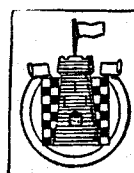


The Problemist



Proceedings

of the



BRITISH CHESS PROBLEM SOCIETY

No. 10

July, 1959

Vol. 6

SOCIETY NEWS: Lecture Report—T. C. D. Ricketts.

Brian Harley Award—Judges: G. F. Anderson, A. R. Gooderson, N. A. Macleod.

OBITUARY—J. Scheel.

PROBLEM SECTIONS: SELF-MATES—E. Boswell

OUR OWN COMPOSERS—J. F. Ling

1959 CHAMPIONSHIP

President: **E. BOSWELL**

Past Presidents: **B. G. Laws** (1918-1931), **T. R. Dawson** (1931-1943), **F. F. L. Alexander** (1943-1945), **A. W. Daniel** (1945-1947), **B. Harley** (1947-1949), **C. Mansfield** (1949-1951), **G. Heathcote** (1951-1952), **A. C. Challenger** (1952-1954), **Rev. N. Bonavia-Hunt** (1954-1956), **G. W. Chandler** (1956-1958)

Vice-Presidents: **F. F. L. Alexander**, **Rev. N. Bonavia-Hunt**, **G. W. Chandler**, **C. S. Kipping**, **C. Mansfield**, **Sir Halford Reddish**, **S. Sedgwick**.

Secretary and Treasurer: **G. W. CHANDLER**, 46, Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey.

To whom ALL subscriptions and payments should be sent, and changes of address notified.

Librarian: **B. P. BARNES**, 7 Fitzjohn Avenue, Barnet, Herts.

Editor of The Problemist: **C. S. KIPPING**, 19, Slaney Road, Walsall, England, to whom all solutions and original problems are sent (except as otherwise directed in the case of Tournaments and other Sections).

Fellows: **C. H. O'D. Alexander**, **G. F. Anderson**, **L. W. Barden**, **I. A. Bartlett**, **Rev. N. Bonavia-Hunt**, **G. W. Chandler**, **J. R. Cheshire**, **Dr. C. H. D. Clark**, **R. J. Darvall**, **D. M. Davey**, **V. L. Eaton**, **W. E. F. Fillery**, **A. R. Gooderson**, **A. H. Goult**, **G. Stuart Green**, **Lt. Col. K. N. Howard**, **J. G. Ingram**, **C. E. Kemp**, **C. S. Kipping**, **W. Langstaff**, **W. H. Laslett**, **J. F. and A. Ling**, **D. McIntyre**, **R. C. McWilliam**, **C. Mansfield**, **R. C. O. Matthews**, **D. J. Morgan**, **D. Nixon**, **A. A. Paul**, **Dr. L. S. Penrose**, **R. Pratt**, **Sir Halford Reddish**, **G. W. Richardson**, **Sir William W. Richardson**, **T. C. D. Ricketts**, **Prof. J. B. Santiago**, **Dr. E. T. O. Slater**, **J. Stewart**, **Lt. Col. L. C. Thuillier**, **C. Vaughan**, **J. Warton**, **T. Waterhouse**, **Vaux Wilson**, **B. W. M. Young**, **Sir Paul Benthall**, **W. W. Wallis**, **W. Kruger**.

New Members are welcome

Apply to the Secretary

Subscriptions to the Society: Fellows **Two Guineas**. Ordinary members 10/- per annum payable on September 1st for the period to the following August 31st. New members joining on or after March 1st may pay 5/- to August 31st. All subscriptions terminate on August 31st each year. Members under 18: Subscription 5/-.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO PROBLEMISTS IN ALL COUNTRIES

The Problemist is published bi-monthly.

SOCIETY NOTICES

We much regret to announce that both W. H. Laslett and Johan Scheel died in December last, though the sad news has only just reached us. W. H. Laslett had been a Fellow of the Society for many years, and Johan Scheel a Member since 1952. An obituary notice of the latter appears in this issue.

Congratulations are due to E. J. Eddy and J. M. Rice on their success in the Brian Harley Award. That a veteran of the old school should share the honour with a young composer of the modern school is, indeed, a happy result.

We welcome three new members in H. W. Jones, A. Vlietinck and L. Chidambaram (India).

The Solving and Composing Match, London and Home Counties versus the Rest of Great Britain, announced in January, 1958, did not attract enough support to make an award possible, and the Committee have decided that the only course open to them is to cancel both solving and composing contests. Composers who had entered problems are free to use them elsewhere.

