway Mechanical Workshops at Schalchiyah for overhauls every three years, or normally after having completed a mileage of 100,000 .

The Railway staff includes British, Indians and Iraqis, most of the official posts being in British hands. The training of Iraqis is going on on a large scale, and 90 per cent. of the clerical staff, as well as traffic and running staff, are Iraqis. On the mechanical side there is a shortage of highlyskilled Iraqi labour, but this will be remedied in the course of a few years when students who, are being sent to Europe to take up special courses in engineering and management return to Iraq. Although the Iraq Railway system is not as fully developed as the modern railway lines of European countries, the accommodation and facilities on the Iraq Railways compare very well with those of the railways of other Arab countries. A fast mail service has been established to travel over the 353 miles between Baghdad and Basra in 12 hours, and the whole system, with its developments well in hand, can safely be said to be one of the greatest assets to the country.

The Iraq Railways carry passengers with comfort and comparative speed, and transport all kinds of freight from livestock to grains, oils and dates. During the construction of the Iraq-Mediterranean Pipe Line of the Iraq Petroleum Co. Ltd., thousands of tons of pipes were transported over both the metre and standard gauge sections, to Kirkuk and Baiji respectively.

Iraq has a large number of holy shrines at different places such as Kerbala, Najaf or Kadhimain. This means a considerable revenue to the Iraq Railways through the pilgrimages undertaken to such holy places. Pilgrims frequently come from India and Iran, or Persia, as well as from other Arab
Road and rail transport combined! The underframe of a locomotive for work on the Baiji-Tel Kotchek section loaded on to a lorry being transported to the railhead. countries. At the holy city of Kerbala, the number of local inhabitants and others who journey by train to celebrate the two large festivals falling in the year has often risen to 60,000 , and during festivals extra trains are run.

There are 58 stations, the main ones being Baghdad West and Baghdad North Stations, Maqil Station at Basra, Kirkuk and Khanaqin. Passenger fares and freight rates are extremely low over all parts of the system, in order to compete both with river and motor transport.

$I^{\mathrm{N}}$
TN our July 1937 issue we described some of the civil Laircraft produced by N. V. Koolhoven Vlietuigen, of Rotterdam, one of the pioneer Dutch aircraft companies. This month we deal with four more Koolhoven aircraft. Three of these are military types. The fourth is the FK 49, shown in the upper photograph on this page. This machine is of special interest, as it has been designed and built for aerial survey and photography, and not merely adapted for these purposes. The utmost care therefore has been taken to make it as stable and steady as possible, so as to ensure absolute accuracy of the surveys; and vibration of any kind and under any condition has been eliminated.

The FK 49 does not differ externally from other twin-engined high wing monoplanes, but the interior arrangements reveal its special uses. The cabin seats three people, and is so large that they can move about unhindered when at work; in the floor are openings for the photographic equipment. Behind is a large dark room, where the camera plateholders are emptied and refilled, and then passed back into the cabin through a special lightproof cupboard. The cabin has an excellent heating and ventilation system, and a telephone keeps the occupants in touch with the pilot in the cockpit in the nose of the fuselage. The cockpit equipment includes dual control, and a radio transmitter and receiver, the operator of which sits near the pilot. The windows are of unbreakable glass, and there is a sliding panel in the windscreen with an electric wiper.

An aeroplane engaged on aerial survey and photography must fly comparatively slowly. The two engines of the FK 49 are 130 h.p. D.H. "Gipsy Majors," which
give the machine a top speed of $126 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. The cruising speed, with the engines running at 80 per cent. of their full power, is $111 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. The service ceiling is $14,108 \mathrm{ft}$., and sufficient fuel is carried for a non-stop flight of 491 miles. The landing speed is $46 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.

A faster version of the machine has been obtained by employing two D.H. "Gipsy Six" engines of 205 h.p., and with these the top speed is 147 m.p.h. and the range 621 miles. The higher speed and greater range make it practicable to use the aeroplane for other purposes than survey work. It can be adapted for use as an air liner by equipping the cabin with seats for six passengers, or arranged as an air ambulance, the cabin then being provided with four stretchers and a seat for an attendant.

The FK 49 has an engine mounted in the leading edge of each wing. The wings are built of wood, with threeply covering and wooden ailerons. The fuselage has a welded tubular steel framework, and the front portion is covered with
 Broadside view of the FK 50B, a twin-engined long range bomber. It is armed with three machine guns, one of which occupies the gun turret in the nose of the fuselage. metal sheeting and the rear part with fabric. The undercarriage is of the fixed, wide track type fitted to most types of the company's civil aircraft.

The three military types of Koolhoven aircraft illustrated differ in many respects. The FK 50B, shown on this page, is the largest aeroplane produced by the company, and from a military point of view the most formidable. It is a twin-engined bomber with a range of 715 miles. The pilot's cockpit is slightly above and in front of the wings, and provides the best possible outlook in all directions. Immediately below the cockpit is the station of the commander, with bombsight, bomb release and duplicate steering gear. One machine gun is mounted in a revolving turret in the
nose of the fuselage, and a second in the top decking of the fuselage, where it is covered with a hinged panel that when open protects the gunner against the airstream. A third gun is installed in the bottom of the fuselage. The firing angles of the three guns show that the aeroplane has no blind spots, and therefore can defend itself against attack from any quarter, a factor that makes it a formidable opponent for fighter aircraft.

In addition to being effectively armed, the FK 50B has the high maximum speed of 250 m.p.h. at $14,436 \mathrm{ft}$ B ristol "Mercurys" of 830 h.p. are the standard equipment, and the two engines are fitted in the leading edge of the wings, in interchangeable mountings of welded tubular steel. Controllable-pitch airscrews are used, and the engines are started electrically. The fuel tanks are between the wing spars, and there is one tank for each engine. The wings are of wood, with three-ply covering and duralumin ailerons. The fuselage is of welded tubular steel, with fabric covering, and the underside is cut away sharply for the third gun position. The undercarriage is retracted into the underside of the engine nacelles when the bomber is in flight.

The second military type illustrated is the FK 51, a training biplane that has proved its value in most severe tests. It is unusually adaptable, and can be used for ordinary flying instruction, for training in aerobatics, or for bombing, photography, or radio operation. The undercarriage can easily be replaced by floats, and the machine is then suitable for instruction in seaplane flying.
In war the FK 51 could render good co-operation duties, or as a light bomber. It has two machine guns, one built in the upper wing and the other in the rear cockpit on a special support patented by the Koolhoven company. Fittings are provided on the bottom of the fuselage on which to carry bombracks..of the standard type.

The flying qualities of this aeroplane are excellent, and it is possible to put it, fully loaded, through the whole range of modern aerobatics. It is a staggered biplane, the upper wing being slightly forward of the lower one. The wings are of equal span and of similar


The Koolhoven FK 52 two-seater general purpose fighter. The two cockpits are under one roof so that the pilot and gunner can talk to each other without difficulty.
construction to those of the FK 50B. The fuselage is built on normal Koolhoven lines, and is covered with detachable three-ply panels as far as the rear cockpit, and with fabric from there to the stern. The standard power plant is an Armstrong Siddeley 350 h.p. "Cheetah IX," and this gives the aeroplane a top speed of 157 m.p.h. at 7,218 ft. The cruising speed at the same heightis 142 m.p.h., and at that speed the aeroplane has a range of 513 miles.

The Koolhoven FK 52, shown in the lower illustration on this page, is a twcseater general purpose fighter of outstanding performance in regard to speed, climb and manœuvrability. It remains controllable at well below stalling speed, and this permits slow landing in confined spaces, which is a great advantage when the aeroplane is in active service. The two cockpits are in tandem, and are under one roof so that the pilot and the gunner can talk to each other without difficulty. The roof is of unbreakable glass, and the rear portion can be folded down when necessary, to provide an unobstructed area for the movement of the rear machine gun. Both cockpits are equipped with bomb-release gear. There are two machine guns built in the upper wings, and these are operated by the pilot.

The FK 52 is a staggered biplane and is similar in construction to the FK 51. The fuselage is covered with detachable threeply panels on the sides. The engine employed is a Bristol "Mercury" of the same power as that, fitted in the FK 50B longrange bomber, and the top speed of the aeroplane is $240 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. at $14,436 \mathrm{ft}$. The cruising speed is $208 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. at $12,467 \mathrm{ft}$., and the range at that height is 652 miles. The service ceiling is $30,184 \mathrm{ft}$.

Another interesting Koolhoven aeroplane is the FK 55 single-seater fighter. It is a single engined high wing monoplane, and a novel feature is the use of two airscrews that rotate in opposite directions. This eliminates the adverse effect of airscrew torque, and makes the aeroplane very light and easy to take-off. The FK 55 is armed with a cannon that fires through the airscrew shaft, and either two or four machine guns, which fire outside the radius of the airscrew.


## L.M.S. Winter Accelerations

With the introduction of the new winter timetable, the L.M.S. have inaugurated the most drastic Midland Division speed-up on record and the most important timetable revision since grouping. This speed-up has been made possible by the introduction of the latest 4-6-0 locomotives, and is the outcome of trials that took place over these routes last April and were described in the June "M.M." Cuts up to 40 min . per train have been effected in the running times between St. Pancras, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford.

The express service between St. Pancras and Manchester (Central) via Leicester and Derby has been completely reorganised, the fastest overall time by this route being reduced by 20 min . northbound to 3 hr .35 min . This is 5 min . faster than the fastest of pre-War days; it includes two stops, at Leicester and Derby respectively, however, and the previous fastest time was made with only one stop at Leicester. A new restaurant car express leaves Manchester (Central) at $6.20 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and arrives at St. Pancras at 9.57 p.m., with stops at Derby and Leicester only. It provides a later service from Manchester to London and relieves the heavily-loaded Western Division express, "The Comet," which leaves London Road for Euston at 5.45 p.m.
A new non-stop service has been introduced for business men travelling between Sheffield and London. The up train leaves Sheffield at $10.43 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and the down train leaves St. Pancras at 5.10 p.m., each covering the $158 \frac{1}{4}$ miles in 2 hr .52 min . Both Leicester and Nottingham have series of non-stop expresses to and from London scheduled at over $60 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. start-to-stop at various times of the day. This distribution of the fastest services throughout the day is one of the notable features of the new L.M.S. timetable, which show a total of 62 trains with start-to-stop average speeds of $60 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. or more. These new high-speed trains cover an average daily mileage of 6,145 , as compared with the 29 trains and 2,633 miles per day last winter. Only six years ago there were no 60 m.p.h. trains on the L.M.S. system.

The numerous speed restrictions in force north of Trent and Nottingham

"Here she comes!'" Boys near Harringay interested in the passing of the L.N.E.R. "Coronation'" express, hauled by No. 4498 "Dominion of Canada." Photograph by Mr. W. S. Garth, Preston.

Second Birthday of "The Silver Jubilee"
On 30th September "The Silver Jubilee," the first L.N.E.R. streamline train, completed two years of service. During that time it made 988 single ;ourneys between King's Cross and Newcastle, conveying 135,370 passengers and covering 263,784 miles. The total distance has been regularly covered at an average speed of $67.8 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., while at least 75,000 miles have been covered at over $80 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. , and on several occasions 100 m.p.h. has been reached. "The Silver Jubilee" has maintained a wonderful record for punctuality, and more than half the arrivals at King's Cross and Newcastle have been from one to five minutes early.

One of the most remarkable features of "The Silver Jubilee" train is that although there are five engines allocated for the service there is only one set of seven coaches in existence and this set has been used almost continually since the train. was first introduced in 1935.
The success of "The Silver Jubilee" led directly to the new streamlined high-speed trains introduced this year, the "Coronation," between London and Edinburgh, and the "West Riding Limited," between Bradford, Leeds and London.

On 23rd September, prior to being placed in regular service on the 27 th of that month, the "West Riding
bound services to Yorkshire cities will benefit from 5 min . to 15 min .

An interesting feature of the new timetable is the provision of a $172-\mathrm{min}$. non-stop service from London to Sheffield by the down "Yorkshireman," while the corresponding up train now travels via Nottingham. Anglo-Scottish services by the Midland route are also speeded up and the "Thames-Forth Express" now arrives at St. Pancras 38 min . earlier than previously.

It is possible that the services between Bristol and Leeds via Birmingham, Derby and Sheffield, and between Leeds and Glasgow via Carlisle, Dumfries and Kilmarnock will be accelerated a'so as a result of the tests that were carried between these places on four successive days last month. Standard locomotives and rolling stock were used for the trials which were run to schedules somewhat faster than the express timings at present in force over the routes concerned.

Limited" made a trial run between Bradford and Barkston South Junction. The maximum speed recorded was over $93 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. on the outward run. The engine was No. 4495 "Golden Fleece," one of the two streamlined "Pacifics" allocated specially to this train, the other being No. 4496 "Golden Shuttle."
The "West Riding Limited" consists of four twin articulated units making eight coaches in all with a total weight of 278 tons empty. The train is similar in design to the "Coronation," but there is no "beavertail" streamline observation saloon, such as is characteristic of the latter. The reversal of the train at Leeds (Central) makes this impracticable.
The external finish of the train is the same as that of the "Coronation," dark Garter blue being used for the panels below the windows and a lighter blue above, with aluminium paint for the roofs, and raised stainless steel lettering. The underframes are black and the locomotives have red wheels.

## Fast Running by a "Hunt" Class 4-4-0

The majority of duties entrusted to the "D49" class 4-4-0s of the L.N.E.R., both of the piston valve type, named after "Shires," and of the R.C. poppet valve series, are in the nature of "intermediate" workings rather than high-speed main line turns. A notable exception in this respect is the 9 a.m. Leeds-Glasgow express which is regularly hauled by a "D49" as far as Newcastle.

On a recent trip No. 370 "The Rufford," most ably driven by Beanland of Neville Hill shed, Leeds, made a very spirited run from York to Newcastle. The load was one of eight coaches, 271 tons tare and 285 tons with passengers and luggage. York was left 3 min . late, but over the faintly rising length to Northallerton no time was regained in spite of a steady average of 62 to $67 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. After passing Northallerton, 30 miles, in $32 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~min}$. speed rose to 68 on the level at Danby Wiske, and the 1 in $490 / 690$ rise to Eryholme Junction was mounted at a steady $64 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~m}$.p.h. Touching 75 down Croft bank, "The Rufford" was through Darlington, 44 miles, in $45 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~min}$. at $69 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. and the rising grades to Aycliffe taken at the excellent minimum speed of $57 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., but a fast run down past Ferryhill with a top speed of $73 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$. was cut short by the usual slack at Croxdale, on this occasion to 55 m.p.h. Nevertheless Durham, 66 miles, was passed in $67 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{~min}$. at the usual very slow speed.
The train was now less than a minute late, and, after experiencing a severe slowing for pitfall troubles near Plawsworth, there came a brilliant finish into Newcastle. Ches-ter-le-Street was passed at 71 m.p.h., after which "The Rufford" raced away to no less than $77 \frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h. at Lamesley; so that the 80 miles from York to Newcastle were completed in $82 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~min}$., $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~min}$. early, despite the late start of 3 min .
The schedule time for this distance is 87 min. , the fastest of the day, excepting of course that of "The Silver Jubilee." This run was recorded by Mr. O. S. Nock.

## The L.N.E.R. "East Anglian"

Two "Sandringham" class locomotives have been streamlined for service on the "East Anglian," which runs between London (Liverpool Street) and Norwich. These are No. 2859 and No. 2870, formerly "Norwich City" and "Manchester City," which have been renamed "East Anglian" and "City of London" respectively.

## The Railway Handbook, 1937-8

A reliable source of facts and figures relating to the railway systems of Great Britain and Ireland is always useful, and this description is certainly merited by the 1937-8 issue of "The Railway Handbook." Its 96 pages include a great deal of valuable information, but it is not merely a statistical record for it gives details of general interest about each of the four railway companies, the Irish railways and the London Passenger Transport Board. Such details as fastest runs, longest tunnels, greatest altitudes, steepest gradients and so on are included, with notes on locomotives, carriages, wagons, permanent way and signalling.

A brief chronology of British Railways is an interesting feature, in which comparisons are made with the railways of other countries in order to cover such developments as the

Hildenborough. To allow these important engineering works to be put in hand it was necessary to close the line between Knockholt and Tonbridge on Sundays during last month. Electric trains between London and Sevenoaks via Orpington ran according to the timetables, but terminated at and returned from Knockholt Station. Between Knockholt and Sevenoaks a bus service was instituted.

## Carnforth Station to be Improved

The station at Carnforth, known as the gateway to the Lake District, is to be completely modernised. The scheme includes


The "Simplon-Orient Express" near 3t. Denis on the Northern Railway of France. The locomotive is No. 3.1270, one of the remarkably efficient 'Super-Pacifics." Photograpo by Mr. G. F. Fenino, of Ablon, France.
the construction of a new platform 890 ft . in length, the raising of existing platforms, the provision of new carriage sidings and the replacement of signal boxes Nos. 1 and 2.

When the improvements have been carried out it is anticipated that better services will be provided from Carnforth to the Furness area generally, including Barrow-in-Furness and the seaside resorts of Morecambe, Heysham and Grange-over-Sands.

West End and the City.
In addition to the burrowing junction at North Acton there will be a fly-over junction on the G.W.R. Castlebar loop line at Greenford. A car depot of modern type will be provided between Ruislip and Ruislip Gardens Station.
L.M.S. class 5P5F 4-6-0s built by contractors are in service up to No. 5416. Nos. 147-155 of the 2-6-2 passenger tank engines built at Derby are also in service.


THE distinction of possessing the longest bridge in Europe now belongs to Denmark, where a great new structure two miles long was formally opened by King Christian IV on 26th September of this year. The new bridge crosses the Storstrom, the channel between the islands of Falster and Masnedo, and its approaches bring its total length to $2 \frac{1}{4}$ miles. It is a long slender steel structure, carried on 49 great concrete piers. British engineers and British steel played a great part in its construction, which was one of the greatest engineering feats of modern times, for it was erected by Dorman Long and Co. Ltd., Middlesbrough, the builders of Sydney Harbour Bridge and many other famousstructures.

There is great need for the building of giant bridges in Denmark. That country consists largely of islands, separated from each other and from the mainland by wide arms of the sea that make communication difficult. Copenhagen, the capital, is on Zealand, the largest of these islands, and until a few years ago was comparatively difficult to reach


A view from the air of the Storstrom Bridge, the longest in Europe, stretching from the island of Masnedo to Falster in the distance. The total length of the bridge is $2 \frac{1}{4}$ miles. The illustrations to this article are reproduced by courtesy of Dorman Long and Co. Ltd., Middlesbrough.
railway line. It has 50 spans altogether and rises gently from the abutments at each end to three wide spans in the middle of the channel under which shipping can pass. The length of the middle span is 393 ft .8 in., and that of each of the two on its flanks is 295 ft .3 in . The largest of the three gives a clearance of 85 ft . for the masts and funnels of vessels making use of the channel, and the others are almost as high, their clearance being only 2 ft . less. The remaining spans are alternately of 189 ft . and 204 ft .

The greatest depth of the Storstrom is 46 ft ., although the average is only 23 ft . The rise and fall of the tide usually is only 8 in. to 13 in ., and its greatest variation is $6 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{ft}$., so that this gave rise to no trouble during construction. The current sweeping through the channel is sometimes strong, but it also did not seriously hinder work on the bridge. Steel cofferdams and steel sheet piling were used to cut off the water from the sites on which the piers and the abutments at the ends were to be built. The water inside was then removed and the foundations laid. These were from European countries, as the waterways between the islands could only be crossed by ferry. The channels were particularly troublesome to railway communications in Denmark. Efforts have been made to overcome the difficulties by means of specially constructed train ferries. These have given excellent service, but time necessarily is lost in shunting trains on or off the ferries, and in winter storms may hold up communication for long periods. The construction of bridges at suitable points prevents delays and interruptions, not only to railway traffic but also to travel by road.

The new bridge forms part of a scheme to improve the journey by road or rail between Copenhagen and continental centres, such as Berlin, Paris and Hook of Holland, the port for Great Britain. It links two of the islands on this route, and a smaller bridge has been constructed across the channel between Masnedo and Zealand. Now therefore the only place in this route where it is necessary to cross by boat is between the south coast of Falster and the German mainland. This sea passage is 25 miles in width, and is covered by a train ferry that also carries road traffic.

