

# C H E S S

By E. J. CLARKE

Address all communications to Chess Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

California's first chess championship tournament was concluded, as far as first prize and the title are concerned, with the ninth round Wednesday, January 4, when E. W. Gruer of Oakland defeated S. Swanson of San Francisco in a Queen's gambit in 31 moves.

By losing to Gruer and Fink, Clarke dropped down and Mlotkowski wins second prize. Third, fourth and fifth prizes depend on the result of two games—Fink vs. Hallwegen and Swanson vs. Clarke.

The tourney was a success in every way and fully lived up to the high expectations of its promoters. The chess produced was first class and the competitors well matched in spite of the table of standings, which would seem to indicate otherwise. Many games were either won, lost or drawn by the slightest margin and in these "breaks," as they are known in sporting parlance, fortune usually favored the leaders. The games as a whole compare very favorably with those of other state and sectional championship tourneys, and some of the games were easily on a par with "master" chess. Gruer made the pace all the way and bowled over his opponents one by one. His play was of a high order throughout. As a result of his splendid achievement it is planned by his friends to send him to Atlantic City to represent the Mechanic's Institute of San Francisco in the ninth American chess congress this year. We congratulate him as California's foremost chess player. Of the visitors—Stasch Mlotkowski and Harry Borochof of Los Angeles, and W. Metzke of Fresno—it may be said that their presence gave a representative color to the tourney. Mlotkowski made a good start, but weakened toward the finish, losing to Gruer in the eighth round and to Metzke in the tenth. Previously he had two draws, which put him three games to the bad. Borochof made a pleasing impression, aside from his ability to play snappy, forceful chess. He was under the handicap of having to play his schedule of ten games in a week's time, which necessitated playing two opponents on the same day. Metzke made a bad start, but finished strong. His game against Mlotkowski (an Evans gambit) furnished considerably amusement. Metzke made a special study of the Evans and told Gruer that if "Mlot" offered him the famous Evans, he would accept it. So after a few moves Metzke left his place at the table and announced to a group, "the Evans is on!" Metzke mixed things up and "Mlot" turned over his king after 50 odd moves in token of surrender. Of the others it may be said that they experienced the usual vicissitudes of tournament play, winning and losing and thus pulling each other down, while the lucky few built up their percentages and captured the prizes. Dr. Lovegrove disappointed his friends and failed to live up to his reputation acquired in the past. No doubt the old adage occurred to him, as Gruer strode on to victory, that "youth will be served."

There remain several games to be played, so a complete cross-score tabulation will not be available till next week. Following table shows standings of the players up to the ninth round Thursday.

	W.	L.	D.
E. W. Gruer.....	9	0	0
E. J. Clarke.....	5	2	4
S. Mlotkowski.....	7	2	2
H. Borochof.....	5	3	2
A. J. Fink.....	3	4	2
C. Woskoff.....	3	5	2
W. Metzke.....	4	4	1
W. R. Lovegrove.....	2	4	3
B. Smith.....	0	5	0
S. Swanson.....	2	6	0
G. Hallwegen.....	2	6	0

\* \* \* \*

Here are a few games from the tournament. It is rather a diffi-

cult, not to say a delicate task to pick out games for printing, when there are so many worthy of publication. Anyway, we have selected A. J. Fink's neat game against Metzke from the third round; Bernardo Smith's bold game against the redoubtable Mlotkowski, in which the latter all but put over a game, properly continued, that would have been a classic. Unfortunately, Bernardo failed to strike while the iron was hot and lost. Also we give Gruer's incisive win from Borochof (sixth round) and the game with Swanson from the ninth round which gave him the championship.

## CORRESPONDENCE

E. N., city—Note on Ruy Lopez received; will print it soon. Very interesting.

L. H. D., Palo Alto—Thanks for your kind wishes. Gruer got so far ahead we (not editorial) couldn't catch him.

B. C., Oakland—By all means send for Capablanca's "Chess Fundamentals," reviewed in this column last week. Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1 West 47th st., New York, or American Chess Bulletin, 150 Nassau st.

F. M., San Jose—Problem received. Turned over to A. J. F.

\* \* \* \*

### GAME No. 48 FRENCH DEFENSE

A. J. Fink	W. Metzke	A. J. Fink	W. Metzke
white	black	white	black
1—P-K4	P-K3	21—Q-B2	R-Q3
2—P-Q4	P-Q4	22—QR-Q	R-R
3—S-QB3	PxP(a)	23—R-Q3	Q-B2
4—SxP	S-Q2	24—S-S4	PxP
5—S-KB3	KS-B2	25—SxS	RxS
6—SxS	SxS	26—QxP	Q-Q2
7—B-Q3	P-Q83	27—Q-K2	R-K
8—B-KS5	B-K2	28—R-K3	RxR
9—S-K5	B-S2	29—QxR	P-KR3
10—B-S5ch(b)	P-B3	30—Q-K5	Q-Q
11—B-K2	Castles	31—Q-K4	R-K3!
12—B-B3	S-Q4	32—Q-S	RxRch
13—BxB	QxB	33—QxR	Q-B3(d)
14—Castles	R-OB	34—B-S2	Q-Q3
15—R-K	Q-S4	35—Q-K4	K-S
16—P-S3	KR-Q	36—Q-K8ch	Q-B
17—P-KR4	Q-K2	37—Q-Q7	Q-S
18—P-B3	P-QB4(c)	38—Q-K7	Q-S2
19—P-B4	S-B3	39—QxQ	BxQ
20—P-Q5	K-B1	40—P-Q6	Resigns

### NOTES

(a) Rubinstein's variation; aiming to open diagonal for QB.

