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RECORD ORDERS FOR BRITISH TOYS

At Birmingham, the Toy Fair beats the big drum for British ingenuity and manufacturing skill. Here's one for Mr. Strachey - inevitably doomed to coming nationalisation. But as most exhibits are for expert only, it's the kids who really suffer. Over a hundred British toy firms contributed, and 60,000 overseas buyers are expected. Record orders are pouring in.

The walking doll - sister to another which sings and reads the news - does everything bar the washing-up. It's so human it's frightening.

For budding virtuosos there's a 2-foot baby grand. £25, but expert only. Miniature piano - midget motor. The Minicar, one-and-a-quarter horse-power, three-wheeler produced by Preston designer Lawrence Bond, takes the road at a farthing-a-mile. Britain's cheapest car (just under £200) has 4,000 overseas orders already lined up. It packs a single-cylinder, 2-stroke engine mounted on the front wheel. Top speed 50, a hundred miles to the gallon. Would you like it wrapped, or will you carry it?