The Storstrom Bridge is wide enough to carry a roadway $18 \mathrm{ft} .4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. wide and a path for pedestrians and cyclists that measures 8 ft . $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$., as well as a single
sunk well into a bed of firm clay that underlies the bottom of the channel at a depth of 20 ft . to 25 ft .

The piers and abutments are of reinforced concrete, and the actual course of construction varied according to their position. The abutments were built up within a cofferdam of steel sheet piling, and this was left in position as a protection against undercurrents. The piers rest on foundations consisting of huge oval slabs of concrete 10 ft . thick, and they also are protected from currents by steel sheet piles. They are of three different sizes. Those that support the navigation spans in the middle of the river are much larger than the others, and the smallest are in the shallow water at the ends of the bridge.

These piers were built in cofferdams, but an ingenious scheme was worked out by the engineers for the construction of the others. Each was built with the aid of a special standard unit consisting of a floating oval steel staging, fitted with water tanks so that it could be raised or lowered by pumping water out or in. Thus it formed a movable cofferdam. From it steel sheet piles were driven to form a wall round the foundations, and it carried pumps to keep dry the workings inside the steel walls, together with the appliances needed for building the lower segments of the pier under construction. As soon as each
pier reached a certain height the unit was removed, and the rest of the construction carried out in the ordinary manner.
Winter conditions in the Baltic Sea are very severe, and pack ice is then encountered in the Storstrom. In the shallows this may be forced up to heights of 22 ft ., and it exerts enormous pressure against any obstruction in its path. For this reason special protection has been given to the great piers by lining them with granite to a depth of 8 ft . below the surface of the water. Cutwaters also have been erected to provide further protection against the pressure of ice and scouring by currents.
Nearly the whole of the steel


The 500 -ton floating crane lowering a suspension span into place during the building of the Storstrom bridge. In position it is supported by the cantilever arms of the adjacent spans.
to the slipway to wait for the next span. The floating crane used in this work is one of the most powerful in the world, and is capable of lifting 500 tons. It is built on two large barges, and its lifting towers are 150 ft . in height.
The three navigation spans are steel plate girders, reinforced by arches. Owing to their great length and weight, it was impossible to lift them directly into position. Instead each was built up in two equal sec $^{-}$ tions. A huge timber trestle, resting on a group of specially driven piles, was placed on the centre of each span in turn, where it acted as a temporary pier. The two halves of the girder span were then rolled out on the slipways and towed to the site in the usual manner, the floating crane depositing each with one end on the pier and the other on the trestle. The two parts were spliced together over the trestle, and this was removed to the next navigation span to enable a similar operation to be carried out there. The construction of this section of the bridge was completed by building up the arches piece by piece from the deck of the span.
The steelwork was left to weather for 12 months, and was then sand-blasted and given three coats of paint. Three structures called "painting travellers," run under the girders of the bridge for use when inspections are to be made or the steelwork is to be repainted.
The narrow waterway between the islands of Masnedo and Zealand is spanned by the smaller bridge seen in the foreground of the illustration on the opposite page. This forms a continuation of the Storstrom


The foundation and piers of the briage under construction. The first steel span has been erected. work great care had to be taken to allow sufficiently for the great changes in temperature to be expected, for it is very cold indeed in the Baltic Sea in winter.
An unusual plan was followed in placing these girder spans in position. Each was built up in the erection yard already referred to, and when completed was rolled out on slipways that took it well away from the shore. There it was picked up by a huge floating crane, which was then towed out to the site of the bridge and manœuvred until the span could be lowered gently into place. The crane was then towed back

Bridge. Provision had to be made for the passing of shipping along the waterway under it, and the bridge therefore has a bascule span giving a navigation opening 82 ft . wide.

The steelwork for this bridge also was made by Dorman Long and Co. Ltd., but was built up ready for assembly by Sir William Arrol and Co. Ltd., Glasgow, who also supplied the machinery for raising and lowering the lifting span. The total weight of steel in the two bridges is about 30,000 tons, of which some 9,000 tons were required for the smaller.

## An Island in the Sky

Five men recently climbed to the top of a plateau in the Grand Canyon of Arizona that probably has been isolated for thousands of years, perhaps since the Great Ice Age. It is known as Shiva's Temple and rises $1,200 \mathrm{ft}$. above the floor of the canyon. Its sides are very steep, and its summit is so completely cut off that it has been described as an island in the sky. Its surface has an area of about a square mile, and is so rugged that it is impossible for an aeroplane to land upon it.

It was thought that the summit of Shiva's Temple might be a miniature "lost world," resembling on a more limited scale the one described in the late Dr. Conan Doyle's romance, in which prehistoric creatures such as the pterodactyl and various dinosaurs survived. No sensational discoveries of this kind were expected in the Grand Canyon, but it was possible that the plateau might yield small reptiles and mammals that had survived from a previous age, and that might be very different in appearance and habits from those of the outer world. Dr. Anthony, the leader of the party, remained for several days on the plateau with one companion, and food, water and other supplies for them were dropped by parachutes from aeroplanes flying over the plateau. Many small animals such as wood rats, white-footed mice, rabbits and squirrels, were found and there was evidence that deer and larger forms of animal life at one time lived on the plateau, although no living specimens were found. The most interesting news, however, is that stone arrowheads and implements have been discovered. This may indicate that in some by-gone age a primitive tribe of human beings inhabited the island in the sky, which may have been cut off from the rest of the world at a comparatively recent date

## Lost Worlds of the Grand Canyon

When Shiva's Temple has been thoroughly explored the expedition will make an attempt on "Wotan's Throne." This is a second "lost world," separated from the north rim of the canyon by a chasm $1,200 \mathrm{ft}$. across. Its sides are very precipitous, and it is by no means certain that the proposed ascent is possible. There are several other similar plateaux. as the photograph on the opposite page of the Grand Canyon suggests, and all may yield interesting discoveries.
The fact that these plateaux have for so long been shrouded in mystery serves to
remind us that the world has not been explored quite so thoroughly as is often imagined. There are still regions of which the White Man knows very little. For instance, few explorers have yet succeeded in penetrating the tropical forests that cover the Matto Grosso Plateau in Brazil. There unknown tribes and strange animals may well exist, of which the civilised


The Murchison Falls, Uganda, on the Nile. The surrounding district is remarkable for game, and an account of the animals that can be seen is given on this page. Photograph by B. A. Soltau.
world knows nothing. Further north in the same continent British Guiana, though it is part of the Empire, has not yet been properly surveyed, while many secrets of ancient civilisations still lie buried in the jungles of South America, the scene of Conan Doyle's lost world.

## A Paradise for Game

The illustration on this page shows the Murchison Falls in Central Africa, where the waters of the Nile swerve through a narrow channel and plunge over a precipice several hundred feet in height before resuming their leisurely progress towards the Mediterranean Sea. Until recently the Falls were almost unaccessible, but to-day
there is a regular service by boat from Butiaba on Lake Albert.
The trip is remarkable not only for the magnificence of the Falls, but also for the game that can be seen on the way. Mr. B. A. Soltau, of Plymouth, a reader of the "M.M." who recently made the trip writes of travelling in "a small launch lined with steel as a protection against inquisitive hippos. In this we chugged slowly up the river, our eyes glued to the banks which were alive with every sort of animal. At first the sides were clogged with papyrus, in which dwelt every variety of river bird, ibis, duck, storks of every colour and description waded or flew around us.
"As the river widened bushes and then trees appeared on the banks. Amongst them moved herds of buck, and close to the water lay crocodiles basking, their cruel jaws agape, their eyes glittering and cold. The first collection of these we saw created a sensation, but before long we were almost tired of the sight of them, they were so numerous. It was the same with the hippos. The water seemed to be alive with them and they would continually be bobbing up to inspect us. The real thrill was the elephants. We must have seen in all four or five herds coming down to the water to drink, moving slowly and majestically along, their trunks continually waving at the flies that annoyed them.'

The Swiftest Creature in the World
Naturalists in Brazil are reported to have discovered a remarkable fly that is said to be the world's fastest living creature. It is half an inch in length, in appearance resembling our own honey bee, and is believed capable of a speed in flight of $800 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., or nearly $1,200 \mathrm{ft}$. per sec. It seems almost incredible that any creature should move so quickly. It could fly from London to New Zealand between sunrise and sunset, and would take little more than a day to fly round the Earth.
It would be interesting to know how the speed of the fly was measured, for the human eye could not follow it in flight and it would be seen only as a blur. It could scarcely be heard coming towards an observer on the look out for it, for it moves with a speed almost equal to that of sound, and it would arrive at practically the same time as the whirr of its wings! Possibly its speed has been exaggerated. The warble fly was once credited with a speed of $700 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$., but actually does not exceed $40 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.

## Strange American Farms

One of the most interesting animals in the world is the chinchilla, a friendly little creature of the rodent family about the size of a guinea pig. Its home is in the South American Andes, $8,000 \mathrm{ft}$. above sea level, where it lives in burrows, It is a strict vegetarian, and in its own country was once very unpopular because of the amount of damage it did to crops. Indians therefore hunted it and it became comparatively rare. Now all this is changed, for its beautiful soft pearl-grey fur is highly valued, and is in such demand among furriers in Europe and America that in the United States special farms are devoted to rearing the chinchilla.

The animals on these farms were made to feel at home in California only with the greatest difficulty, and three years were spent in transferring them from
their mountain homes to the farms. There they are kept very carefully in wooden huts. Great precautions are taken to keep them in healthy condition, and visitors must walk through shallow pits containing sterilising solutions in order to avoid carrying infectious diseases to them.

Another curious American farm at Comfort, Texas, the only one of its kind in the world, is devoted to the rearing of the armadillo, a peculiar animal found throughout Central and South America. The largest armadillo has a length of 3 ft . but the smallest kinds sometimes measure no more than 5 in . In appearance they resemble miniature tanks, for they are covered with two heavy bony plates. Although they have only short legs, they can bury themselves very rapidly in the ground. Some specimens also find protection by rolling themselves into a tight round ball, completely concealing their head and feet, and presenting to any enemy only a thick hard mass resembling a cannon ball. They are reared on the farm chiefly for their plates, the material of which can be manufactured into baskets, lamp shades, combs and many other articles.

## War in the Insect World

During the last week in Sep-' tember there was war in the insect world at Harborne in Warwickshire. The trouble began when a swarm of wasps attacked a bee-hive and attempted to carry off the honey. The angry bees defended their home, and the resulting battle continued for 10 hours. The fight was ended by smoking out the hive, but by that time nearly 7,000 bees had been killed. The wasps driven off soon attacked another hive and persisted in their assaults until practically every one had been exterminated by the people living in the district, who destroyed their nests. The bees were seriously reduced in numbers, but as the wasps
discovered floating helplessly on the surface of the Atlantic. Very few specimens of this creature have been found. It is an inhabitant of the Atlantic Ocean, in which it lives at depths of about 1,000 fathoms. Its jaws are provided with slender curved teeth and it can distend its body to such an extent that it is capable of swallowing large fishes. The one found in the Atlantic had been too venturesome in this respect for it had been choked as a result of

trying to swallow a fish that was considerably larger than itself.

## Sharks in British Waters

Much has been heard recently of sharks in British waters, which seem this year to have been invaded by this fish. On several occasions small boats have been attacked by mystery fish that have turned out to be basking sharks, which are usually regarded as harmless. In the last week in September
one of these, said to have been 30 ft . long and estimated to weigh 10 tons, was hooked in the Firth of Clyde from a small dinghy, and towed the boat more than 100 miles.

Although our shores are for the most part free from dangerous sharks, some of these are found in certain areas not far distant. For instance, shoals of fierce blue sharks cause trouble to fishermen about 100 miles to the west of the Scilly Isles by attacking fish caught in the nets, often destroying a whole catch.

The basking shark is fairly common off the west coast of Ireland during the summer months. It is so named because of its habit of sunning itself on the surface. Next to the whale shark, which may reach a length of 70 ft ., it is the largest living fish, often exceeding 40 ft . in length, with a weight of over $8,000 \mathrm{lb}$. It has a disconcerting habit of "breaching," that is of hurling its vast bulk clear out of the water, falling with a tremendous splash that can be heard for miles. A small boat near a breaching shark may easily be capsized.

Sharks have considerable commercial value, and factories for dealing with them have long been established in South Africa, Australia and America, and more recently in Norway. They are a valuable source of oil that can be used not only as a food, but also in the manufacture of paints. Their teeth can be made into ornaments, and their bones into fertilisers, and a method of tanning shark skin recently discovered yields a leather that is used in the production of fancy goods of all kinds.

## A Valuable Egg

An accidental blow by a labourer's pick has caused a considerable amount of trouble to a New Zcaland scientist, who for many months has been engaged in repairing the damage caused by it. The labourer, who was employed in quarrying, completely shattered a strange egg which was buried in the ground where he was at work. When the fragments were examined, they were identified as belonging to the moa, a bird that is now extinct.

The moa was the largest bird ever known to have lived on the earth. Some specimens are said to have been as tall as a giraffe. It could not fly, for it had no wings, and it was hunted by Maoris until it was exterminated about the middle of the 18th century.

The same fate overtook many other birds that were without the power of flight. The great auk was once common in Northern Europe and in North America. Though swift and active in the water it was clumsy on land, and as it could neither fly nor run it was easily killed with clubs. It became extinct about 1840 .


T${ }^{7}$ HERE are many instances in which the level of a stream has to be regulated by means of a weir or similar contrivance. For example this may be necessary to prevent flooding, or for maintaining a level suitable for navigation. Another use of a weir is in hoarding supplies for irrigation purposes or for the production of hydro-electric power. In many parts of the world rainfall is unequally distributed in quantity throughout the year. The supply of water for any purpose can then be maintained


The drum weir across the kiver Neckar, at Guttenbach, Germany, which is described on this page. This illustration and that below are reproduced by courtesy of John Rolland and Co. Ltd., London.
can be withdrawn from the water to allow the stream free passage, and to allow accumulations of drift wood and other debris to disperse. In the lower illustration can be seen the machinery by which the weir is operated.

The weir consists of three masonry piers, with openings 100 ft . in width between them. In each of these a steel drum is mounted. At each end of each drum is a pinion that engages with a rack fixed in the pier alongside it. A steel flat-linked chain is wound round the drum, and the other end of the chain is attached to the barrel of a winding winch, so that the drum is made to turn by operating the winch. The pinions at its ends then climb up the racks, thus raising the drum and freeing the opening for the discharge of the water.

The two outer openings of the weir are fitted with drums of the usual type. The winged drum that is the chief feature of the Guttenbach weir is in the middle. The wing attached to the drum is hinged, and it can be moved up or down to increase the effective height of the barrier and thus to regulate the level of the water without raising the drum from its lowest position. This wing is a steel flap 5 ft . in height, and is moved independently of the drum. When lowered it lies flush with the surface of the drum. In use it gives more accurate control over the water level.

The plant includes two winches, one of which operates the drum itself, while the other controls the raising and lowering of the wing. Both winches
The winch mechanism for operating the drums and regulating wing of the Guttenbach Weir. are driven by the same motor, which can be coupled to either of them at will. The wing is operated by three wire ropes, two of which are employed for lifting and one for lowering. All three ropes are run from the rope drum over idler sheaves to a main sheave keyed to a hollow shaft that is in line with the axle of the drum.

This article is based on information given in the V.D.I., Berlin, Vol. 81, and "Engineering Progress," Berlin.

# The "Olympic's" Last Voyage Passing of a Famous Ocean Greyhound 

THE passing of a famous Atlantic liner always arouses keen regrets. In recent years such well-known vessels as the "Doric," the "Adriatic," and even the "Mauretania," the wonder ship that held the Atlantic record for over 21 years, have passed into the hands of the ship-breaker. Now the Cunard White Star liner "Olympic" has suffered the same fate. Her long career in the North Atlantic Service began in 1911, and continued for 24 years, with the exception of a break during the Great War, when she became an armed transport. Altogether she made 257 round trips across the Atlantic Ocean, steaming about a million and a half miles, and throughout her service she was a great favourite with travellers from both sides of the ocean.

The "Olympic" was built by Harland and Wolff Ltd., at Belfast. She was 882 ft . 9 in . in length and her gross tonnage was 46,439 , making her the largest ship ever built at the time of her completion. Until the appearance of the "Queen Mary" she was the largest passenger vessel built in the United Kingdom, and even then she remained the world's largest triple-screw steamer.

With her four funnels and fine lines, the "Olympic" was a handsome vessel, and set a new standard by the luxury and comfort of her passenger accommodation. She had many features that had never previously


The "Olympic" docking at Southampton after completing a transatlantic passage. The

America for the last time on her way to Southampton.
The vessel had a wonderful War record as an armed transport. In this capacity she steamed over 184,000 miles, and carried more than 200,000 Canadian and American troops without a single casualty, although on several occasions she was attacked by submarines. In May 1918 she even succeeded in sinking one of these dreaded assailants, ramming it as it rose to the surface near her.
On her withdrawal from service in 1935 the "Olympic" was bought by Sir John Jarvis, M.P., for nearly $£ 100,000$ in order to provide work at Jarrow. There 100 men have been employed during the last two years in stripping her. She was too large to beach at Jarrow for her hull to be cut up, however, and for this purpose she was moved in September of this year to Inverkeithing, on the shore of the Firth of Forth.
Instead of steaming proudly along under her own power, the "Olympic," now little more than a hulk, was towed to the breaking-up yard. The trip was one of the most delicate towing feats of recent years. All traffic on the Tyne was stopped as the great hull was towed from her berth by six tugs, and started on her journey out to sea. There were eight tugs with her as she passed down the river, three ahead, three astern, and two in attendance. On reaching the open sea two sea-going Dutch tugs took charge of her, and later two others joined
been seen in Atlantic liners, among them a swimming pool and a squash rackets court. She left Southampton on her maiden voyage to New York on 14th June, 1911, and accomplished the crossing in 5 days 15 hr .2 min . at an average speed of 21.43 knots. Her last voyage began on 5th April, 1935, when she turned her back on
them in the task of towing the "Olympic" on her last voyage. This was much shorter than her regular passages across the North Atlantic Ocean, and she soon reached Inverkeithing where she was tied up for the last time. Now the great liner, once an ocean greyhound, is being broken up and reduced to scrap.

Here we review books of interest and of use to readers of the "M.M." We can supply copies of these books to readers who cannot obtain them through the usual channels. Order from Book Dept., Meccano Limited, Binns Road, Liverpool 13, adding 1/- for postage to the price. Postage on different books varies, but any balance
remaining will be refunded.

## "Wardens of the Wild'

By T. C. Bridges. (Harrap. 7/6 net)
Mr. Bridges' attractive book tells us what steps are now being taken to preserve as many as possible of the strange and wonderful creatures that have been threatened with extinction by the spread of civilisation. He has sought everywhere for information, and his accounts of the many great National Parks and reservations now set aside is full of interest, including tales of exciting adventures with wild animals and a wealth of out-of-theway information about the habits of birds and beasts.

The opening chapters deal with Africa, which possesses the world's finest zoo in the Kruger National Park, in the Transvaal. Mr. Bridges tells us about the half million creatures that now inhabit this magnificent sanctuary of nearly 9,000 square miles of unspoiled Africa. Then follow wonderful stories of elephants, not only in Africa, but also in Ceylon, India, Burma and Malaya. In Asiatic countries the elephant is highly valued because of the intelligence and strength it displays when tamed and put to work, and even where wild elephants create havoc among plantations there is a decided feeling that these creatures should be protected.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book deals with the gorilla of Central Africa, a great ape that may weigh up to 400 lb ., although its height is only that of a man. It is curious that the equatorial forests in which this creature lives also house the pygmy, the smallest human being.

There are vivid stories of National Parks and sanctuaries for buffalo and musk oxen in the United States and Canada, for the koala and opossum in Australia, and for other creatures elsewhere. We read of Grey Owl, who has created a beaver reserve in Canada; of "Jack" Miner, the founder of a sanctuary for wild birds near the Niagara Falls; of Charles Jones, a Shropshire man now living in British Columbia, whose bird friends are extraordinarily tame; and of T. P. Bellchambers, who did similar work in Australia. Bellchambers had an amazing influence on animals of all kinds, particularly birds, and on one occasion succeeded in setting the broken wing of an eagle.

Mr. Bridges devotes a special chapter at the end of his book to birds, which he describes as Man's best friend, and shows how they are now being more and more regarded as creatures that must be preserved rather than as game or merely something to shoot. The book is well illustrated by means of 32 full-page plates.

