

AIR BOARD
TECHNICAL NOTES.

100 H.P. MONOSOUPAPE.

10 H.P. MONOSOUPE ENGINE.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION. This engine is of the rotary air cooled type with 9 cylinders, 110 m.m. by 150 m.m. developing 100 H.P. at 1200 R.P.M. As the name of the engine implies it has only 1 valve per cylinder, and this is situated in the cylinder head. It is fitted with a double thrust ball race, which enables it to be used either as a pusher or as a tractor. The engine works on the Otto or 4 stroke cycle, 2 revolutions of the engine giving 1 cycle (4 strokes) in each cylinder. Its chief points of difference from other rotary engines are.—

- (1) Absence of carburetter.
- (2) No inlet valves.
- (3) Inlet ports in cylinder walls.
- (4) Non-explosive mixture in the crankcase.

The engine revolves in the anti-clockwise direction as seen from the propeller end of the engine. As in the case of all rotary engines, it is made chiefly of steel for strength and lightness. The angle through which the engine turns between every 2 consecutive explosions is 80°.

Approx. oil consumption = 2 galls. per hour.
" petrol consumption = 10 galls. per hour.
" weight of engine = 300 lbs., i.e., 3 lbs. per H.P.

CRANKSHAFT. The crankshaft is made of chrome nickel steel. It is hollow and in 2 parts, a long end and a short end. As in all single line rotary engines, it has 1 throw. It is stationary and serves the following purposes;—

- (1) It provides a means of attaching the engine to the aeroplane.
- (2) It conveys oil to the working parts.
- (3) It conveys petrol to the crankcase.
- (4) It provides, in the crankpin, the fixed point against which the force of the explosion exerts itself in turning the engine.

CRANKCASE. The crankcase is made of 2 steel stampings riveted together by steel bolts and centred by dowel pins. It has 9 apertures disposed symmetrically around its periphery to accommodate the 9 cylinders, each of which is gripped tightly by the 2 parts of the crankcase and is prevented from rotating by a small key. It is not directly supported on the crankshaft, but carries on its faces plates or covers, known respectively as the cambox and the thrust box. The thrust box contains the main ball race and a self-aligning double

thrust race. The cambox contains the planet gears and campack which actuates the exhaust valves, and a ball race. The nosepiece which carries the propeller is mounted on the cambox.

CYLINDERS. The cylinders are numbered 1 to 8 successively in a clockwise direction as seen from the front end of the engine. The order of firing is 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 2. They are made of nickel steel machined from the solid. Each has an exhaust valve in the head and a series of ports around the base. The key referred to above is between 2 shoulders which are turned around the head of the cylinder. These together act as a means of fixing the cylinder in the crankcase.

PISTONS. The pistons are of cast iron with slightly concave heads. A portion of the trailing edge is cut away to clear the piston in the adjoining cylinder to clear. Each piston is fitted with an obturator ring in a groove around its top. A packing ring is fitted behind the obturator ring and in the same groove. A wipe ring which is made of cast iron is fitted in a groove situated just below the obturator ring. Each piston is fastened to its connecting rod by means of a steel gudgeon pin fixed in lugs on the underside of the head by means of a tapered set screw.

Piston clearance	= 0.2 m.m.
Wipe ring gap	= 0.5 m.m.
Obturator ring gap	= 1 m.m.
Packing ring gap	= 2 to 4 m.m.

CONNECTING RODS. The connecting rods are made of special alloy steel. There is 1 master connecting rod, to which the 8 auxiliary connecting rods are attached by means of pins. All the rods are of H-section and the auxiliary rods are bushed at both ends with phosphor bronze bushes. The master connecting rod big end runs on 2 ball bearings. The small end is bushed with phosphor bronze. In some cases a light steel pipe is fitted to each connecting rod which conveys oil from the big end to the gudgeon pin.