The judges in the B.C.P.S. Informal Tournaments for 1959 will be A. R. Cooper for two-movers and T. C. D. Ricketts for three-movers.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "SZACHY"

The Society can arrange for this Polish chess monthly, which has a strong problem section conducted by M. Wrobel, to be sent direct to any Member of this Society for a subscription of 5/- per annum. This is, of course, far below its true cost, and is only made possible by an exchange agreement. Those who would like to receive the magazine should inform the Hon. Secretary without delay and enclose the 5/- subscription.

THE SOCIETY CAN SUPPLY

Large Chess Printing Sets at 8/- each, small sets at 5/- each. Diagrams 2½ in. square, for use with the large sets, at 2/6d. per 100. Diagrams, for use with small sets, 1½ in. square, 2/6d. per 100, 1¼ in. square, 1/9d. per 100. Always in stock and post free from the Hon. Secretary.

LECTURE REPORT

The following is a much abridged version of a paper by Mr. T. C. D. Ricketts, given at St. Bride's on 30th January last.

Mating Economy in the Model Mate Three-move Problem

After tracing the evolution of the model mate, Mr. Ricketts quoted Problem A, pointing out what a wonderful degree of compression had been achieved in four quiet lines with models in three of them. Key Kc2, waiting.

PxS 2Qf3 Kd4 3Qf4;
Pf6 2Be7 Pf5 3Qe2;
Kf6 2Sf8 Ke5 3Sd7;
Pf5 2Qg5 KxS 3Qe7.

The three models are as near to perfect mating economy as most problems are likely to get, and go much further than merely to satisfy the stipulation in its current definition—that there shall be no idle pieces. This definition, in fact, is less than explicit in two important respects. Firstly, it ignores the fact that the white pieces, though not idle, may yet be used uneconomically and much of their guarding power wasted. Secondly, in making no mention of white pawns,

idle or not, it allows credit for mating economy to be usurped by their too free use. In diagram B concocted with some difficulty, the move Pe4, shows the extreme case of all the white pieces in use, and guarding only one square each, plus the assistance of two pawns, in what is technically a model mate.

Strictly speaking, a model mate of optimum economy would show all the white force participating to the full extent of its potential guarding power, with no idle men at all, not even the white king; and the mating economy of a problem as a whole would be judged on the standard of all its mates, certainly in the main lines. Of course, even one mate satisfying these conditions would be a rara avis.

An object of this paper being to examine possible ways of assessing mating economy, it is submitted that a starting point may be found in the maximum guarding capacities assignable to the mating force. These are:—

Queen, 6 squares; Two Rooks, 6 squares; One Rook, 4 squares; Two Bishops, 5 squares; One Bishop, 3 squares; Knight, 2 squares; Pawn guarding, 2 squares; Pawn mating, 1 square; King, 3 squares; Black men, each, 1 square.

Thus, for the 9 squares of a King's field the average potential guarding power of the three models in Heathcote's problem is 16; that in the diagram in B adds up to 24, a figure so unlikely that it may be taken as the nadir, and 9 to 24 as the economic range.

Now with these guarding powers assignable to the men, a single pawn idle is of the same value as a knight, and three of them are equivalent to a queen. Some adjustment is necessary to avoid such anomalies. It seems best to distinguish those pawns which do not participate in a mate from those which do, and to include the latter in the assessment of other mating units. Idle pawns—those truly off-stage in each mate—may then be considered separately to a value of 2 each, their total value being averaged to denote what might be termed the "idle pawn ratio" of the problem. This figure, together with that for mating economy, would constitute an economy factor.

The need for more precise definition of mating economy and for assessment of the part played by idle pawns is well illustrated in problem C. The key gives two flights, by 1.Se6, and there are three model mate lines, viz:—

KxS 2 (threat) Sg5 QxP 3.Be6;
Sf3 2.Pd3+ Kd5 3.Se7;
Kd5 2.Se3+ Kc6 3.Be8.

The three models have mating economy values of 11, 13 and 10 respectively, average 11.3, counting the white king, for the moment only as used. Against this, the idle pawn values are 4, 6, and 10 respectively, average 6.7. The play is neat enough, but a mating economy value of 11.3 is sadly qualified by an idle pawn ratio amounting to over half this figure. This three-mover would hardly qualify as an economical example of a no-white-queen problem.

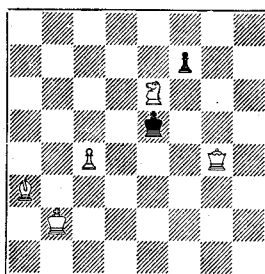
Now contrast this with the pawnless Bohemian D. The key is 1.Ba3.

threat 2Sd5+ Kxd5 3Qf7
Kd6 2Qf5 Kc7 3Sd5;
Pe3 2Qd3 Kb6 3Sd5;
Bf6 2Sa6+ Kb6 3Bc5;
Kd5 3Sc7.