## "Corporal Corey"

By Jack O'Brien. (Harrap. 5/- net)
Many wonderful stories have been told of the manner in which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have kept order in the vast remoter regions of Canada, where at times every constable has to work on his own initiative while upholding the splendid traditions of the Force. Mr. O'Brien's story is full of exciting adventure, but at the same time pictures life in the Force as it really is, with the stern training and strict discipline


A picture taken in the bird sanctuary of Charles E. Jones, Vancouver. From "Wardens of the Wild," reviewed on this page.
that form the driving forces behind every action.

Jim Bradley, the son of a wealthy mineowner, is told by his father that he is too fond of easy living to make good, and on a sudden impulse decides to join the Canadian Mounted Police. We next find him in training at Regina, where he is given a hard time, particularly by the riding instructor. At first he becomes irritable under this treatment, and threatens to quit. His great friend Corporal Corey encourages him to stick to his guns, however, and a great chance comes when the police are called out to a riot in a mining village in the frozen North-West. Bradley distinguishes himself greatly. With Corey he joins in a stern chase after the leader of the rioters, who is captured and brought back in the face of stupendous difficulties. There is a coloured frontispiece and 12 full-page illustrations.

## 'Famous Aircraft"'

By A. Coble and A. R. Payne. (Chambers. 6/-net) Here is a book that tells the splendid story of the conquest of the air in a novel and particularly interesting manner. Except for a brief outline of progress up to the year 1910, the authors show readers what has been done by giving fascinating accounts of the construction and performance of a succession of famous aeroplanes, with an excellent line drawing of each. The result gives a vivid idea of the rapid progress made in aviation.

The book begins with outstanding machines of the War period, and the story is continued to the production of the most recent air liners and of the Mayo Composite craft now undergoing trials. Among the aeroplanes described are those in which the flights of Alcock and Brown, Lindbergh and others across the Atlantic were made, and the machines used by Polar explorers such as Wilkins, Byrd and Amundsen. Other famous machines dealt with include those in which record flights were made by Cobham, Scott, Jean Batten and others. The British seaplanes that won the Schneider Trophy outright are fully described, and bombers and fighting machines, commercial aircraft of all kinds, flying boats and airships also are included in the scheme.

## "Sands, Clays and Minerals" <br> $$
\begin{aligned} & \text { Edited by A. L. Curtis } \\ & \text { (Vol. III, No. 2. } 3 / 6 \text { net) } \end{aligned}
$$

The current issue of this valuable magazine contains 97 pages, and its contents fully maintain the high standard set in previous numbers. There are contributions for the general reader as well as the expert, and all are well illustrated by excellent photographs.

A special feature is made of the mineral possibilities of the British Empire. The Editor makes valuable suggestions for a survey in which not only Governments, but also statesmen, mineralogists and engineers would take part, and is confident that this would reveal resources that would make the Empire rich and selfcontained. Some idea of this mineral wealth is indicated in articles on the possibilities in different parts of the Empire. One is concerned with Kenya, which may eventually yield supplies of gold and copper. Another deals in a similar manner with Uganda, which has great potentialities as a producer of copper and certain rare metals. A third is devoted to a survey of the mining industry of Cornwall.

The remaining contributions deal with such topics as beryllium and its alloys; littleknown uses for borax and boracic acid; the preparation and marketing of coal, and various cements, clays and sands. Interesting articles give an account of the trade of the Port of Hull, describe the minerals of Southern Rhodesia, and sum up the progress that has been made in mining in Nova Scotia during 1936.

## "The Evolution of Railways"

By Charles E. Lefe, F.R.S.A., C.I.Mar.E. (The Railway Gazette. 2/6 net)
Mr. Lee's account of the evolution of railways is only 64 pages in length, but is a most important contribution to railway history. In it the author disposes of many misleading legends and stories about tram and plate ways, and the origin of the modern rail and the flanged wheel; and the information on a wide variety of railway topics that he has unearthed makes his book a fascinating one that should be read with keen interest by all railway enthusiasts.

The story of railways began much earlier than is generally realised, and the author actually traces the evolution of rail tracks from the system of roads in the Babylonian Empire about 3800 B.C. Certain later roads included two continuous parallel lines of stone blocks, and the use of this form of permanent way spread to the Greeks, whose tracks consisted of paralleı stone rails with ruts or grooves to accommodate the wheels. Rutways were used by the Romans, and an example was unearthed in this country in 1901.

Narrow gauge mining railways with wooden rails seem to have been in use in Central Europe as early as the 12 th century, and the author includes an illustration of a 16 th century mining wagon with flanged wheels. It is difficult to fix the date of the adoption of rail tracks in this country but this seems to have been in the 16th century Gradual developments resulted in ${ }^{4}$ an extensive system of wagonways in coal-producing areas, especially in the North Eastern districts.

The sections dealing with the development of the tramroad, or plateway, are of special interest. It appears that this form of construction was not really a step in the development of permanent way, but was introduced in 1776 for the use of vehicles with flat tyres that had to travel partly on the ordinary road and partly on the tramroad.

The book is well illustrated by reproductions of photographs and drawings, most of which play important parts in the author's arguments.

## "Locomotives of the Great Southern Railways of Ireland'

 By S. J. W. (A. H. Stockwell. 3/6 net)The author feels that the railways of Ireland have been poorly represented in recent railway literature, and has compiled this account of the locomotives of the Great Southern Railways of Ireland to assist travellers on that line to identify the locomotives that they see. He gives the leading dimensions of each class, together with interesting notes on special engines, and the book also contains useful information on gradients and haulage power. A summary and register of Great Southern Railway locomotives is given, and there are 34 illustrations of engines dealt with.

## "A.C.E."

By S. P. B. Mais. (The Southern Railway. 2/6) The title of this book, "A.C.E.," is an abbreviation of "Atlantic Coast Express," the popular S.R. express serving Devon and North Cornwall. The book describes in an


A locomotive that has been at work for 50 years in Australia. It runs on wooden rails. The illustrations on this page are from "The Evolution of Railways," reviewed on this page.

## "The Modern Book of Engineering'

By W. H. McСоrmick. (A. and C. Black. 5/- net)
Readers will welcome this splendid book on modern engineering triumphs by Mr. McCormick, Editor of the "M.M." It is a companion volume to "The Modern Book of Aeroplanes" and "The Modern Book of Lighthouses, Lightships and Lifeboats," also by the Editor, published last year, and its purpose is to show the engineer designing, building and equipping his creations.

The first chapter deals with the construction of the steam locomotive, from the time when it is represented only by drawings, to its appearance in readiness for trials on the road. The building of a motor car by the latest mass production methods follows, after which we come to the story of a great ship, first to the time when it is launched, and then to its fitting out and completion for its work at sea.

Tunnels form the subjects of the next three chapters. The first deals with mountain tunnels, and explains how powerful drills and ex-
plosives are used to break up
entertaining manner what can be seen from this famous train, and its interest drives home the statement in the introduction that the best way of seeing England's countryside is from the window of a train. Mr. Mais gives his readers every possible help in looking out of the window with him, and there is a sense of real disappointment when the text comes to an end, with the striking observation that "the nearest land is in the rock. This method also is used for underwater tunnels when these pass through rock, but those driven through the clay or mud of river beds are constructed with the aid of shields, and compressed air keeps water out of the workings. A special description is given of the construction in this manner of the Holland Tunnel at New York, the first great underwater tube designed for motor traffic. The following chapter is devoted to the even larger road tunnel under the Mersey that was opened in 1934.

Mr. McCormick then turns to canals, the story of which forms a wonderful chapter in engineering work. He begins with the story of Brindley and the famous canals that he constructed in England, and passes on to the building of the Manchester Ship Canal and the creation of the Suez and Panama Canals, the world's most famous waterways. The wonders of these great canals are well described, and the dramatic events that led to their completion are vividly recounted. The Welland Ship Canal, the great Canadian waterway connecting Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, is their only recent rival as an engineering marvel, and a special section of the book is devoted to its construction.

Bridges of various types are dealt with in the remaining chapters. The reader is given full and accurate descriptions of the greatest structures of this kind, from Telford's suspension bridge another hemisphere, three thousand miles away."

Quaint but fitting illustrations by Anna Zinkeisen add to the charm of the book, and the journey can befollowed on a folding map of the route that has on it reproductions of photographs of places of interest to be seen. There is a striking cover design that conveys to readers in attractive form the invitation to "look out of the window." he Menai Straits to the Forth Bridge, across the Menai Straits to the Forth Bridge, ly completed Golden Gate and San Fran-cisco-Oakland Bridges in the United States. Famous examples of bridges that travel, open, lift and swing also are described.

The illustrations are of unusual interest. There are 16 photogravure full page plates, reproducing 25 photographs of engineering works or operations.
D. G.

## BOYS, HERE IS THE TOY YC



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## ENINGS

lectric Motor dull evenings are a thing of $s$ that can be built. First of all there is the until there appears a complete piece of the model in operation by means of the the real thing. Afterwards the model can ucture. Something new every day!

## 3EGINNING

ns in the Instruction Manuals show exactly river and a spanner, are also included in


These pages are rescrved for articles from our readers. Contributions not exceeding 500 words in length are invited on any subject of which the writer has special knowledge or experience. These should be written neatly on one side of the paper only, and should
be accompanied if possible by original photographs for use as illustrations. Articles published will be paid for. Statements in articles submitted are accepted as being sent in good faith, but the Editor takes no responsibility for their accuracy.

## A Visit to the Outer Hebrides

Recently I made the trip by sea from Kyle of Lochalsh to Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides. I went in the "Lochness," a fine twin-screw steamer built in 1929. We steamed northward, made a call at Applecross, on the mainland, and then turned seaward across the Minch and headed for Stornaway, 50 miles to the northwest. We passed round the northern coasts of Skye and Rona, and after about three hours' sailing sighted Lewis.

We tied up at Stornaway in the early evening. The town is a fine modern one with a population of just over 4,000 . It has an excellent harbour, which has enabled it to become a great herring fishing centre.

There are many interesting relics of ancient times to be seen in Lewis, and at Callernish, some 16 miles from Stornaway, I saw the ruins of what is thought to have been a temple erected to the Sun. It is the most complete and imposing ruin of its kind in the West of Scotland, and consists of a circle of stone pillars surrounding a monolith 17 ft . high. Other stones are so placed that the general formation is that of a giant cross.

At Duncarloway stands the remains of a fort built by the Celts about 900 A.D. This building was used by the Celts as a refuge when attacked by the Norsemen. They drove their cattle into the inner circle of the fort, and the people themselves remained in the narrow space between the outer and inner walls. I managed to get inside here, and was astonished to find so little room that I could scarcely turn round. Yet refugees sometimes lived there for three weeks. R. J. Robertson (Balerno).

## Interesting Trees in North London

There are several famous trees in North London, the best known probably being the Minchenden Oak. This is a mighty tree standing in the Minchenden Garden of Rest. It is said to be well over 800 years old, and is a remnant of the ancient forest of Middlesex. Mention of it is made in the Doomsday Book. The girth of the tree at the base is 27 ft .6 in ., and from north to south the spread of its limbs and branches is 136 ft .
Not far from the celebrated oak stands an interesting black cherry tree, planted only 50 years ago, that leans at an angle of about 45 degrees. Its trunk has been filled with concrete, but it still bears fruit in spite of its solid interior.

At East Finchley is an oak traditionally associated with Dick Turpin. This is a fine old tree, still healthy and green, although it has


The remains of a fort built at Duncarloway, Lewis, by the Celts about 1,000 years ago. lost its head. It is called Turpin's Oak, as the famous highwayman is supposed to have hidden in it when fleeing from the Bow Street runners after one of the daring escapades that have made his name so notorious. Bullets alleged to have been fired at highwaymen have been extracted from the trunk.

Other trees in North London have interesting associations. For instance, at the junction of the High Road and Seven Sisters Road there formerly stood a group of elm trees known as "The Seven Sisters," forming a ring round a walnut tree. The story is that their name was derived from the fact that they were planted by seven sisters. The original trees were replaced about the middle of the last century.
R. Edminson (London).

## A Strange Australian Bird

Many Australian birds are named after the sounds of their calls. For instance, there is the common cuckoo with its well-known cry. Then there is the plaintive peewit, and the curious bird named after its greedy cry of "more pork, more pork." Another has earned the name of "whip bird," while the laughing jackass derives its name from its frequent fits of what seems to be uproarious laughter.

Strangest of all these feathered creatures, however, is the bird popularly known as the "four o'clock." It is also called the "poor soldier," the "monk" and the "leatherhead," these names apparently referring to its appearance; but its correct name is the friar bird. It does not present a pretty sight, as the upper illustration on this page shows. Its long beak with a large lump in the centre indeed gives it a decidedly ugly look. The crown of the bird is bare, which explains its name, and the growth of chocolate-brown feathers commences about half-way down the neck. It possesses very strong wings and claws, and can move swiftly, both through the air and over the ground. It is not unusual to see it hanging head downward from a branch of a tree, apparently trying to imitate a flying fox. The friar bird is an inveterate pilferer.


The friar bird of Australia, popularly known as the "four o'clock" bird from its call. Photograph by K. Allen, Oatley, New South Wales.

## The "Viceroy of India" at Malta

Some months ago it was found desirable to dock the Peninsular and Oriental liner "Viceroy of India" for slight repairs to the rudder and several other parts of the vessel. She was therefore taken to Malta, the nearest port where the necessary docking facilities were available. No. 4 Dock in the Admiralty Dockyard was used for the work. The liner was towed by two Admiralty tugs to the dock gates, which were swung open, and hawsers were carried from the ship and fastened to capstans at the sides of the gates. The capstans were then set in motion, and the ship began to move into the dock. As her stem slowly passed the capstans, the hawsers were transferred to other capstans further along the dock wall, and these pulled the ship far enough inside to allow the gates to be closed.
Meanwhile wooden beams of various lengths had been prepared to hold the ship rigidly in the middle of the dock. Ropes hanging down the ship's sides were tied to the ends of the beams to keep them touching the hull at the waterline. The pumps commenced emptying the dock and after a few minutes the ship's keel grounded on the bottom. The pumps were slowed and dock-hands in small punts took charge of the free ends of the beams, fitting

In Harbour at Colombo
On a recent voyage to England from New Zealand, it was a welcome change to reach Colombo, the capital of Ceylon, and to see land and scenery again; for since leaving Fremantle in Western Australia, nine days previously, we had seen nothing but water. About an hour before we entered the harbour we passed several catamarans, or native fishing boats, going seaward to their fishing grounds. They looked very picturesque when seen against the palm-fringed shores in the early morning sunshine.

At about 8 a.m. our ship tied up to buoys in Colombo Harbour. Already 18 other ocean-going vessels were at anchor, including two British warships, "Kent" and "Enterprise." The harbour was alive with traffic, fussy little tugs and passenger launches dashing to and fro. On these were dozens of coolies, nearly all stripped to the waist and wearing skirts that reached to the ground. When working, these coolies just tuck their skirts in their belts in order to give their limbs more freedom of movement.
E. R. Sweet (Banbury).

'Viceroy of India' in dry dock at Malta. Photograph by J. M. Demanuele, Malta them temporarily against the dock side by means of wedges.
The water continued to run out slowly, and the beams took more weight as the ship settled down. Finally at a signal given by the dockmaster, all the wedges were struck into position at exactly the same time by means of heavy sledge-hammers. The ship was thus securely held in place. The remaining water was then pumped out, and the repair work on the ship was commenced.
The refloating of the vessel after the necessary repairs had been carried out was much easier than the docking. The dock had only to be filled until the ship was in a sufficient depth to be able to float, when the two Admiralty tugs pulled her out again into the harbour. She then resumed her voyage to England.

The "Viceroy of India" is a fine twin-screw vessel of 19,700 tons built by Alexander Stephens and Co. Ltd., and completed in 1929. She is fitted with turboelectric propelling machinery, and at the time of her completion was the largest vessel of her type in the world.
J. M. Demanuele (Malta).

AMONG the most useful machines that the modern engineer has at his disposal are the many varieties of excavators and trench digging machines. These "machines for digging holes," as they may be called, are made in a variety of types and sizes, and provide the Meccano model-builder with splendid subjects. In addition to the pleasure obtained in model, there is the setting it in motion and it carry out all the movements of its powerful prototype.

Many different kinds of excavators and trench digging machines have been illustrated and described from time to time in the "M.M." so that readers should have no difficulty in finding suitable illustrations on which to base their models. One of the best known types of excavators is the mechanical shovel. Most model-builders will have seen one of these machines in action, levelling hilly ground or digging large pits for the foundations of buildings. It has a large bucket shovel mounted on the end of a stout steel arm or dipper stick, that in turn is connected with a jib by two long racks meshing with gear wheels driven by a steam engine, or an electric motor. The bucket arm can be racked in or out as desired, thus varying the working radius. A wire rope fastened to the bucket passes over a pulley at the top of the jib, and then is attached to a winding drum. The result of this arrangement is that as soon as the gear clutch is engaged, the drum winds in the rope and the bucket is pulled upward. As the superstructure has a swivelling movement, a considerable area can be excavated without the necessity of altering the position of the base of the machine.

The leading edge of the digger bucket is fitted with a cutting lip armed with a number of teeth that dig their way into the material to be removed. In most machines, the jib is attáched tơ a swivelling framework, in which the gears and power unit are housed. The whole revolving
superstructure is mounted on an undercarriage, and this runs on rails, the travelling motion being taken from the main engines or motor.
A mechanical shovel of this kind possesses many features that make it a good subject for a model. There are, for example, many different ways in which the gearbox and shovel operating mechanism can be arranged, and the model-builder who likes experimenting is given ample opportunity for including original ideas. There is also plenty of interesting work in designing an efficient bucket and undercarriage for the machine.
Of course, to build a fully detailed model, such as that shown in Fig. 1, a large Outfit will be required, but readers whose limited stock of parts will not allow them to attempt so elaborate a model need not be discouraged,
as it is possible to do really interesting work with the smaller Outfits, provided that each part incorporated is used to the best advantage. This fact is illustrated by the simple but realistic model shown in Fig. 3, the construction of which should not be beyond even a beginner's capabilities. This model was designed by M. Gutierrez, Martinez, Argentine, and although small it is capable of working in a realistic manner. A miniature boiler is made with a Sleeve Piece fitted with a Chimney Adaptor, and the engine cylinder is formed with a Coupling. The superstructure of the model can be swivelled and the dipper stick is operated by turning separate Rods.
For driving a small model of this type there is no more suitable power unit than a Magic Motor, and with one of these and a few gears it is quite easy to arrange a simple yet practical mechanism that will carry out all the essential movements.

A mechanical shovel that can be used also as a rock breaking machine has been introduced in America. This machine is similar in action to that already described, but the bucket can be replaced by heavy hammer-shaped weights. The dipper stick is pivoted at its upper end instead of its centre, in such a manner that it can be raised and then dropped quickly, so that the weights hit the rock to be broken with great force.

In a model machine of this type the hammer can be represented by two Boiler Ends fastened together by a Screwed Rod and Nuts to form a drum. If desired, the drum could be loaded with bits of stone or rock to
give it additional weight so that it will fall quickly.
An excavator that differs considerably from the mechanical shovel, yet possesses equal interest to the model-builder, is the dragline. The name "dragline" is derived from the fact that the digging bucket is suspended from the end of a very long jib and is dragged along the ground towards the machine by a flexible rope, instead of being attached to a dipper stick as in the case of the mechanical shovel. While mechanical shovels excavate above the level of the ground on which they stand and advance into the excavation as the work proceeds, a dragline excavates below the level on which it stands, and travels backwards when it has excavated all the material within reach. Some draglines are mounted on creeper tracks so as to make them suitable for working on soft or marshy ground.


