

## The Chess Column

## Beware Of 'Beginners'

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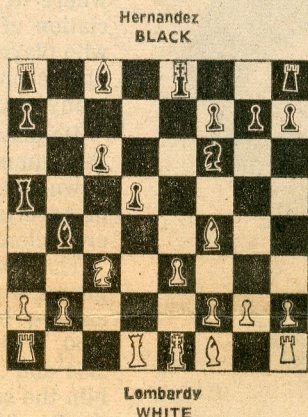
Special To The Bee

A favorite chess strategem is known as the "country cousin" routine. This usually occurs when some regular patron of a club, coffee-house or bar has established such a dominance over fellow players that every chess player in the establishment hungrily yearns for someone to beat him. The desire is intensified if the house champion also happens to be of a sententious turn of mind and accompanies victories with lectures.

Once, after many years as world champion, Emanuel Lasker was visiting a Silesian town. Local players earnestly urged him to attend their next club meeting but to keep his identity secret. Lasker dutifully appeared and was introduced to the club champion as a visitor who thought he knew something about chess. "Perhaps you can teach him a few things, Hans?" one of the champion's rivals suggested archly.

Hans and Lasker played, and Lasker won several consecutive games. "It's funny you should beat me this way," the champion observed. "They call me the Lasker of this club, and you know what that means."

Some years back I was called in as "country cousin" at the Steppenwolf, then a popular bar with the artistic, radical and professional student set in Berke-



ley. One patron regularly came in to quaff large amounts of wine and beat the chess-playing habitues.

I approached him one night wearing my most simple-minded mien: "Would it be possible for ME to play you a game?"

In the first game I tried the Nimzoindian, and he exclaimed Knowledgeably. "Oh, you play the Cornwall Defense, but now I get the Kozinsky Counter-gambit." He played the Rubinstein Variation. He lost the game and explained to the crowd that now he was going to bear down on me. We kept playing, and he kept drinking and losing. In the last game I delivered mate and had to explain why it was mate. He turned to a woman who was hovering at his shoulder and asked plaintively, "How did he do that to me?" Then he fell out of his chair and lay on the floor in a stupor.

Grandmasters occasionally succumb to real country cousins. At the recent Tallin tourney William

Lombardy got run over by obscure R. Hernandez.

### Queen's Gambit Declined W. Lombardy vs R. Hernandez

1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. P-QB4, P-K3; 3. N-QB3, P-QB4; 4. PXQP, KPXP; 5. N-B3, N-QB3.

(Regular P-Q4 players are becoming dissatisfied with White's chances in the Tarrasch Defense. With his 6th move Lombardy tries for something different from the main line. Vlastimil Hort had previously ventured the Lombardy continuation in this same tourney.)

6. B-B4, N-B3; 6. P-K3, PXP; 8. KNXP, B-QN5; 9. NXN.

(The books give 9. B-QN5.)

9 ... , PXN; 10. Q-R4, Q-R4!

See diagram.

(Hort-Espig went 10. ... , Q-N3; 11. B-Q3 when White got the better game. Here 11. QXQ gets equality, but Lombardy gets run over.)

11. QX Pch, B-Q2; 12. Q-B7.

(12. QXRch, K-K2; 13. Q-N7, BXNch gives Black enough attack for the lost exchange.)

12. ... , QXQ; 13. BXQ, P-Q5!

(Another powerful blow, intending 14. PXP, N-Q4 winning.)

14. P-QR3, PXN; 15. PXB, PXP; 16. R-Q1.

(White could not play 16. R-QN1, R-QB1; 17. B-K5, R-B8ch.)

16. ... , B-R5, 17. R-QN1, R-QB1 and Black won.