It is a regrettable fact that many of the great present-day multiplication of toys for children appeal to the merely inquisitive and destructive senses, and dull rather than satisfy or stimulate the creative and imaginative side of child nature. This is quite generally recognized to be true, yet the output of devices for juvenile use constantly increases, while there are comparatively few additions to the small group of manufactured playthings which really contribute to wholesome and natural development and afford a satisfying form of amusement. In this group building blocks form one of the oldest and most elementary forms of games, and their appeal to children is universal. Their possibilities are, however, restricted, because the blocks will not stay together in structures unless they are supported directly on top of each other, and the structures cannot be moved about. This permits the child to exercise his ingenuity only partially, and the limitation upon what he can conceive and would like to do is often keenly disappointing and causes ambitious children to abandon a game in which there is so little scope for their faculties.

It is my purpose to give the game of building blocks the range that children naturally desire and which will make it a complete entertainment and occupation. I have conceived a plan of putting these blocks together by a means representing mortar but of different properties from mortar, cement, glue, putty, or the like. This means is, specifically, a non-hardening, adherent but not sticky plastic, that is to say, one in which cohesion is greater than adhesion, which will hold the blocks together, and which can be parted therefrom cleanly when the structures are taken down. I do not limit myself to the particular composition of the plastic bond. Materials suitable for the purpose are available in the form of re-usable plastics for modeling, which are on the market. While these products are familiar I believe that I am the first to discover their applicability in connection with toy building blocks or bricks for constructional purposes.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof:
- Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the toy, boxed;
- Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the unit-size block which I preferably employ;
- Fig. 3 is a perspective of a double-length block;
- Fig. 4 is a perspective of a half-size brick or bat;
- Fig. 5 is a perspective of a square block or tile, all of these blocks being preferably of equal thickness, and the tile being the square of the length of the unit-size block;
- Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a stick of the plastic;
- Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a cardboard reinforcement strip that may be included in various sizes in the set;
- Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing two of the unit-size bricks united by the bond face to face;
- Fig. 9 is a similar view showing the bricks stuck together end to end; and
- Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a toy house structure built from the blocks and the bond.

For the purpose of the invention the blocks should be quite small and light, of wood, fiber or light composition. By way of illustration, dimensions of about an inch and a quarter by eleven-sixteenths by three-eighths are suitable for the unit-size block or brick, and the others in proportion. The few different forms shown have been chosen as affording considerable scope for the building operations at as little manufacturing expense as possible. The forms may, however, be somewhat varied, and others may be added. There may be special forms for doors, windows, arches, etc., and glass pieces of congruous shape may be used for glazed openings.

A set of the blocks, marked 1, 1', 1", are shown in Fig. 1 packed in a box 2, which also contains a compartment for one or two sticks 3 of the plastic. The plastic bond in Figs. 8, 9 and 10 is marked 3'.

Cardboard reinforcements or beams, such as shown at 4 in Figs. 7 and 10, may be pro-
vided for incorporation in the structures at places where the non-setting bond may not have sufficient sustaining power.

A great variety of houses, bridges, walls, forts, stairways, and many other structural and architectural edifices can be made with the toy as the child's ingenuity develops.

What I claim as new is:

Building models composed of building blocks and a non-hardening adherent plastic in which cohesion is greater than adhesion adapted to hold the blocks together and to be parted cleanly therefrom when the structures are taken apart.

HARRIETTE ENSLEY HODGSON.