Fig. 2. A good example of a multi-bucket excavator built in Meccano. It was constructed by R. Campbell, London, S.W.16.
reduction drive. When the dragline reaches the site on which it is to work, the feet are raised and the dragline rests on its large circular base. This machine was illustrated and described on page 192 of the March 1937 " M.M.," and reproducing it in Meccano would prove an absorbing task, for there is ample opportunity for the enthusiast to display his model-building skill. The walking mechanism alone will supply a knotty problem to workout during the winter evenings!
Owners of large Outfits will find ample opportunity to test theirmodel-building skill in modelling an excavator of themulti-bucket type, a fine model of which is shown in Fig. 2. These machines are used for constructing canals and widening and deepening rivers, and run on rails laid on the banks, the excavated material being discharged into trucks waiting alongside. The buckets travel along an arm that can be arranged at the angle necessary to produce the desired contour in the sides of the canal or river, and which can be raised or lowered as required as the work proceeds.
The Meccano Dredger Buckets can be used to good advantage in a machine of this kind, but where smaller buckets are required, they can be made with two Double Brackets bolted together to form a box. These can be attached to Sprocket Chain with short lengths of wire.
Other interesting excavating appliances that make excellent subjects for models are the various types of trench digging machines that are used for cutting trenches for pipe lines. Some of these machines are capable of digging trenches 6 ft . deep and 2 ft . wide at the rate of a mile a day. Usually they are in the form of a tractor fitted with creeper tracks, between which is a boom that supports an endless chain of buckets. The bucket chain is set in motion by the power unit, and as the buckets pass around the lower end of the boom they dig into the ground. Then they travel upwards with their load of spoil, and as they pass over the upper end of the boom at the side of the trench. Means are provided for raising and lowering the boom so that the depth of cut can be adjusted as required.

The conveyor belt is driven at a higher speed than the buckets, and in a model can be made from a strip of canvas or corrugated cardboard. If sufficient parts are not available to make proper creeper tracks, it is a good plan to use straked wheels built up with Flexible Plates.

# Oil Engines for Submarines A New British Light-Weight Design 

THE development of British oil engines of the submarine type was due in the early days of such craft to Vickers Ltd. They were the original inventors of what is known as the solid or airless fuel injection system, which they brought to a high state of practical development. At the end of the Great War the engines of British submarines, with the exception of a few experimental installations, were exclusively of Vickers' design, all using solid injection.

Before going further it will be well to explain the meaning of "solid injection." In the oil engines originally designed by Rudolph Diesel, whose first English patent was dated 1892, the fuel was injected by a highpressure air blast, and this system is still in use. In many modern engines, however, it has been replaced by what is known as the airless or solid injection system, in which the fuel is pumped into the cylinders under high pressure through injection nozzles. During the War the Admiralty Engineering Laboratory was set up, and among its first tasks was experimental work on an engine of the Vickers type. Late in 1920, with the concurrence of the firm, a large proportion of the results obtained was malle public, convincing oil engine designers that solid injection wa an established fact. From about that time may be dated the beg nning of a world-wide development of this system, leading to its ultimate adoption by almost every maker of oil engines. It is probably true to say that if it had not been for solid injection the use of the oil engine in many of its present applications, more particularly in traction and in flight, would never have been brought about owing to the prohibitive space, weight and complication of the air injection engine.

After the War the oil engine output of Vickers Ltd. consisted mainly of machinery of Admiralty type, culminating in the huge air injection engines of $5,000 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{p}$. fitted in the "Thames" class of submarine. Subsequently the firm set themselves to develop new engines of their own type. The first of the new designs was an eight-cylinder engine of 1,200 b.h.p. at 500 r.p.m., several of which were fitted in Portuguese subraarines built at Barrow. Following upon the successful running of these engines during long trials and on actual service, a smaller six-cylinder engine was developed and was fitted in two Estonian submarines. This engine, shown in the upper photograph on this page, proved equally successful, and we give a brief explanation of its main features

The engine works on the four-stroke cycle, each cylinder thus giving one firing impulse during two revolutions, as do most motor-car petrol engines. The fuel is not admitted in the form of gas during the suction stroke, as in petrol engines, but is sprayed, towards the end of the upward stroke, into the air compressed above the piston. The compression pressure is about 450 lb . per sq. in., which results in the temperature of the air being sufficiently


A new six-cylinder, four-s'roke oil engine developed by Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd. The new six-cylinder, four-s'roke oil engine developed by Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd. The
illustrations to this article are reproduced by courtesy of Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd.
high to ensure ignition of fuel injected into the cylinder.
The fuel, which is fairly heavy oil, is handled by a battery of small pumps situated below the control levers and driven by the engine. These fuel pumps have their output controlled by a lever acting on their suction valves. They discharge into a common main, or "rail" as it is usually termed, and maintain in this rail a pressure of from $2,000 \mathrm{lb}$. to $8,000 \mathrm{lb}$. per sq. in., the pressure varying with the power required.

From the rail a pipe leads to a spray valve on each cylinder, this valve being opened for a fraction of a second at the beginning of each firing stroke by a cam-operated tappet. The opening of the spray valve is regulated according to the power and speed of the engine. The spray valve admits the fuel to a nozzle with a number of very small holes in it. The fuel issues from these holes at high velocity in the form of fine highly penetrating needles, passes into the heated air and immediately ignites, thus giving the required power impulse.
In other particulars the engine is on more or less orthodox lines, although in order to save weight and space drop-forged columns and a semi-welded bedplate are used. The air and exhaust valves are in duplicate, which give smoothness of operation and great durability.

The engine is of the reversing type. On stopping the engine the reversing wheel is free to be turned, thus lifting the push rods, then sliding the camshaft till the reverse cams are below the push rods, and finally dropping the latter into contact with the cams. The engine is started by compressed air admitted by a lever-operated valve. As soon as the engine is moving smartly on air, the spray valves are put into operation. The engine now runs on fuel, and the air starting lever is put to the "off" position.

The control gear is very simple, and is shown in the lower illustration. The three levers are for the fuel pump, the spray valve and for air starting respectively. The large wheel is for reversing the engine, the smaller one being for adjusting the timing of injection, its effect being analogous to that of moving the "spark" in a motor car engine.
The large wheel seen at the base of the engine in our upper illustration is for turning the engine during refit or valve-setting. Just above this wheel is the lever used for engaging the turning gear.
A considerably larger standard engine of the new design is now in the final stages of development at the Barrow works of Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd. All the new engines occupy much less space than earlier ones, and weigh only about 30 lb . per brake horse power, which is only half the corresponding weight of early Vickers designs. The saving of weight and space they make possible will be of great assistance in the design of vessels in which they may be fitted.


## a neat meccano cycle accessory

A useful accessory for a bicycle has been designed in Meccano by P. Le Ferre, Harleston, Norfolk. It is a "stop" indicator, which is attached to the rear of the bicycle and lights up whenever the brakes are applied, thus giving warning to following traffic.
It consists of a box-shaped structure built up from $5 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ and $21^{\prime \prime}$ Angle Girders. Three of the sides and the ends are filled in with $5 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{2^{\prime \prime}}$ by $2 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ and $2 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}$ by $2 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flexible Plates. The remaining side is filled by a $5 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\frac{1}{\prime \prime}}$ by $2 \frac{1}{2}$ ", rectangular sheet of tinplate in which the word "Stop" is cut out in bold capitals. The tin is backed by a sheet of red celluloid and holes are punched in it to enable it to be bolted in position. Inside the box is a flashlamp bulb, which is screwed into a Meccano Lamp Holder. The indicator is fastened to the rear forks of the bicycle so that the word "Stop" shows to the rear. This is done by means of suitable brackets made from Strips, which are electrically "earthed" to the frame, if necessary removing the enamel from the brackets and forks where they make contact with each other.
The device can be operated either from the headlamp battery or from a separate battery. One terminal of the battery is earthed to the frame and the other terminal is connected by wire to an insulated Strip fastened to the rear brake lever. A second insulated strip is fixed to the handlebars, in such a position that when the brake is applied the Strips make contact with each other. The handlebar contact is connected to
the terminal of the Lamp Holder. It will be seen the terminal of the Lamp Holder. upward to apply that when the brake lever is pulled upward to apply the brake, the
A BUILT-UP UNIVERSAL COUPLING
In constructing model motor cars or other models in which it is required to transmit the drive from the gearbox or driving unit to a driven shaft a short distance away, it is necessary to employ a positive drive that takes up as ittle space as possi le. This can be done by using either Sprocket Chain drive or shat drive, but it sometimes happens that the driving and driven shatts are out of line, so that if the shaft method is used a flexible coupling is needed in the transmission. The Universal Coupling is the best part to use for this purpose, but when this is not available a built-up coup ling devised by D. Purvis, Stafford, can be used satisfactorily. It consists of two small Fork Pieces and a
Steel Ball (Part No. 117). The forks Steel Ball (Part No. 117). The forks
on one of the Fork Pieces are bent on one of the Fork preces are bent is gripped firmly between them. The is gripped irmiy between them. and is then pressed on to the Steel Ball so that its arms interlace with those of the first Fork Piece. If desired End Bearings can be used in place of Fork Pieces. End Bearings can be used in place of Fork Pieces,
We have tested the device and find that it is quite efficient and will transmit the drive through all angles up to about 135 degrees between the driving and driven shafts. At a sharper angle the Fork Pieces bind and tend to lever each other off the Steel Ball.
Purvis discovered a novel use for this coupling in building an adjustable lamp, the light of which can be thrown in any required direction. Three Rods are joined by two built-up couplings. One end Rod is attached to a base, and at the end of the third is fixed a Headlamp, which is connected to a 4.5 -volt flashlamp battery. A lamp of this kind is useful for illuminating dark corners when assembling intricate models.
an exciting game with dinky toys racing CARS
T. Wilson, Coventry, visited a "Wall of Death" show at a fair, and was so impressed by the performance that he decided to make a miniature "Wall of Death of his own. With the aid of a large enamelled bowl about 14 in . in diameter and $4 \frac{1}{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{in}$. deep, and a Dinky Toys Racing Car, he devised a jolly and exciting game. The Racing Car was placed on the bottom of the bowl, which was then held between both hands and given a slow and steady circular motion. This set the car racing round and round the bowl, and by gradually increasing the speed of the motion the
car slowly climbed up the side! Then by varying the speed of the motion the car was made to ride up
and down the wall just like the real car does on the and down the wall just like the real car does on the Wall of Death
Wilson found that the best results were obtained by using a wet bowl, as on a dry surface the Racing Car tended to turn over when coming to rest or starting off.
A great deal of fun can be obtained in trying to keep two Racing Cars racing round the bowl at the same time, and Wilson assures us that with practice the feat can be accomplished. If the bowl available is of small diameter the small M.G. Sports Car or the
Racer (Dinky Toys Nos. 35b and 35c) will be found Racer (D
suitable.
A good plan and one that gives scope for modelbuilding ingenuity, is to construct a Meccano mechanism for operating the bowl
For example, a variable eccentric on which a frame containing the bowl is mounted might be used. The eccentric driven by an Electric Motor, would rotat the bowl and set the car in motion, and its movement up and down the wall could then be controlled from the Transformer by varying the speed of the Motor. We shall be glad to receive de-
tails


The boys of the Catholic Mission, at T'ao Nan, Manchoukuo, are keen model-builders, and in this photograph we see
two of them with two of them with
examples of their work. xampes of the readers in this direction so that particulars
MOTOR CAR CONSTRUCTOR PARTS USED WITH MECCANO

Owners of No. 2 Motor Car Constructor Outfits will be interested in the ingenious models devised by P . Hornby, Northwich. Hornby discovered that he could convert an ordinary two-seater car into a four-seater in a very simple manner. In building a car such as M1 and M4 shown in the Instruction Leaflet, he omits the body Centre Section, thus leaving sufficient space to incorporate a second seat. An alternative method is to lengthen the chassis of the car with a few standard Meccano parts. The front part of the car is assembled as shown in the Instructions Leaflet, and the driving seat is bolted in position. Then two $3^{\prime \prime}$ Strips are bolted to the upper rear corners of the Dash. The rounded Rear Section is fitted with the clockwork motor, and Flat Brackets are mounted on the forward bolts, the Flat Brackets being bolted through their circular holes so as not to obstruct the hole for the wheel axle. The Rear Section is then bolted to the $3^{\prime \prime}$ Strips and also to the Frame Side Member. This method of construction provides ample space for a rear seat, and the small space left in the sides of the car can be filled in with stiff card painted to match the colour scheme of the model.
As the position of the rear axle is different from that in the normal model, the drive must be altered slightly. The rear axle is fitted with the driving pinion
and journalled in the usual manner so that the Pinion meshes with the contrate wheel of the Motor. The Wheels are mounted on a standard Meccano Rod journalled $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. in front of the rear axle, and the
drive is taken to the Rod through Sprocket Wheels drive is ta

## MODEL RAILWAY POINTS MADE WITH MECCANO

Railway points provide an unusual subject for the serious Meccano model-builder. There is plenty of scope for interesting work in this direction, however, are modelled. are modelled.
points that he has constructed. The main rails, which points that he has constructed. The main rails, which Angle Girders, rigidly connected by $2 \frac{1}{*}^{*}$ Angle Girders. Angle Girders, rigidly connected by $2 \frac{1}{}$ Angle Girders. Strips, placed in positions similar to the component rails of actual points. The movement of ponent rails of actual points. The movement of by a series of links to the rails, and the complete unit is mounted on a basework consisting of $1 \frac{\frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Angle Girders.
An outstanding feature is the neatness of the guides used for the operating links. They are made from Double Brackets, inside which an Angle Bracket is bolted by its slotted hole, sufficient space being left for a Strip to slide freely in the Double Bracket.
We congratulate Mezzetti on the neatness and continue to show the same enterprise in his choice of subjects.

## MECCANO SHOCK ABSORBERS

Several model-builders have written to us suggesting that special parts should be introduced for use in constructing mesting, but we do not consider that special parts need be introduced, for many of the standard parts can be adapted for the purpose quite easily. Car type friction disc dampers can be constructed by gripping a $1^{\prime \prime}$ loose Pulley, fitted with a $1^{\prime \prime}$ Rubber Tyre, between two Bush Wheels. The Bush Wheels effectively damps any shocks o which the unit is subjected.
A novel type of shock absorber for use in large models can be made by placing a number of Rubber Rings between Bush Wheels. One of the Bush Wheels is fixed to the chassis of the model and the other is free on a Rod. Any shocks to which the model is subjected will be absorbed by the compression of the Rubber Rings. This type of
shock absorber could be used for "Oleo" legs for large shock absorber could be used for "Oleo" legs for large
Meccano model aeroplanes, or for damping vibration Meccano model aero and noise in models.
A similar shock absorber that would be useful in building such models as electric fans can be made with the largest Rubber Tyres. One or two Tyres placed between the base of the fan and the table, or other support on which it is placed, will greatly reduce the noise made by the whirling blades. There are many other instances where Tyres will be found useful in this respect, and it may be mentioned that cushions formed with Tyres are ideal for preventing nuts and bolts working loose after a model has been working for some time.

## SPLIT PINS

P. Cardew, Lincoln, suggests that split pins should be included in the Meccano system. In real engineering split pins are used extensively for locking nuts and for holding in place oscillating parts of light machinery. If split pins were introduced into the Meccano system, however, holes would be required in the Rods, and this would not only weaken them but would render the Rods less suitable for other purposes. A much better
plan is to use Spring Clips and Washers, or Collars.

## a SPECIAL MECCANO CHUCK

P. Weston, York, suggests that special Meccano parts suitable for building up a drill chuck would be useful. H points out that the present Coupling, which is often used for this purpose, takes drills only up to $\frac{\hat{b}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ diameter and even of these the smaller ones cannot be held such specialised parts would be generally popular.

## More Models for Keen Builders Four Simple and Novel Subjects

MOST model-builders will have seen a bacon-slicing machine in operation at the grocery stores, and no doubt have thought what a fine subject it would provide for a model. These machines are by no means so complicated as they appear to be, and by exercising a little ingenuity a good working model can be built quite easily from a few simple parts. An example of what can be done in this direction is shown in Fig. 1.
Construction of the model is commenced by fastening two double strips 1 along the sides of a $5 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate 2. Each of the two double strips consists of two $5 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Strips spaced apart by two washers, and together they provide slides for four Double Brackets bolted underneath the $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate 3 that forms the carriage on which the bacon is placed. A $2^{\prime \prime}$ Strip is fixed by a lock-nutted Bolt 4 to the centre of the Flanged Plate 3, and the other end of the Strip is fastened by a second locknutted bolt to the arm of a Crank. The latter is secured to the upper end of a $1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Rod that is journalled in the Flanged Plate 2.
Two $1^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime \prime}$ Angle Brackets 5 are bolted to the flanges of the $5 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate, and their horizontal arms are extended by two $1 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Strips. The ends of these Strips are joined by a $3 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Strip, to the centre of which is fastened a Double Bracket.
The revolving cutting knife is represented by a Face Plate, mounted on a $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rod 6 that also carries a $\frac{1}{2^{\prime \prime}}$ fast Pulley and is journalled in the Double Bracket. A guard for the knife is provided by a $3 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Strip curved to the required shape and fixed in the position shown by an Angle Bracket.
The machine is operated by rotating the Bush Wheel 7. This is fitted on one end of a $4 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Rod that is journalled in a Double Bent Strip and an Angle Bracket, both of which are bolted to the underside of the $5 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flat Plate 8, but spaced from it by putting two washers on each bolt. The Rod carries two ${ }^{\frac{3}{4}}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Contrate Wheels, one of which is fixed on one end of the Rod and the other at its middle point. The Contrate Wheel in the middle of the Rod


Fig. 1. A cleverly built working model of a bacon slicer, which is capable of carrying out the chief movements of the real machine.
meshes with a $\frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{\prime \prime}$ Pinion on a $2^{\prime \prime} \operatorname{Rod} 9$, which is journalled in a Double Bracket that also is bolted underneath the $5 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 3 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flat Plate 8 . The $5 \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 3 \frac{1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Flat Plate is attached by two $\frac{3^{\prime \prime}}{4^{\prime \prime}}$ Bolts to the $5 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Flanged Plate, and then the Contrate Wheel on the end of the $4 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Rod is adjusted so that it meshes with a $\frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Pinion on the lower end of the $1 \frac{1}{2}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Rod carrying the Crank. The drive to the knife is transmitted by a Driving Band from the $1^{\prime \prime}$ Pulley on Rod 9 to the $\frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Pulley on the shaft of the knife.
The machine is mounted on four legs consisting of four $1 \frac{12^{\prime \prime}}{} \times \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Double Angle Strips, and these are bolted to each corner of the $5 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flat Plate.
Parts required to build model bacon slicer:

 No. $24 ; 1$ of No. 26; 2 of No. 29; 23 of No. 37; 1 of $\mathrm{No} .45 ; 4$ of No . 48 ; 1 of No . 52 ; 1 of No . ${ }_{52,} 1$ of No. $53 ; 2$ of No. $59 ; 1$ of No. 62 b ; 52as 1 of No. 53,2 of No. 59,1 of No.
1 of No. 109 , 6 of No. $111 \mathrm{c} ; 1$ of No. 115 .
The best starting point in building the petrol driven invalid chair shown in Fig. 4 is the seat. This consists of a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flexible Plate, to one side of which is bolted a $1 \frac{11}{16}$ " radius Curved Plate to form the rounded front. A $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip Plate 1 is fastened to the Curved Plate by two Angle Brackets, and the sloping foot-rest 2 is a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged


Fig. 2. An underneath view of the bacon slicing machine, showing the underneath view of the bacon slicing macnine, s
drive to the cutting knife and the bacon carriage. Plate that is secured to the forward edge of the $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip Plate 1 by two Obtuse Angle Brackets.
Two further Obtuse Angle Brackets are used to fasten a ${ }_{1} \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip 3 to the front of the $2 \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime \prime}}{} \times 1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate, the bolts holding also a Double Bent Strip. A 2" Rod 4 is journalled in the middle holes of the $1 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip and the Double Bent Strip, and on its lower end is fixed a large Fork Piece with its arms downwards. Two 1" Corner Brackets bolted to the arms of the Fork Piece form the bearings for the front wheel axle, which is a $1^{\prime \prime}$ Rod. The Rod is held in place by two Spring Clips, and between the two Corner Bracketsit carries a $1^{\prime \prime}$ loose Pulley fitted with a Rubber Tyre. The Rod is held in place by a Collar above the $1 \frac{1}{2}^{* \prime}$ Strip, and at its upper end is fastened a Coupling, which carries in one of its end transverse bores a $3 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Rod that forms the steering shaft. The steering handle is a $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rod held in a Coupling fixed to the shaft.

