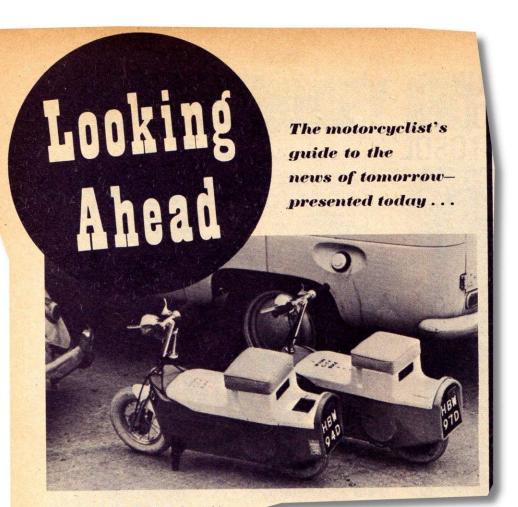
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silent city cycle Good ideas or gimmicks? That depends on what plans are ahead to ease traffic congestion in built-up areas. If there are people who don't mind taking their chances with a horrid mass of London taxis, buses and commuter traffic and who have £95 to spend maybe the Winn city bike is a good idea.

The bikes have a glass-fibre body which covers an electric motor and a 12 volt car battery. There is a built-in charger which plugs into the ordinary house mains overnight. This will charge the bike for a run of up to 20 miles with a top speed claimed as 30 mph.

It's certainly a well-built little bike but you just can't help comparing it with the Honda Monkey bike with its four-stroke engine. The Monkey bike sells for £89 and covers 150 miles on a gallon. These little bikes could well become the commuter vehicles of tomorrow but there is going to have to be a big price cut first.