VALVES. The single valve in the cylinder head performs the following functions:—(a) It acts as an exhaust valve, so doing its temperature is raised. (b) It admits fresh air to the cylinder a quantity of air sufficient for the combustion of the charge entering later through the ports at the base of the cylinder. During this portion of the cycle it is cooled. The valve is mounted in a steel cage which also carries the

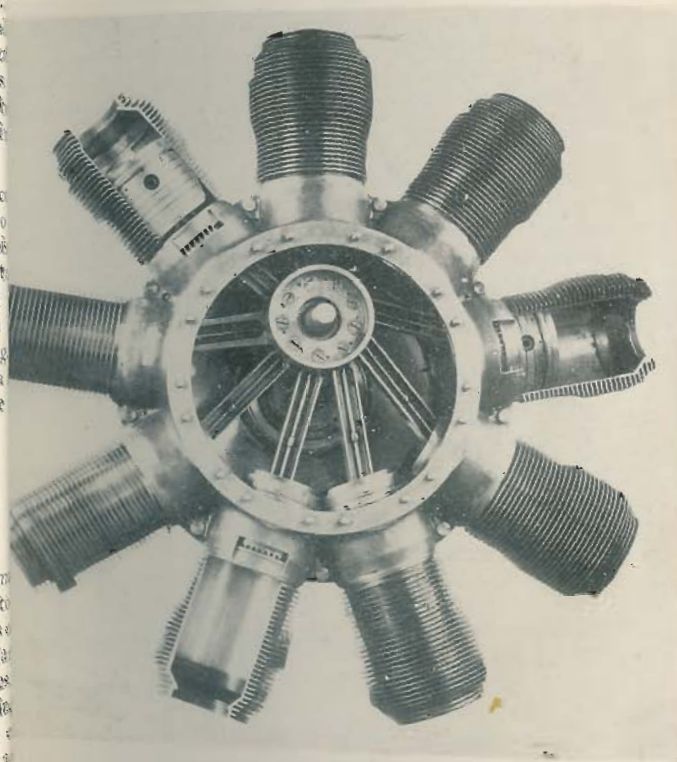
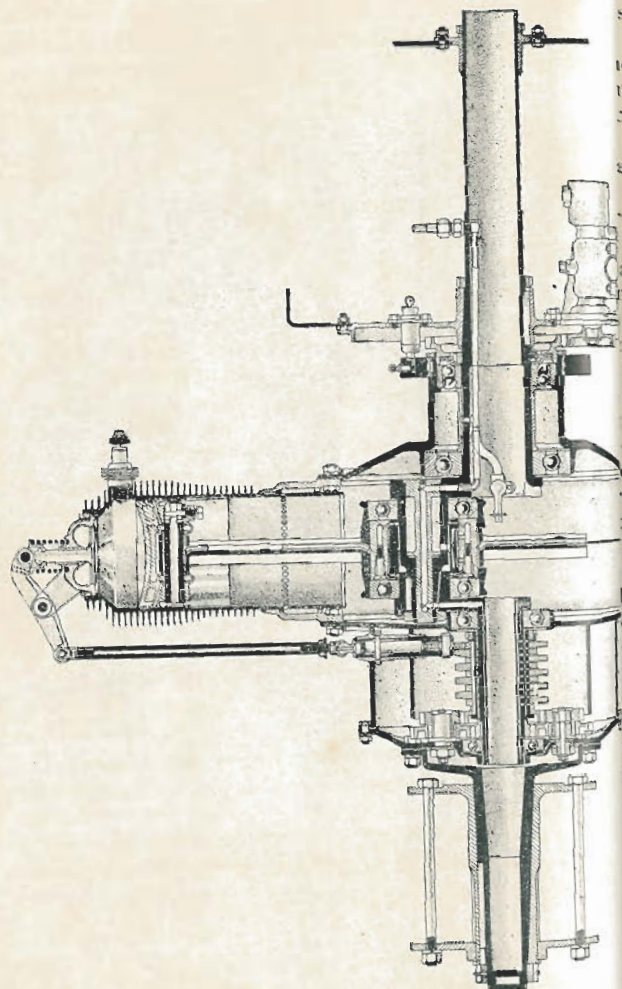


FIG. 1.



