

Prize Fund Gets All Cash Receipts

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

We are very pleased to present Task No. 49, an original composition by Jerry Levin of San Francisco.

Jerry is a 16-year-old student at Lincoln High School. This is his first published chess problem, but we are sure it will not be his last.

The Northern California Championship begins tomorrow at Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 57 Post-st, 1 p.m.

This tournament will not only determine the Northern California champion for 1954-55, but also qualify three players to the State Championship finals, to be played in San Francisco early in September.

Handsome Trophy

The winner of the tournament will receive a handsome trophy. All cash receipts will be placed in the State Championship prize fund.

Entry fee is \$5. Players who are not members of the California State Chess Federation (\$2.50 per year) will be required to join the Federation.

The tournament will be directed by W. G. McClain of Berkeley, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California State Chess Federation, and well-known as director of the annual California Open Championship.

The long-awaited team match between the United States and the Soviet Union is due to begin in New York next Wednesday, but World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik will be among the missing.

The sad news came over United Press wires early this week. It is not known, at this writing, why Botvinnik is not coming, but it has been suggested that he is not well.

Costly Tournament

We hope the absence of the champ will not have too great an effect upon the gate receipts at the match. This team match is going to cost American chess players a pretty penny.

About 20 readers tackled the 4-mover by J. Kos, published in this column two weeks ago, but only eight succeeded in finding the right line. It was a tough problem.

The main line is: 1 Q-Q2, R-KB1; 2 Q-Q1, R-B1; 3 Q-R4ch, K-Kt1; 4 Q-R7 mate.

It is rather remarkable that of the eight solvers on the honor roll, only two live in San Francisco, the remainder being more or less uniformly distributed around the bay.

And now for the honor list: Byron D. Box Jr., San Anselmo; Joseph M. Carroll Jr., Walnut Creek; Jack E. Davis, San Rafael; Harry Hokensen, Santa Rosa; Dr. Horace C. Pitkin, San Francisco; Dr. Norman Reider, San Francisco; Sidney Steinberg, San Bruno; Keith Wentz, Alameda.

TASK NO. 49—By Jerry Levin



White Mates in Three Moves
(Value five points)

Answer to Task No. 48: Q-Q2

4-Move Miniature

Here's a 4-move miniature from long ago, by F. Kohnlein, which should keep you quiet for a spell:

White (three men): King on King one; Queen on King Knight eight; Pawn on King two. Black (four men): King on King Knight eight; Bishop on King Rook seven; Pawns on King Knight six and King Knight seven. White mates in four moves.

We have received for review a truly splendid book: "500 Master Games of Chess," by Dr. S. Tartakower and J. DuMont, published by David McKay Co., New York 3. Price \$10.

This work appeared in England a couple of years ago, and was very favorably received. It is a monumental opus of some 700 pages, containing over 600 games, 500 being annotated.

The games are arranged by openings, the games in each section being chronologically arranged. The book consequently is almost in the nature of an encyclopedia on the evolution of the openings.

Impending Drama

Dr. Tartakower makes chess really exciting. He prefaces each game with a short note on the character of the game, and in-

stills into the reader a sense of impending drama.

This is a book no lover of chess can afford to overlook. The price is steep, but for \$10 you can have a million dollars worth of pleasure.

Here is game No. 251 from the book. We give the preface verbatim, but omit the notes to the game, which occurred in a simultaneous exhibition by the world champion, William Steinitz, in New York, 1885.

"In the following game we have the delectable spectacle of an amateur trying a counter-attack against the world champion. There is, in addition, a certain historical value attached to the game, in that it is more or less the first official example of a famous variation, the 'McCutcheon.' "

FRENCH DEFENSE

White—W. Steinitz

Black—J. L. McCutcheon

1 P-K4	P-K3	16 P-QR3	P-R3
2 P-Q4	P-Q4	17 Kt-B3	PxP
3 Kt-QB3	Kt-KB3	18 BxQBP	Kt-Q5
4 B-Kt5	B-Kt5	19 Kt-K2	KtxKKt
5 P-K5	P-KR3	20 QxKt	B-B3
6 BxKt	PxB	21 Q-R3	K-R2
7 Kt-B3	P-KB4	22 P-QKt4	B-Kt3
8 B-Q3	P-B4	23 Kt-B3	KR-Kt1
9 PxP	BxP	24 B-B1	R-Q7
10 O-O	Kt-B3	25 Kt-Q1	Q-Kt4
11 Q-Q2	Q-K2	26 RxB	PxR
12 Q-B4	B-Q2	27 Q-QB3	Q-B5
13 Kt-QKt5	O-O-O	28 QxP	RxKt!
14 P-B4	B-K1	29 Resigns	
15 KR-B1	K-Kt1		