

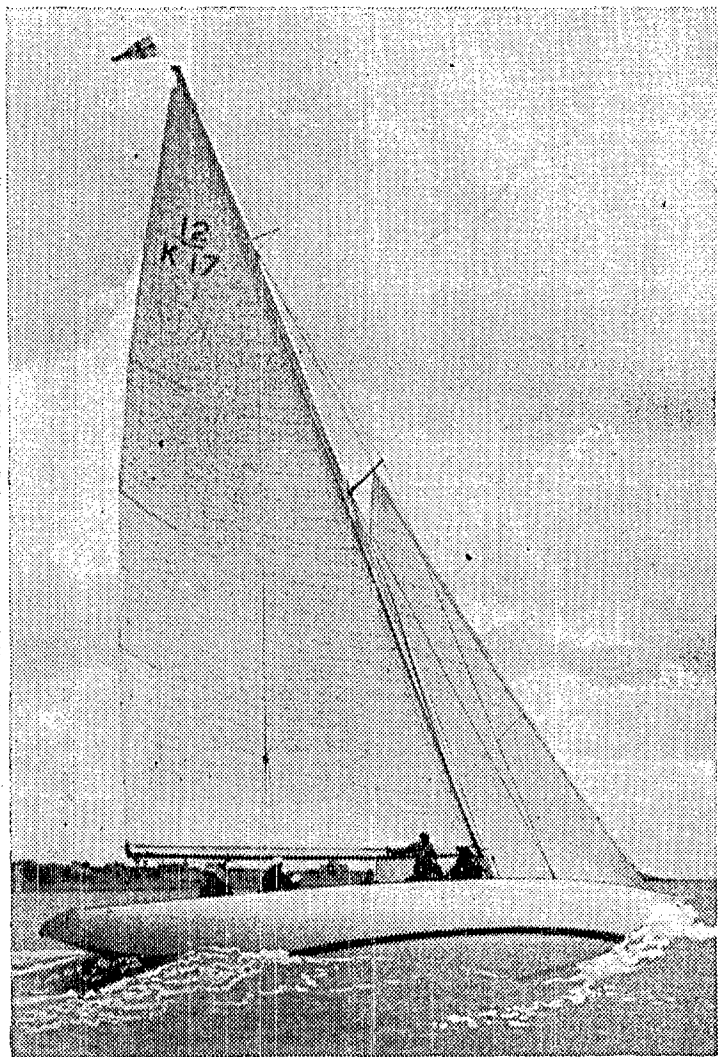
# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 2060, September 13, 1958

## THE CHALLENGE OF SCEPTRE



At the beginning of August the British yacht Sceptre was hoisted aboard the Cunard freighter Alsatia at Southampton—with all her 20 sails, spare mast, spars, and gear—and was shipped to the United States for her attempt to win back the America's Cup for Britain on September 20. It was the first time that a challenging yacht has not had to cross the Atlantic under her own sail, and for this reason British hopes of success are higher than they have been since America won the trophy 107 years ago.

SCEPTRE is a real racing machine; that is how she is described by American yachting expert Carlton Mitchell, who sailed in her during her trials. He also says that "She is lovely under the hand, easy to steer, showing not the slightest tendency to take charge."

In her British trials Sceptre did badly at the start. When Mr. Herbert Thom in Evaine beat her five times out of five, there was an immediate outcry that she was not the boat for the job; but

Sceptre was not fully tuned up at that time, and if the experienced Mr. Thom had been sailing the challenger, he would have probably beaten Evaine.

When Sceptre crosses the line against the American defender on September 20 at Newport, Rhode Island, it will be up to her crew. The yacht is fit for the job, but it will take perfect teamwork among the crew to win back the America's Cup.

The Americans have not yet decided which of their twelve-metre yachts will defend the Cup. Three yachts—Weatherly, Columbia, and Easterner—have been specially built for the event; and these three, together with a famous pre-war yacht, Vim, have been engaging in a series of eliminating races to decide which will meet Sceptre in the actual competition.

This eliminating competition has been giving the American crews "battle" training which the British crew cannot expect to get. On the other hand the Sceptre crew have been working together for months in British waters, and

## Towards safer cycling

The National Safe Cycling Campaign organised by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents continues to attract new entrants and there are now over 233,000 children who have passed the Cycling Proficiency Test, Glasgow heading the list with nearly 7000 successes.

The Safe Cycling Campaign is part of the great national effort to ensure that all young cyclists are able to ride efficiently.

Since it started, teachers, police, Road Safety officers, and cycling clubs all over the country have sponsored special courses at which practical training, films, and demonstrations have been given.