The rear axle is a $4^{\prime \prime}$ Rod 4, which is journalled in two $5 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Strips secured to Strip Plate 1 by a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Double Angle Strip and two Angle Brackets. A 1" Pulley fastened at the centre of the rear axle is driven by a Driving Band from the small pulley of a Magic Motor bolted underneath the seat of the carriage. In order to prevent the Driving Band slipping off the Pulleys, it is passed around a $\frac{1}{2}^{1 \prime \prime}$ loose . Pulley mounted on a $3^{\prime \prime}$ Rod journalled two holes in front of the back axle. The axle is covered by a $1 \frac{111 " \text { " Curv- }}{16}$ ed Plate 6, which represents the petrol engine casing and is fastened in position by two Angle Brackets. The cylinder of the engine comprises a $\frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{2}$ loose Pulley and a $\frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ fast Pulley, both of which are secured by a $\frac{3^{\prime \prime}}{4}$ bolt to the Curved Plate 6.
Parts required to build model invalid chair: 2 of No. $2 ; 2$ of No. $5 ; 1$ of No. 6 a ; 2 of No. $10 ; 10$ of No. $12 ; 4$ of No. $12 \mathrm{c} ; 1$ of No. $15 \mathrm{a} ; 1$ of No. $16 ; 1$ of No. $16 \mathrm{~b} ; 2$ of No. 17; 1 of No. $18 \mathrm{~b} ; 2$ of No. 20a; 1 of No. $22 ; 1$ of No. $22 \mathrm{a} ; 2$ of No. 23; 1 of No. 23 a ; 6 of No. $35 ; 48$ of No. $37 ; 1$ of No. $37 \mathrm{a} ; 8$ of No. $38 ; 1$ of No. $45 ; 1$ of No. $48 \mathrm{a} ; 1$ of
No. $51 ; 1$ of No. $59 ; 2$ of No. $63 ; 2$ of No. $90 ; 4$ of No. 90 a; 1 of No. 111 a; 1 of No. $116 ;$ 2 of No. 133a; 2 of No. 142a; 1 of No. 142c; 3 of No. 188; 1 of No. 199; 1 of No. 200; 1 Magic Motor.

Fig. 3 shows a model delivery van built up of standard Meccano parts, and parts from a No. 2 Motor Car Constructor Outfit. In making it the chassis is first built up from the Constructor Outfit parts, and the bonnet, the dash and the centre section. The radiator and steering gear are also assembled as described in the Instructions Leaflet, and a seat is secured in position between the sides of the dash. The Motor is then bolted in position between the sidemembers of the chassis, the bolts holding also the supports for the rear mudguards and two $2 \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 1 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Flexible Plates. These Flexible Plates form the lower ends of the sides of the body of the van and each of them is extended upwards by a $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip Plate.

Two $5 \frac{1}{2}$ " Strips are next bolted along the upper sides of the $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip Plates and between them a $5 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flexible Plate, which forms the roof, is fastened by Angle Brackets. The $5 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strips are also supported from centre section by two compound strips each built up from two $2 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ small radius Curved Strips overlapped three holes, and from the ends of a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Double Angle Strip bolted to the dash by two $1_{\frac{2}{2}}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Strips. The windscreen shield at the front of the roof consists of a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip secured in position by two Obtuse Angle Brackets as shown in the illustration.

The back of the van is formed by a further $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip Plate, the corners of which are fastened to the
sides of the van by Angle Brackets. To complete the model, the running boards and mudguards are bolted to their supports, and the rear axle is mounted in the chassis and geared to the Motor pinion.
Meccano parts required to build model delivery van: 2 of No. $2 ; 1$ of No. $5 ; 2$ of No. 6a; 10 of No. 12; 2 of No. $12 \mathrm{c} ; 26$ of No. $37 ; 1$ of No. $48 \mathrm{a} ; 4$ of No. $90 \mathrm{a} ; 2$ of No. 188; 1 of No. 192; 3 of No. 194.


Fig 3. A fine model in which Motor Car Constructor parts are used in combination with ordinary Meccano parts.

The remaining model to be described this month is a petrol-driven electric generating set. This is not illustrated, but its construction is easy to follow. A $5 \frac{11_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate provides a base for the model, and to it two Flanged Sector Plates are fastened vertically and seven holes apart by means of Flat Brackets. The space between the flanges of the Sector Plates is filled in on each side by one $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 3 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ Flanged Plate and one $3 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ and five $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strips, to form the crank casing. The top of the crank casing is covered by three $3 \frac{1}{2}$ " Strips secured in position by Angle Brackets, and on them two Sleeve Pieces, fitted at their ends with $\frac{3^{\prime \prime}}{4^{\prime \prime}}$ Flanged Wheels, are mounted by $1^{\prime \prime} \times \frac{1}{2^{\prime \prime}}$ Angle Brackets to represent cylinders. A $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rod locked in the bosses of the Flanged Wheels forms the piston rod.
The crankshaft is a $6 \frac{1_{2}^{\prime \prime}}{}$ Rod and is journalled in the two Flanged Sector Plates. It carries a flywheel

Fig. 4. An interesting model of an unusual type. This invalid chair is driven by a Magic
 consisting of two $2^{\prime \prime}$ Pulleys bolted together. The dynamo is represented by two Boiler Ends fastened together by two $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rods. The $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rods pass also through a $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime}$ Strip bolted to the flange of the $5 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \quad$ Flanged Plate forming the base of the model, the Strips providing support for the dynamo.

The dummy valve gear of the engine is constructed by fastening a $1^{\prime \prime}$ Pulley on the crankshaft. The lower end of a $2^{\prime \prime}$ Rod journalled in two Angle Brackets bolted to the end of the crankcase, rests on the boss of the Pulley, so that each time the crankshaft is rotated the bolt in the boss of the Pulley strikes the Rod and lifts it a short distance. At its end the crankshaft carries also a fork coupling. This is built up by placing a Chimney Adaptor and a large Fork Piece on the shaft and pressing them against the $1^{\prime \prime}$ Pulley of the valve gear. The boss of the Fork Piece fits inside the Chimney Adaptor, and to each arm of the Fork Piece a Collar is fastened by a $\frac{1}{2}$ " Bolt.

Parts required to build petrol driven generating set: 5 of No. 3;11 of No. 5; 4 of No. 10; 4 of No. 12; 2 of No. 12b; 1 of No. 14;2 of No. 16; 2 of No. 17; 2 of No. 20a; 2 of No. 20b; 4 of No. 35 ; 48 of No. $37 ; 2$ of No. $38 ; 2$ of No. $48 \mathrm{~b} ; 1$ of No. 52 ; 2 of No. $53 ; 2$ of No. 54a; 2 of No. 111c; 2 of No. 162a; 2 of No. 163.

# Meccano Model-Building Competition "Thistle-Cutting Machine" Contest 

On this page we illustrate an interesting agricultural machine designed specially for cutting down thistles, bracken and weeds on farmland and large estates. It is manufactured by Wm. Brenton Ltd., Polbathic, Cornwall, and has features that make it a particularly suitable subject for a Meccano model. This month, therefore, we offer a range of fine prizes for the best working models of this machine built by readers of the "M.M."

All the main features of the machine can readily be seen in the illustration, and competitors should have no difficulty in completing their models. The thistles are cut down by a rotating three-bladed horizontal cutter, which is mounted at the lower end of a spindle driven from the right-hand wheel of the machine. Separate levers are provided for raising the cutter from the ground when the machine is not cutting, or when it is travelling to or from the working site, and for disconnecting the drive to the cutter when necessary.

The drive to the cutter is taken from an internallytoothed gear, fixed on the right-hand wheel of the machine, to a horizontal shaft, which in turn drives through bevel gears the vertical shaft carrying the cutter. The lever for raising and lowering the cutter can be seen beside the driver's seat, and the method by which it is connected to the cutter shaft will be clear from the illustration. The shaft is retained in any desired position by means of a ratchet device on the lever, working on a toothed quadrant, and a foot lever is provided to allow it to be raised quickly when necessary on account of any obstacle. The clutch that disconnects the drive to the cutter is on the right-hand side of the driver's seat.

The machine is hauled by one horse, harnessed between shafts placed one at each side of the right-hand road wheel. With the shafts in this position the horse walks on the cut down area, so that thistles, bracken and other weeds are not trodden down.

Competitors may use any size of Outfit or number of parts in building their models, and the aim should be to copy the actual machine as closely as possible,


The thistle, bracken and weed cutter that is the subject of the model-building competition bracken and weed cutter that is the subject of the model-building
announced on this page. Photograph by courtesy of Wm . Brenton Ltd.
both in external appearance and method of working. In judging the entries particular attention will be given to the means adopted for driving the cutter shaft, and for raising and lowering the cutter from the ground. The drive should work easily, whatever the position of the cutter shaft, and devising means of effecting this will provide scope for ingenuity and resource.
The contest will be divided into two Sections (A) for competitors living in the British Isles (B) for competitors living Overseas. A separate set of prizes will be awarded in each Section as listed in the panel at the foot of the page. Readers of all ages are eligible to take part in the competition and in order to give each competitor an equal chance his age will be taken into consideration when his model is judged.
A good photograph or a drawing is all that is required for the purposes of the competition, and actual models must not be sent. Each photograph or drawing submitted must bear on the back the sender's age, name and full address. If desired, a written description of the model may be enclosed with the photographs or drawings, but it should be as brief as possible.

Envelopes containing entries should be addressed "Thistle Cutter Model-Building Contest," Meccano Ltd., Binns Road, Liverpool 13.

The Home Section (A) of the Contest will close on 31st December, 1937, and the Overseas Section (B) on 28th February, 1938. Entries should. be posted as soon as they are ready and not held over until near the closing dates.

It should be noted that photographs or drawings of prize-winning models become the property of Meccano Ltd., and will not be returned. Unsuccessful entries, however, will be returned to the senders provided that they are accompanied by stamped and addressed envelopes for that purpose.

Competitors may send in more than one entry if they wish, but no competitor will be awarded more than one prize. If several models are entered they will be judged on their joint merits.

# Model-Building Competition Results 

By "Spanner"

## April "Bridge" Contest (Overseas Section)

The complete list of prizewinners in the Overseas Section of the April "Bridge" Model-Building Competition is as follows:

1st Prize, Meccano or Hornby products value $£ 3 / 3 /-:$ J. Willems, Hoboken, Antwerp, Belgium. 2nd, products value $£ 2 / 2 /-:$ J. De Proft, Willebroeck, Belgium. 3rd, products value $£ 1 / 1 /-$ : P. Giese, Buenos Aires.
great rigidity obtained by the use of only a few parts.
J. C. Diehl, Buenos Aires, won a prize with a model of a swinging bridge. The swinging portion of the roadway of the bridge is pivotally mounted at its centre on a pylon, which is supported by a pier and can swivel at right angles to the fixed section of the roadway to
Products value $5 /-$ : holm; R. Myburgh, Claremont, Cape Frovince, S. Africa; D. Hofsommer, The Hagus, Holland; H. Clark. Hokianga, New Zealand; J Diehl, Buenos Aires; L. M. Chew, Singapore; D. Mullick, Calcutta; A. Gilissen, Maastricht, Holland; W. Thompson, Mel bourne; E. Bourgault, T'ao-Nan, Manchoukuo.
The fine model of an arched girder bridge illustrated on this page won First Prize for J. Willems. It easily outshone all the other entries by its splendid proportions, beautiful lines and excellent workmanship. The bridge is built chiefly of Angle Girders and Strips. The roadway is approximately 5 ft . in length, and at its ends the bridge is supported by expansion rollers from two piers.
J. De Proft, another Belgian competitor, succeeded in winning the Second Prize with a model of a lifting bridge that also is illustrated on this page. The central lifting span is supported by cables at each end from two towers mounted on large piers.

Third Prize was won by a well-built bascule bridge constructed by Pablo Giese of Buenos Aires, a deciding factor in making this award being the good work done in designing the mechanism for raising and lowering the span. An Electric Motor is mounted on a gantry over the approach roadway, and through reduction gearing it drives a Rod carrying two Pinions. These Pinions mesh with and operate two Rack Strips, which are pivotally attached to the end of the centre span. The mechanism is capable of raising the span into an almost vertical position, and the details of its construction show that much care was taken over this part of the model.

A simpler bascule bridge built by R. Myburgh, Claremont, Cape Province, was awarded one of the smaller prizes. In this model the centre span pivots on two Hub Discs, and is raised and lowered by means of a Crank Handle. The bridge is provided with a railway track built up from Angle Girders, and also with a roadway for Dinky Toys Motor Cars. A novel feature is that barriers are automatically placed at the ends of the approach roadways when the central span is raised from a horizontal position.

The entry of A. Gilissen, Holland, was a model railway bridge with a span of 6 ft .6 in . Originally the bridge was built to complete the layout of the Hornby Branch of the Maastricht Meccano Club, of which Gilissen is a member. A notable feature is the


Another of the successful models entered in the "Bridge" Competition. It won Second Prize for J. De Proft, Willebroeck, Belgium.
tion of the roadway is raised and lowered by tw Electric concealed in the bases of towers at the ends of the approach roadways.

A fine model of a suspension bridge was also awarded a prize. The model was built by the boys of the Catholic Mission, T'ao-Nan, Manchoukuo, who are very keen model-builders. The bridge is strongly constructed, and in the photographs submitted it is shown spanning a small stream arranged outdoors. Other examples of the work of these boys are illustrated on page 671 of this issue.

The entry of D. Mullick is a model of the Forth Bridge, and although it is quite simple in construction, it reproduces faithfully the appearance and principal external details of its famous prototype.

## Prizewinners

 in "Lynx Eye" Contest No. 1
## Home Section

1st Prize, Products value $£ 2 / 2 /-$ : G. Johnston, Southall. 2nd, Products value $f 1 / 1 /-: \quad$ R. Hughes, Llanbedrgoch, Anglesey. 3rd, Products value 10/6: C. Wrayford, Moretonhampstead, Devon.
Products value 5/-: J. Keeling,
Hartlebury Hartlebury.

## Overseas Section

1st Prize, Products value $£ 2 / 2 /-$ : J. Gnanadurai, Trichinopoly, India. 2nd, Products value $£ 1 / 1 /-:$ N. Rey, Mauritius. 3rd, Products value 10/6: A. Dionne, Montreal.
Products value 5/-: D. Murison, Buenos Aires; A. Abdulrahim, Karachi.
The Instructions Manual illustrations from which the 16 fragmentary pictures that appeared on page 358 of the June, 1937 "M.M." were taken, are as follows: No. 1-Model H1, Steam Engine; No. 2-G66, Anti-Aircraft Gun; No. 3-K34, Box Ball Alley; No. 4-D10, Hammer; No. 5-K28, Beam Engine; No. 6L1, Funicular Railway; No. 7-A7, Roman Balance; No. 8B17, Hay Cart; No. 9-K15, Crane; No. 10-K19, Crane; No. 11-B120, Sideboard; No. 12-B86, Garden Seat; No. 13-K39, Engine; No. 14-B100, Rickshaw; No. 15-G58A, Submarine; No. 16-G59, Signal.


## A Splendid Recruiting Scheme

Most Meccano clubs already know the value of Visitors' Nights, when parents and friends of members are able to see for themselves the good times that Meccano boys enjoy. Every club should make an effort to arrange meetings of this kind. These have the effect of arousing a desire on the part of visitors to become more closely associated with the good work. Many boys and young men actually join clubs as a result of an invitation to an open night, and older people who for various reasons cannot do this are gratified by requests to be allowed to enrol them as associate members. Such members pay a small subscription, say $2 / 6$ or $5 /-$ a year, and have the privilege of taking part in proceedings whenever they wish. They give valuable support on special occasions, and their influence is always of great benefit.

The Milan M.C. have worked out a novel scheme of this kind. They have formed what is called a "Sympathisers Branch" for young men and boys who for various reasons are not eligible for full membership. The members of this branch attend club meetings once a month and the committee's belief that this would be a preliminary step to full membership has been justified.

I heartily recommend this scheme to all clubs. It is a recruiting device of the very best kind, for the new members are given a preliminary taste of the pleasures of club life and in consequence become keen and enthusiastic.

## More Correspondents Wanted

The response to my appeal in the July 1937 "M.M." for more members for the Correspondence Club has been excellent, but there are still many English members who wish to find friends in Canada, Africa, India, Australia, New Zealand and France. I should like more Meccano boys living in those parts of the world to join the Club. They will thoroughly enjoy correspondence with English boys of their own age and interests, and the exchange of stamps, postcards, or photographs.

There is one point I should like to make clear. An applicant from overseas is not simply placed in touch with the first English member on the list of those seeking a correspondent in his country. Great care is taken to introduce boys of roughly equivalent ages who have similar tastes and hobbies, and therefore are the most likely to form a lasting friendship. It is to the care taken in this respect that the great success of the Correspondence Club is due.

Guild members who have not yet joined the Correspondence Club should seriously consider doing so at once, for until they take this step they are undoubtedly missing an excellent opportunity of learning something of the interesting lives of boys in other countries. There is nothing more pleasant than to exchange news with someone living in a far-off part of the world, where conditions are utterly different, and there have been many instances in which correspondence has led to meetings, or to an exchange of visits that have confirmed the close friendship founded by correspondence.


## Club Photographs

I wish to remind Leaders that I am always glad to reproduce group photographs, or portraits of officials or members with outstanding records to their credit. The appearance of photographs of the members, either in a group or at work in the club room, not only shows that a club is making good progress, but also gives great delight to the members who figure in it. This applies also to Branches of the Hornby Railway Company.
A straightforward group photograph is best for reproduction in the "M.M." Sometimes there is a desire to include large models of special excellence, and when these are included it is advisable to place them in such positions that they are not directly in front of the features of the members in the group. In all cases as plain a background as possible is best, for one full of unwanted details gives a confused effect.

## Reports from Unaffiliated Clubs

Many new clubs have been formed during the past year, and the secretaries of some of them have written occasionally to tell me of the progress made. I am afraid there is a tendency among new clubs, however, to consider that as they have not yet obtained affiliation their work is not of sufficient interest to be included in "Club Notes." I assure them that they need not be diffident on that score, as I am keenly interested in unaffiliated clubs. All interesting club reports find their way into the Guild pages of the "M.M.," and their appearance gives great delight to the members of the club concerned, and spurs them on to greater efforts. The reports published spread the news of the existence of the club and thus help to attract new members, and may even be helpful in securing the interest of a suitable Leader.

## An Attractive Exhibition

The Islington M.C. are holding an Exhibition on Saturday, 27th November. This is being organised in association with the Islington Branch of the H.R.C., and will be held in St. Giles Mission Hall, Westbourne Road, Barnsbury, London, N.7. It will be open from 1 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and all interested in Meccano modelbuilding, miniature railway operations, and club work generally are cordially invited. The charges for admission are 6 d . for adults, and 3d. for children. Parties of six or more will be admitted at half-price, children applying at the door before $3 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. will be admitted for 2 d .

## Proposed Clubs

Attempts are being made to establish Meccano Clubs in the following places, and boys interested should communicate with the promoters whose names and addresses are given below: Ardrossan-J. McLeish, 25, Winton Street, Ardrossan. Bradford-F. D. Rowan, 224, Toller Lane, Bradford. Ceylon - C. H. J. Amaratunga, Ma Eliya Estate, Jaela, Ceylon. London-K. Brown, 156, Devonshire Street, Stepney, London, E. 1.


Mount Senior Boys' School (Newark-on-Trent) M.C. -Membership has increased, and enthusiastic meetings are being held. Extensive model building is being carried out. An interesting visit has been paid to the L.M.S. Works at Derby, and arrangements are being made for a visit to Hull Docks. Club roll: 44. Seqetary: E. Masding, Grove House, Lime Grove, Newark, Notts.
Coloured Mission (Cardiff) M.C.- An interesting
programme is being carried out this session. The club programme is being carried out this session. The club stock of Meccano has been increased, and modelbuilding, on a larger scale than previously, is the chief occupation of the members. Club roll: 10. Secretary:
David H. Binstead, 37 , Penhill Road, Llandaff, Cardifi. Middlesbrough M.C.-Attendance is steadily increasing. Model-building activities have chiefly taken the form of interesting club Contests, and these have attracted excellent entries. Table Tennis is a favourite pastime of the members. Club roll: 30. Secretary: I. Stewart, 59 , Kildare Street, Middlesbrough.

Bryntirion M.C.- Plans are being made for an Exhibition. Games are very popular, and include billiards, chess and ping-pong. Club roll: 14. Secretary: P. Parry, Ar-y-bryn, Penllwyn Park, Carmarthen. Exeter M.C.-Model-building has engaged the attention of the members at recent meetings. As usual an excellent variety of subjects have been reproduced in miniature, and recent models completed have included windmills, ships, bridges, excavators, a crane and a traction engine. The chief diversion of members Secretary: A. J. Hancock, 237 , Secretary: A. J. Ha
Monks Road, Exeter.

