CHAPTER XI

The Body and Coachwork

General—Washing and Polishing—Doors—Seat Slides—Upholstery and Carpets—Sliding Roof—Luggage and Spare Wheel Compartments —Tools.

General.

The following instructions apply only to the body as manufactured and fitted by Messrs. Bentley Motors (1931) Ltd., owners of cars fitted with special bodies should be guided by the coachbuilders' instructions.

The standardised saloon body on the Mark VI chassis is constructed entirely of pressed steel, and, possessing great strength and rigidity with minimum weight, ensures the greatest stability of body and chassis combined with maximum resistance to accidental damage.

Large doors permit quick and easy access to the driver's and passengers' compartments, the interior upholstery being of fine quality hide.

For the car to look well and retain its beauty and smart appearance, the coachwork must receive its share of attention and should never be neglected.

Washing and Polishing.

The cellulose finish of the car is easily cleaned and polished. It is inadvisable to polish the car without first washing down with a chamois leather and plenty of clean running water, as dry cleaning off, no matter how clean the cloth, will tend to produce surface scratches on the paintwork.

Tar should be removed with a grease solvent, while a light application of petrol will remove grease marks.

This petrol must be lead-free and dried off immediately.

Cleaning of movable windows by means of hosing should be avoided as this invites the collection of water inside the doors which may take some time to dry out.

After washing, chromium plated parts should be dried off with a damp chamois leather.

A recommended polish is "Belco No. 7", although other body polishes of known quality may be used in accordance with the instructions on the containers.

Under no circumstances should any polishing compound containing ammonia be used.

Doors.

The door lock bolts and hinges should receive periodical attention with oil "A". Every 10,000 miles, as directed on page 33, the hinge plate (see Fig. **49**) should be removed and the slides carefully oiled.

The window winding mechanism should need no attention for a very considerable period as this is amply provided with lubricant upon assembly.

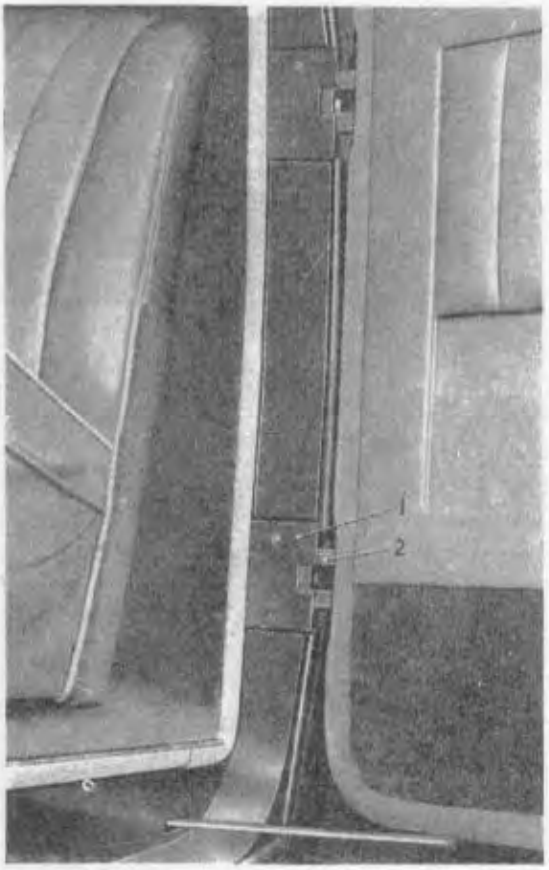

Fig. 49.—DOOR HINGES.
1. Hinge plate. 2. Slide.

Seat Slides.

Occasionally check the securing screws for tightness, and apply sparingly a little grease to the runners to ensure smooth operation.

Upholstery and Carpets.

In general the leather upholstery has an impermeable surface, and to keep it clean and fresh looking, we recommend that the leather should occasionally be treated with a preparation known as "Connolly's Hide Food".

