

MODUS OPERANDI

Sirs:

I have enjoyed the articles on the Automaton chess player very much. Being a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, I know that for many years, magicians have discussed it and offered explanations of how it worked. Most magicians know the methods of concealment in apparatus and it was never any great mystery as to how a person was hidden therein but no one, as far as I know, ever came up with any feasible explanation as to how the hidden operator manipulated the figure, moved the men and observed and controled the game. Your explanation seems to settle the issue.

I think Fred Wren's *Tales of a Woodpusher* are great. It makes lively reading when a nice guy tells some interesting stories and gives good advice in a jocose manner. May the series continue for a long time.

HARRY SHAW
San Jose, Calif.