



Chess Life



Volume II,
Number 11

Official Publication of The United States Chess Federation

Thursday,
February 5, 1948

Doctor Prescribes Chess As Tonic

CHESS KNOCKS AT HOSPITAL AND GAINS HEARTY WELCOME

Herman Kiefer Hospital In Detroit Finds Chess Ideal For Confined Patients

By Oscar Balchum, M.D.

The royal game of chess has acquired quite a following at Herman Kiefer Hospital, Detroit. There are about sixty patients at this tuberculosis hospital who are now playing by the postal method, sending their moves by mail. Many more are interested, and are now able to begin to learn the game because boards and books have been made available recently. Reverend Otto Turk and the Lutheran Ladies' Mission Society of Detroit lately donated twelve pocket peg-in chess sets and seven chess books. The American Legion Veterans Organization gave fifteen chess boards, fourteen beginners' books, and seven more advanced chess books. Reverend Pollatz of St. Phillip's Lutheran Church donated two chess sets. The Friends of the Wayne County Library (of which the Herman Kiefer Hospital Library is a branch), through the kind efforts of Mr. Walter Kaiser, have purchased five of the larger peg-in chess sets and loaned 15 books for the use of the patients. All of the above books and boards have been placed in the hospital library and circulate in the same manner as regular library books.

The spread of the game of chess has also been greatly facilitated by the interest of one of the supervising nurses, Miss Myrtle Swanson, R.N. She has interested many patients in the game, has matched players of like ability, and, in general, has seen that all is running smoothly in the "chess world" at the hospital. The patients greatly appreciate the many kind efforts of Miss Swanson.

Although quite a few boards and books have recently been made available, more could be used as it seems that the demand is always greater than the supply. More boards and books for average and advanced players would be more than welcome. Chess instruction by interested individuals would be of great advantage. Many patients find it difficult to learn the game merely by reading directions. Personal lessons and practice games would be of great help and pleasure to them. Any interested chess players who would be able to teach chess please write or phone Miss Helena McCullough, Librarian, Herman Kiefer Hospital, Detroit 2, Michigan, Phone Trinity 2-1540, Extension 180.

Many patients would welcome the opportunity of playing postal chess with players outside the hospital. Those interested should call or write the above.

An inter-hospital chess tournament has been started between Herman Kiefer Hospital, Detroit, and the Maybury Sanatorium, Northville, Michigan. Each hospital has a team of nine players divided into three groups; one group is composed of average players, and the other two groups are beginners. Each patient plays one game with each of the three players in the like group of the opposing team. Moves are carried via hospital mail by the regular inter-hospital ambulance service. The tournament has been in progress for about two months and the players are enjoying it very much. Patients with tuberculosis may be hospitalized for several years and many games can be played before they are ready to go home.

From time to time news of the chess tournament is printed in the (Please turn to page 3, col. 4)



Photo: Courtesy Louisville Courier-Journal

A PLEASANT INTERLUDE

Jack Moysse, President of the Louisville Chess Club (left), quenches the thirst of Martin Southern, President of the Southern Chess Association (right), while USCF President Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., smiles his approval.

KMOCK KNOCKOUT AT PITTSBURGH

Hans Kmock, the able annotator and master player who has transferred his chess activities from the Continent to the United States, is demonstrating in his first tour that Europe's loss has been America's gain. At the Downtown YMCA Chess Club at Pittsburgh on January 15 in a twenty-two board simultaneous, Kmock won seventeen, lost one and drew four in the course of winning many new friends by his able and affable performance. The loss was to Alexander Spitzer; the draws to 16-year old Richard Freedland; W. A. Mallory, club president; Joseph Firestone; and USCF Vice-President William M. Byland.

SVENDSEN WINS CAMPUS TITLE

At the University of Oklahoma Dr. Kester Svendsen, secretary of the Oklahoma Chess Association, scored a technical knockout in besting Professor Antonio de la Torre on January 8 to secure the Campus Championship. The tournament was a knockout-style meeting with twenty-four entrants, including faculty and students—but the pros showed more stamina than the students in lasting out for the final round.

NEW OFFICERS FOR GARY CHESS

At the annual meeting of the Gary (Ind.) Chess Club, Harry Salisbury was elected president, Floyd Bolton secretary-treasurer, and Dave Brooks, Indiana State Champion, team captain. The club plans to hold a City Championship tournament on February 6 open to all residents of Gary.

Falling in step with the modern emphasis of youth, the Gary Club is proud of its own local juniors: Kan Hybarger, 14-year old player; Henry Giertych, 17 years old; and Bill Backemeyer, 16 years old. All three of these have won most of their match games in contests with outside chess clubs.

