

THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

TASK No. 69—By F. Gamage



WHITE MATES IN TWO MOVES
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 67: R-KR5

Answer to Task No. 69 should be postmarked not later than May 21. It is required only that White's first move be given.

MR. R. E. RUSSELL of Auburn won the Sacramento City Championship in a four-round Swiss tournament held over the week-end of April 25. Russell scored three wins and one draw in a strong field.

Neil T. Austin of Sacramento was second with a score of 2½-1½, followed by M. O. Meyer 2-2, J. A. Celle 1½-2½, Ray L. Richards 1½-2½, and O. Bender 1-3.

Russell played well throughout the tournament, and won a long, six-hour game from Meyer. Austin missed several winning chances against Richards, but, on the other hand, drew inferior games against Meyer and Bender.

Maurice Gedance, Las Vegas insurance executive, captured first place in the Nevada tournament. Gedance won six and drew two games to lead a field of 26 players, representing Nevada, Colorado, Utah and California.

William Benedetti of Las Vegas finished in second place, and William F. Taber of Reno third. George Kirby of San Jose finished fourth, the highest of the players from California.

It now appears certain that the Candidates' Tournament, which will determine the next challenger for the world's cham-

ptionship match with present champion M. Botvinnik, will be held in Switzerland during September and October. Play will probably occur in the cities of Zurich and Neuhausen am Rheinfall. The three players who tied for fifth place with Averbach in the Interzonal Tournament at Stockholm, Stahlberg, Szabo and Gligoric, will probably play, which will greatly add to the interest in the tournament. At last word, it appeared that S. Reshevsky of Brooklyn would not participate, due to his feeling that the tournament will be overloaded with players from the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kenneth B. Thomas of Mt. Hermon, Calif., recently sent us the following game, played by correspondence with John E. Laine of Woodinville, Wash. Mr. Thomas states that he is confined to bed about "98.2% of the time," and derives much pleasure from chess by mail.

White's play in this game is far from accurate, but Mr. Thomas deserves great credit for the manner in which he takes advantage of his opponent's mistakes. The final mating combination is the famous "Philidor Legacy," in which the Queen is sacrificed and mate achieved with a Knight.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

| White—J. E. Laine | Black—K. Thomas |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. P-Q4 | Kt-KB3 |
| 2. P-QB4 | P-KK4 |
| 3. Kt-OB3 | B-K12 |
| 4. P-K4 | P-Q3 |
| 5. P-KK4 | O-O |
| 6. B-K12 | P-K4 |
| 7. Kt-B3 | Kt-B3 |
| 8. P-Q5 | Kt-QR4 |
| 9. P-B5 | B-K1 |
| 10. Q-R4 | P-B3 |
| 11. P-QK4 | Kt-B5 |
| 12. Q-K13 | P-QK4 |
| 13. PxP e.p. | Kt-KtP |
| 14. PxP | B-K3 |
| 15. Q-B2 | B-B5 |
| 16. Kt-Q2 | B-K3 |
| 17. O-O | P-Q4 |
| 18. R-Q1 | P-Q5 |
| 19. Kt-B3 | O-K2 |
| 20. Kt-K2 | B-B7 |
| 21. O-K12 | B-K4 |
| 22. Kt-KP | O-K7 |
| 23. KtXP | KtXP |
| 24. P-B3 | QR-O7 |
| 25. Q-R3 | RxK7 |
| 26. B-B4 | Q-Q4 |
| 27. KR-QB1 | R-Q6 |
| 28. QxP | Now Black announced mate in six moves. |
| 28. ... | Q-Q5ch |
| 29. B-K3 | QxBeh |
| 30. K-R1 | Kt-B7ch |
| 31. K-Kt1 | Kt-B6ch |
| 32. K-R1 | O-Kt8ch |
| 33. RxQ | Kt-B7 mate |

May 8, 1953