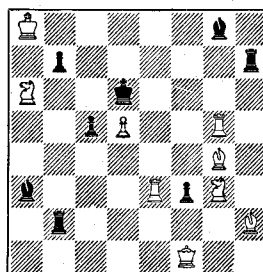
There are five models in the four variations and their mating economy values average 14.6. But here the white queen is used in each of five models, whereas in C the equivalent of her maximum power lies idle in each of three models only.

Mr. Ricketts went on to discuss the use of the white king as it affects economy, side-of-the-board models, and slaughter models, in which some degree of co-operation by Black is required to make the mate economical; and he quoted many excellent problems which space does not allow us to reproduce. But the full text of the lecture, with 16 diagrams, may be had on application to the Hon. Secretary.

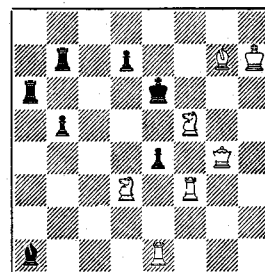
A
G. Heathcote
Ill. Lond. News, 1902



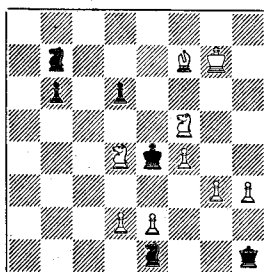
C. Mansfield
3 H.M. Observer, 1958



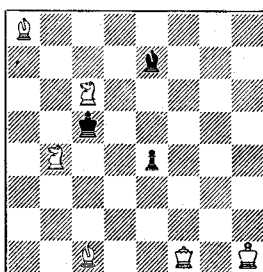
E. J. Eddy
1st Prize, Observer, 1958



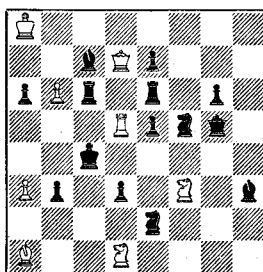
C
Kofman & Loshinsky
Problem 1956



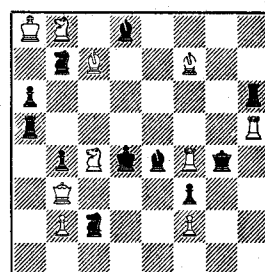
D
V. Cisar
1st Pr. Slov. Denik, 1926



G. W. Chandler
1st Prize B.C.P.S. 1957



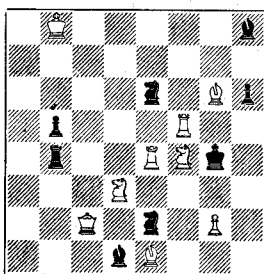
F. G. Butcher
5th Command, Observer,
1958



THE BRIAN HARLEY AWARD

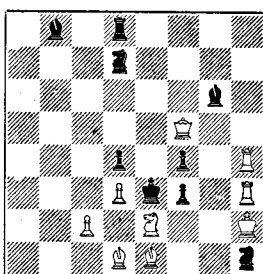
This award was for the best two-mover composed by a subject of the British Commonwealth and published in Great Britain during 1957 and 1958. The judges, G. F. Anderson, A. R. Gooderson and N. A. Macleod, were in fairly close agreement regarding the following problems, which stood out from the others when the independent scalings were put together. The result is a tie between them, and each composer will receive a suitable trophy.

E. J. Eddy
2nd Prize "Observer," 1958



1.Rh5

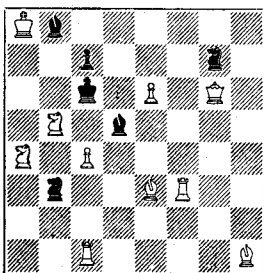
J. M. Rice
"The Tablet," 1958



1.Sxf4

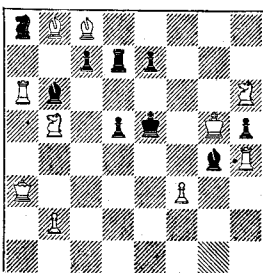
The following six problems, which are not placed in any particular order, were in the running for the award.

C. Mansfield
3rd Prize B.C.F. 1957



1.Bf4

B. P. Barnes
Correspondence Chess 1958



1.Sd4

1.Qb5

1.Bf8

1.Ra5

1.Se5

Mr. A. R. Gooderson's comments on the Award Winners are as follows:—

E. J. Eddy. A beautiful study of BS defences, the echoed play after the self-pins 1... either SxS and the self-interferences 1... either Sd4 being particularly attractive. The second WS is brought into play by the self-interference 1... Sg7 and the self-block 1... Sg3, and 1... Sg5 is another self-block. A rich and satisfying body of variations in a dual free and artistic setting.