(b) A useless check. If white captures the pawn, he loses a piece by Q-Q4.

(c) Overlocking Fink's winning reply.

(d) The pawn cannot be captured because of Q-Q.

\* \* \* \*

### GAME No. 49 GRAECO COUNTER

B. Smith	S. Mlotkowski	B. Smith	S. Mlotkowski
white	black	white	black
1—P-K4	P-K4	11—B-KB4	B-R3
2—S-KB3	P-KB4(a)	12—S-S5!	PxS
3—S-B3	P-Q3	13—BxPch	K-B
4—P-Q4	PxQP	14—B-Q6ch	S-K2
5—SxP	PxP	15—R-Q	Q-B3
6—Q-R5ch	P-S3	16—QxP	Q-K3
7—Q-S5ch	P-B3	17—Q-Q4(c)	B-S2
8—Q-S3	P-Q4	18—Q-QB5(d)	B-B3
9—B-KB4(b)	Q-B3	19—B-B4	P-S3
10—BxS	QxS	20—Q-B6	K-S2

And black finally won.

### NOTES

(a) A favorite counter attack of Mlotkowski.

(b) Threatening BxS, followed by SxBP1.

(c) Meaning the winning continuation of Q-B5.

(d) Too late! The black bishop now defends.

\* \* \* \*

### GAME No. 50 VIENNA

Borochof	Gruer	Borochof	Gruer
white	black	white	black
1—P-K4	P-K4	12—B-S3	B-S5
2—S-QB3	B-B4	13—QR-K	Q-S4
3—S-B3	P-Q3	14—S-B5	PxS
4—P-Q4	PxP	15—S-S3	P-KR4
5—SxP	S-KB3	16—S-Q5	P-R5
6—B-K3	B-S3	17—S-K2	S-B6ch
7—B-QB4	S-B3	18—RxS(b)	B-R
8—Castles	Castles	19—S-B4	BxP
9—Q-Q2	S-KS5	20—Q-B3	BxS
10—QR-Q(a)	SxB	21—SxB	Q-K4
11—PxS	S-K4		

and black won after 30 more moves.

### NOTES

(a) Bad; white should retain his bishop.

(b) If PxS, white wins more speedily than as played.

### GAME No. 51 QUEEN'S GAMBIT

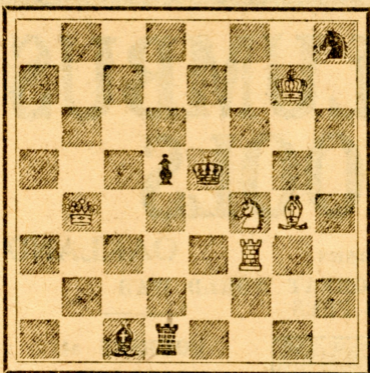
Gruer	Swanson	Gruer	Swanson
white	black	white	black
1—P-Q4	P-Q4	17—B-KB3	B-S1
2—S-KB3	P-QB3	18—S-B5	Q-B2
3—P-QB4	PxP	19—P-R3	B-R
4—P-K3	P-QS4	20—R-R	B-R2
5—P-QR4	B-S2	21—B-R3	R-K
6—S-B3	P-QR3	22—SxP!!	PxS
7—S-K5	S-Q2	23—QxPch	K-B(a)
8—SxS	QxS	24—B-Q6	Q-S2
9—P-QS3	PxSP	25—B-R5	P-S3
10—QxP	P-K3	26—B-S4	K-S2
11—PxP	RPxP	27—B-K5ch	K-R3
12—RxR	BxR	28—B-B4ch	K-S2
13—B-K2	B-Q3	29—Q-K5ch	K-B2
14—S-K4	S-K2	30—B-K6ch	K-B
15—Castles	Castles	31—B-R6	mate
16—B-S2	B-S2		

# Problems

By A. J. F.

Problem No. 57

By G. C. Alvey, England.  
Black (5 pieces).



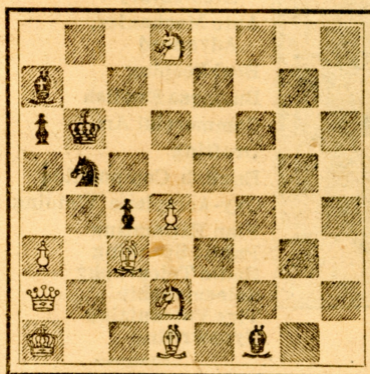
White (5 pieces).

White mates in two moves.

\* \* \* \*

Problem No. 58

By B. Chavalas, Oakland, Cal.  
Black (6 pieces).



White (8 pieces).

White mates in three moves.

\* \* \* \*

Solution to No. 55—Q-R2 and to No. 56, K-Kt2 with the following variations: (P×Kt, P-QKt 5). (P-Q3, B-K7). (P-Q4, Q-B5). (K-Q3, Kt-Kt 4), containing four pure mates, one being a pure mirror.

\* \* \* \*

Solutions received from E. Linares Jr., Santa Clara; "J. N. S.," San Mateo; "Floy," Fresno; C. W. Updyke, Dinuba; A. W. Mock, Chowchilla; B. Chavalas, Oakland; J. Ford, San Francisco; "A. J. H.," Palo Alto; R. R. Reynolds, San Francisco; J. Fulton, Sacramento; S. L. Jackson, Dyerville; L. H. Daugherty, Palo Alto; E. S. Van Camp, San Francisco; J. H. Owen, San Francisco; "Chestnut," Associated.

"Floy," Fresno, and others, five pieces is correct in No. 52 and not six as stated.