I.P. Monosoupape.

fulcrum pin, and is mechanically operated by means of a low steel tappet rod and steel rocker arm. The valve stem is in a cast iron bush at the centre of the cage which is in position by means of a locking ring screwed into the cylinder head. The valve is made heavier than is necessary for mechanical strength and is of such weight as to balance the centrifugal action of the tappet rod which would otherwise tend to keep the valve open. The valve spring consists of a coiled wire, the looped end of which engages the fulcrum pin and the midlength part of which is coiled around the fulcrum of the rocker arm. The free ends of the looped wire are held underneath a cross pin passing through the valve stem. In later type engines the valve spring is made spiral and presses the valve stem, taking its bearing against the valve stem and a detachable collar on the valve stem. The valves are operated by the campack which consists of 9 cams keyed to a bronze bushed sleeve rotating on the small end of the crankshaft. The cams operate the tappet rods which work on overhead rocker arms. Each tappet rod is formed of a straight rod and a rod jointed together. The tappet works in a slot in the cambox, and at its inner end is a roller which bears against the cam. The tappet rod extends from the cambox to the rocker arm of the exhaust valve, and is adjustable. The campack is driven at half the engine speed by planet gears, which are fitted on the inner face of the cover of the cambox. It must be remembered that the engine is running at twice the speed of the campack, so that the rollers at the ends of the tappet rods are overtaking the campack at half the time. This causes the tappet rods to be lifted as they pass over the cams and to thereby open the valves. The clearance between the rocker arm and the bottom of the slot in the valve stem, when the tappet roller is at the bottom of the cam, should be as follows:—

Engine cold = 0.5m.m.

In later type engines the rocker arm engages the valve stem by means of a roller which bears against the end of the stem.

MODE OF OPERATIONS. Starting with any cylinder on the C.C. and the exhaust valve open, the cylinder moves forward and drawing in pure air through the open exhaust valve until it is 45° before B.D.C. at which point the exhaust valve closes. The cylinder then moves forward creating a partial vacuum until it is 20° before B.D.C. At this point the ports at the base of the cylinder are uncovered by the piston and

rich petrol vapour enters from the crankcase, mixing
 air already there and forming an explosive charge.
 past B.D.C. the ports are again covered by the piston
 cylinder moves around to T.D.C. on compression
 Ignition occurs 20° before T.D.C. and the cylinder
 forward on the power stroke until it is 90° past T.D.C.
 the exhaust valve opens and remains open thro
 remainder of the cycle.

Admission of pure air	0° to 135°	} = 2 Re
Partial vacuum	- - 135° to 155°	
Admission of rich gas	155° to 200°	
Compression	- - - 200° to 360°	
Power stroke	- - - 0° to 90°	
Exhaust stroke	- - - 90° to 360°	

VALVE TIMING. Set any cylinder, for example
 exhaust closing position, i.e., 60° before B.D.C. To
 position set No. 4 cylinder vertically upright. Set
 rod clearance, and turn the campack anti-clockwise
 cam is just about to lift the tappet rod. Then mesh
 gears. Set the remaining tappet rod clearances an
 the valve closing positions for each cylinder, i.e., 60°
 before B.D.C. These instructions refer to a cold
 The diagram refers to the actual cycle of operations
 engine is hot.

IGNITION TIMING. Set any cylinder, for exam
 in ignition position, i.e., 20° before T.D.C. on com
 stroke. To get this position set No. 5 cylinder
 downwards. Turn the magneto so that the points
 breaking and mesh the magneto driving gear.
 distributor to the plugs. The timing of the engine
 completed.