J. M. Rice. A fine example of the use of a try for theme doubling. The self-pins 1.Rf4 and 1.Sf4 set up the same threat, and in each case the defences 1... Sg3 and 1... Se5 allow different mates by the unpinned piece. The position is such that a solver is likely to see key and try at the same time and the one defence to the try is not immediately obvious. The construction is first rate, all the W and B force taking part in both virtual and actual play.

Mr. G. F. Anderson writes:—

E. J. Eddy. There are 3 interferences, 2 self-pins, 2 self-blocks, and a shut-off of a white piece in this flawless problem, and it is a happy feature that the Black Knights produce all of them.

J. M. Rice. 1.Rxf4 or 1.Sxf4? Take your choice, for each leads to two thematic unpins of the key-piece, and a changed mate after 1... Se5. The first fails because of 1... Rh8. This is the new technique, and you must understand it to appreciate the true worth of this problem.

At the time of going to Press no comment had been received from Mr. Macleod, but he had previously stated that if only one problem could be chosen, he would be happy for either of them to win the award.

LIBRARY

We are grateful to Mr. H. G. Thomas for 'Strategie im Schachproblem' by W. Speckmann (Berlin 1959).

Other additions to the Library are:

600 Selected Problems by L. I. Kubbel (Moscow 1958); 300 Problems by E. Brunner by H. Kluver (Germany 1958); II Problema by G. Brogi (Milan 1959); The Chess Problem School by L. Lindner (Budapest 1954).

The texts are not in English but the notation can easily be followed.

B.P.B.

JOHAN SCHEEL †

Johan Scheel was born in Oslo in 1889, learned chess at the age of 13, and published his first problem just after his 15th birthday. In 1909, when he was 20 years of age, a copy of "Ceske Melodie" came his way, and he was charmed with the peculiar beauty of Pospisil's problems. So aptly did he absorb Bohemian principles that in the space of two years he was holding his own with the leading composers of the day, and his first prizewinner in the Norwegian Chess Association Tourney, 1911 (see problem A) was a remarkable success for a composer of 22. He became essentially a three-move composer, and his output in this field must have exceeded 600. He always paid due regard to purity of mate and economy of force, no matter what thematic idea he set out to illustrate, and the model mate is never absent in his three-move problems.

But Scheel did not become an out-and-out Bohemian. There was a freshness and piquancy about all his work, and its depth and subtlety was such that he came to be regarded as one of the world's greatest exponents of the classical three-mover.

His great constructive ability was admirably shown in light weight problems. A good example is Problem B, in which he extracts every possible scrap of play without any sign of effort.

He could handle the most awkward combination of White force, such as Queen and two Rooks, with extraordinary facility, and he had no superior in the handling of White Queen, Rook and Bishop. Problem C, with its quaint roundabout manoeuvre, is one of many clever problems in this category. And in D, using an extra Rook, he produces a classic masterpiece with a truly magnificent key.

Composition may have come easily to him, but he always polished his work to the last degree, and would keep a problem on hand for years if there was any hope of improving it.

His favourite composers were the great classical composers of his day, and although he was an ardent admirer of the genius of Sam Loyd and other great strategists, he considered Havel to be the greatest artist in problem composition that ever lived.

Scheel composed many two-movers, but he never took to the modern style of two-move composition, and he was not impressed with the crowded settings and emergency keys that are so common nowadays.

Some of his best problems were used as ordinary contributions, but he won many tourney honours. He was remarkably successful in B.C.F. Tourneys since the war, winning two First and three Second Prizes, and being in the honours list whenever he competed.

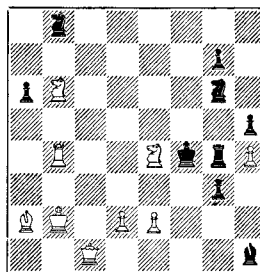
A collection of 200 of his problems appeared in 1924, but he was not fully satisfied with it, and always hoped that someday he would produce a better and more complete collection. Illness in later years prevented this, but much of his best work has appeared since 1924, and a further collection of his problems would make a welcome addition to problem literature.

Scheel was a lawyer by profession, and until his retirement a few years ago was employed in the Norwegian Government Department of Finance. He always had the most friendly feelings for this country, which he visited with his wife and family in 1952. He spoke our language fluently, and was a charming correspondent, always ready to help our Society in any way he could. By his death we have lost a good friend, and the problem world a very brilliant composer.

G. W. CHANDLER.

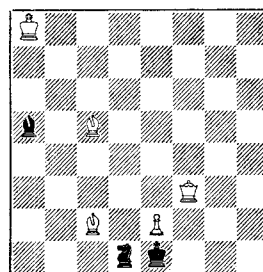
The following examples of Scheel's work are all three-movers.

