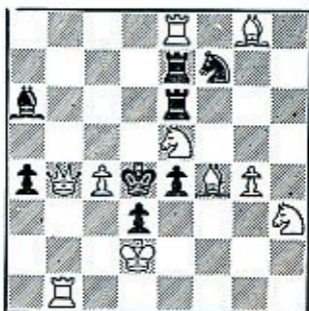


THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

TASK No. 51

By A. J. Fink, San Francisco
(After J. Buchwald)
(Original to THE ARGONAUT)



WHITE MATES IN THREE MOVES
(Value 7 points)

Answer to the Christmas problems:
A. Kt-B6; B. R-B7; C. R-B3; D.
Kt-B3.

Answer to Task No. 51 should be
postmarked not later than January 15.
Two distinct lines leading to mate
should be given.

MR. JERALD SLAVICH of
Marysville, Calif., receives the
prize for the best analysis of Task
No. 46P, by H. F. Blandford. This
highly interesting end-game study ap-
pears not to be a win for White. The
main line, according to the composer's
intention, is 1. R-K4ch, K-Q4; 2.
PxQP, PxP; 3. R-KR4, RxP; 4.
RxPch, K-Q5; 5. K-Q6 (threatening
R-Q5 mate) and Black either loses
his Rook or is mated. But Mr. Sla-
vich claims that Black on his third
move can play R-Kt4 and draw. We
have analyzed this position with lead-
ing players at the Mechanics' Insti-
tute Chess Club and have been un-
able to find a win for White.

Mr. Boris Popoff of San Francisco
sent us an exhaustive analysis of the
composer's main variations, but over-
looked the line suggested by Mr.
Slavich. Mr. Guthrie McClain of
Berkeley and Mr. Henry Gross of
San Francisco also overlooked the ap-
parent drawing variation.

We wish to compliment Mr. Sla-
vich for his critical analysis.

The interesting tournament now in progress at the Mechanics' Institute, in which 30 moves must be made each 30 minutes, is being led by Carroll Capps and Charles Bagby, who have equal scores of 3-0 after three rounds of play. The following game from the first round is indicative of the high quality of play under the difficult conditions imposed by the time-limit.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

White—C. Bagby

Black—V. Pafnutieff

1. P-Q4	P-Q4	21. P-B5	B-Q2
2. P-QB4	P-K3	22. K-R2	R-K2
3. Kt-QB3	Kt-KB3	23. P-KKt3	Q-R3
4. B-Kt5	B-K2	24. P-K4	PxP
5. P-K3	QKt-Q2	25. RxP	RxR
6. R-B1	O-O	26. BxR	R-K1
7. Kt-B3	P-B3	27. Q-Q3	Q-R4
8. Q-B2	P-QR3	28. P-Q5	P-B4
9. PxP	KPxP	29. P-Q6	P-QKt4
10. B-Q3	R-K1	30. R-B2	P-B5
11. O-O	Kt-B1	31. O-O4	R-Q1
12. P-KR3	Kt-K5	32. B-Q5ch	K-B1
13. B-KB4	KtxKt	33. B-K6	Q-K1
14. QxKt	B-Q3	34. R-K2	B-B3
15. BxB	QxB	35. Q-B5	B-R1
16. Kt-K5	Q-R3	36. Q-B7	B-Q4
17. P-B4	P-B3	37. R-K3	BxB
18. Kt-B3	Kt-Kt3	38. PxB	R-B1
19. QR-K1	Kt-R5	39. P-K7ch	K-B2
20. KtxKt	QxKt	40. Q-Kt7	Resigns

SOLVERS' LADDER

The present list includes standings through Task No. 47.

Points

149—Hubert G. Webb, Pasadena.

138—Dr. Mark Eudey, Berkeley.

91—Henry Gross, San Francisco.

- 88—Lee Kerfoot, Modesto.
 87—Luc Huang, Oakland.
 83—Eric S. Bergstrom, San Jose.
 59—Guy L. Conklin, Weiser, Idaho; Boris Popoff, San Francisco.
 58—Jerald Slavich, Marysville.
 46—Kenton Chambers, Stanford.
 34—Neil T. Austin, Sacramento.
 31—Guthrie McClain, Berkeley; Mission High School, San Francisco.
 16—Joseph D. Hill, San Francisco.
 14—W. C. de Jung, San Francisco.
 10—George B. Oakes, Salinas.
 9—M. O. Meyer, Sacramento.
 7—Peter Dahl, San Francisco; Lawrence Davis, Merced; Dr. Sherwin Maeser, Logan, Utah; Donald C. McDaniel, Los Angeles.
 5—B. R. Berglund, Seattle.
 4—Ed Brand, Phoenix, Ariz.; Fred Stoppel, Cicero, Ill.; Edward Yaeger, Berkeley.
 3—Anne Gleason, Berkeley; Paul Traum, Berkeley.
 2—Robert Currie, San Francisco; A. L. Ritz, Eureka.
 1—Alan Chappell, Gilroy; Scott Runyan, Berkeley.