MAGNETO. The magneto is mounted on the fac
 backplate remote from the engine. Its driving sp
 jects through the backplate and carries a small sp
 which is driven by a large wheel keyed to the
 casing. The gear ratio is 4 to 9, i.e., the magneto
 makes 9 revolutions to 4 of the engine, and as the
 gives 2 sparks per revolution there will be 9 spa
 revolutions of the engine during which period each
 will have completed 1 cycle. The current is conve
 the magneto in the following manner:—From the ma
 current passes by a high tension wire to an insulat
 holder fitted on the backplate. A sensitive spring
 carbon brush in the brush holder in contact

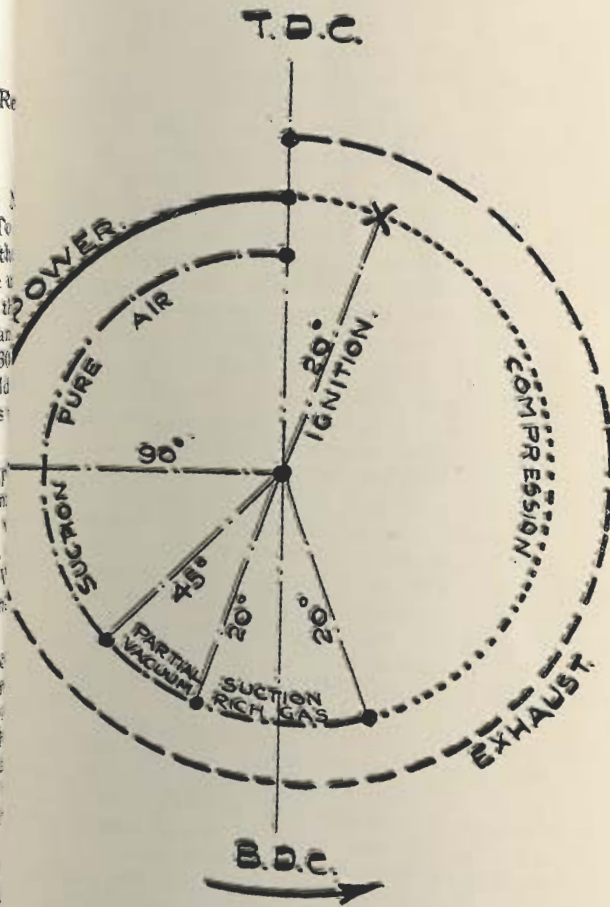


FIG. 3.

distributor which is mounted on the outside of the box. The current is then taken from the segments distributor to the sparking plugs through thin brass. The distributor revolves with the engine, and its function ensure that the current generated by the magneto reach cylinders in proper sequence.

CARBURATION. The carburation system of this is very simple. Petrol is pressure fed from a tank through main petrol tap and a fine adjustment valve into a copper pipe inside the crankshaft, and issues into the crankcase which is situated in the hollow big end of the crankshaft. On some engines a small amount of air enters the crankcase through the leading open end of the crankshaft and is drawn in vapourising the spray of petrol from the jet. The carburation is further assisted by the churning action of the connecting rods and the heat of the engine. The petrol is drawn from the crankcase through ports in the base of the cylinders when these ports are uncovered by the piston towards the end of the suction stroke.

LUBRICATION. This is by pressure and centrifugal force combined. There are two leads, "C" and "B," equal in capacity. "C" LEAD. The oil is pressure fed from the pump through a copper pipe inside the crankshaft, and about one-third of the supply goes through a branch into the thrust box, oiling the thrust ball race and main engine ball race. The surplus oil flows into the crankcase through holes drilled for this purpose and passes on to the cylinder walls through the ports in the base of the cylinder. The main supply of oil passes up the crankweb through a hollow plug in the centre of the crankpin, down the short end crankweb into the crankcase, from whence it is carried by a series of holes to the camshaft. The oil then passes through grooves in between the cams and is thrown centrifugally into the interior of the cambox, lubricating the cams, cam followers, tappets, planet gear wheels, and the cambox and the ball races. The oil then overflows back into the crankcase and passes on to the cylinder walls as in the case of the "C" lead. Some of the oil also passes from the thrust box to the hollow tappet rods to the rocker arm pins.

