



POWER AND PEDAL

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Comment

by

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The Tailwind

I was sorry to hear recently of the death of Mr. John Latta as he was one of those interesting and constructive personalities who not only gets ideas but does something about them.

It must have been about seven years ago that he walked into our office and announced that the hills in the Tring area where he lived were too much for any of the attachment engines available and that he therefore proposed to try out an arrangement of two-diameter roller drive to provide a variable gear system. He actually built three engines used, I believe, by himself, his daughter and an engineering friend and they competed successfully in one of the early A.C.U. Cyclemotor Rally events at the Crystal Palace.

The engine was a front wheel driver and the "gear change" was effected by sliding the whole unit from side to side to get the desired diameter of roller in contact with the tyre. The *Tailwind*, as it was called was never marketed but the simple and efficient idea might yet be used in some modified form.