The number of entrants is increasing every month and it is hoped that eventually all young cyclists will take the Test.

### REAL ENTHUSIAST

One boy who has shown exceptional enthusiasm is John Nock of Warrington.

John did not turn up for one of the lectures and the instructing Police Inspector was told that John had broken his leg. Then he learned that it was John's artificial leg, the result of a railway accident, which was broken.

The inspector was so impressed by John's pluck in overcoming his disability that he told Group Captain Douglas Bader about him. Douglas Bader sent John a copy of his autobiography "Reach for the Sky," in which he wrote the message "Keep up the Good Work, Johnny, and good luck to you."

John certainly did so, for he was one of the 55 pupils of Evelyn Street School, Warrington, who recently received their Safe Cycling Awards from the Mayor.

will also have had about a month to tune up in America. They have also been able to practise racing in the waters where the race is to be held, the Americans having made the yacht Gleam available for this purpose.

It was in 1851 that the U.S. schooner America came across the Atlantic to compete for a silver trophy offered by the Royal Yacht Squadron. She won the trophy, then called the Queen's Cup, in an open competition round the Isle of Wight. In 1857 the trophy was renamed the America's Cup and presented to the New York Yacht Club. And despite 14 British attempts to regain the trophy, it has remained there ever since.

Next week Sceptre takes up the challenge, and British hopes run high that after all these years she will be able to bring back the America's Cup.

## Reaching out to the secrets of Mars

Man's attempt to send a rocket to the Moon ended in smoke a few weeks ago. It was the first of what the Americans call Lunar Probes. Four other attempts are to be made during the next few months, and indeed a second rocket is scheduled to be launched this weekend.

Meanwhile (writes a Science Correspondent), plans are being made to penetrate even farther into Space—to project a vehicle containing scientific instruments which will provide information about the planet Mars.

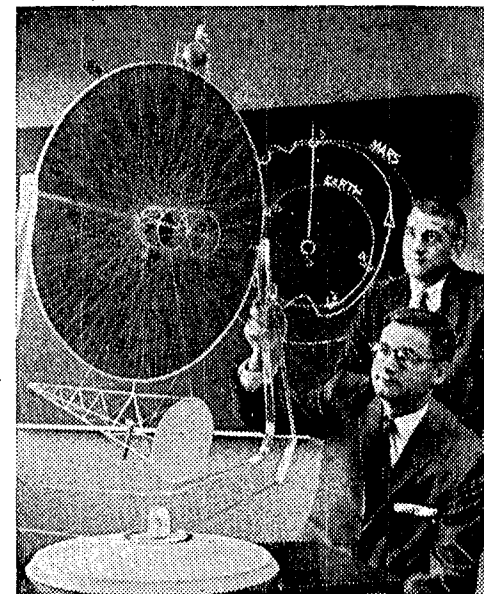
ALREADY there are man-made satellites circling our globe. Before long we may hear that a rocket has reached the Moon. And the day may not be far distant when manned satellites will be in orbit round the Earth.

Looking ahead to such a time, two American students, Richard White and Henry Hebel, recently described to the American Astronautical Society the kind of space vehicle which might explore the planet Mars.

The vehicle would be assembled on a manned satellite, and also launched from it. As it would be launched in frictionless space, the vehicle would not need to be a globe or a rocket. What is proposed, in fact, is a huge disc measuring about 40 feet across and weighing 600 lb. (Our picture shows the two scientists with a model of their proposed vehicle.)

Powered by atomic energy, the vehicle would surge through space at 10,000 miles an hour. Even so, a journey to Mars and back would take about three years, for at its nearest point to Earth the "red planet" is 34 million miles away.

Once on its way, the vehicle would be controlled automatically by an electronic brain set to carry out a pre-arranged sequence of manoeuvres. At frequent intervals the brain would check its course by the stars.



After the vehicle had hurtled through Outer Space for about 18 months, the electronic brain would put it into orbit round Mars.

Images received by radar telescope would be transmitted to Earth, together with scientific data from various recording instruments.

Mars has long held a special fascination for mankind. We know that it has an atmosphere and vegetation, and it is thought that it may support some form of life. Indeed, less than 50 years ago a well-known astronomer, Professor Lowell, was convinced that there were "canals" on the red planet and that they had been built by intelligent beings—Martians. Today his theory is held in some doubt, but the time may not be too far distant when we shall know for certain.

### Celia and her pets

Ten-year-old Celia Bagnall with her three pets—Bobtail the rabbit, Joey the tortoise, and Tommy the guinea-pig—which each won a first prize at a recent show held at St. Anne's Primary School, Virginia Water, Surrey.