"B" LEAD. The oil is pressure fed from the pump through a second copper pipe inside the crankshaft, and flows into the long end crankweb into an annular space around a brass plug in the long end crankpin and out of holes in the balls to 2 grooves or channels cut in the ends of the

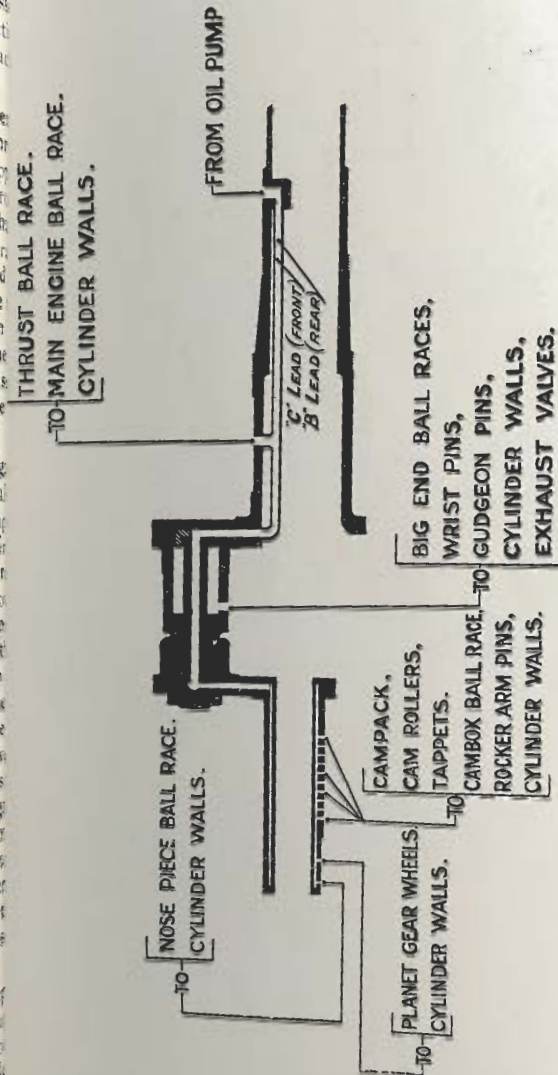


FIG. 4.