THINK BIG! SAYS CHAS. M. HARDINGE ON MAIL CHESS

Chess by mail on an international scale with 10,000 chess players corresponding is the vision of Charles M. Hardinge (The Pawn Shop) of Minneapolis, Minn., U.S. Director of the International Mail Players.

The International Mail Players is an informal organization, originated by R. J. Smith, Abby Wood, S.E. 2, London, England as a venture in international good will. It collects no fees or dues and its sole purpose is to arrange postal chess matches between players of various countries.

To date, as reported by Mr. Hardinge, about 600 U. S. players are participating in these informal matches by mail with players in every playing country except Russia. Total number of matches throughout the world are in the neighborhood of 2,000 boards.

Those interested in participating in this informal venture in international good will through chess may contact Charles M. Hardinge, Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club, 718 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis 7, Minn.

KMOCK BESTS CHICAGO GROUP

Playing a thirty board simultaneous exhibition at the Chess Club of Chicago, Hans Kmock scored twenty-five wins, four draws and one loss. The loss was to Al Poschel, father of former State Champion Paul Poschel; and the draws were with 14-year old J. Klein, J. Shaffer, John Anderson, and George Kaiser.

SAVE THESE DATES!

July 5—July 17

For The

49th Annual U. S. Open Tournament

AT BALTIMORE, MD.

Their Need Our Duty

Add to the list published in CHESS LIFE on October 30th the names

B. Kock
Treskovstrasse 7
Berlin N 58, Germany
Friedrich Saemisch
(20) Kiel
Herzog-Friedrich Strasse 66
Provinz Schleswig-Holstein
British Zone, Germany

The first is recommended by Dr. Max Euwe, the second by Mr. Max Reiss of the Rochester Chess & Checker Club as worthy of our assistance. Packages (\$10.00) may be sent through CARE, 50 Broad Street, New York City.

Let's keep the helping hand extended!

PAUL G. GIERS
USCF Executive Vice-President

Directing A Swiss Journey

By Gene Collett

(From the United States Chess Federation Club Manual)

This is the second and concluding article of a series telling how the Swiss system operates and how to direct this type of tournament. The writer had the help of two Swiss System experts, J. C. Thompson and George Koltanowski, in preparing the manuscript.

THE director will find it desirable to allow four hours for each game in Swiss System play and, in no case, less than three hours. Clocks are highly useful, if available. Otherwise, some complaint may arise if a fast player finds himself handicapped in reaching a decision against an unusually slow player. If there are some clocks, the director should allot them to tables where he knows a difference in speed of play is likely to cause dissatisfaction.

If clocks are used, each player should be allowed one-half of the available time. A popular plan is to require the player to make 50 moves in what ever time he is allowed for the game.

Proponents of the plan say 50 moves can be played in 90 minutes if the time is used judiciously. They figure an average of one minute a move for the first 10 moves and an average of two minutes per move for the next 50 moves—a total of 90 minutes, or 1½ hours.

Play should end at the close of the time period, whether clocks are used or not. If the game is unfinished, it should be submitted to adjudication. All games must be completed in time for the scores to be used in making drawings for the next round.

Occasionally, expedients are tried in an effort to obtain what directors consider a more equitable working of the Swiss.

One of the most important of these has to do with adjudications, long considered a necessary evil. (Please turn to page 3, col. 2)

AMSTERDAM HAS FORMIDABLE TEAM FOR CABLE MATCH

The New York Stock Exchange faces a formidable array of talent in the ten-man team selected to represent the Amsterdam Stock Exchange in the cable match scheduled for February 14. For first board Amsterdam will have the well-known Dutch player T. C. van Scheltinga. Boards two to ten will be in the capable hands of H. Kleefstra, U. Crabbendam, W. C. A. L. Muller, J. Kempes, J. Ph. Grondman, C. L. C. Decker, J. J. Van Weering, F. van Stetten, and Justus Meijer.

The New York team, restricted to employees and members of the Stock Exchange and member firms, will have the American master Isaac Kashdan at board one as team captain. Other members of the team will be selected from the following: E. Schuyler Jackson, Maurice Wertheim, Howard Hamerslag, H. Wallace Cohn, Clare Torrey, Herbert W. Marache, Alexander Pinney, Jacques Coe, Jacob Menkes, David A. Murray, Sol Rabinheim, Alfred E. Tonne, Stanley Zaleski, Joseph O'Reilly, Donald Hart, T. Palen, and E. Johnson.

Officiating in New York as referees and directors will be members from the Commercial Chess League, including John F. Fowler, Jr. and Philip Allen of the Investment Bankers team; and Nelson Hogenauer and William Marcy of the Central Hanover Bank team.

VENTNOR CITY HOLDS ELECTION

The Ventnor City (N.J.) Chess Club held its annual meeting and elected I. F. Daily president; George Coke vice-president; and Mrs. W. Angus Thom secretary-treasurer.