A
1st Prize. Norwegian
Chess Association, 1911.



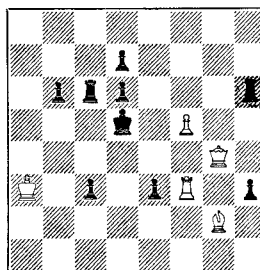
1.Sc8.
Threat 2.Pd4 †
1... Sxh4 2.Qc7 †
1... Kf5 2.Sc6 †
1... Bxe4 2.Qf1 †

B
Nya Dagligt Allehanda
1931



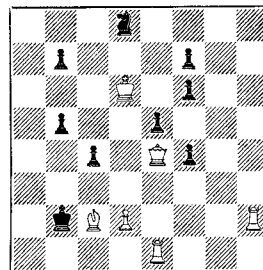
1.Bb3
1... Kd2 2.Qd3 †
1... Sb2 2.Pe4
1... Sc3 2.Qf2 †
1... Se3 2.BxS
1... Bb6 2.Bb4 †
1... Bc3 2.Qh1 †

C
Prager Presse, 1937.



1.Pf6
Threat 2.Qf5 †
Threat 2.Rf5 †
1... RxP 2.Rxh3 †
1... Rc5 2.Rxe3 †

D
1st Prize. Bull Memorial
Tourney, 1947.



1.Qh1
Threat 2.Ra1
1... KxB 2.Qf3
1... Pc3 2.Qd5
1... Pb6 2.Rb1 †

A lecture on Scheel's work, containing 18 of his problems, was given at St. Bride's in Dec., 1949. A copy is in the Society's Library.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The Society offers the following books on behalf of the widow of a deceased member. The general condition is excellent, and where a particular book is not quite up to standard allowance has been made in the price.

A. C. White Christmas Series	
Chess Lyrics (A. F. Mackenzie)	20/-
Les Milles et un Mats Inverses (Vol. I only)	20/-
Ceske Melodie (Pospisil)	12/6
More White Rooks	12/6
First Steps in the Classification of Two-movers	10/-
Theory of Pawn Promotion	24/-
Sam Loyd and his Chess Problems	50/-
White to Play	12/6
Chess Idylls (Heathcote)	30/-
Memorial to D. J. Densmore	10/-
Alpine Chess (Dr. Henneberger)	12/6
Good Companion Two-Mover	30/-
Bohemian Garnets (Havel)	18/-
Simple Two-move Themes	10/-
Changing Fashions (Hume)	12/6

Asymmetry	6/-
Properties of Castling	12/6
Valves and Bi-Valves	12/6
Problems by my Friends	15/-
An English Bohemian (Laws)	12/6
Running the Gauntlet	16/-

All the above are described in the Society's Library List.

Books by other authors

Chess Problem Textbook (Planck, Laws and others)	15/-
Terms and Themes of Chess Problems (Blackburne) ..	10/-
Adventures in Composition (Mansfield)	8/6
Elementary Chess Problems (Paul Taylor)	3/6
Chess Problem Science (Kipping)	5/-
Modern Chess Problem (Williams)	10/-
Chess Cameos (Bonner Feast)	6/-
120 Chess Problems and Puzzles (Locock)	10/-
Kotrc-Traxler	12/6

Offers are invited for the "Chess Amateur," Vols. I to VII, 1906-1913, bound in green cloth with gold lettering, in first-class condition.

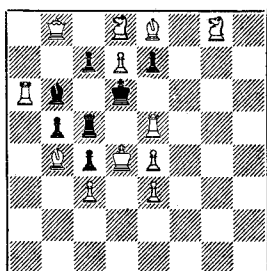
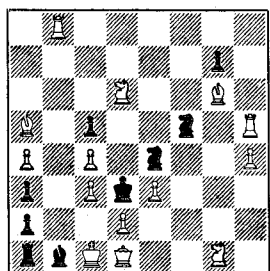
All prices are post free at home or abroad. Apply to the Hon. Sec.

THE SELF-MATE

By E. Boswell

(7, Denny Avenue, Ryelands, Lancaster)

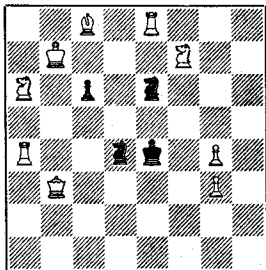
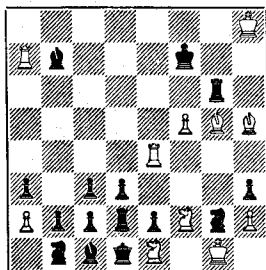
- | | |
|---|---|
| I (Original) | II (Original) |
| W. A. Whyatt and
A. Goldstein (Australia)
To E. Boswell | G. Thomas (Copenhagen)
To E. Boswell |



Self-Mate in Two.