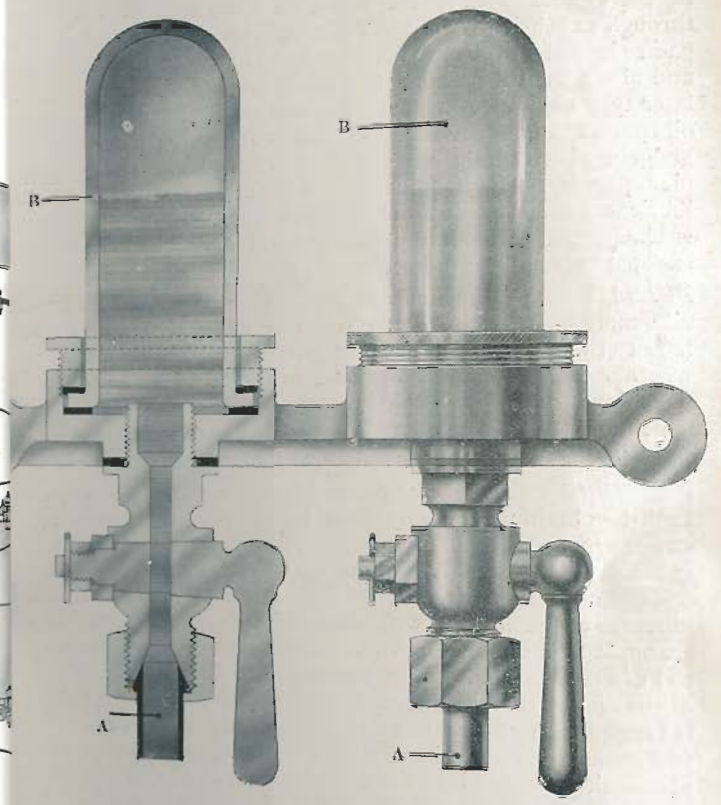
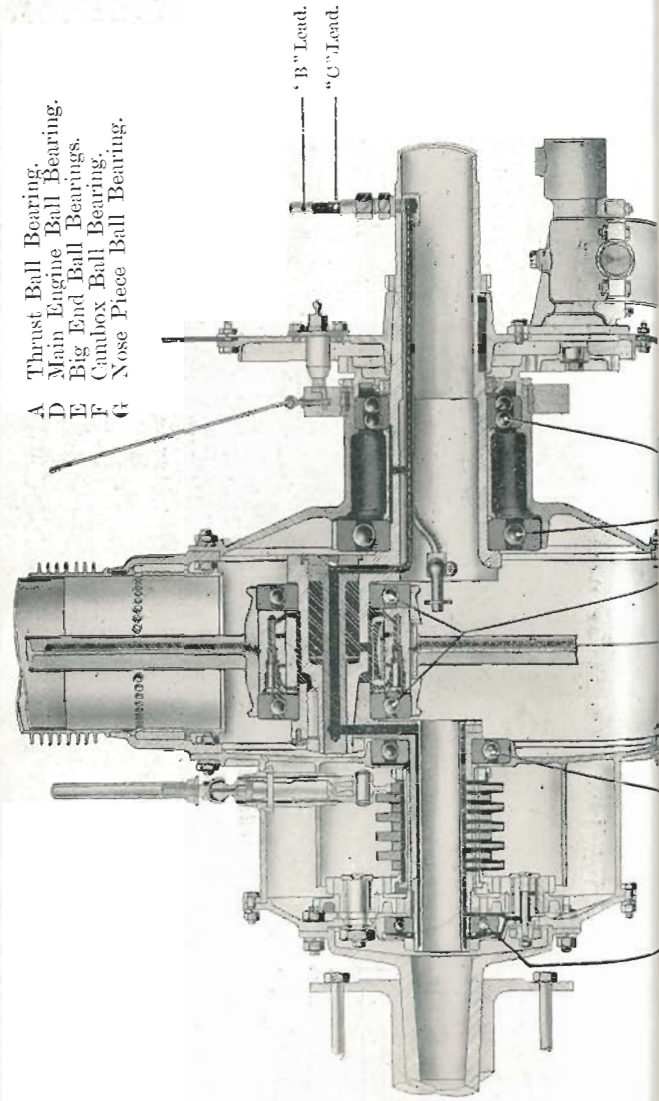


FIG. 6.

- A Branches from Oil Delivery Pipe between Pump and Crankshaft.
- B Sight Feed Glasses.

The Sight Feed Glasses are half filled with air and each stroke of Pump Plungers is indicated by a Pulsation.

of the master connecting rod big end. Holes are drilled in these grooves to each wrist pin and the wrist pins are drilled to correspond with these holes, so that the oil may pass through to lubricate the wrist pin bushes. From these tubes passes into steel tubes (which are fixed to the connecting rods) and along the tubes, oiling the gudgeon pins and bushes. In later type engines, the steel tubes are dispensed with, and the oil passes along the face of the connecting rods to the gudgeon pins and bushes. The overflow from the gudgeon pins passes through holes in the side of the pistons, lubricates the rings and the cylinder walls. The surplus oil is blown out through the exhaust valve and lubricates the exhaust valve guide and stem.