Gene Collett

Chess Life

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Editor and Business Manager
MONTGOMERY MAJOR

Contributing Editors

Gene Collett Milton Finkelstein John D. French
Dr. P. G. Kenney Erich W. Mareband Fred Reinfeld
William Rojman

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THE REDEEMING DEFECT

OUT of a cautious curiosity, not altogether altruistic, CHESS LIFE has asked its readers to indicate by means of a questionnaire published in the issue of December 20 their own preferences and desires. The response to this appeal has been gratifying, for the reader could well say that it was not his task to teach the editor how to please his fancies. Both in lucidity of statement and number of replies the returns have been informative and instructive. A detailed analysis of these various answers will be the subject of an article in an early issue of CHESS LIFE.

We wish to thank each reader who has submitted a response, and urge the others to submit their own preferences before an analysis is completed.

While the hasty sum and total of the responses received seems to indicate that most readers desire little change in CHESS LIFE beyond greater preference to their own particular interest in chess, it is gratifying to note that some have found a flaw or two. It was Disraeli who said of Gladstone: "He has not a single redeeming defect." CHESS LIFE is satisfied to remain more human in its occasional frailties.

Montgomery Major

CHESS INTERLUDE AT LOUISVILLE

(Monthly Letter No. 50)

By Elbert A. Wagner, Jr.

President, United States Chess Federation

AN enterprise planned for one purpose will frequently produce incidental values that are fully as rich as those of the original objective. Such has been my experience with the preparation for the qualifying tournament in Area No. 4. As that Area covers "the District of Columbia and all the Southern States South of Pennsylvania and East of the Mississippi", it was but logical that the Chairmanship of the Committee for such Area should go to the president of the Southern Chess Association, Mr. Martin Southern of Knoxville, Tennessee.

My correspondence with Mr. Southern soon revealed that there were many common interests and common problems which were shared by the USCF and the SCA. It quickly appeared that a closer relationship between the two organizations could be more effectively brought about if Mr. Southern and I could have a personal discussion of various matters than if we attempted to go over them by the slower and more cumbersome medium of writing letters. We agreed to meet on January 16, and by one of those excellent gifts of fortune Louisville was selected as our meeting place.

In Louisville, Mr. Southern and I were received most graciously and in the best tradition of Southern hospitality. Mr. Merrill Dowden, Chess Editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal and USCF Director for Kentucky, not only helped to make us welcome but in active cooperation with Mr. Jack Moyses, President of the Louisville Chess Club, arranged a delightful luncheon at which we met many chess players and other citizens of Louisville. Among these were Earl Ruby, Sports Editor of the Courier-Journal; Bovard Clayton, chief sports announcer, WGRC and W. F. Johnson, Promotion Man of radio station WGRC; W. F. Meredith, Executive Director of the Louisville Convention Bureau; William B. Schmitt, Secretary of the Louisville Chess Club and lecturer on modern openings; Dr. Max Blum, who distinguished himself by a pretty draw against George Koltanowski at his exhibition there in November; John C. Ruysenaars, 78 year old chess player, who, although not quite a charter member of the Louisville Chess Club (organized in 1865) has been a faithful member since 1896; Jackie Mayer, 14, who played in the Junior Championship Tournament at Cleveland last summer.

Two hours of earnest discussion with these enthusiastic people, all interested in the promotion of chess, firmly convinced Mr. Southern and me that here is one of the most promising cities in the entire country for the growth of the game. They want to be hosts to the U. S. Open Tournament at the earliest date and can be counted upon to give that event a tremendous boost when the time comes.

Although Mr. Southern and I enjoyed to the fullest extent the friendly reception which was accorded to us by the people in Louisville, the day was by no means one of all play and no work. We spent several hours in discussion of long range plans for the promotion of chess and methods whereby the USCF and the SCA can coordinate their efforts, as well as the solution of problems more immediately at hand. Such as the qualifying tournament in Area No. 4.

Which was the subject that started us off in the first place.



Elbert A. Wagner, Jr.

Problems of Chess Life

Edited by Dr. P. G. Kenney

Address all communications for this column to Dr. P. G. Kenney, 123 East 7th St., Newport, Ky., enclosing self-addressed, stamped envelope if reply is requested.

A few weeks before taking over the Problem editorship of CHESS LIFE I composed an original sound two-move direct mate problem along task lines conceived by me. This composition has not been published and I do not choose to exhibit it at present as I believe some composers are excellent "copy cats." As the task is rather well defined and somewhat limited as to the pieces to be employed in its accomplishment, more originality in versions may be anticipated if an example is not given. Composers are thus placed strictly "on their own" to find the mechanism they desire to employ in producing problems along the lines imposed by the task.