- III (Original)
C. F. Way (Portsmouth)

- IV (Original)
E. J. Eddy (Bristol)



Self-Mate in Two.

Self-Mate in Four.

(Solve these first and read about them afterwards.)

It is always a pleasure to introduce new contributors to our section, and it is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome the distinguished authors of No. 1 and No. IV. Also do we appreciate the kindly thought of our gifted Australian and Danish friends in dedicating their fine works to us. No. I may be aptly described as "A Packet of Pins," high-lighted by its ingenious destruction and renewal of guards. No. II, a mutate, of the "Block Change" family, proved a terror to keep sound—we hope the change will do our readers good! No. III also proved difficult to construct, but the ingenious task will be appreciated. Finally, No. IV has a single line of play which aims at, and hits, high level artistry.

SOLUTIONS TO "THE SELF-MATE," MARCH, 1959

- I—1. B-b2, C2; 2Q-d2, 1 . . . f2+; 2 K-f1 (set 1 . . . e2; 2 B . . . d2).
II—1. S-e2, exd3; 2 S-c3, 1 . . . exf3; 2 S-g3 (set 1 . . . exd3; 2Qxa4, 1 . . . exf3; 2R-h2).
III—1. B-b2, threat; 2S-c3+, 1 . . . Qxb2; 2S-f3+, 1 . . . Q-h6; 2R-e3+. The try 1. B-a1? 1 . . . Q-b1! proved rather deceptive.
IV—1. Q-e1, fxe1; 2Kxe1 (set 1 . . . dxe3; 2R-d4).

Solutions to March Problems received with thanks from:

C. S. Kipping, S. W. Wood, R. Pratt, S. E. Turke, J. E. Driver, C. F. Way, T. Marlow, A. C. Brady, W. Goulding, R. H. Hoyle, R. L. Spencer Palmer, J. G. Ingram, W. W. Wallis (S. Africa), G. Watson, E. J. Eddy, C. Gaulin (Canada), D. Nixon, A. Senior, M. Fox (Australia), C. G. Rains.

OUR OWN COMPOSERS

by J. F. Ling

This section is intended for all problemists, in particular those who have had little or no experience in one or more of the activities of solving, composing, judging and editing. There is a continuous solving ladder for which solving may begin at any time; keys only required. All solutions and originals should be sent to the above at:—

15, Swan Street, Stourbridge, Worcs.

For Discussion II. We were very pleased to receive a contribution to the discussion on unsound problems from R. C. O. Matthews. He points out that if composers may not enter corrected versions of their own problems in a tourney, problems which are unconscious corrections of others composers' unsound problems must also be barred i.e., previously published unsound problems, if similar, will have to be treated as anticipations. To avoid this anomaly it is desirable that a sound version of an unsound problem should be published in the same column as soon as possible. Further, these corrected versions should be allowed to compete in the column's informal tourney, since otherwise first-class problems may not receive the recognition they deserve.

The following summary of the views expressed on this subject may perhaps provide a workable system:—(i) In formal tourneys, the composer of a problem which proves to be unsound before the publication of the award may amend it and enter it for any future tourney; problems which are included in the award and later found to be unsound, however, may be entered only for informal tourneys in a corrected form. (ii) In informal tourneys, corrected versions of unsound problems should be published as soon as possible and allowed to compete in the current tourney, preferably the tourney for which the original version was entered, but if this is impossible, for the next one.

We propose to adopt (ii) for this section and for "The Observer," and will be grateful if composers of unsound problems which appear could send us amended versions for publication in notation and inclusion in the respective informal tourneys.

This Month's Theme. In some cases a multiple threat can be exploited to obtain complex strategy which would otherwise not be possible. In the following, the combination of Schiffmann Defence and pin of White depends on the presence of a multiple threat:—J.F.L., S. A. Chess Player, 1958, B7; 1b6; 1p1p1b2; 2p1q2R; P1k1P2R; P1p1PS2; 2QB3p; 7K. Two: BxP. The duals which are a drawback of this type of composition should be avoided if possible, but where maximum complexity of strategy is the fundamental aim, they may be unavoidable. What other strategical ideas can be expressed by means of a multiple threat?

Review of past themes. Jan. '55: unmasking of BP on its original square. (d) By BK: 343. (e) By BR: C. A. Galbraith, 3rd Prize, S.A. Chess Player, 1958. Jan. '57: pin of White by black battery. (a) Pin of WQ: 346. Sept. '57: black self-incarceration. 347. Nov. '57: WK moves from checkable to uncheckable position. 353.