PULSATORS. Branches are taken from the "B" and "C" oil supply pipes before they enter the crankshaft, and lead to the pulsator glasses, the purpose of which is to see whether the oil pump is working properly. The number of pulsations per minute is also a measure of the engine speed which may be calculated as follows:—

$$\text{R.P.M. of engine} = \text{Pulsations per minute} \times 11.1$$

PRESSURE PUMP. The pump for forcing air into the petrol tank to obtain a pressure feed is of the reciprocating stroke type. The pump is composed of a casing forming a crankcase in which is mounted a small crankshaft and worm and worm wheel drive; and a cylinder in which is mounted a piston fitted with piston rings and connected to the crankpin by a connecting rod. The worm drive is geared to 1 of the crankshaft, and 9 to 4 of the engine; 5.3 revolutions of the engine therefore give 1 delivery of air. The cylinder is formed with cooling fins and has automatic non-return and exhaust valves in its head. On the down stroke of the piston air is sucked into the cylinder past the inlet valve; on the upstroke of the piston the air in the cylinder is compressed and forced past the exhaust valve which has a connection by tubing to the petrol tank. The pressure pump is mounted on the engine backplate between the oil pump and the magneto and below the engine crankshaft and is driven from the same large wheel.

OIL PUMP. The oil pump is similar to that used on the Gnome engine, excepting that the bore of the 2 pumps is the same, 12 m.m. The worm drive is geared 25 to the pump camshaft, and 9 to 4 of the engine. The oil pump is mounted on the engine backplate opposite to the magneto and is driven from the same large wheel.

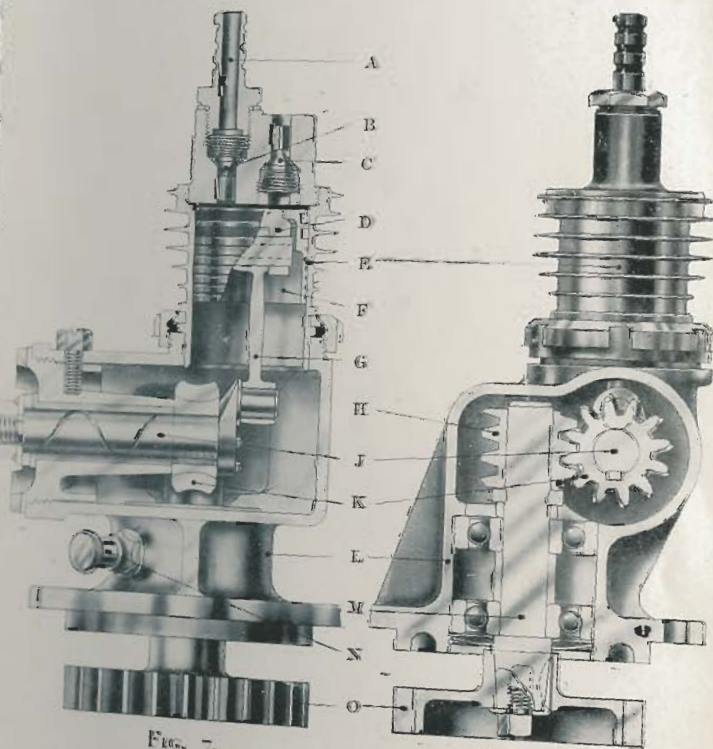


FIG. 7.

FIG. 8.

- A Connection to Petrol Tank.
- B Non-Return Discharge Valve.
- C Non-Return Inlet Valve.
- D Cross-head.
- E Cylinder.
- F Piston.
- G Connecting Rod.
- H Worm.

- J Crankshaft.
- K Wormwheel.
- L Crankcase.
- M Driving Shaft.
- N Lubricator.
- O Pinion Driven by Wheel on Engine Thrust Box Casing.