Floor carpets should be removed and cleaned with a vacuum cleaner, and any stains or grease marks removed with a clean cloth moistened in a solvent such as "Drik". This solvent can be used to advantage particularly on the head cloth, which should receive periodical attention similar to the carpets and the other upholstery

Sliding Roof.

Occasionally inspect the side channels of the roof to make sure that the drain holes are clean.

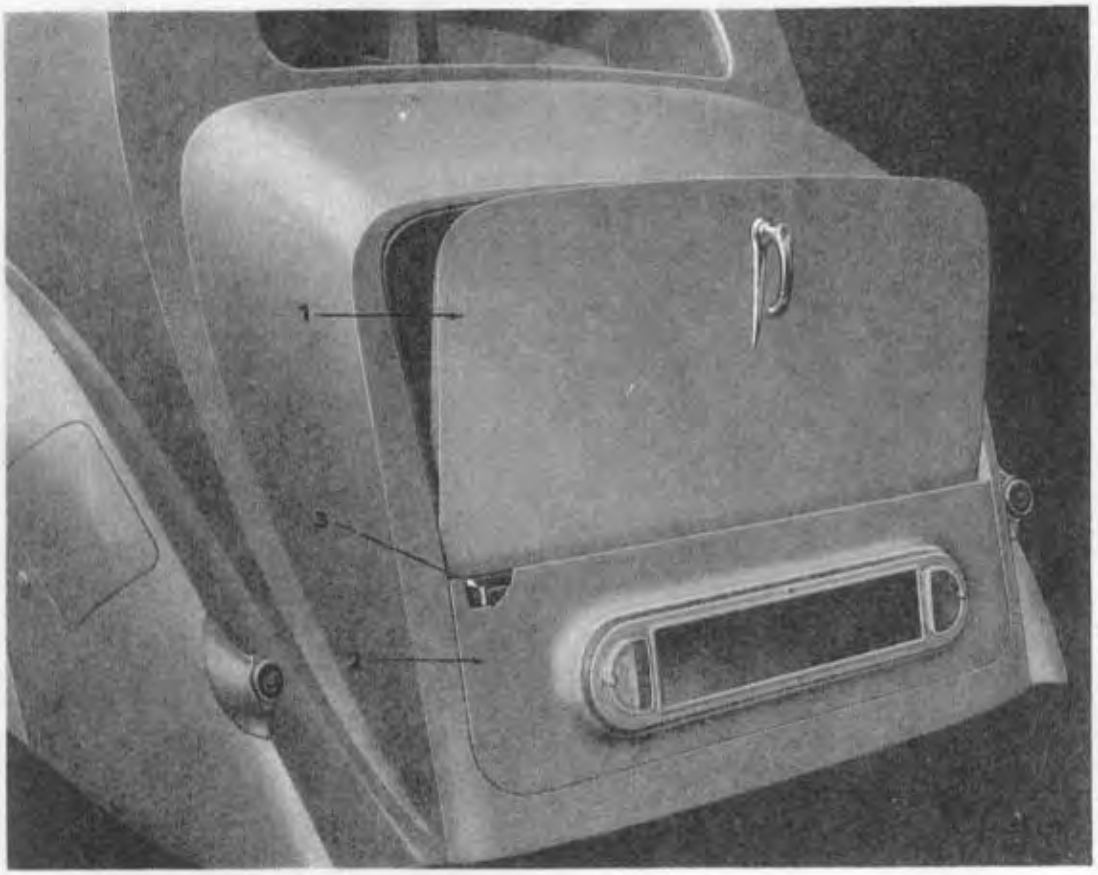

Fig. 50.—SPARE WHEEL COMPARTMENT.

1. Door to luggage boot.
2. Spare wheel and tool compartment.
3. Operating catch.

Luggage and Spare Wheel Compartments.

Ample luggage space is provided, and the spare wheel is carried in a separate compartment below, as illustrated in Fig. **50**.

To gain access to the spare wheel compartment, firstly, open the luggage boot approximately corresponding to the position in Fig. **50**. Secondly, insert the left hand into the slot below the door and operate the catch. Pull the lower door outwards, and then close the luggage boot. Thirdly, with both hands, lift and pull forward the spare wheel compartment door, which may then be lowered to rest on the hinges.