Problem Terms. Index of terms discussed, July '55 issue onwards: the first two figures give the month and year of the issue in which the term was dealt with, and the second figure the page:—

Annihilation ..	3.56,651	Line clearance	3.56,651.2
Anti-Bristol,		Line-opening ..	9.56,684
White ..	11.55,630	Line-vacating ..	3.56,652
Bi-valve ..	11.56,697	Masked battery	9.56,684
Black Correction	11.57,772	Masking ..	11.55,630
	9.58, 57	Mates ..	9.58, 56
Brede ..	5.57,735	Nowotny ..	11.55,630
Bristol ..	3.56,651	Obstruction ..	9.55,621
Castling ..	7.55,609	Obtrusive ..	9.55,621
Checks ..	3.59, 91	Open Gate ..	9.56,684
Clearance ..	9.55,621	Opposition theme	5.58, 32
Continued Defences		Pawn promotion	7.55,609
	11.57,772; 9.58, 57	Plachutta ..	11.55,630
Duals	1.56,642; 1.57,708	Roman ..	5.58, 32
Dual Stopping	11.57,772	Schiffmann Defence	
En passant capture			11.57,772
	7.55,609	Self-blocking ..	7.56,673
Focal Theme ..	5.58, 32	Square-blocking	11.55,630
Grab ..	5.57,735		5.56,664; 7.56,673
Grimshaw ..	7.56,673	Square Vacating	3.56,652
Half-pin ..	9.56,684		9.56,684; 11.56,696
Holzhausen-Plachutta		Third-pin ..	9.56,684
	7.56,673	Turton ..	3.56,652
Indian ..	5.57,735	Unmasking ..	11.56,696
Interference ..	5.56,664	Valve ..	11.56,696
	7.56,673	Wurzburg-Plachutta	
Interference, White	9.58, 57		7.56,673

Informal Composing Tourneys. Judge for two movers: C. J. Allison. The three-move judge will be announced in the next issue.

Notes on Construction. This is the first of a new series on the theory and practice of problem construction. We will begin by considering the theoretical consideration which govern the choice of key for a problem. There are only two basic criteria for assessing a key's merits—its degree of difficulty and whether it increases the strategical possibilities of the problem position. By difficulty is meant the likelihood that it will prove difficult to most solvers: this is easy to visualise in theory, though much harder to estimate in practice. Increase in strategical possibilities is a more complicated concept, however, and requires an examination of the nature of problem strategy before it can be fully understood. Strategy is displayed in the variations of a problem and is either extensive or intensive. Extensive strategy is represented by simple strategical ideas, such as self-blocks, occurring in several different variations of a problem. Intensive strategy consists of complex strategical ideas, such as Schiffmann Defence and pin of White, shown in a small number of variations. Consequently, a key can increase the strategical possibilities of a position in either of these ways: it can either increase the number of possible variations by giving the BK flight squares, unpinning a black piece, etc., or it can add further strategy to variations already available, e.g., by adding white interference to self-block variations.

When a composer selects a key for a problem, he should aim to select one which is likely to prove as difficult as possible and which increases the strategical possibilities of the position in one or other of the ways described above. In order to make these precepts more easily applicable in practice, the following classification of some individual features of keymoves has been made:—

(i) Features likely to make a key easy:—(a) Unprovided check, flight-square or flight-giving move. (b) Key piece out of play. (c) Obvious threat. (d) Lack of plausible tries.

(ii) Features likely to make a key difficult:—(a) Change or abandonment of striking set play. (b) Presence of plausible tries.

(iii) Features which decrease strategical possibilities:—(a) Depriving BK of a flight square. (b) Capturing a black piece. (c) Pinning a black piece. (d) Checking the BK.

(iv) Features which increase strategical possibilities:—(a) Adding flight square(s). (b) Sacrificing a white piece, if its capture forces a distinct white reply. (c) Unpinning a black piece.

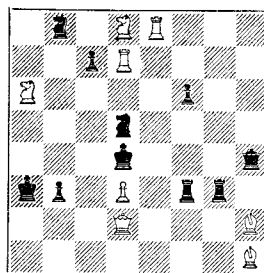
This list is not exhaustive, of course, nor is the classification exclusive—features classified in a certain group here might have to be transferred to a different group when considering a particular problem, or alternatively, some features might have to appear in more than one group. Here, as always, the principles of composition cannot be reduced to inflexible rules.

In the next issue we will deal with the practical choice of keymove in the light of these considerations.

