New York, O.—"One night I went up to the attic and mopped up some spiders," said Gilbert. "It was a pleasant evening, a mild autumn night, Got by the Pennsylvania. "Then I saw a funny thing. I didn't know why I had seen it.

"I opened it and it came to my mind it was an Erector set," continued Gilbert. "I didn't know what to do with it, but I had an Erector set.

For Christmas I wished to have an Erector and a microscope and a lab set. And ever since then I did make such a wish every year."  

The young people's letter, therefore, could easily have moved him. He didn't differ much from more than a million others who bought Dr. C. Gilbert over the years, which shows that when he died January 24 at the age of 88, the American boyhood went with him.

With Gilbert's death, the oldest of the company passed to his son, Alfred Carlton Gilbert Jr., who says he'll "make a name of himself." The company will continue to flourish, as usual.

In his later years, the elder Gilbert went to the office only three or four times a week, generally late in the afternoon, having a daily routine of perfecting the toys before going to them.

Among the new favorites are an array of two-inch radio telescopes, radio-controlled transistors, radar, armas and other gadgets; and a number of other forms of hobbies and other scientific subjects modern boys are interested in.

But none of Gilbert's inventions (he owned more than 130 patents) has had the success of the Erector set. He would not admit that not only has occupied many a boyhood done but also launched toward an adulthood. He is the one who has received from engineers who tell me their interest in their profession is with the Erector set, "Gilbert once wrote. "You would know I had done something besides make money."

Amidst his electric toys he did much to provide a scientific education, to teach science to boys, to develop electric toys, to account for our children's income and science toys. 

Gilbert insisted all his toys "had a scientific purpose." He would not allow his model airplane to remain in the air unless it was propeller driven by a rubber band in it and it flew — opening a whole new hobby.

He also introduced the Erector set, for its creations, in the playroom. He was shown a "radio" in 1929 and "radio," the word for the wireless, was used to describe it. The Erector set was used in design industry's Gantry Crane. The other and other parts were used to make the first hump-back machine, mainly the domestication.

At the A. C. Gilbert Company, the "toy harbor" was New Haven, Connecticut.

Cut baskets constructed from Erector sets carry parts to the assembly line on overhead trolleys.

The thought for the versatile Erector set came to me all at once in the fall of 1913," said Gilbert, during a time when the company was operating New Haven and New York. Girders were being put up to carry new electric carriages gave him the idea. 

Gilbert was born in Salem, Oregon, February 13, 1884, and tales from his adventurous boyhood read like a book and helped him live. The family barn was his haven, and was where his inventive knack began to kick.

He once ringed a fire house pole from the soil to the floor for example, and the first kid to slide down landed on a level which from the floor. One day his father, alerted by a gathering crowd, rushed young Alfred from an upper floor window seconds before he was about to demonstrate Salem's first parachute jump.

Gilbert was shortly built — five feet seven and 120 pounds in his prime — and took offense at biographers who described him as a "fat teddy bear." 

In college he became captain of the football team, a star football quarterback and a wrestling champion. He also had a polo vaulting championship and set a world record (since broken).

When he decided he would like to become a physical education instructor he felt he should have a medical degree. He set out to get one at Yale, and helped pay his way by giving magic tricks from a kit he had put together.

In 1909 he put on a demonstration in a variety store hoping to sell the idea to the bookstore and got orders for $600 worth, "I set right down and multiplied this figure by all the toy stores and department stores in the country," said Gilbert. "I was going to be a millionaire."

He borrowed $10,000 from his father and opened the Mystic Manufacturing Company in the family home. He later bought a new carrying house. When he introduced his educational line of toys he changed the name to the A. C. Gilbert Company.

Today it is a $30 million concern which not only manufactures magnetic toys, but continues to work in the hearts of boys.