

# THE CHESS PLAYER

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

TASK No. 56—By M. Marysko  
Zlata Olesnice u Plav,  
Czechoslovakia  
(Original to THE ARGONAUT)



WHITE MATES IN TWO MOVES  
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 54P: RxP.

Answer to Task No. 56 should be postmarked not later than February 19. It is required only that White's first move be given.

**I**N the February 11 issue of *People Today*, Mary Bain, United States Women's Chess Champion, describes her experiences in the Soviet Union, where she recently spent five weeks. Mrs. Bain participated in an international tournament of women players, competing against 16 titleholders from nine nations. Mrs. Bain says:

"Chess is a religion in Russia; the authorities have a reverential attitude toward the game. When the Soviet Government invited women champions to come to Moscow—at their expense—I was delighted that I was the American title-holder. I wanted, out of curiosity alone, to penetrate the Iron Curtain. I did it at Leningrad. My baggage was thoroughly searched, my books and papers taken for a two-hour check-up, and I was ceremoniously welcomed to the USSR. Moscow followed: five weeks spent on the stage of the Red Army Officers' Club, playing chess before 500 avid spectators.

"The chess boards were reproduced on giant wall boards so that the spectators, each of whom paid four rubles (\$1) to get in, could follow every move.

"Although playing in public under a battery of bright lights was disconcerting, Moscow itself was interesting. Russian hospitality was done up brown for the benefit of foreign visitors. My stay opened with an elaborate banquet: mountains of caviar, fish and fowl, vintage wines, the ever-present vodka. The chairman of the Committee of Hosts emphasized that the aim of the tournament was to promote world peace: he sounded as though Stalin would stop Korean hostilities when play ended. . . .

"The tournament ended as it began, with a huge banquet and the distribution of presents, followed by "appropriate" speeches. . . .

"Russia plans a team-of-five match by radio, with top-ranking American women players competing against Russian champions. It should be fun, but I'll want to be sure the Russians won't use such a match for propaganda. They didn't this time. But you never know."

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In the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League team matches, "A" division, Castle defeated University of California 4½-2½, and the match between Golden Gate and Russians was 3-3, with one game adjourned. Mechanics' Institute forfeited to Oakland.

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Imre König, internationally known chess master and author, has established residence in San Francisco. Mr. König says

that of all the great cities of the world which he has visited—and he has lived in many noted for their beauty—San Francisco is the most beautiful.

Mr. König's presence in San Francisco will greatly add to the advancement of chess in northern California. His quiet modesty, combined with scholarly knowledge, have already won him many friends.

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The following game, between California State Co-Champion Henry Gross, and Northern California Champion Dmitry Poliakoff, was played January 24 in the team match between the Golden Gate Chess Club and the Russian Chess Club. Mr. Poliakoff makes the mistake of playing a type of game which Mr. Gross dearly loves—wide-open with plenty of chances for a direct King-side attack.

### RUY LOPEZ

White—H. Gross

Black—D. Pollakoff

1. P-K4	P-K4	13. P-B4	B-K3
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3	14. P-B5!	PxP
3. B-Kt5	Kt-Q5	15. PxP	Q-Kt3ch
4. KtxKt	PxKt	16. B-K3	B-Q5
5. O-O	P-KKt3	17. BxKB	QxBch
6. P-QB3	B-Kt2	18. K-R1	KtxP
7. PxP	BxP	19. Q-Kt5ch	Kt-Kt2
8. Kt-B3	Kt-K2	20. Kt-K4	Q-K4
9. P-Q3	B-Kt2	21. Kt-B6ch	K-R1
10. B-Kt5	P-QB3	22. Q-R6	B-B4
11. B-QB4	O-O	23. P-Q4	Q-QR4
12. Q-Q2	P-Q3	24. P-QKt4	Resigns

A pretty finish!