Great Baddow M.C.-Full advantage was taken of the summer weather last session, and all outdoor meetings were well attended. A Treasure Hunt across the local countryside, in which the clues were hidden in gateposts, stiles, and similar places, was a great success. A Cricket Match between teams led by the secretary and storekeeper ended in a victory for after a very thrilling finish An after a very thrilling finish. An object Hunt has been held, at the start of which the members were given a list of unusual objects, found. Points were awarded for the first team home, and also for the finding of the correct objects. Club roll: 21 . Secretary: K. J. Avis, 5 Crescent Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford.
Old Charlton M.C.-At one meeting the ever-popular two-minute talks were given. Marks were awarded to members taking part, and added to those earned for model-building. The member who obtains the highest number of marks during the session will be awarded a cash prize. On another occasion a novel "Hunt" was cash prize. On another occasion a novel "Hunt was or buildings in the vicinity of Charlton were read, and the members had to identify the references. Club the members had to identify the references. Club
roll: 22 . Secretary: K. L. Morphew, 221, Westcombe Hill, Blackheath.
Wednesbury M.C.-Separate meetings for Juniors and Seniors are now being tried, and if the arrangement works well it will probably become permanent. Modelbuilding activities continue, and Games Evenings are held regularly. On one occasion a member brought a Table Tennis outfit; another contributed a dart board, and a third a pitching board. Film shows and Lectures are being arranged. Club roll: 24. Secretary: A. L. Morgan, 17, Cobden Street, Fallings Heath, Wednesbury, Hornsea M.C.-Great interest is being taken in Meccano model-building, and two excellent motor month has been devoted to a Hornby Railway session occupying three hours. Boat races have been held on Hornsea Mere. The Senior Engineers won the first race by one length, and the Junior Scientists the second one by four lengths. The Apprentices recently scored a victory over the Junior Scientists during a game of bowls. A visit has been paid to the newly-excavated Roman remains at Brough and Pickering Park Museum, and some enjoyable cycle rides also have been held. Club roll: 19. Secretary: P. Thom, 5, Alexandra Road, Hornsea.
Islington M.C.-The Meccano Section now hold their meetings on Friday nights, and the Hornby Section on Monday nights. The members of the latter Section


Some of the members of the Christchurch and Ashburton clubs on the occasion of a joint excursion to Timaru. Mr. J. Ancall, Leader of the Christchurch M.C., is second from the right. These two flourishing New Zealand clubs have their headquarters 50 miles apart, but regularly exchange visits.
only attend the Meccano mectings when invited to the monthly Open Night. Members are busy working for an Exhibition. Club roll: 13. Secretary: A. D. Straker, 42, Onslow Gardens, Muswell Hill, N. 1
Folkestone M.C.-Recent activities have been concerned chiefly with the Hornby layout, and some realistic operations have been carried out. A visit has been paid to Folkestone Harbour, where during a twohour stay the party saw three fine steamships, and witnessed also the departure of six express trains crnveying passengers from the ships to London. Club roll: 7. Secretary: W. F. Cotter, 72, Dover Street, Folkestone.
Breich M.C.-Meetings are now held in the Welfare Hall, and the club are readily assisted by the Hall officials. Some interesting Lantern Lectures have been given. During the summer an excursion to Edinburgh was greatly enjoyed, members visiting both the Castle and the Museum there. Club roll: 10. Secretary: M. Anderson, 36, Breich Terrace, West Calder.
Sid Vale M.C.-During the Winter Session meetings are being held weekly, and an interesting programme is

Aeroplane Competition has been held to discover wellmade aircraft built by members, so that these could e photographed for use in future model Aeroplane Exhibitions. Club roll: 31. Secretary: H. Thomson, 13, Kennedy Street, Maylands, Western Australia.
Melbourne M.C.-A visit was paid to the Hobbies Exhibition at Brunswick Technical School. The exhibits included 22 Meccano models, and prizes were awarded for a fire escape and a motor wagon. At one meeting a Meccano elliptical lathe was demonstrated, and on another occasion Meccano models of a pile driver and a crane were brought by two members for inspection. Visits also have been paid to the "O" Gauge electric railway of Mr. P. Phillips, of St. Hilda, and to the wonderful remote-controlled " O " Gauge railway of Mr. Eadie, of Richmond. In both instances members saw much that was of the greatest interest. Realistic operations have been carried out on the club's Hornby Train layout. At one meeting an interesting effect was obtained by running several trains simultaneously while the room was in darkness, and depending upon the new illuminated track diagram to indicate the position of trains. A feature of the Hornby activities of this club is the carrying out of train schedules devised by
the members. Club roll: 10 . the members. Club roll: 10.
Secretary: L. Ison, 8, Hayes Secretary: L. Ison, 8,
Street, Northcote, N.16, Victoria. Thebarton Technical School M.C.-A Lecture by a Senior member on the moch enjoyed. A sequel was much enjoyed. A sequel
to it was an evening visit to the Adelaide Observatory, where members examined the many clocks and recording instra-
ments, and spent hours in obments, and spent hours in observing the planets through the large telescope. The guides interest of the members thet they interest of the members that they presented each one with af literature on astronomy. supply of iterature on astronomy. A particulary interesting Lecture in One Drop of Water" was illustrated with the aid of an epidiascope. Club roll: 75. SecreAvenue, Linden Gardens, South Australia.

## EGYPT

Zagazig M.C.-A special sightseeing tour in Cairo was arranged during the celebrations
for the coronation of King Farouk. The city was gaily Farouk. The city was gaily
being carried out. A ramble to Leak Hill and Muttermoor in charge of the President was much enjoyed. Games were played while on the top of the moor. Club roll: 20. Secretary: L. R. I. Gliddon, Sheffield House,
Winchmore Hill Collegiate School M.C.-The present session began with the election of a new committee, and plans were drawn up for the Annual Exhibition, which it is hoped to hold early in December. Members are now engaged in constructing models for the event, and also a variety of handicrafts for sale at the Exand also a variety of handicrafts be a variety show. Club roll: 31. Secretary: J. A. Piejus, 22, Woodland Way, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21.
St, Stephens (Saltash) M.C.-There has been an increase in the membership of the Model-building Section. The large models of Gatwick Airport and Millbay Station are practically completed, and work on the "D.H. "Dragonfly" aeroplane and the racing yacht "Shamrock" is making good progress. The keel has been laid of a 3 ft . model of the M.V. "Stirling Castle." Club roll: 16. Secretary: B. Braund, 9, Homer Park, Saltash.
Bridport Grammar School M.C.-The Meccano Section is especially popular. Considerable use is made of members' capabilities in the construction of scientific models for demonstration during the school mechanics
lessons. Club roll: 34. Secretary: Mr. M. F. Tighe, 39, Andrew's Road, Bridport.

## AUSTRALIA

Maylands M.C.-Model-building is being carried on most enthusiastically, and all models are now built to a fixed schedule. The several Factions of the club have been busy preparing for an Exhibition. At one meeting each Faction presented an hour's programme The Red and Blue Faction introduced brief discussions on various topics, a feature new to the club. An
decorated, and the tour was greatly enjoyed. A visit by camel has been paid to the Giza Pyramids, Coptic Churches, the Mosque of Amr, and the wonderful Egyptian Museum. Indoor activities have inful Egyptian Museum. Indoor activities have included the construction of travelling and swivelling 22. Secretary: Miss B. Mangourie, 39B, Sharia El Sikka El-Hadid Avenue, Zagazig.

## ITALY

Milan M.C.-Important additions have been made to the club stock of Meccano, and members are now able to build larger and more complicated models. The books in addition to 12 magazines for which the club subscribes. The Photo-Chemico-Electric Section are continuing their interesting experiments, and it is hoped to purchase additional equipment shortly. A very interesting Lecture on "Automobiles 50 Years Hence, was given recently by the President. An outing to Lake Lugano was greatly enjoyed. Club

## SOUTH AFRICA

Southern (Capetown) M.C.-A Visitor's Evening, for which a special programme was arranged, was a great success, and the ine models of cranes, buse appreciated. The junior members are to build a motor chassis. The parents of members were invited to a Lecture by the President on "Modern Inventions," and this was much enjoyed. On a visit to the Capetown Airport, sketches were made and photographs taken of the aeroplanes seen, and models of these machines have since been built by the members. Leader: Mr. R. H. Moodley, 10, Stirling Street, Capetown, Cape Province.

# L.M.S. Train Working at Ambergate 

AMBERGATE Station, Derbyshire, on the Midland Division of the L.M.S., is unusual in having platforms serving each of the three sides of a triangular junction layout. On the inside of the triangle the platforms are continuous, and as each of the three lines is composed of double track there is a corresponding outer platform on each side. This unusual layout makes Ambergate very fascinating from the traffic point of view. Further interest is added by the fact that there is an alternative route to one side of the triangle. This does not serve the station platforms, but passes by at a little distance from them and is carried through a short tunnel in doing so.

Approaching Ambergate from Derby and the South there is a stretch of four-road track, which at Ambergate South Junction resolves itself into two distinct routes. That bearing to the right forms the station-avoiding line previously referred to, and passes through the short Toadmoor Tunnel. It was the original main line of the old North Midland Railway, one of the original constituents that amalgamated in 1844 to form the Midland Railway. The other route leads to Station Junction, which forms the southerly apex of the triangular station layout. There the line for Rowsley and Manchester turns sharply to the left. This is the curved line that is seen in the centre of the illustration on this page, and the sharpness of the curve between the station platforms necessitates a permanent speed restriction to $15 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{h}$.

This line is used by the Manchester and St. Pancras expresses of the Midland Division of the L.M.S., and leaves the station via West Junction. The signal box controlling this Junction is visible in the illustration, in which it is just to the rear of the train on the Manchester route. From Ambergate the line passes on to Rowsley, a section that originally formed part of a scheme to connect Ambergate with Stockport. It was opened in 1849 and worked by the Midland, but was leased three years later to the London and North Western and Midland Railways. In 1871, however, the Midland obtained full possession.

The right-hand route at Station Junction also is curving, and a connecting line from West Junction joins it at North Junction, thus completing the three sides of this interesting triangular layout. Just beyond this junction it is rejoined by the avoiding line through Toadmoor Tunnel, and the right-hand route then leads

 and West Junctions. The train seen in this illustration is taking the route to Rowsley and Manchester, and has just passed the signal box at West Junction.
on to Chesterfield and Sheffield. Some distance away from North Junction there is a further divergence, again to the right, at Crich Junction, where a line goes off to Codnor Park and Nottingham.

Each of the five junnctions, South, Station, West, North and Crich, has its own signal box. With so many routes available the area is a busy one. Ambergate is in fact such a "focal point" for traffic that the North Junction box forms a reporting point for train control purposes, and from it all movements of traffic in the area, even those that do not directly concern North Junction, are communicated to the Control Office. The work of the South Junction box men also is important, for this junction is the diverging point for traffic between Derby and Manchester on the one hand, and between Derby and Sheffield on the other.

The trains between St. Pancras and Manchester traverse the South, Station and West Junctions, and the same junctions deal also with a vast amount of freight traffic between Chaddesden sidings at Derby and Rowsley sidings. There are also freight movements between Rowsley and Toton sidings, near Nottingham, which follow the Codnor Park route and so use the West, North and Crich Junctions. Nottingham and Manchester trains also travel this way, and in summer it is the route for numerous special trains from the Midland Districts to Blackpool.
The platform roads on the eastern curve between Station and North Junctions are necessarily used by trains such as those between Derby and Sheffield that require to call at Ambergate. The Toadmoor Tunnel avoiding line, however, is used by through North and West expresses, such as "The Devonian" between Bradford, Leeds and the West of England via Derby and Bristol. Through freight trains also make use of this avoiding line. The tunnel itself is of unusual shape. It is elliptical in section, and has the appearance of having been flattened on top.
At one time some of the Midland trains from London to Manchester actually used the north side of the Ambergate triangle. They travelled via Nottingham instead of Derby, and reached Ambergate by way of Codnor Park, passing over by way of Crich and North Junctions before joining the Derby and Manchester route at West Junction.

WE have previously given descriptions and reproduced photographs of the outdoor layout of Mr. J. Southwell and his two sons, of Holyhead, all of whom are enthusiastic members of the H.R.C. The layout is continually being developed and improved, and on this page we reproduce a photograph of it in its present form. It is non-continuous, and the operations carried out on it are based on the actual services of the L.M.S. between Euston and Holyhead. Branches serve separate terminal stations at "Liverpool," "Manchester" and "Swansea." "Shrewsbury" also plays an important part in the system, and for reasons of space and convenience it is placed between "Stafford" and "Crewe" Stations.
The system is in continuous operation from April to October each year. During the winter months it is dismantled and any reconstruction work that may be necessary is carried out. The running season closed at the end of last month, and this is an appropriate time to review the latest developments.
Extensive track and station alterations carried out during last winter have made it possible to operate greatly improved services. Shrewsbury station has been entirely rebuilt. It has now five platforms, three of which are 8 ft .6 in . long; in addition there are two bays which are 4 ft .6 in . long. All the station offices and buildings are concentrated on one platform. These include booking offices, refreshment rooms, waiting rooms and a bookstall.
Improvements also have been made to Holyhead Station, which has been completely rebuilt in order to represent fairly accurately the layout of the real station. There are two covered platforms, each 9 ft . in length, one being on each side of the harbour, as in actual practice. The baseboard between the quays has been painted blue to represent the water, and on it are specially constructed models of the L.M.S. mail steamers "Hibernia" and "Cambria."
Crewe Station has been enlarged by the addition of a third platform. All three platforms are covered in, and each is 7 ft . long. There are two main line platforms, and the third one is used for branch line connections and local trains to Shrewsbury and Manchester.
As a result of these "engineering operations" the traffic capacity of the line has been increased. Four different kinds of services are run, representing respectively the Winter and Summer week-day services and the corresponding Sunday services for both seasons. For each kind of service there are various different groups of


An interesting view on the layout of Mr. J. Southwell, of Holyhead, H.R.C. No. 43323. 1 Ae traln eresing revested is the "Irish Mail", and it is hauled by two No. 1 Special Locomotiver
workings, which form what the owners describe as "episodes." An episode consists of the complete operation of one or more main line trains, together with connecting trains and through coach services. Prior to the alterations referred to, a total of 100 episodes with about 800 trains were run during the course of an operating season. This year it has become possible to increase the number of episodes to 130 , and the number of trains run to over 1,000 !

Very careful preparation is necessary when planning services on such a scale, and complete working timetables therefore are devised for the whole of the season. From these it is possible to tell the position of every locomotive and piece of rolling stock at any given time throughout the whole of the period! The completed timetables and working arrangements are set down in a notebook, which is a very useful record and guide when the arrangements for another season are put in hand.
Chief reliance for motive power is placed on Hornby clockwork locomotives, and two No. 3C "Royal Scots" undertake the hardest duties. This is very appropriate in view of the employment of the "Royal Scots" on the "Irish Mails" of real practice. The Hornby "Scots" are well supported by two No. 1 Special Locomotives, which represent the numerous real L.M.S. engines of class " 5 X ." A favourite arrangement with very heavy trains is to use the two No. 1 Specials together, and the photograph on this page shows this practice in operation. Other engines include a No. O Tender Locomotive and various Hornby Tanks ranging from a No. 2 Special to one of the M3 type. The Tank Locomotives are of course particularly useful for operating the various branch and connecting services that form an important feature of the working of the line.

For the passenger train services extensive use is made of Hornby No. 1 Coaches and Guard's Vans, short four-wheeled vehicles fitting in better with the general scheme of things than bogie stock, and allowing a greater number of through coaches to be worked. An interesting development in connection with the mail services has been the repainting of two of these No. 1 vehicles to represent mail stowage vans.

Freight services also are run, and their working is made to dovetail into the passenger arrangements in a realistic manner. The planning of suitable paths for these trains and the provision of suitable engines for all of them cannot be a task to be undertaken lightly, but Mr. Southwell and his colleagues have evidently reduced this sort of thing to a fine art!


## GETTING READY FOR WINTER TRAFFIC

THIS time of the year is a very busy one on miniature railways, for it is now that extensions usually are planned and improvements made to allow the running of better or more intensive services. Before putting these in hand, however, it is advisable to overhaul the existing equipment in order to make sure that it will give satisfaction in the work ahead. A little attention now may save much disappointment and annoyance when the winter running programme commences.

The track must be in good order if successful operations are to be carried out, and the rails therefore should be carefully examined. On a permanent layout this inspection is easily made. The track probably will not require any adjustment of level, but should be tested to see that it is correct to gauge. This can be done on an electric layout by means of the combined Rail Gauge, Screwdriver and Spanner that is packed with all Hornby Electric Loco-


The Hornby Locomotive "Princess Elizabeth" on a heavy express train made up of No. 2 Corridor Coaches. The appearance of this train is typical of that of many L.M.S. expresses of real practice.
apart of the track of portable layouts is liable to cause them to open out. They should be closed up carefully with a small pair of pliers, a spare pin being inserted in the rail head while the pliers are being used. There is then no difficulty in restoring the rail ends to their original shape with holes of the correct size for the pins.

Rails that have been out of use for some time probably will be dirty. Their heads may show traces of a black deposit of a mixture of oil and dust picked up by the wheels during service. This also may collect on the wheel treads of engines and rolling stock, and if allowed to become excessive causes very "woolly" and unsatisfactory running. It is easily removed from the rails and the wheels by wiping them with a rag that has been dipped in a very small quantity of petrol, and the improvement in running that will follow makes this really worth while. The petrol must not be used near a fire or flame. motives. On clockwork railways the winding key handle of Hornby Clockwork Locomotives forms a rail gauge for the track. On sliding either of these along between the rails of Hornby Track, defective places are detected immediately, and the rails should be eased apart gently where they may be tight. A layout that is only put down when required should be tested in a similar manner. It is best to lay down the rails to form a track, for it is much easier and quicker to examine rails and other track components in position than to test them separately.
The laying down of the line in this manner will show up any loss of the connecting pins fitted at the ends of the rails. Those that are loose should be tightened up by pinching the rail head carefully with a pair of pliers, and missing pins should be replaced before running begins. The pins can be obtained separately, and temporary or haphazard substitutes should not be used as they are very unsatisfactory.

The rail heads that receive the pins also should be inspected, for the frequent putting together and taking

Special attention should be given to the mechanical portions of points, such as the switch rail units and points levers. Care should be taken to see that the switch rails are in correct alignment with the fixed rails, whichever way the points are thrown. Sometimes a little setting with a pair of pliers is necessary in order to make the points just right for smooth running.

Crossings can scarcely get out of order, but it is just as well to look them over at the same time as the rest of the rails. In particular the rail ends should be examined and, if necessary, dealt with in the manner already described. Buffer Stops and other accessories that are connected to the track should be examined and cleaned at the same time. Cleaning accessories usually means simply dusting them, and for this purpose an ordinary paint brush of the "mop" variety, is very useful. It can reach into corners where a rag cannot penetrate, and a more satisfactory job is the result.

The connections from the power supply to the track should be examined, and any loose contacts tightened.

Plug connections that may have become loose in their sockets can be adjusted by placing the blade of a penknife, or a thin screwdriver, in the slot in the plug in order to separate slightly the two sections of the fitting. Connections that are made by means of terminals, such as those on electrically-illuminated accessories, should be examined and tightened up if necessary. Terminal Connecting Plates or Combined Switch Rails may require new fuses. It is important that the fuse wire specified in the instructions packed with each Hornby Elec- Fine fun on a Hornby layout! Before commencing regular operations for the winter season it is advisable to examine and attend tric Locomotive and each Meccano Transformer should be used.

Once the track and its accessories are in order, attention can be devoted to the engines and rolling stock. Electric locomotives should be given a good general examination and particular attention should be paid to the wheel treads and collector shoes. If these have any black deposit on them they should be cleansed with petrol, as already explained. It is not advisable to interfere with the brushes of the motors, but the commutator should be cleaned in the manner described in the locomotive instruction leaflets, that is by passing a piece of fine emery paper rolled round a matchstick through the hole provided for the purpose in the brush gear side plate. The emery paper is allowed to bear on the commutator while the wheels of the engine are turned by hand.

