

George Koltanowski

'Engram' to 'Dianetics' 4--Check! Science Mates the Chess Master

Chess players are funny . . . but then who isn't?

"What's this!" you'll say (or something like it). Well, here's what I mean.

We have a few players in our chess club who want to be right there on top of the rating list. Among them we have a few who dabble in anything that comes along just to prove to everyone (or no one) that they are good canasta players, bridge players,

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mah-jong players, monopoly players or what have you.

We also have a couple of authors who only write "science fiction" stories. And these have added their contribution to the mental melee—the all-important subject of "dianetics."

DIANETICS, so it seems, started in one of these science monthlies, and is now a "must" in the American way of life.

In our chess club, two groups have already formed "Dianetics Clubs," probably with the hope that when they are "cleared" (a trade term meaning "cleared"), they will be chess champions.

Several from these groups have even gone down to Los Angeles where the author of "Dianetics," L. Ron Hubbard, lives, and have—after a month of training, lessons and "full clearance"—become "doctors" of a sort, or what ever you wish to call them. They intend to open up offices soon in Oakland and S.F.

WHAT IS "Dianetics" all about?

Well, first there are engrams. If an expectant mother falls, do

not assist her or say anything to her. If you do, the child might be born with a built-in engram. Years later this may cause chronic migraine headaches, or what have you.

"Dianetics" therefore helps eliminate engrams. How? Well, first you gather in groups. Each participant has a questioner, an auditor and recorder.

The questions asked of the one in the witness chair, so to speak, comprise a sort of psychoanalytical chat. The witnesses are supposed to recall everything that ever happened . . . even before you were born, and when one can recall everything, that person is considered "cleared."

If you are a "cleared" person, you are thus mentally healthy. You can think more clearly. Now, so far none of the chess club members have been "cleared," but they persist they will achieve that state. And when they do, I'm supposed to look out. They promise they'll trounce me at the royal game of chess!

In the meantime they take "Dianetics" very seriously, apparently enjoying themselves in the process. Perhaps they are listening to Cleopatra or Don Juan!

I'd like to listen in too, but somehow they don't want me as a member, the cads.

It seems they really do want to beat me.

And that is probably the reason I have an engram right now.