

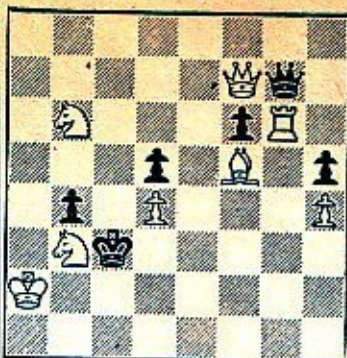
By Dr. H. J. Ralston

The other night, while browsing through some old chess books, we ran across the following little eulogy to chess, which we think you will like. It is by A. G. Gardiner, who wrote a number of essays on our great game.

"When I feel angry with life and am tempted to revile it as a failure, I make it a rule to go over its balance sheet and then I cheer up. I find after all that I have a noble balance at the bank—enormous credits of joy and pleasure that have made the adventure rich and splendid; the pageant of nature, sunlight and song, mountain and sea, the green of spring and the gold of autumn; the mystery of love and the divine gift of friendship; the treasures of the eye and the treasures of the mind, books and music, pictures and the noble works of men's hands; play and laughter and all the pleasant appetites of the senses. And in this great stock-taking, Chess!

"Why, it was almost worth the adventure of life to make that discovery alone! If I had not been born I should not have played chess! What other answer is necessary to that querulous complaint against life? In this grand kingdom of the mind all are free, all equal, all happy. For the price of a dinner you may purchase a magic box that will spirit you away on adventures more wonderful, more inexhaustible, than all the tales of the Arabian Nights. Battles you shall have as heroic as any fought on 'the plains of Windy Troy,' ambushes that hold you breathless, plots and counterplots, mines and countermines, stubborn fights around one faithful pawn—the brave fellow, lonely but unafraid—who holds the bridge against the foe as Horatius held it in the brave days of old. Bring up the reinforcements, then. Unsheath the shining sword of the Bishop. A Knight, a Knight, my Kingdom

TASK No. 22—By E. Altman



White Mates in Two Moves
(Value 4 Points)

Answer to Task No. 21: The main line is 1. B-B4, PxB; 2. R-K2ch, K-Q4; 3. Kt-K7 mate.

for a Knight! But hark, the tramp of the massed battalions of the Rooks. Is it Grouchy? Is it Blucher? Hurrah! It is Blucher who is first in the field—grand old Blucher, glorious old Blucher, cheers for old Blucher! Now then, 'Up Guards and at 'em.'

"Life is not worth living? Life a failure? Nonsense. Here, my son, bring out the chess men. I'll try the Evans Gambit on you."

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During our aforementioned browsing, we ran across one of the prettiest little three-movers we have seen in a long, long time. When it was published, over a half-century ago, it fooled many solvers, many of whom claimed "no solution." The composition is by C. A. Kennard.

The position is—White: King on Queen Bishop Two; Rooks on King seven and Queen one; Bishop on King Bishop one; Pawns on Queen two, Queen Knight four and Queen Rook five. Black: King on Queen five; Pawn on Queen 3. White mates in three moves.

Correct solutions received by next Wednesday will be acknowledged in this column.