Particular care should be taken with the lubrication of the moving parts of the engines. An excess of oil is to be avoided, as this finds its way on to the
cleaning operation. When all dirt has been removed the engine should be allowed to stand until the petrol has evaporated, leaving the mechanism clean and dry. Light lubrication of the various spindles, bearings and gear wheels with Meccano oil should then be undertaken. The use of too thick an oil is a frequent cause of sluggish ing here, a little adjustment there, or a spot of Meccano Oil or Graphite Grease on the bearings frequently works wonders with a wagon or coach that does not move easily. Sometimes it is necessary to remove the wheels to get rid of dust or fluff that may have collected between them and the axle-guards or bogie frames. The petrol rag should again be used here, and the axles and wheel treads can be cleaned up at the same time. Those vehicles that are fitted with axle-boxes should have the supply of Graphite Grease in them renewed before the wheels are replaced in position.

Some of the couplings of various vehicles may want a little attention. They may not be moving freely on their
wheels and other places where it is not wanted. If any repairs or renewals are necessary the locomotives should be sent to the Service Department at Meccano Ltd., full details of the defects accompanying each engine.

The mechanism of a clockwork locomotive should be washed out with petrol in order to remove any old oil that may be in it, together with accumulated dust that would tend to prevent the free working of the engine. This should be done out of doors, and away from fires or flames. The petrol can be introduced into the mechanism from a small oilcan kept specially for the purpose, and it is a good plan to use a small paint brush to assist the

An interesting goods yard scene with a fast freight train passing through on the main line. The various Dinky Toy Components in the foreground add considerably to the realism of the layout.

and on their correct adjustment. They and on their correct adjustment. They sho movement and any that are bent up or down, owing to "rough shunts", or other causes, should be straightened out with a small pair of pliers.

The examination, cleaning and adjustment of accessories is as important as that of rolling stock if the system is to be smart and efficient. For instance, the working parts of Signals, particularly of those that may be operated by means of the Hornby Control System, must be correctly adjusted. The slightest drop of oil applied to these or to such parts as the Control Lever Frame makes a big difference to the ease of operation.
pivots. Sometimes couplings get bent slightly, so that they are forced against the buffer beam, and this causes them to be stiff. The couplings of all stock should be examined and any slight adjustments carried out. The satisfactory engagement of the automatic couplings depends a great deal on their freedom of movement

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$$ running. Meccano Graphite Grease can be applied with advantage between the coils of the spring.

The cleaning and examination of tenders and rolling stock is equally important if the best results are to be obtained. A little clean-

RAILWAY PHOTOGRAPH VOTING CONTEST

Many splendid entries were sent in by members in the Summer Series of "Railway Photograph Contests," the last of which was announced in the September issue. Several have already been reproduced on the "Railway News" pages of the "M.M.," and on this page we give nine others, all of which won prizes. These nine photographs form the basis of an interesting competition in which every member can take part.

Each competitor is asked to state on a postcard A, the photograph he likes best of all, taking into account their railway interest and their merit as photographs, and B, his idea of the order of popularity of the photographs as decided by the massed votes of all the competitors.

Competitors should denote each photograph by the number marked on it. Entrants need not place their own favourite photograph at the head of list B, unless they
believe it will be the popular choice. They should give it the position in which they think it will be placed by the massed votes of all the competitors.

There are two sections in the contest, for Home and Overseas members respectively, and in each three prizes consisting of any products manufactured by Meccano Ltd. to the values of 21/-, 15/- and 10/6 will be awarded. In addition there will be several consolation prizes, and in the event of a tie for any award this will be divided equally between the successful competitors. Postcards should be addressed "H.R.C. Voting Contest," Meccano Ltd., Binns Road, Liverpool, 13, and each competitor must write his name, address and H.R.C. membership number at the end of his list. The closing dates in the Home and Overseas Sections are 30th November and 28th February, 1938, respectively.

## Layout Planning Contest

In this contest we are asking members to submit designs for layouts based on a mainline oval, of either double or single track. Two terminal stations, sidings and any other features necessary to make a model railway for passenger and goods traffic practicable and interesting may be added, but the maximum space allowed is 15 ft . long and 10 ft . wide. In order to give competitors free scope for designing useful layouts no cost restrictions are imposed.

Scale drawings are preferable for this purpose; and a scale of one inch to one foot is a convenient one; but members who do not care to make such drawings should indicate the position of each rail by short cross lines, in the same way as is done in the booklet "Hornby Layouts- 100 Suggestions." Entries will be judged on their realism and on their possibilities for railway working.

The contest will be divided into the usual two sections, Home and Overseas, and in each will be awarded prizes consisting of any products manufactured by Meccano Ltd.,
to the values of $21 /-, 15 /-$ and $10 / 6$. Entries must be addressed "H.R.C. November Layout Planning Contest," Meccano Ltd., Binns Road, Liverpool 13, and the closing dates in the Home and Overseas Sections are 30th November and 28th February, 1938, respectively. Each competitor's name, address and H.R.C. number must be written on the back of his entry.

## COMPETITION SOLUTION "July Missing Links Contest"

 "Sir Frederick Harrison,", 5531, 4-6-0, "Patriot,",M.S.; "Dumbleton Hall," 4920, 4-6-0, "Hall,", L.M.S.; "Dumbleton Hall,", 4920, 4-6-0, "Hall,", G.W.R., "Dunraven Castle," 4092, 4-6-0, "Castle,"
G.W.R.; "Sir Sam Fay," 5423, 4-6-0, "Sir Sam Fay, G.W.R.; "Sir Sam Fay," 5423, 4-6-0, "Sir Sam Fay,
B2," L.N.E.R.; "Glasgow Ycomanr", $5158,4-6-0$, B2," L.N.E.R.; "Glasgow Y comanry," 5P5. Standard Mixed Traffic," L.M.S.; Sir John Hawkins," 865, 4-6-0, "Lord Nelson," S.R.; "Quicksilver," 2510, 4-6-2, "A4," L.N.E.R., or "Quicksilver," 31073, Railcar, L.N.E.R.; "Nyasaland," 5622, 4-6-0, "Jubilee," L.M.S.; "Cranleigh," 936, 4-4-0 "Schools, V,"S.R., "Merlin," 4486, 4-6-2, "A4," L.N.E.R., or "Merlin," 740, 4-6-0, "King Arthur, N15," S.R.,
or "Merlin," $3259,4-4-0$, "Duke," G.W.R., or or "Merlin," 3259, 4-4-0, "Duke," G.W.R., or
"Merlin," 85, 4-4-0, "V,", G.N.R.(I); "Selkirkshire," "Merlin," 85, 4-4-0, "V,"," G.N.R.(1); "Selkirkshive," dale,", 376, 4-4-0, "Hunt, D49," L.N.E.R.; "Moor Hen," 25371, 4-4-0, "George the Fifth," L.M.S., or

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## Branch News

Dover.-Good attendances have en abled intensive track operations to be carried out. The layout on one occasion was divided into sections, and looked very realistic with three and four trains running at the same time. S.R. passenger services have been reproduced in miniature, and were made specially interesting by the introduction of a through G.W.R. coach to Birkenhead. This coach has been painted in correct colours by members. Photographs of railway interest taken by members this summer were exhibited and discussed at one meeting. The commencement of the Winter Session was heralded by a complete overhaul of the Branch equipment. Secretary: D. F. E. Moore, 3, St. John's Road, Dover.

Waterloo (Dublin)--Following the commencement of the hop-picking season, goods traffic on the Branch layout increased considerably, and services and trains often had to be trebled. The Branch locomotives are running very well, and their efficient operation amply rewards members for their care in overhaul and repair work. Secretary: S. B. Carse, 38, Oakley Road, Ranelagh, Dublin.

Hornsea.-Interesting track operations have been carried out by the Junior and Senior Sections of this Branch. Layouts of various designs have been laid down, and the running of specialised traffic, such as milk and sheep trains, has proved of great interest. Secretary: P. Richardson, "Summerleigh," Esplanade North, Hornsea.

First Sheffield.-Excursions to places of railway interest have continued. On a recent trip to Manchester, members realised the meaning of the expression "packed like sardines in a tin;" for in their compartment were 19 passengers, one dog and two ferrets! The outing was voted very enjoyable, however. Retford was the scene of another outing, and the "Coronation" express was again seen there. The Winter Session began with a meeting at which interesting track operations were carried out. Secretary: W. H. Hutchinson, 35, Linden Avenue, Sheffield 8 ,
Wandsworth No. 1.-After many weeks of preparatory work, the film "Fruitful Exchange" was made recently by the Branch. The filming took several hours. Members carried out their parts splendidly and trains were run on the Branch layout with splendid accuracy. The film has developed extremely well, and the satisfaction of seeing it on a screen amply rewarded members for their work. Plans
for future meetings are being discussed, and a recruiting campaign is to be instituted. The Branch layout is being prepared for winter working. A new station and engine shed have been added, and the main line track has been doubled. Two new corridor coaches and a new locomotive also have been acquired. A visit has been paid to the Model Engineer


Mr. R. Croall, Chairman of the St. Giles' Cathedral (Edinburgh) H.R C Branch No. 272, snapped in a happy moment during a visit to the Rosyth Naval Dockyard. This Branch was incorporated in August 1934, and now has a membership of over 100.

Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall. Secretary: A. H. St. Walker, 68a, Oakmead Road, Balham, S.W.17.

Islington.-Good progress is being made in the construction of scale model track, and the main terminus station is nearing completion. This will be 6 ft . long and have four platforms. A scissors crossover point has been completed, and attention is now being paid to the automatic signalling system. Preparations continue for the Exhibition to be held on the 27th of this month in St. Giles' Hall. Details of this are given on page 676. Secretary: A. D. Straker, 48, Onslow Gardens, Muswell Hill, London, N. 10 .

Northampton.-Several members recently spent an extremely enjoyable afternoon at Birmingham. The Tyseley Engine Sheds were first visited. There the hand-operated coaling plant was inspected, and several locomotives of various types were subjected to detailed examination. The offer of a short trip on the footplate of 'Bingley Hall" was an agreeable surprise, of which members took full advantage. Members also saw a streamlined Diesel railcar undergoing tests. Tea in the city completed an interesting afternoon. The Branch summer camp was a great success. It was well attended, and members had great fun. Secretary: P. C. Collier, 33, Sandringham Road, Northampton.
Exeter.-The Winter Session has been commenced with renewed enthusiasm. Track operations are now carried out very efficiently owing to the special system employed. Concise rules and instructions have been drawn up in connection with each official position, and these are strictly enforced. Members are divided into three grades, according to their ability. To rise from one class to that above they must carry out certain duties of an exacting nature without fault. Secretary: J. Fenwick, 28, St. John's Road, Exeter.
Folkestone.-A new G.W.R. 0-4-0 tank locomotive has been purchased, and now operates all passenger trains on the Branch layout. The hauling of goods trains and shunting work is carried out by a G.W.R. model locomotive. All rolling stock has been repainted, and trains now look very realistic. A visit has been paid to Folkestone Harbour, where boat trains and Channel steamers were viewed with great interest. Dover Engine Sheds also have been visited, and here some 14 locomotives were closely inspected. Secretary: F. E. Saunders, 79, Dover Street, Folkestone, Kent.
St. Stephens (Saltash).-The first track meetings of the new Session have been outstanding for the keenness of members, and train operations have been carried out with much greater efficiency and accuracy than previously. Games have been enjoyed at each meeting. Secretary: B. Braund, 9, Homer Park, Saltash.

## Branches in Course of Formation

The following new Branches of the Hornby Railway Company are at present in process of formation, and any boys who are interested and desirous of linking up with this unique organisation should communicate with the promoters, whose names and addresses are given below.
Leatherhead-L. G. Lambden, "Cove-
ham," Fir Tree Road.
Barry-J. R. Berg, 39, Broad Street.

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[^4]
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## NATIVE LIFE ON STAMPS

ONE of the many fascinations of stamp collecting is that the ollector can sit at home in a comfortable arm chair, and roam the world in fancy as his stamps bring to him vivid glimpses of the


A native potter. world's affairs. We are all interested in the people of other countries, their surroundings, their costumes, their habits and their customs, and our interest is perhaps keenest in races still living in primitive conditions. The stamp album is full of pictures of such peoples, and those who wish to make a collection of designs featuring native life and customs have enough material available to keep them occupied for quite a long time.

Africa alone presents such a large field that in the present article we shall deal only with stamps from that continent. A random glance at African stamps in the album reveals portraits of members of many tribes. Belgian Congo issues are particularly rich in this respect, showing both men and women of natives of various regions. Mandingo men are to be found on Liberia's 75 c . stamp of 1918. There is a native of Somaliland on Eritrea's 10c. issue of 1930, and a Ruanda dancer and a pair of Urundi women figure on the 5 fr . and 1 fr . stamps of Ruanda-Urundi's issue of 1931. A Moorish horseman is shown on the Spanish Moroccan Express issue of 1928, and a Hausa native on the upper Volta 2c. issue of 1928.
The elaborate hairdressing of some of the women shown on these stamps is of special interest. For instance, the Ubangi woman's coiffure is a remarkable piece of work achieved by first soaking the hair in palm oil and then treating it with a surface coating of camwood dust. It is built up to last for several months without re-dressing.
Many African tribes still live in huts of mud and straw, some even in rudely constructed shelters in trees. Typical native huts built of woven mats of straw are shown on several stamps of Tchad's 1930 issue. Liberia's 25 c . of 1909 shows a type of straw-thatched hut that is similar to the huts commonly found in villages in the Mozambique country, seen on the $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{c}$. stamp of the Mozambique Company's 1918 issue.

Better known types of dwellings are the baked-mud Kaffir huts shown on S.W. Africa's 5/- issue of 1931, and the native kraals pictured on the 15 c . and 25 c . stamps of the Belgian Congo 1931 series. The kraal of a Ruanda chief, shown on the Ruanda-Urundi 25 c. stamp in the 1931 series, is a particularly interesting example and it is not surprising to learn that these huts are probably the best kept in Africa. Ruanda housewives are house proud to an exceptional degree. The men are probably the finest specimens of mankind on the African continent, most of them standing over six feet in height.

affir huts.
series of 1923 provides a striking range of designs illustrating these pursuits, and it is interesting to note that the border frames of all the stamps in this series are based on typical native art.

The potters of the Belgian Congo tribes are mainly women. They dig out the clay from the river beds, shape the material and dry out the vessels in the sun. The final "firing" of the clay is done over log fires. The Mandingo men shown on Liberian stamps, to whom we have referred briefly already, are noted for their skill in leather work, in dyeing clothes and especially


Weaving on a hand loom. in metal work.

Although the majority of African tribes to-day live peacefully, most of them maintain fighting forces. A typical warrior with tattooed face and feathered headdress is shown on the low values of Gaboon's 1910 series. The lance-like spear this warrior carries is a particularly deadly weapon. It is not thrown, but is used in much the same way as modern infantry troops use the bayonet.
With many tribes, bows and arrow's are the principal weapons of offence, and a typical archer is shown on the 50c. stamp of the Belgian Congo's 1923 issue. The manner in which the Congo archers use their bows is unusual. When a victim has been marked down, the bow string is pulled sharply, causing it to emit a loud "twang." The prey's first instinct is to stop and look for the source of attack, and in that moment of stillness the archer is able to fire off his arrow at a stationary target. One of the features of native life that has always puzzled Euro-


A native chief from the Belgian Congo. peans is the system of sending messages through the forests from village to village by the beating of drums. So rapidly is news passed on by this means that it has come to be known as the "bush telegraph." The Belgian Congo 60c. stamp of 1931 shows two drummers, one of whom is carrying a drum used in sending messages. The second drummer is carrying one of the famous tom-toms. The French Somali Coast issue of 1915 also shows a native drummer.

Native musicians and dancers have been a favourite source of inspiration for stamp designers, and Belgian Congo issues show several examples. The 40 c . value shows two flute players, while on the 50 c . stamp an unusual native instrument known as the ekimbe, is being played. The principal feature of this instrument is a length of board along which are loosely mounted metal strips. Wooden wedges are placed under the metal at different distances from the board so that different notes are emitted when the strips are struck. It is played in much the same way as the dulcimer or xylophone. There is not space here to detail all the many other aspects of native life that are revealed through the stamp album, such as types of personal adornment, foods, transport, domestic utensils and equipment, recreations and so on, but each of these topics can be examined thoroughly. Any reader who cares to compile a collection of stamps depicting native life will find the subject intensely fascinating, both for himself and for those of his friends who are privileged to see the collection. pottery, basket making and weaving. The Belgian Congo


Congo village storehouses.

## SELLING RAPIDLY

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## 1935-6-7 PACKET FREE!!

The stamps in this splendid up-to-date packet have all been issued during these years. Included are 1935 MALTA Silver Jubilee. 1937 CANADA CORONATION (K.G.Vl and Queen Elizabeth), set of 4 large 1935 ROUMANIA, pictorial ALGERIA (1936), mint KOUANG-TCHEOU, new FR. EOUATORIAL' AFRICA (lumber raft), SELANGOR (mosque). NEW ZEEALAND (kiwi) fine new mint MOZAMBIOUE CO. (giraffe), mint MOROCCO AGENCIES (K.E .VIII), the new type of Br . Colonial from GRENADA (K.G.VI), etc. Free only to those who request approvals and send Id. postage and packing. (OverHELY. HUTCHINSON (M.2) Her without approvals, $1 \ldots$..)
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## WHEW!

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## King George VI Colonial Issues

Preparations for permanent King George VI issues are well advanced in most of the British colonies, and already a number of them have announced preliminary details. In most cases the designs will be pictorial,
 with a simple inset portrait of the King. British Honduras is to issue a series of 12 stamps as follows: 1c., Maya figure; 2c., chicle tapping; 3c., Cohune palm; 4 c ., local products; 5c., grape-fruit; 10c., mahogany logs on river; 15 c ., Sergeant's Cay; 25c., dory (kind of boat); 50 c ., chicle industry; $\$ 1$, Court House, Belize; \$2, mahogany cutting; \$5, coat of arms.
The British Somaliland issue also will be a pictorial series with designs as follows: $\frac{1}{2}, 1$, 2 and 3 a., vignette of a black-headed sheep, with a border design of spears and bucklers; $4,6,8$ and 12 a., vignette showing the head of a Greater Kudu antelope; rupee values, an outline map of Somaliland. In all values the name of the territory, "Somaliland Protectorate," will be displayed at the top and the value at the base.
Malta is to issue an entirely new pictorial series and the designs in this case will offer a most interesting series of views as follows: $\frac{1}{4}$ d., Grand Harbour; $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~d}$., Fort St. Angelo; 1d., Verdala Palace; $1 \frac{1}{2} d$. , neolithic hypogeum (monument); 2d., Citadel of Victoria, Gozo; 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., the Grand Master de L'Isle Adam entering Mdina; 3d., St. John's Co-Cathedral; $4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~d} .$, Mnajdra temple; 6d., Grand Master Manoel De Vilhena; 1s., Maltese girl wearing the "Ghonnella" or "Faldetta" traditional headdress; $1 / 6$, St. Publius; 2/-, Mdina (Notabile); 2/6, Grand Harbour; 5/-, Palace Square; $10 /-$, St. Paul.
Nigeria also is to issue a full set of pictorials, in which the eight lower values will feature types of mail transport as follows: 2a., Dak runner; $2 \frac{1}{2}$ a., bullock cart; 3a., two-horse cart; $3 \frac{1}{2}$ a., camel post; 4a., mail train; 6a., P. \& O. steamer; 8a., mail lorry; 12a., ArmstrongWhitworth "Ensign" type aeroplane. The new $2 / 6$ value will use the existing design showing the Victoria-Buea road, and the $5 /-$ value will have the design at present in use for the $10 /$ - value, the River Niger at Jebba.
The first three values of the new Barbados series, $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~d} ., 1 \mathrm{~d}$. and $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~d}$., have already been despatched to the Colony, and will be on sale shortly.
Bermuda is retaining most of the existing designs, but certain of the colourings are to

be modified. A new series will probably be issued for the higher values, $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~d}$. and $2 /-$ to $£ 1$.

Ceylon also will retain most of the existing designs. Apart from the substitution of the portrait of King George VI and slight alterations to the borders, the only changes will be in the 10 c . value, which is to show the Sigiriya or "Lion Rock"; the 20c., which will take the 9 c . design, showing tea plucking; and the 2 r . value, in which an ancient guard stone will be seen.

Seychelles is to have an entirely new issue, with three pictorial designs used over 15 values. These designs will show a coco-demer palm tree, a giant tortoise, and a fishing pirogue respectively. Each design will embody the King's portrait.

Trinidad and Tobago will use the existing designs with the new King's portrait.

