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The Bicycle

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where none in sight a hill the rides I've had this year.

STRANGE CYCLING INVENTIONS

A VERY "RECUMBENT" MACHINE

A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Public schoolboy whiled away the time when he was placed in quarantine owing to his brother developing chicken-pox, by making a novel recumbent bicycle. He is Michael Wedgwood Benn, Westminster schoolboy and son of Captain Wedgwood Benn, an ex-Cabinet Minister, and lives at Southminster, Essex.

The "Bed-bike"

The lad calls his machine a "bed-bike," and made it from the frame of an ice-cream tricycle. He reversed the steering of the tricycle, made a seat of an old chair top, and thoroughly enjoyed himself in his workshop while his unlucky brother was in bed. Michael's "bed-bike" has front-wheel drive, and back-wheel steering, but the position of the rider is not quite so horizontal as on most recumbent machines, and certainly looks as if it is more comfortable.

When the great day came for the trial run, the young inventor suffered a terrible blow, for he developed chicken-pox himself! A few days in bed, however, and he was off for the first ride. The spectacle

of this young man—complete with "topper"—on such a weird machine, proved too much for the village lads at Southminster, who greeted him with a shower of stones, but that didn't worry young Michael.

The longest journey he has done on his "bed-bike" is twenty miles. Now, alas, he's thinking of fitting a motor-engine to his machine.

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