Here is the task (simple though it may be) which I hope will prove attractive to all who are interested in the art of problem construction.

CHESS LIFE

TASK COMPOSING COMPETITION

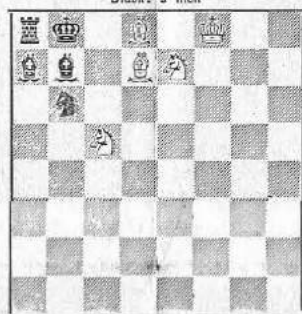
Compose a sound direct mate two-move problem, free of duals in main variations, the key of which simultaneously unpins two black pawns, permitting each unpinned pawn two distinct moves with separate and distinct white mating moves.

Composers may submit entries, not to exceed two, up to June 10, 1948 to Problem Editor, CHESS LIFE, 123 East 7th Street, Newport, Ky., who will act as judge of the contest and award the composer of the best version with a free year's subscription to CHESS LIFE. Since the task conditions are very restrictive, it is anticipated that similar versions may be submitted. Should this occur, the prize will be awarded the composer whose entry antedates the others.



Dr. P. G. Kenney

Problem No. 13
By Dr. P. G. Kenney
Newport, Ky.
(Original)
Black: 5 men



White: 5 men
rk1BK2, bb1BS3, 1a6, 2S5,
8, 8, 8, 8,
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 14
By Edgar Holladay
Charlottesville, Va.
(Original)
Specially composed for CHESS LIFE
Black: 5 men



White: 7 men
8, 1Kpr2, 2A5, 4P8, 8,
1P1k1R, 3P1S8, 6B1
White mates in two moves

Problem No. 13 above is a problem dream if not a "dream of a problem", composed by ye P. E. sans yoir, while tossing in bed and unable to sleep. Instead of resorting to "counting sheep", he lulled himself to rest evolving the above Decalet. Decalet is the name given to problems utilizing 10 pieces, no more, no less.

Problem No. 14, a delightful composition and the first outside original contribution to the problem department of CHESS LIFE, is the work of Edgar Holladay, Problem Editor of The Cleveland Chess Bulletin. In the past few years Mr. Holladay has composed many excellent problems, which have gained for him deserved recognition of his composing ability. I feel sure you will find Problem No. 14 a pleasing and puzzling creation. Thank you, Mr. Holladay.

Solutions:—

The keymove of Problem No. 9 is: 1. Q-KB1. This type of position is referred to as an incomplete block. The key is of the waiter type since it does not make a threat. The previous variation occurs when 1. ... KxKt ch; 2. Q-B5 mate. The mate is known as a fork-check and there is a triple black pin of Q, B and P. If 1. ... R any; 2. Q-B4. If 1. ... Kt any; 2. Q-B6. If 1. ... Q-K6 ch or K7; 2. RxQ. If 1. ... QxR; 3. QxQ. A seven-fold sacrifice of the white B is offered. Black's defenses against the threat are the capture of the B by R, P, Q, either R and either Kt. The respective mates are: 2. R-B4; 2.0-Q8; 2. R-B2; 2. R-B1; 2. Kt-B5; 2. Kt-K6; 2. R(R2)-Q8. Has a splendid key, excellent variety and some beautiful mates.

Correct solutions to Problems No. 9 and 10 are acknowledged received from: James Bolton (New Haven, Conn.); Peter Korf, E. Holway (Grand Rapids, Mich.); Edgar Holladay (Charlottesville, Va.); E. H. Benjamin (Cleveland, O.); H. Groendyke, N. Gabor, E. Deiss (Cincinnati, O.); Jack Spence (Omaha); Mrs. William Ward (Sedalia, Mo.). Correct solution to Problem No. 10 came from J. B. Holt (Sarasoia, Fla.). Belated solutions to Problems No. 7 and 8 were received from Roland Pariseau (Woonsocket, R. I.). Incorrect solutions to Problems No. 9 and 10 were received from Harold Van Muller (Compton, Calif.) and D. C. Macdonald (Grand Forks, No. Dak.); while an incorrect solution to Problem No. 9 came from J. B. Holt (Sarasoia, Fla.).

Questions and Answers

Query: What connection do the letters and numerals beneath the diagrams of problems have with the problems or their solutions?

