Answer #236

The answer is (d), or maybe (e), depending on how well you hear such musical things. Click your mouse on the photograph below to hear the result.

The number of teeth in the wheels, right to left, is in the ratio 4:5:6:8, which is the frequency ratio of the notes in a major chord, such as the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th harmonics of the overtone series, shown in the figure below.

A certain amount of noise accompanies the tones, because of the way in which they are produced, as can be easily heard on the video.
Lecture-Demonstration Home Page

For questions and comments regarding the Question of the Week contact Dr. Richard E. Berg by e-mail or using phone number or regular mail address given on the Lecture-Demonstration Home Page.