

U. S. Women's Chess Champion Visits San Francisco

THOSE who do not play chess can hardly realize the fascination it has for those who do. Fortunately this, perhaps the oldest of table games, has many ardent modern practitioners, foremost among them Mrs. Mary Bain, Women's Chess Champion of the United States. At present in San



Mrs. Mary Bain, women's chess champion of the United States. Mrs. Bain will give an exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 57 Post St., Saturday evening, June 7.

Francisco, on what was to have been a pleasure trip to the West, Mrs. Bain has been unable to resist the importunities of her many enthusiastic admirers, and will give an exhibition at the Mechanics Institute, 57 Post Street, on Saturday evening, June 7.

She is also scheduled to go to Moscow in October, to represent the United States in a competition for the world's champion-

ship. This trip, under the auspices of the State Department, is evidently regarded as an important move in international relations.

Born in Zugo, Hungary, Mrs. Bain is a slight, gentle, charming lady whose dark eyes glow with enthusiasm when she speaks of the hobby which has become the ruling passion in her life, the mainstay in tribulations and the delight of carefree hours. She learned the game from her mother, at the age of fifteen, and insists that if she could master it, anyone can. "Children learn to play chess easily," she said, "because they are not afraid of it." Anyone, she contends, can be taught the rudiments of the game in an hour—in fact, that is all they can be taught. "From then on, it is up to them."

Mrs. Bain came to the United States at the age of seventeen, married here, has a daughter who is a graduate of Barnard, and a son who is a student at the California Institute of Technology. She is a convincing example of another contention of hers, that chess keeps people young. At the Marshall Club in New York, where she often plays, she enjoys especially the young people who come there. After a bad accident, when she was hospitalized for eight months, her correspondence with other chess lovers kept her so busy and interested she hardly realized she was incapacitated.

Chess is a sport, says Mrs. Bain, but it has advantages over some others, in that it has no age limits, requires no money, and can effectively shut out worldly worries while providing constructive activity for the mind. A chess board is like a miniature battlefield, to operate on it requires tactics and strategy. Napoleon was a chess player, and a study of his game gives perhaps stronger clues to his character than do his military exploits.

Mrs. Bain, a well-rounded person who enjoys such active sports as volley ball, fishing and riding, admits she does not much care for housekeeping. But she is especially enjoying her visit to San Francisco, because she is visiting her sister, who has lived here for twenty-nine years, and is still an expert at preparing the delicious Hungarian dishes which both remember as children. Mrs. Bain was given a tremendous whirl by chess lovers in Wilmington, Buffalo, Syracuse, Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Chicago, Deca-