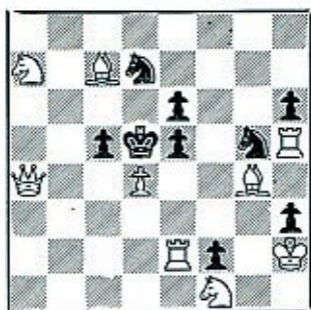


THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

TASK No. 35—By Dr. J. J. O'Keefe



WHITE MATES IN TWO MOVES
(Value 5 points)

Answer to Task No. 33: Kt-B1

Answer to Task No. 35 should be postmarked not later than October 16. It is required only that White's first move be given.

MR. JOHN KECKHUT of Los Angeles is a young school teacher. Although he learned to play chess only a few years ago, he is now recognized as a leading figure in California chess. Mr. Keckhut is a member of the board of directors of the California State Chess Federation, is tournament director of the Los Angeles County Chess League, and is secretary of the Santa Monica Chess Club. He claims to have the world's largest collection of other people's chess books!

Mr. Keckhut says of himself: "I wasn't exactly born with a chess piece in my mouth. I did play with clothespins as a child (for hours, they tell me). In the Army, someone gave me a broken-down chess set and I learned a few of the moves, which seemed to be enough to beat most GI's. By some fortune or misfortune, the same set found its way to Japan and back to New Jersey, and then followed me out to sunny California. My mother sent it parcel post along with some old paratrooper boots, some diapers (for our baby) and a clothespin.

"Then, one day, I stumbled into a dingy place that turned out to be a chess club. Since then (two and one-half years ago) I have played chess.

"I have played through five tournaments (total winnings, \$8.67) and through many television programs. This is only the beginning as far as my chess playing is concerned. I hope to become a good player—and becoming good is one of the most difficult and interesting things I have ever attempted."

The following game is the first tournament game ever played by Mr. Keckhut. His opponent, Mr. William H. Steckel, is a very strong player, and was Pennsylvania State Champion in 1936. The game is from the Los Angeles County Championship Tournament of 1950, which was won by Mr. Steckel. The notes are by Mr. Keckhut.

COLLE SYSTEM

White—W. Steckel

Black—J. Keckhut

- 1. P-Q4 P-Q4
- 2. Kt-KB3 Kt-KB3
- 3. P-K3 P-K3
- 4. B-Q3

White cranks out the Colle instead of his favorite Stone-wall.

- 5. QKt-Q2 QKt-Q2
- 6. P-B3 B-K2
- 7. O-O O-O
- 8. R-K1 P-QKt3

Bravely inviting 9. P-K4.

- 9. P-K4 PxKP
- 10. KtxP PxP
- 11. PxP B-Kt2

The exchanges have favored Black.

- 12. Kt-Kt3 P-KR3

To avoid 13. B-KKt5, which would make Black's next move undesirable.

- 13. B-Q2 B-Q3
- 14. R-QB1 B-Q4
- 15. P-QR3 P-R3
- 16. Q-K2 Q-Kt1?
- 17. Kt-K5 Q-Kt2
- 18. KtxKt QxKt1?
- 19. Kt-R5?

No reason has as yet been discovered why White can't win a pawn.

- 20. Kt-B4 Q-K2
- 21. R-B2 B-Kt2
- 22. KR-B1 KR-Q1
- 23. PxP P-K4!
- 24. P-KKt3 QxP

Not 24. QxQ, BxQ and White's pieces are embarrassed.

- 25. Q-B1? R-K1
- P-QR4

Apparently pointless but it attracts the attention of a time-troubled opponent to his bishop.

- 26. B-B3 Q-KKt4
- 27. P-KR4 Q-Kt5
- 28. BxKt BxKt1
- 29. R-B4 Q-B6
- 30. K-R2 BxR
- 31. B-B3

The square K1 must be defended.

- BxQKtP!
 - 32. R-B4 Q-B3
 - 33. BxB?? R-K8!
- Resigns

Robert Currie of San Francisco writes:

"Just a note to let you know that we are changing the residence of the Golden Gate Chess Club. Our new place will be at the Hotel Cecil. However, the club will still be known as the Golden Gate Chess Club. We think the new place will be much better as it will encourage new membership. The first meeting at the new place will be Saturday, September 27. The meeting night has been changed from Friday to Saturday."

Mr. Kenton Chambers, Stanford: Entries in THE ARGONAUT prize competition are not considered only in the month in which they are submitted, but will carry over from month to month. That is to say, a problem or other contribution might be submitted in October and win a prize in December.