Answer: The letters and numerals below the diagrams are merely a shorthand check-up of the position of the pieces on the diagram. This method was originated by a man named Forsythe and the notation bears his name. You read the position on the diagram by reading the letters and numerals. The explanation of the method is as follows: White pieces are represented by Capital letters, Black pieces by small letters, blank or empty spaces by numerals. A comma is used to separate the rows. So facing the diagram, begin with the upper row at the left and read across completing the 8 squares, then return to the second upper row and again read across, etc. Continue until you have read the entire 8 rows. For example, suppose the notation is as follows: k2322, p2pK4, 8, 4B5, 8K15, 5, 8, 8, 7. White mates in two moves. This means, reading top line from upper left hand corner, there is a black king on the corner square, next sq. to the black king is occupied by a black queen, then we find 3 empty squares and next a white Rook and then 2 empty squares, which completes the reading of the top row. The notation being k2322, the comma marks the end of the row. The notation for the 2nd upper line is p2pK4, meaning a black pawn, then next a black bishop, next a black pawn, next a white king, then 4 empty squares. The notation for the 3rd upper row is 8. This means all squares across this row are vacant. The notation for the 4th upper row is 4B5, meaning 4 empty squares then a black bishop and 3 empty squares. The notation for the 5th upper row is 8K15, meaning 3 empty squares, a white Knight, a white Bishop and 3 empty squares. The notation for the 6th and 7th rows is 8, 8, meaning all squares are blank. Next on the row immediately before you, the notation is Q7, meaning there is a white Queen on the lower left-hand corner and then 7 vacant squares. Now, after reading this, if you succeed in placing the white and black pieces on the board according to the notation given, you will find a simple but interesting two-mover by the CHESS LIFE Problem Editor which may prove of some aid to young composers attempting

If Americanism is victorious in chess, it will also be so in life. For in the idea of chess and the development of the chess mind we have a picture of the intellectual struggle of mankind.

Richard Reti

Chess Life In New York

By Milton Finkelstein

TOURNAMENT NOTES: Gustaf Gustafson, ex-champion of the West Side YMCA and the old Swedish Chess Club, now leads in the annual club championship of the Brooklyn Chess Club. Close behind him are Jack W. Collins and newcomer Moe Osher. Osher, a one-time team-mate of mine in high school days, is my choice to capture the title.

At the Marshall Chess Club, with 3 rounds of play remaining, a scramble for the title will result in a win for Herbert Seidman, Larry Evans, Tony Santastere or Carl Pinick. Pinick, by the way, is also competing for the Manhattan Chess Club title, where he and Columbia College's Walter Shipman started with strong wins—Shipman's against the mighty Alexander Kevitz!

This promises to be New York's most active chess season to date, with the various club tournaments under way and the Metropolitan Chess League and the National Championship zonal preliminaries to begin shortly. Meanwhile, Samuel Reshevsky continues his training for the World Championship Tournament by frequent visits to New York for analysis, consultation and study with the cream of this city's talent. If there's a line or an idea available, Sammy will have dug it up by the time he leaves for Europe. As a wind-up of his preparations, Reshevsky is to conduct a series of exhibition games with Horowitz, Denker, Kashtan and several other top-flight masters.

The New York Stock Exchange, led by Kashtan on Board One, will play the Amsterdam Stock Exchange on Feb. 24. The Dutch, much more avid chess fans, are picked by this columnist to win by a landslide!

For The Tournament-Minded

Note: Entrance fees to the U. S. Championship Preliminary Area Tournaments are uniformly \$5.00 in every Area Tournament to USCF members. (Non-members may participate by including \$1.00 for USCF dues with their regular entry fee.)

February 21-23

Area 5 U. S. Preliminaries
Fort Worth, Texas

Will be played at Westbrook Hotel; write to Frank R. Graves, 202 Farm and Home Bldg., Ninth and Houston, Fort Worth 2, Texas.

February 21-24

Area 3 U. S. Preliminaries
Chicago, Illinois

Will be played at Chess Club of Chicago, 135 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill. Write Earl W. Davidson, 44 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. for details.

February 21-28

Area 4 U. S. Preliminaries
Johnson City, Tennessee

Will be played at John Sevier Hotel in Johnson City, Tenn. Write Martin Southern, 201 Realty Bldg., Knoxville, Tenn. for details.

February 21-22

Minnesota State Championship
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Will be played in the Minneapolis Chess and Checker Club, Lumber Exchange Bldg., Minneapolis. For details write to Carl E. Diesen, 3332 Second Avenue So., Minneapolis 8, Minn.

DOUBLE FOR NOTHING

Eight pages of CHESS LIFE will cost the reader no more than four. But More Readers mean More Pages. **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**

Chess For The Tired Business Man

By Fred Reinfeld

To Be Or Not To Be...

Crusty old Wilhelm Steinitz lived in an era when attacking play was all the rage. Yet he had a fanatical faith in the efficacy of the defense. As he grew older, his stubborn attitude cost him many an irretrievable point; but he never flinched from subjecting himself to tasks which would have terrified lesser—or lazier—men.

