

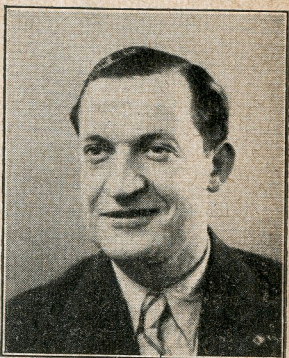
CHESS IN CALIFORNIA

Koltanowsky, with his miraculous ability at blindfold chess and his constant bubbling flow of chatter, was a frequent and popular visitor to Hastings, Margate and other English congresses prior to the war. Then he emigrated to the United States, divorced his wife, Liane, married again . . . started a chess magazine in California . . .

Here is some tittle-tattle about him and others, kindly passed on to us by a North-country friend :

“Out here in California the Chess picture is cleft in twain, as it were. In Los Angeles Herman Steiner is king, and leads a somewhat autocratic existence. He is the present U.S. Champion, and his omission in the recent Yugoslavia Radio Match has caused a lot of controversy. Possibly this will be cleared up by the time the team tournament in Yugoslavia starts in August this year. There are a lot of clubs in the Los Angeles metropolitan area (containing $4\frac{1}{2}$ million people), and besides Steiner the strong players are : Kashdan (now hospitalized out here), Almgren, Rivise, Jim Cross (a promising junior), Martin (who may beat Steiner in current L.A. Championship), etc. Steiner controls Southern Calif., including San Diego.

“In San Francisco, George Koltanowsky is boss. He has perhaps the most ‘fancy’ chess club on the coast, with over a hundred members, several wall demonstration boards, nightly tournaments, ladies’ group—all in a nice room in a downtown hotel. He runs a daily Chess Column in the *Frisco Chronicle*, as well as in his home town’s paper in Santa Rosa (80 miles from Frisco—he commutes twice weekly). He also has weekly broadcasts on the radio, giving chess lessons and instruction, and is on television once a month. Also, he edits a paper (monthly) for Pacific coast chess. He is quite well known all over the U.S.A., of course, and once a year embarks on a nation wide tour. His speciality there is to play blindfold, ten secs. a move against opponent with board—usually wins too ! Steiner has a big Sunday column only, in the *L.A. Times*. Kolty is much more astute than Steiner and less hard headed, hence his success. He has organised clubs in northern California only. It is amazing to behold how Europeans, like the above two, have entered into the spirit of American Chess promotion, and with some success !”



G. KOLTANOWSKY 1