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Tools.

An adequate set of tools is supplied with each car, the "small" tools being carried in a fitted tray in the tool drawer under the dash. (See Fig. 1.)

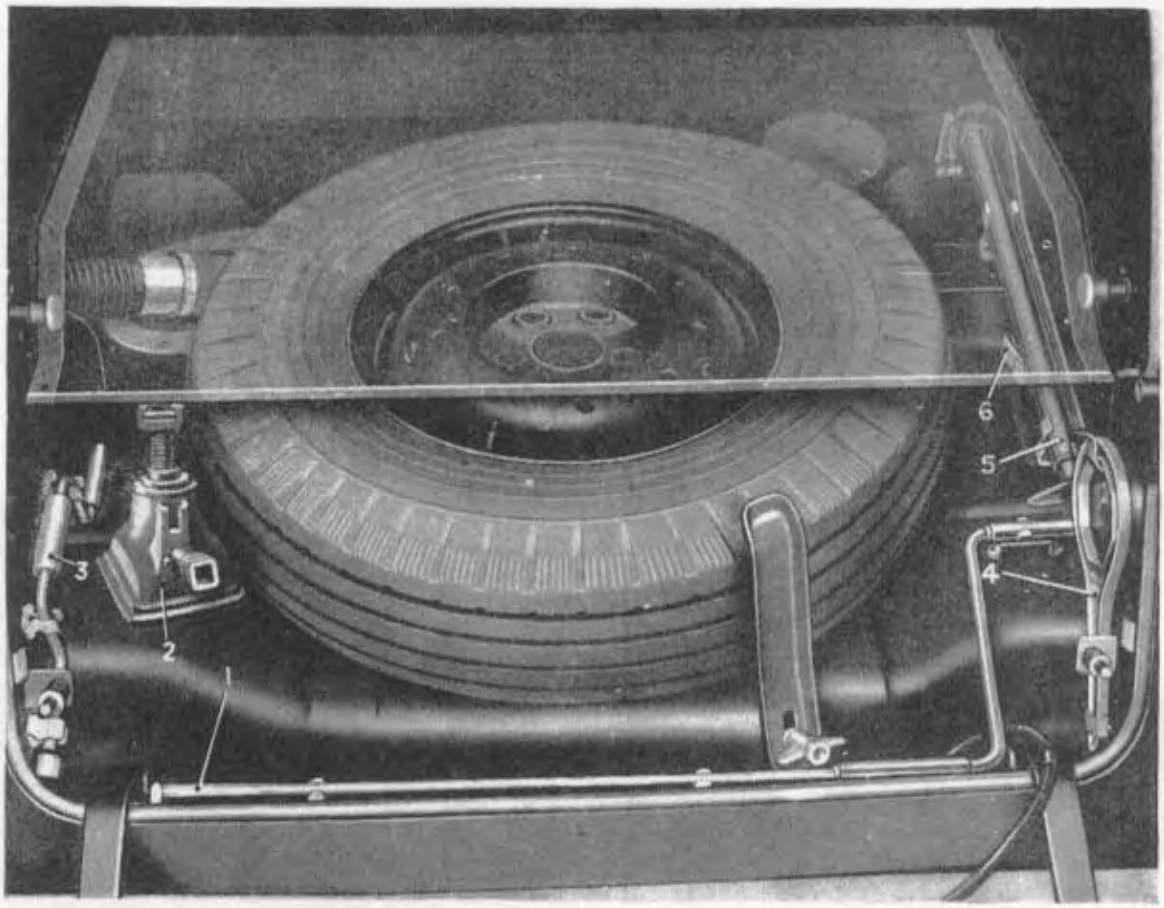

Fig. 51.—SPARE WHEEL AND TOOL COMPARTMENT.

1. Jack handle.
2. Lifting jack.
3. Wheel brace.
4. Wheel disc spanner.
5. Tyre pump.
6. Tyre levers.

The larger tools being carried in the spare wheel compartment, as illustrated in Fig. 51.