CENTER GAME Nuremberg, 1896

White: WINAWER
1 P-K4
2 P-Q4
3 QxP

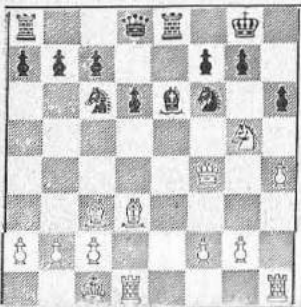
Black: STEINITZ
1 P-K4
2 P-Q4
3 KxP

The loss of time this entails has convinced the opening to the same category as the Ichthyosaurus.

Steinitz goes for the proffered Pawn although he knows that he will have a difficult time.

9 BxB KtP
But not 9 RXP?; 10 BxKt and wins.
10 Q-B4 Kt-B3
11 Kt-B3 P-Q3
12 Kt-K5 B-K3
13 B-Q3 P-KR3
14 P-KR4

Quite right: his material inferiority forbids retreat. Yet Black must play with great care, in view of the menacing way that the hostile pieces glare at his King.



14 Kt-Q4
After 14 Pk1?; 15 PxP Black would be lost; take this brilliant possibility: 15 Kt-Q4; 16 R-Rch1, KxR; 17 Q-R4ch, K-Kt1; 18 BxP, KxB; 19 Q-R6ch, K-Kt1; 20 R-R1 and mate is unavoidable.

15 B-R7ch
This ingenious move forces Black's reply, for if 15 K-B1; 16 KtxBch, RxB; 17 RxBt wins.
15 K-R1
Black seems to be in the clear, as he is about to remove White's mighty QB. Winawer seizes his only chance.

16 BxKt BxR
17 B-K4
Threatens 18 KtXPch, BxKt; 19 QxPch and mate next move!
17 P-B3?
Fatigue. He should have broken the attack with 17 RxB1; 18 KtXR, Kt-K4 etc.
18 BxB BPxKt
19 PxP Kt-K4
20 RxBt mate was threatened.
(19 QxP?? cannot be played!)
20 P-Kt6 Resigns
He has no defense against the coming 21 RxBch! The operation was a great success, but the patient died. Steinitz appraised the attack correctly, but he lost all the same.

ROCHESTER CLUB TAKES REVENGE

On January 11 the Rochester Chess and Checker Club (N.Y.) had its revenge against the visiting Buffalo Chess Club by winning a eleven board match by the score of 8-3.

Rochester Chess	Buffalo Chess
Hertzberger	0
Marchand	1
Rosen	1
Rogan	1
Sullivan	0
Hasenwehr	1
Winters	1
Dinkay	1
Candee	1
Lazerson	1
Lefferts	1
Rochester	8
Buffalo	3

Boost American Chess!
JOIN THE USCF

THE BIG SNOW DISRUPTS CHESS

Playing schedules of the North Shore (Massachusetts) Chess League have been disorganized by the big snowstorms of the last few weeks, but at the halfway mark the Newburyport Chess Club leads the League with a score of 14-4.

North Shore Chess League	Score
Newburyport	14-4
Haverhill	11-7
Lynn	9-8
Lawrence	7-11
Salem	7-11

DIRECTING A SWISS TOURNEY

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 1)

Where it is possible to allow time for adjourned games to be played off, the director may make a "tentative adjudication," enter the "probable result" tentatively on the score-card, and use this as basis of the next-round drawings. Adjourned games should be played off at the first opportunity and the scores corrected, if necessary, as soon as possible.

All adjourned games should be played off prior to the beginning of the final round. Final-round games should be let run until they are finished, if clocks are used; otherwise, a liberal time allowance should be made, in order to make this round conform to earlier ones. If adjournments are permitted, the regulations covering them should be a part of the tournament rules.

One director seeds players, requiring "strong" ones to meet each other in the first round, and thereafter lets the Swiss System operate normally. He believes this allows the equivalent of an extra round without actually playing it. In another meet, a director separated weak and strong players into two groups, then made two rounds of drawings of weak players against strong before allowing the Swiss to operate.

Danger of both these methods is that some supposedly weak players turn out to be exceptionally strong, and that the seeding creates unintentional injustices.

In another meet, a director used four rounds of Swiss to pick four top contestants, who then played a final round robin. This made a seven-round meet, with the premium on play in the final round. In such play, the Swiss scores may be carried over into the final round, or may be discarded, though any such arrangement should be announced in the tournament rules.

Most directors prefer to stick to the straight Swiss but experimentation continues and important modifications may one day result.

The Swiss System has faults. Ties are inescapable. If 13 players meet in a five-round tournament, there are only 11 possible scores: (0, 1/2, 1, 4/2, 5), so that at least three of the players must end in ties. In most cases, more than half the entrants will be tied for their positions. Obviously, all these ties cannot be broken by play-offs.