## Mother and Child Designs

On occasions the minds of stamp designers run on the same lines. A striking instance of this is afforded in the new issue supplement included in the October number of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, in which there are seven designs incorporating pictures of mothers with babies. The fact that five of the issues were devoted to children's or nursing charities explains to some extent the similarity in design.

We illustrate the 2 K value from Czechoslovakia's Child Welfare issue showing a lullaby scene at a baby's cradle. The two lower values in this series, 50 h . and 1 K ,


## Latvian Independence Monuments

Readers who are interested in statuary as depicted on stamps will find considerable interest in a recently issued Latvian series, on which are shown monuments erected in different parts of the country to commemorate the achievement of independence. We illustrate two of them, the 3 s . and 35 s .

values, showing the Independence Monument at Rauna and that at Riga respectively.

The series contains seven stamps in all, the other designs being as follows: 5 s ., Cemetery Gate, Riga; 10s., Independence Monument at Jelgava; 20s., War Memorial at Valka; 30s., Independence Monument at Iecava; and 40 s ., Monument at Visagalas Cemetery.

## A United States Centenary

The recent United States commemorative celebrating the 150th anniversary of the enactment of the North West Territory Ordinance is reproduced here.

The design shows the two cradle only. The other four charity designs were Austria's 24 g . Mother's Day commemorative, Belgium's Queen Astrid Public Utility Fund series of eight stamps, each showing a portrait of the late Queen Astrid and the baby, Prince Baudouin, Colombia's 5 c. Red Cross tax issue, and France's 65 c . Health Society stamp.

We also reproduce the United States Virginia Dare commemorative, to which we referred in the September "M.M." Virginia Dare was born in Kentucky in 1587, and was the first white child born in the U.S.A.

## India's New Stamps

This month we are able to reproduce the first of India's King George VI stamps, which are among the most important issues of the new reign.

It will be seen that the general features of the new design differ materially from 'those of previous issues, the characteristic pointed arch of Indian architecture having been adopted for the framing. The ornaments in the upper corners are lotus buds.
leaders, Cutler and Putnam, who were responsible for negotiating this ordinance, which brought the vast area then known as the North West Territory into the United States. The respective areas of the two territories at that time are also shown in the design, which makes a most interesting addition to the list of map stamps.

## Airways are Mailways

Following the note in our August issue concerning the carriage of Empire mails by air without surcharge, several readers have asked us to give them a list of countries to which mail is now sent by air at ordinary postage rates.

Certain extensions of the scheme, other than the Empire interest, were made in August and the list is now a very comprehensive one for it covers 21 countries. These are Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig Free State, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Roumania, South Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

We thank Stanley Gibbons Ltd. for their courtesy in loaning the stawns from which the illustrations on this page have been made.

## A Belfry on the Ground <br> By Robert Light

Most old churches have some particularly interesting feature, but few are more remarkable in this respect than the one at East Bergholt, Suffolk, which has its belfry on the ground. The bells at this church are inverted, and are mounted on thick pieces of oak. They are rung by swinging them over into a pit below, and back again by hand, and the belfry is claimed to be the only one in existence in which the bells are swung by handling their stocks.

This curiosity was erected over 400 years ago. The tower of the church was commenced by Cardinal Wolsey about 1520, but at his downfall it was left unfinished, as it remains today, and a cage was built in the churchyard to house the bells.

There are five bells. The treble bell is fairly modern. It was cast in 1887 and weighs $12 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{cwt}$. The second bell, known as Gabriel, is much older. It was founded in the year 1450, and weighs $12 \frac{3}{4}$ cwt. The third and fourth bells weigh $14 \frac{3}{4}$ and $18 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{cwt}$. respectively. The tenor bell is the largest, weighing 25 cwt.

## A Dog At His Heel

By CHARLES J. FINGER
Illus. $8^{\prime} 6$ net
A tale of a dog among sheepfarmers, first in Western Australia, then in South Africa, and finally in the Argentine. "The kind of book that will interest everybody to whom a rattling good tale of adventure appeals."
-Tail Waggers Magazine.

## Corporal Corey

By JACK O'BRIEN Illus. 5'. net
This grand story of life in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is by the author of Valiant, which was a Junior Book Club Recommendation last year (now published at $3^{\prime} 6$ in Harrap's Green Riband Library).

FROM ALL BOOKSELLERS

## HARRAP

## A Strange Pumping System <br> By G. R. Stocks

On a recent visit to Germany I spent a day in Bad Munster am Stein, one of the oldest health resorts in Germany. The most remarkable feature of the town is the system


A clockwork model G.W.R. 2-6-2 or "Prairie" tank adapted from a Hornby No. 2 Special Tank Locomotive by Mr. E. M. Berry, the G.W.R. Stationmaster at Stroud, Gloucestershire. The original mechanism has been converted into a six-coupled one, outside cylinders have been fitted, and the footplate has been arranged to "drop" at both ends. The photograph is reproduced by courtesy of Mr. C. H. Barnes of Stroud.

## Smashing the Atom

Scientists in various parts of the world are bombarding targets of various materials with protons and other tiny particles shot out from vacuum tubes at velocities that vary from 30 to 100 million m.p.h. The largest special unit for carrying out bombardments of this kind is being built by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in the United States.

The new unit consists of an immense tank shaped like a pear, which stands with its wider end uppermost. The tank is 47 ft . high and at its widest part has a diameter of 30 ft . Including the building on which it rests, the total height of the structure is 65 ft . Ladders enable the tank to be climbed and there is an outside platform from which its interior can be examined. Inside it there will be a generator producing a direct electrostatic current with
of "Gradierwerke." A "Gradierwerk" is a huge wooden frame, about 30 ft . high and 100 ft . long, which is built up in a large reservoir that also is made of wood. The framework is filled with closely-packed cuttings of blackthorn, with the twigs and leaves pointing outward, so that the structure resembles a gigantic hedge enclosed in a wooden fence, and on top of it is a wide trough.

There are four of these frames in different parts of the town. The oldest was erected in 1718 and the most recent in 1778 , and their purpose is to concentrate the salts in the curative water from the springs. The lower reservoir contains the liquid, which is pumped to the upper trough. From there it trickles down over the blackthorn twigs in countless streams, and water is driven out of it by evaporation caused by the prevailing winds.

All parts of the machinery are made of wood, the pump-barrels consisting of hollowed-out tree trunks. The motive power for the system is obtained from the flow of the River Stein, along the bank of which are four $20-\mathrm{ft}$. water wheels of the undershot type, each developing about $5 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{p}$. The wheels are a considerable distance from the frames, and the rotary motion is converted by cranks into a horizontal movement and the power is transmitted to the pumps by long wooden connecting-rods. The system works well, only an occasional creak betraying the whereabouts of the rods, which for the greater part of their length run under the frames or in conduits.

The water of the springs flows out at the rate of nearly $400 \mathrm{cu} . \mathrm{ft}$. an hour. It has a temperature of 31 deg. F., and a salinity of 11 per cent. Evaporation is regulated according to the wind, and the liquid is pumped from section to section of the frames in order to concentrate it as much as possible. While this is going on, patients visiting Bad Munster for cures recline facing the frames, breathing in the saltladen, air as they lie there.

The solution is finally pumped to an evaporating plant, where the salts in the spring water are crystallised out.
a voltage of five million and more, together with a vacuum tube 40 ft . in length.

The giant vacuum tube will provide the shells used in this scientific bombardment, and these will be accelerated on their way down the tube by the high voltage applied to them. On reaching the end they will pass through windows consisting of thin sheets of metal, and will strike their targets with such tremendous force that they will penetrate the hard centres or nuclei of the atoms of which they consist, breaking them $u p$ and transforming them into other elements. The tank in which the vacuum tube will be housed will be filled with air at a pressure of 120 lb . per sq. in.

## Hobbies 1938 Handbook

The 1938 edition of the catalogue issued each year by Hobbies Ltd. is as comprehensive and interesting as its predecessors, and more useful than ever to the handyman. In general arrangement it follows the lines of previous editions. As usual the main portion deals with fretwork, and gives descriptions and illustrations of fretwork apparatus and equipment of all kinds. There are many excellent illustrated designs for fretwork models, including folding tables of various kinds, clocks, bookcases and screens, and a complete colle
tion of wood-working and carving tools is listed.
Special articles deal with a series of attractive models, including a handsome clock that forms the subject of one of the two large free design charts available for purchasers of the Handbook. Others explain the construction of ship models and calendars, for which a colour Picture is given with the catalogue. The forms of craft work.
The catalogue can be obtained for 6d. from any newsagent or Hobbies dealer, or direct from Hobbies Ltd., Dereham, Norfolk, for 9 d . post free.

## Billiards in the Home

Billiards is one of the most fascinating of all games, and every year sees an increase in interest in tables on which the game can be played in the home. E. J. Riley Ltd. were pioneers of home billiards. Their products include models for every home, large or small, among them small tables that can be placed on an ordinary dining table, and others that are combined billiards and dining tables, the transformation from one to the other being made in two minutes. These tables are not toys. Whatever its size, every model is a replica in construction of the full-size tables for which the makers are world-famous.
"M.M." readers who are interested in home billiards should write for a free illustrated art list of these tables. This will be sent immediately on application to E. J. Riley Ltd., Deal Works, Accrington, or Dept. 3, 147, Aldersgate Street, London, E.C.1.


## HIDDEN PROVERBS

Some years ago we tried our readers' patience, and their keenness, with a series of "Hidden Proverbs" competitions. They proved so popular that we are sure another competition of the same nature this month will prove an interesting diversion, and, for some lucky readers, an opportunity to increase their stock of Meccano or Hornby Trains.

In the illustration in the centre of this page each of the three squares contains certain groups of letters which, when sorted out, will form the words of a well-known proverb.
It will be noticed that each group contains six different styles of lettering, and the only clue to the solution of the puzzle lies in their introduction and the manner in which they have been used. One word of warning should be given. The means of solving one of the three puzzles will not necessarily prove the key to the others.

Prizes of Meccano Products, that is of any articles listed in the current Meccano and Hornby Train cata-
logue as the winners desire, to the value of $21 /-, 15 /-$, $10 / 6$ and $5 /-$ respectively, will be awarded to the senders of the four most accurate solutions in order of merit. In addition there will be a number of consolation prizes for the next best entries. In the event of a tie, the prizes will be awarded to the entries displaying the neatest or most novel presentation, but it should be remembered that accuracy of solution will count first in the judging.

Entries should be addressed "Hidden Proverbs, Meccano Magazine, Binns Road, Liverpool 13," and should reach this office not later than 30th November.

There will be an Overseas section to this competition, open to readers living outside Great Britain and Ireland and the Channel Islands, and prizes of Meccano products of the same values as in the Home section will be awarded. Overseas entries must arrive not later than 28th February, 1938.

## November Drawing Contest

As announced in our last issue, we are holding this winter a series of drawing competitions that are open to readers of all ages. No special subjects are set, the monthly prizes being offered simply for the best drawings or paintings submitted during the month. The entries may be of any size to suit the competitor's preference.

The entries each month will be divided into the usual two sections, A for readers aged 16 and over, B for those under 16; and prizes of Meccano products to the value of $21 /-$ and $10 / 6$ will be awarded in each section. Entries in the November competition must be addressed "November Drawing Contest, Meccano Magazine, Binns Road, Liverpool 13," and must arrive not later than 30th November. There will be special sections for Overseas readers in which prizes of the same value as in the Home sections will be awarded. Overseas closing date 28th February, 1938.

Intending competitors are reminded that unsuccessful entries can be returned only if a stamped addressed cover is sent.

## Competition Closing Dates HOME

"Hidden Proverbs" Contest 30th November November Drawing Contest 30 th November overseas

## August Photo Contest ... 30th November August Crossword Puzzle 30th November September Photo Contest 31st December "Point Words"' Contest .. 31st December Hidden Advertisements

 Contest31st January, 1938 October Drawing Contest $\cdots \quad$ 31st January, 1938 "Hidden Proverbs" Contest 28th February, 1938 November Drawing Contest 28th February, 1938

## Watch the Closing Dates:

Competitors, both Home and Overseas, are particularly requested to make a careful note of the closing dates of the competitions. In sending entries to competitions that are divided into age groups, competitors should take particular care to mark their ages clearly on the back of the entry. It is not sumicient merely to indicate the age group, as age allowances are given to ensure equality of opportunity for the younger competitors.
Entries, other than prize-winning efforts, for photographic, drawing and similar competitions, will be returned to the competitors concerned if a stamped addressed wrapper is sent with the entry, and its return requested.

## COMPETITION RESULTS

## home

"Point Words" Contest.-1. B. A. Mitchell (Liverpool 4). 2. L. W. Chitty (West Wimbledon, S.W.20). 3. F. Mills (Kearsley). 5. J. C. Barton (Colchester). Consolation Prizes: R. Barnett (Birmingham); J. L. Consmation Prizes: R. Barnett (Birmingham); S.W.20); J. O. Gibson (Birmingham, 15); R. Hardyman (Wotton-Under-Edge); E. A. Lidgard (Lincoln); J. C. Smith (Bolton).

September Photo Contest.-First Prizes: Section A, A. Roe (Sheffield, 1); Section B, F. L. Atkins (St. Leonards-on-Sea). Second Prizes: Section A, C. M Sinclair (Glasgow, S.W.2); Section B, R. J. F. Phillips (London, N.21). Consolation Prizes: J. W. Billinge (Brighton, 6); A. B. Bishop (Bristol, 4); J. C. Cain (London, S.W.1); P. F. Crapman (St Leonards-on-Sea); F. Tномson (London, S.E.1).

## OVERSEAS

June Crossword Puzzle.-1. E. A. Bunt (Capetown, S. Africa). 2. W. S. Eagle (Bombay). 3. R. B. Latimer (Rangoon, Burma). 4. R. Myburgh (Claremont, S. Africa). Consolation Prize: D. I. Mitchell (Grenada B.W.I.).

June Photo Contest.-First Prizes: Section A, J. M. Demanuele (Valletta, Malta); Section B, R. Murray (Johannesburg, S. Africa). Second Prizes: Section A, Myburgh (Claremont, S. Africa). Consolation Prize: E. Bourgault (Manchoukuo).


## COME-COME!

A Chinese named Can-Cum was unable to go to work, so he asked his son to write a note to take to his place of employment.
His son wrote: "Can-Cum, can't come, will come, when can come.

Binks: "What is it that is so brittle that you have only to name it to break it?"
"I shall put you fellows in this room," said the host. "You'll have a comfortable night, for it has a featherbed."

At two o'clock in the morning one of the guests awoke.
"Change places with me, , Dick," he said, "it's my turn to be on the feather."
Customer: "I'm seeking something appropriate for a gift, something timely and striking.
Clerk: "Clock counter third on your left."
"Doctor, is there any danger of the operation proving fatal?"
"Really, my good man, considering that we are experimenting on you free of, charge, your idle curiosity is hardly good form.'

Bob: "What's the big idea? Last week you told me your father was in the lumber business. To-day you say he manufactures shoes. What is it?", Bill: "Both. He makes wooden shoes in Holland.
Bill: "Is Sam working yet?"
Jack: "Yes."
Bill: "Has he been working long?"
Jack: "About three weeks."
Bill: "What's he doing."
Jack: "Six months."
Policeman: "Why the speed? Are you late for an accident or in a hurry to see the judge."
"The dentist wasn't painless, mummy," said the little girl.
"Why, dear, did he hurt you?" asked her mother. "No. But he yelled when I bit his finger."
Diner: "I want some chicken, and the younger it is the better."
Waiter: "How about an egg, sir?"

## NO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Labourer's Wife (to village chemist): "You'll be suce to write plain on the bottles which is for the 'ore and which for me 'usband. I don't want nothin' to happen to the 'orse."
Manager (paying salary in very dirty notes): "I hope you are not afraid of microbes, Jones." Jones: "Oh, no, sir. I'm sure no microbes could live on my salary.'
the English tourist, "you have "I say," said the Engshis country of yours, Pat "Shure, of course," returned Pat, "there was so much land that we had to put it in heaps."

Professor: "Didn't I get my last haircut in this shop?" Barber: "I think not, sir; we've only been in business just over two years.'

At a Christmas party the little son of the house had just played his piece and his mother was beaming.
"Don't you think my son has talent?" she said to one of her visitors. "If you have a special wish, just name it. Georgie can do just what he likes with the piano.

Er-could he shut it?" asked the visitor.
"Didn't you tell me you'd rubbed down hundreds of horses?" growled the proprietor of the stables.
"So I have, guv'nor," said the temporary groom, "only we used to rub 'em dahn wiv sandpaper'fore they were painted.'

WELL, I NEPHYR!
A cow named the Burlington Zephyr, Was a speedy and reckless young hephyr;
When her owner drew near,
She kicked off his ear,
And now the poor farmer's much dephyr." ("The Railway Gasette.")
Basham: "If I had all the medals I won at boxing when I was a younger man, I could start a jeweller's
Misitt: "Ah, yes, and if I had all the ducks I got at cricket when I was a younger man I'd be owning the biggest poultry farm in the country."

## RECORDS


'Don't touch! Bertram, you mignt break something!'
(Courtesy of the "L.M.S. Magasine.")
Boy (to shopkeeper): "My mother says if you didn't make your holes in your muffins so large, they would be bigger.
Shopkeeper: "Ah, an' if your mother paid for all muffins she'd had, her bill would be a lot less.'

## Wigg: "Sandwich men seem to get very poor wages." Wagg: "Yes, but they do get their board thrown in."

A fellow has to be a contortionist to get on these days. First he has to keep hit Jack to the wall and his ear to the ground. Then he must put his shoulder to the wheel, his nose to the "rindstone, keep a level head and have both feet on the ground!
Master: "Well Smith, what is a tissue?"
Smith: "A sneeze, sir."
THIS MONTH'S HOWL.ER
Sheep is mutton covered with wool.

## NATURALLY

Customer (angrily): "Those apples you sold me
yesterday had a fishy taste."
Grocer: "Quite right. They were crab apples."
Diner: "Rastus, I ordered chicken soup. What's his you've brought me?"
Rastus: "Why, suh, dat's chicken soup."
Diner: "It may be chicken soup; but there's no chicken in it."
Rastus: "No, suh; but dey is no dog in dog biscuits either."

Judge: "Do you challenge any of the jury?"
Defendant: "Well, I think I can lick that little guy on the end."

## He: "I hope my visits are not disagreeable to youl"

 She (politely): "Not at all.'He: "I have sometimes thought that I worried you!"'
She: "Oh, no! No matter how gloomy I feel when you call I am always happy when you go!'
Sandy entered a shop where he had recently purchased a bicycle.
"It's about the bike," he said.
"Hasn't it arrived yet?"' asked the shopman "It has, said Sandy., "But where's that free wheel you spoke about?",
"Any empty soda or ginger-ale bottles to sell?" enquired the man at the back door.
"Do I look as though I drank that stuff?" asked the housewife, annoyed.
"Well, then," continued the man, "any vinegar bottles?"
Jack: "Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot to ask you to my picnic party to-morrow."
Jim: "Too late now. I prayed for a blizzard."
Magistrate: "Have you ever done anyone a good turn in "your life?" Worship, I've kept four
Prisoner: "Yes, your Wor detectives in regular employment for 10 years."
Amateur Gardener: "I don't seem to be able to tell my garden plants from weeds. How do to tell my garden pla
Old Farmer: "The only sure way is to pull 'em out. If they come up again, they're weeds."

## GOOD FOR BUSINESS

"Yes," said the stranger, "this hiking is a fine idea. Nothing pleases me better than to see crowds of people on the roads these days.

Do you hike yourself?"
'Oh, no, I'm a manufacturer of corn plasters!'"
Customer: ' 1 warn you, I sha'n't be able to pay for this suit for three months.

Tailor: "Oh, that's all right, sir. Don't worry."
"Thanks. When will it be ready?"
"In three months, sir."
Mr. Brown (who has fallen): "Don't cry Teddy, I'm not hurt. Teddy: "No, but my banana is; you're sitting on it.'
"Nature," said the philosopher, "always makes compensations. If one eye loses its sight the other becomes stronger. If one ear loses its hearing, the other becomes more acute,
"I believe you're right," said an Irishman. "I've always noticed that when a man has one short leg, the other is longer."

Martha, did you wash the fish before you baked it? 'Lor', mum, no! Wot's the use of washin' a fish wot's lived all 'is life in water?"
Father: "Why were you kept in at school?"
Mike: "I didn't know where the Azores were.
Father: "In future, just remember where you put things.

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", 54 R 42/6
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Illustration shows model 52GR. Retail price $24 / 6$ complete.

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