EIGHT-MILES-FOR-A-PENNY CYCLE

Egg-cup size engine gives 20mph

By COURTENAY EDWARDS

BRITAIN'S smallest, quietest, and cheapest motor - cycle took me along yesterday at 20 m.p.h. Its tiny 25 c.c. engine—no bigger than an egg-cup—was using petrol at the rate of 300 miles to the gallon. That means eight miles for a penny.

A pint beer bottle in your picnic haversack would hold a "fuel" reserve sufficient for 35 miles.

They call it the Cyclemaster, and it is the latest contribution to the vogue of power - assisted cycling.

It is simply a motorised wheel which can be fitted to any pedal bicycle. You take out your ordinary rear wheel and fit this "magic wheel" in its place. It takes only 20 minutes.

Chain drive

It costs £25, and because it ranks as an accessory is free from purchase tax. The whole thing, including two-stroke engine and 2½-pint petrol tank, fits neatly around the hub, and weighs only 20lb.

Most "clip on" cyclemotors drive one of the wheels by a friction roller, working on the tyre. In the Cyclemaster chains transmit power to the clutch and then to the wheel.

I tried out the "magic wheel" yesterday at Hayes, Middlesex, where they are being built at the E.M.I. factory for Cyclemaster, Ltd.

No fuss

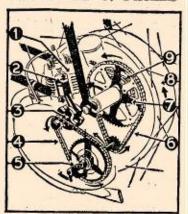
After pushing the pedals round two or three times in the ordinary way, I released the clutch lever on the handlebar and the tiny 1-h.p. engine started instantly.

It purred away without fuss at nearly 4,000 revolutions a minute as I opened the throttle lever, and I was soon bowling along at 20 m.p.h.

An official said: "Our schedule calls for a production rate of 300 a day by the end of the year. They will be sold by both garages and cycle shops."



HOW IT WORKS



And here's the key to the diagram:
1, Cylinder stationary; 2, Piston
goes up and down; 3, Crankshaft
revolves; 4, Chain drive to clutch;
5, Clutch-operating mechanism; 6,
Chain to main drive; 7, Main drive
to wheel-drum; 8, Wheel-drum
revolves; 9, Ordinary chain from
pedals.