

Richard Shorman

Chess

CHESS DIATRIBE

In this horrible game
There is no element of chance
Or of the past reputation
Or of the brawny arm or self-esteem.
There is no possible escape here from your own idiocy.
There you sit, as if staring into a mirror—
And you watch yourself make a fool of yourself.
It is a pitiless game.
No grace of manner, no exquisite words of your own, no
luck
Can save you. Face to face with yourself
In that appalling void
Alone, you create your plan, and take the consequences.
Here you learn precisely who and what you are—
And you will not like it. It is a terrible experience—
Similar, in its quiet way, to what the Creator of the Uni-
verse
Must inexorably experience as, every day now,
He looks down.

("Esquire")

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White: Cambridge University. Black: Bedlam Insane Asylum

Correspondence, England, Dec. 1883-Mar. 1885.

Sicilian Defense

1 P-K4	P-QB4	14 B-Q3	K-R1
2 N-QB3	P-K3	15 Q-R5	P-B4
3 N-B3	N-QB3	16 N-K2	Q-Q3
4 P-Q4	PxP	17 N-Q4	Q-K4
5 NxP	B-N5	18 N-B3	Q-N2
6 N-N5	N-B3	19 N-R4	R-KN1
7 P-QR3	BxNch	20 P-KN3	Q-B3
8 NxB	P-Q4	21 P-KB4	R-N5
9 PxP	PxP	22 QR-K1	QR-KN1
10 B-KN5	B-K3	23 N-N2	R(1)-N3
11 B-K2	O-O	24 RxB	PxR
12 O-O	N-K2	25 B-K2	R-R3
13 BxN	PxB	26 Resigns	

THE CHESS MIND

by Lajos Steiner

Chess is generally considered a slow game that requires a great amount of patience of its players—and onlookers as well. As a chess player, I would feel sorry for a person, who, ignorant of the meaning of chess, might be sentenced to sit and watch a chess game for several hours.

Though there are some forms of chess which interest even non-players (a simultaneous display, or a very quickly conducted lightning game), chess is a game that has to be learned to be appreciated. Once learned, chess does not require more patience than any one of the various human activities. Are you bored when you read a good book? You are not; but ask a foreigner who does not understand your language to follow a book, page by page, word by word. He will not find it very interesting!

Chess becomes interesting for a chess student when he has at last mastered the different moves of his pieces and has got over the stage of finding out if he is allowed to put a bishop or a knight on a certain square. He finds himself in a new country and his chess mind starts to develop. He sees combinations; how to win a piece by attacking it and the opposing king; he develops plans a few moves ahead; he sacrifices material for future compensations which are often hidden to superficial minds.

A chess mind is a **combinative** one. It sees the different possibilities of a situation and it tries to imagine what other situations could be derived from the present one. A chess mind is logical and imaginative. Logic and imagination are very important factors in life; and if people, from their schooldays on, could be trained to be logical and imaginative, it surely would help to increase the intellectual standard of our race.

And here are the possibilities of chess in education. Young people taught to play chess would profit by it in different ways. They would acquire a feeling of responsibility. They would soon find out that in chess they must not depend on fate, but on themselves. They start the competition with their opponent on equal terms. No advantage of good birth, no advantage of a rich uncle! In their competition there is no umpire who might influence the result with a possible error. If they lose in such a competition they can blame only themselves, and that inspires one to improve oneself, to find out the faults and eliminate them if possible.

Young people studying chess would be confirmed in their belief in honesty. For in chess, dishonesty does not pay. Here you cannot speculate on your opponent's weakness, that he "will not see it." You have to try your best to "outplay" your opponent, to see further, to see more, to see more **practically**.

In chess there is a fight not only with the foe, but with yourself as well. You see a beautiful combination, and restrain yourself from adopting it, because a deviation is possible which would prove fatal if the opponent would find it. The young student soon finds out that a hasty move can spoil the work of hours; all the beautiful thoughts put into the game go for naught with a single hasty move of the hand.

I am familiar with the complaint that great chess players are generally impractical people. They are often inclined to live in a dream. It is true. But for these masters chess is no longer merely a game. They have found a form of expressing themselves. A form of art. However, people in general lack the inclination or ability for chess to that extent, and they can therefore utilize the lessons learned from chess in their practical life.

Talent alone is no longer enough to become a chess master. The game is too far advanced. Its theory is too rich, and the ability of leading experts is too high. To master everything requires a great deal of study and practice from even the most talented players. How many promising players have been unable to hold their places in international competition, because they were unable to put more work into it!

A player, besides talent, and even study, has to have the ability to see and analyze himself, to locate his weak spot, and try to reinforce it. That part is the most difficult one, as the weakness is sometimes really organic and its roots are in the person himself. How can a man eliminate his impulsiveness, or his overcaution, if they are in his blood? I have known players who were geniuses, but could not overcome certain difficulties and were driven back from the spotlight. And I have known master players who, with comparatively little talent, but with an ability to study and find the style that perfectly suits their personality, attained a rather high rank.

(Abridged from "The Chess Review", Oct. 1937)

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White: H. E. Ohman. Black: H. Buck. Chicago Championship Tournament, Dec. 1936. King's Gambit Accepted 1 e4 e5 2 f4 ef 3 Nf3 d6 4 Bc4 Be7 5 Nc3 Bh4 6 g3 fg 7 0-0 gh 8 Kh1 Bg3 9 Bf7 Kf7 10 Ne5 Ke6 11 Qg4 Ke5 12 d4 Kd4 13 Be3 Ke3 14 Rad1 Bg4 15 Rd3mate

LERA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ted and Ruby Yudacufski will direct the second annual LERA San Jose Class Championships at the LERA Auditorium, corner of Mathilda Ave. and Java St., opposite Sunnyvale, Nov. 23-25. Cash prizes of \$4,400 (based on 250 entries) will be awarded in six USCF playing categories. Entry fees, if mailed by Nov. 19 to LERA Chess Club, P.O. Box 451, Sunnyvale, Calif. 94088, are \$20 for the Open Division, "A" or "B" and \$15 for "C", "D-E" or Unrated; otherwise entry is \$5 more. Round one of this six-round Swiss system event begins at 10 a.m., Fri., Nov. 23. Please bring sets and clocks.