Another apparently ineradicable disadvantage of the Swiss is that the draw will sometimes give a player relatively weaker opponents through most of the tourney, allowing him a higher score than he would normally have merited. But Championships are not won thus, and any player who comes through a Swiss meet with a title may feel he has acquired it honestly and honorably.

As long as tournaments involving more than eight players must be played off in three days or less, the Swiss System, despite its weaknesses, remains the best method of play.

Best preparation for a director is to sit in, either as assistant or observer, on a Swiss meet being handled by an expert. If this is not possible, the would-be director may be able to persuade members of his club to let him manage a Swiss for them. Such an event can be held over a week-end, or in the course of a series of club meetings though, in the latter case, absences may introduce unusual complications.

Alternately, anyone wishing to direct a Swiss meet but having no opportunity to observe a real tournament, may get at least theoretical knowledge of how one works by conducting an imaginary tourney.

He needs only to equip himself with a pen or pencil, a pair of dice, and a suitable number of index cards (say 13, 15 or 17—an odd number, in order to allow study of the problem of the odd man.) The "director" then makes up the cards as if for a regular tournament, entering on them the names of imaginary players.

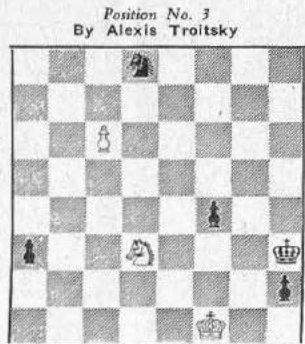
He shuffles the cards and draws them into pairs, assigning opponents and colors for the first round. Give white men to the player first drawn in the pair. The dice are then rolled once for each game. A single die is preferable. Roll for White player: if he gets a 5 or 6, he wins; a 3 or 4, he draws or a 1 or 2, he loses. (In a strong meet, about a third of the games are drawn, the proportion used here.)

The score is entered on the cards after each game (each roll of the die). At the end of the round, sort the cards into winners, drawers, and losers, and make pairings for the next round. Proceed similarly through each round of the tournament.

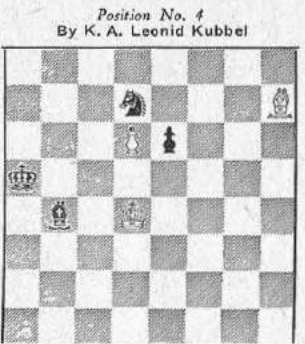
This should familiarize you with the principal mechanical problems of Swiss procedure. Other questions which arise will be those met in ordinary tournaments, with which you likely are already familiar.

KING'S MEN BEST EDISON CHESS

The visiting team of the King's Men Chess Club (Detroit) downed the Edison Chess & Checker Club in a match played at the Edison Co. Service Bldg. on January 9 by



Position No. 3
By Alexis Troitsky
White to Play and Draw



Position No. 4
By K. A. Leonid Kubbel
White to Play and Draw

White To Play And Draw!

Napoleon said that victory was on the side of the biggest batteries; but the endgame composers do not believe in such pessimistic truisms. In Position No. 3 White yields not to the counsel of despair but calls upon a gallant Knight. In Position No. 4 White scorns the mating power of Bishop and Knight.

Solutions will be published in March 5th issue.

HOSPITAL CHESS

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 4)

Fluorescope, a twelve-page hospital monthly which is published by and for the patients of the above mentioned hospitals. For the past five months articles dealing with postal chess, chess openings, essays on chess, and other items of interest to chess fans have appeared in this paper, most of them written by the patients. Now, however, we have exhausted our "talent". Articles on the openings, mid game and end game, chess problems, as well as other facets of chess would be welcome and greatly appreciated. They may be sent to The Editor, The Fluorescope, Maybury Sanatorium, Northville, Michigan.

The game of chess has greatly helped the patients in many ways. It diverts their minds from their personal worries and has helped fill with positive pleasure the great number of hours of leisure time which they all have. In addition, it acquaints them with a hobby and pastime from which they will be able to derive much pleasure after they are well and have been discharged from the hospital. Finally, it brings together people of similar interests, and lasting friendships are formed.

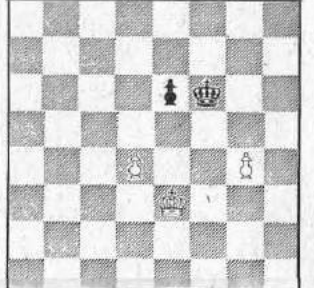
It's A Question

Advice to the Chess-lover on History, Laws, Personal Ethics

Question: What is an "outside passed pawn"? Just what does the word "outside" refer to? Outside of what?

