

CHESS

By E. J. CLARKE

Address all communications to Chess Editor, San Francisco Chronicle

Elmer W. Gruer, present holder of the Mechanics' Institute championship, is expected to give a good account of himself in the California state championship tournament to be held at the Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post street, December 27 to January 7. Gruer, who is a graduate of the University of California, held the chess championship of the university for the years 1908, 1910 and 1911. While taking a post-graduate course at the University of Chicago he was instrumental in organizing the Western Intercollegiate Chess Association, and won the first championship tourney in 1912. In the same year he won second place in the Illinois state championship tourney. Gruer also took second prize in the Chicago Chess Club, 1912, championship. Gruer has won the Mechanics' Institute gold medal championship three times.

Committee Named to Manage State Championship Tournament

The following committee has been named by President Eells of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club to bring to a successful conclusion the initiatory steps taken by Acting Secretary Bernardo Smith for the first California chess championship tournament: Bernardo Smith, chairman; J. F. Smyth, W. E. Baker and W. S. Tevis Jr. This committee is working hard to make the tourney a success. Invitation blanks have been sent to the leading players of

the state, and it is hoped to have a representative lineup when play begins on December 27.

Bernardo Smith, Promoter

Just before the gun is fired to start the players in the championship tourney on their way (or however such events are started), it is expected that the chairman of the committee, Bernardo Smith, will resign and take his place as a contestant in the battle for chess fame. Besides being a player of reputation, Bernardo is a leading figure in local chess activities. For two years he has been captain of the institute telegraphic chess team, which this year defeated both Los Angeles and Portland. It was largely through his efforts that the state tournament was made possible, and whatever fortune may attend his endeavors to capture first prize, he counts it the greater honor to have been instrumental in bringing about the tournament. Bernardo, while a musician by profession (one of the best guitarists in America), has recently devoted his time to teaching chess, and enjoys a large clientele. Many of his pupils have made rapid strides at the game. He has twice won the Mechanics' Institute championship and gold medal. Besides, he has been successful at simultaneous chess exhibitions on various occasions. Bernardo won the only game out of forty-six played by United States Champion Marshall on his first visit to San Francisco a

few years ago. He was again successful in defeating the champion on his second visit in a simultaneous.

Faculty-Casa Loma Chess Clubs Defeats U. C. Players

An interesting match on ten boards was played recently at Stiles Hall, University of California, between the above clubs and was won by the Allies, 6½ to 3½. Following table shows pairings and results:

U. C. Chess Club	Faculty and Casa Loma Clubs
Haldeman, Jr. ½	vs. Ryder ½
Jackson 0	vs. Thompson 1
Ward 0	vs. Branch 1
Chevalier 0	vs. Bernstein 1
Maynard 1	vs. Dr. Haldeman... 0
Kalichevsky 1	vs. De Fremery... 0
Kessler 0	vs. Gibson 1
Ushausen 1	vs. Woodworth 0
Buell 0	vs. Kroeber 1
Sinclair 0	vs. Monroe 1

3½ 6½

Aljechin Wins Hague Tournament

We are indebted to Herman Helms of New York for the result of the recently concluded masters' tourney at The Hague—the strongest gathering, by the way, since the great international tournament at St. Petersburg in 1914, which peaceful meeting was hardly concluded before the world cataclysm engulfed Europe. A glance at the table will show the well-known masters taking part. Yates, the English champion, finished last.

Aljechin	Won	Lost	Misses	Won	Lost
Tarakanov	8	2	3	6	6
Rubinstein	7	1	3	3	3
Kostich	6½	2½	2	4	6½
Maroczy	5½	3½	2	2	7
Yates	5½	3½	1	1	8

Aljechin and Rubinstein have signed articles for a match to be played at The Hague, beginning the 1st of next year.

Errata

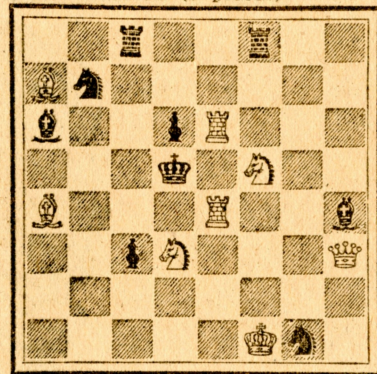
C. A. Endicott, Washington—Game No. 38: Move 17½, P-QB4(f); move 46, Q-QB(s). Game No. 40: Move 23, BxR(Kt2). Game No. 41: Move 12, E-B4.

E. N., Press Club, city—Interesting letter concerning P-KB4 defense to ruy lopez received. Will discuss it in this column soon. Would be pleased to learn system.

Problems

A. J. F. PROBLEM NO. 46

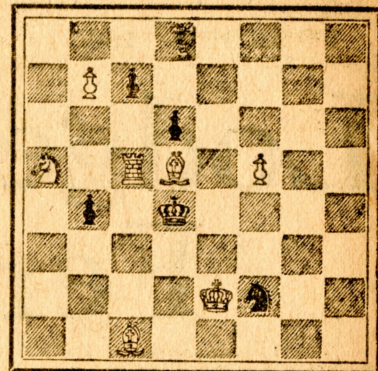
By T. M. Stott
Contributed by our Palo Alto solver, clipped from the London Observer. A very clever and well-constructed problem on the theme of four mates by unpinned white knights.



White (8 pieces)
White mates in two moves.

PROBLEM NO. 47

By E. J. Russell, Oakland, Cal.
Composed especially for The Chronicle.
Black (5 pieces)



White (7 pieces)
White mates in two moves.
Solutions—No. 44, Q-B3 threatening QxP ch, followed by PxP e. p. mate. If R-B5, then Q-K5, etc. No. 45, R-K4 if RxP ch, then R-K7 dis. mate.

Solvers' list—J. E. Ford, city; J. W. White, city; E. Russell, Oakland; J. Fulton, Sacramento; J. N. S., San Mateo; W. S. Coughlan, Berkeley—see solutions to 40 and 41; "Floy," Coalinga—both correct, come again; H. H. Howell, Natoma—P-B4 defeated by P-B3; "A. J. H." Palo Alto—it is not surprising, note that fifty years is mentioned; C. V. Rowe, Burlingame—welcome on our list; B. Hadlow, Richmond—try again; C. C. Kanaga—letter delayed, incorrectly addressed—33 and 39 correct, but on 42 and 43, try again; S. L. Jackson, Dyerville—key move sufficient; W. A. Beckman, Cement—answered direct.