J. ASHLER
Philadelphia, Pa.

Answer: Outside passed pawn is a term usually used when each player has one or more passed pawns in an endgame. The term "outside" refers to the pawn most distant from the center of the board (usually a R.P. KtP, or possibly BP) and therefore the most difficult for an opposing K or minor piece to stop without yielding up control of the game in the center of the board. Therefore, an outside passed pawn usually wins, either by queening or by luring the defending K from the center of the board, so that a decision may be reached in the center while the K is stopping the outside passed pawn. A simple example is:



Here the White KKtP is an outside passed pawn. If Black plays 1. K-K4; 2. K-Q4, K-B3 (if 2. KxP; 3. K-Q5 wins easily); 3. K-B4, K-B2; 4. K-K5, K-K2; 5. P-Kt5, K-B2; 6. K-Q5 wins.

A good friend tells you where a bargain can be found. Be a good friend and tell your friends about CHESS LIFE.

The Reader's Road To Chess

By John D. French

CHALLENGE TO CHESS PLAYERS by Fred Reinfeld; McKay (\$2.00)

Tired of ordinary Chess books? Like to try something with a problem touch, but not in the classical line of our own Dr. Keeny? Well, your book is here and as usual, written by USCF's Fred Reinfeld and published by McKay. It's "Challenge to Chessplayers" and is certainly that. As a continuation of his "Learn-By-Doing" technique, Reinfeld has focused attention on mate itself, something often surprisingly ignored in master books that advocate resigning on the loss of a pawn, rather than finishing the game for fun in true amateur style. The "Challenge" contains 300 diagrammed positions taken from actual play which breaks into: (1), 36 pretty "mate on the move" problems to train your eye for quick thrusts; (2), 156 combinative two-movers selected to teach theme and idea execution; and (3) 103 masterful three-movers, based largely on attack with the queen and, as the author points out, "truly complicated; a real challenge. The conceptions in many cases are rather subtle for there are misleading lines not quite good enough." All of which teaches the cultivation of attacking skill. Lots of fun, either as study or relaxation.



John D. French

SALINAS DRAWS WITH FRESNO

In a five-board match on January 11 the Salinas (Calif.) Chess Club visited Fresno and played to a draw match with Hart's Cafeteria as the arena.

Fresno Chess	Salinas Chess
F. Pelouse	0
J. Kvindesland	1
C. W. Bird	1
E. Cook	1
S. Poulsen	0
Fresno	2 1/2
Dr. D. M. Malig	1
G. B. Oakes	1
F. H. Clark	0
V. W. Pope	0
Dr. V. J. Sykes	1
Salinas	2 1/2

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CENTER COUNTER GAMBIT

Simultaneous Exhibition Louisville, 1948

Notes by Dr. Max Blum from the Louisville Courier-Journal

Chess board diagram for Center Counter Gambit with move lists for White and Black.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

Manhattan Chess Club Championship Preliminaries, 1947

Notes by Jack Soudakoff

Chess board diagram for King's Indian Defense with move lists for White and Black.

BLUMENFELD COUNTER GAMBIT

Tennessee Valley Open Chattanooga, 1947

Notes by Martin Southern

Chess board diagram for Blumenfeld Counter Gambit with move lists for White and Black.

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENSE

U. S. Open Championship Corpus Christi, 1947

Notes by Edward J. Korpany

Chess board diagram for Nimzoindian Defense with move lists for White and Black.

Tournament Life

Conducted by Erich W. Marchand

Dept. of Mathematics University of Rochester, Rochester 3, New York

Chess board diagram for Queen's Pawn Game, After 37. QxP(Q6) Southern.

Queen's Pawn Game, New York, 1947. Notes by Fred Reinfeld.

Chess board diagram for Queen's Pawn Game, After 14. Kt-K3 Ayalá.

Queen's Pawn Game, After 14. Kt-K3 Ayalá. Notes by Fred Reinfeld.

Chess board diagram for Queen's Pawn Game, After 21. Colon.

Queen's Pawn Game, After 21. Colon. Notes by Fred Reinfeld.

Chess board diagram for Sicilian Defense, U. S. Open Championship Corpus Christi, 1947.

Sicilian Defense, U. S. Open Championship Corpus Christi, 1947. Notes by Dr. Bela Rozsa.

Chess board diagram for Sicilian Defense, U. S. Open Championship Corpus Christi, 1947.

Chess board diagram for French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947.

French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947. Notes by Erich W. Marchand.

Chess board diagram for French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947.

French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947. Notes by Erich W. Marchand.

Chess board diagram for French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947.

Annotations by J. B. Gee, A. Y. Hesse, Dr. J. Platz, Fred Reinfeld, Richard Harrell, Edw. J. Korpany, G. E. Page, Dr. Bela Rozsa, J. Soudakoff.

Chess board diagram for French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947.

French Defense, City Championship Tournament Sacramento, 1947. Notes by Erich W. Marchand.

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