INTERMEDIATE LADDER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

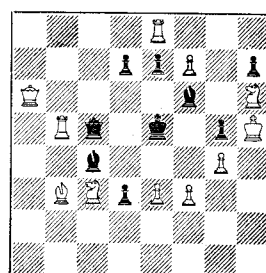
Edited by D. Sanders, Holland

371. F. T. Hawes and
F. Ravenscroft, Australia.



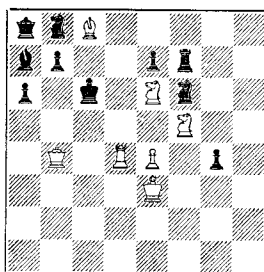
Two.

372. J. E. Driver



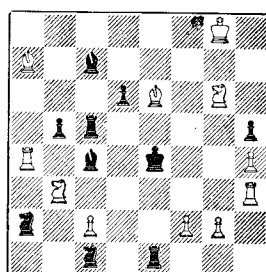
Two.

373. T. L. Lin, Singapore.



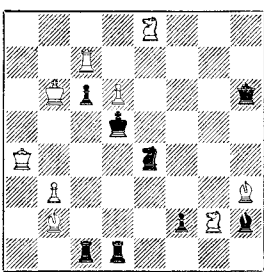
Two.

374. E. Stevenson.



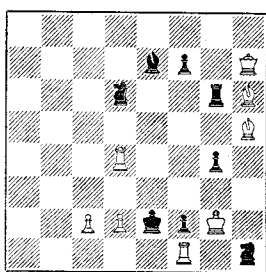
Two.

375. E. Vincent.



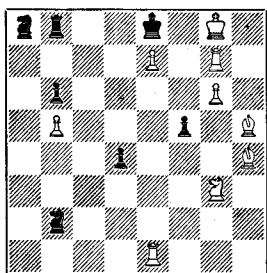
Two.

376. Dr. S. Subrahmanyam,
India.



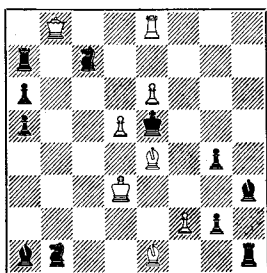
Two.

377. J. E. Driver.



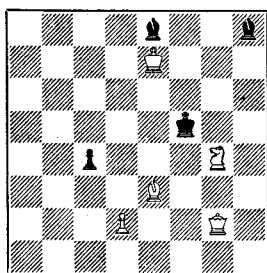
Three.

378. Rev. C. C. W. Sumner.



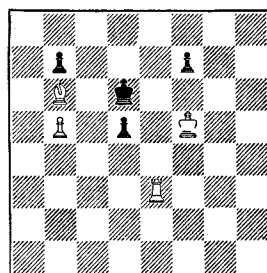
Three.

379. J. Krawiec.



Three.

380. S. E. Turke.



Four.

351 (Nicklin) Q-h1. Threat Q-a1. Diagonal WQ mates with self-block variations (T. L. Lin).

352 (Wrentmore) Q-h8. Block. Key and two variations again take WQ to three corners (E. Stevenson). An attractive pair of problems.

353 (Spicer, Ravenscroft) KxP. Threat K-d5. WK can be placed in check from 9 squares by 8 different pieces! (H. G. Thomas). A good example of the Nov. '57 theme, but H. A. Melvin claims impossible position: can any reader refute this?

354 (Eddy) Q-f2. Threat Q-h4. Unpins of laterally pinned WR and diagonally pinned WB. Not an example of the Sept. '58 theme, since two unpins of a single piece were intended, but a clever problem nevertheless.

355 (Rice) B-c3. Threat R-e5. Fine Meredith with two unpins of WR when B5 continues to defend against Q-e8 (T.L.L.). May '55 and Sept. '58 themes combined.

356 (Duce) Q-h1. Threat R-c2. Neat twist to the May/July '58 theme (J. G. Ingram). Aspect O-3/2-2, with no pin-mates but self-blocks; the pin of the QB is masked.

357 (Davis) g1-g2. Cook B-f1.

358 (Hillary) B-a7. Cook P-g7.

359 (Ingram) Q-a7. Threat Q-a2. 1... b5xb; 2.Rxd4ch, 1... SxQ or Q-a8; 2.SxPch. 1... K-d5; 2.Q-f7ch, 1... Q-a6; B-g8ch. 1... P-b3; 2.Q-a4ch. Good sacrificial key, followed by second sacrifice of WS; threat simple enough, but difficult key (A. E. Hainsworth).

360 (Ricketts) P-b3. Threat S-f3. 1... KxS; 2.Be3. 1... Qxb7; 2.S-d3. 1... S-g4; 2.RxS. 1... Sxb; 2.R-d7ch. Excellent problem with quiet moves, offering a variety of sacrifices and leading to some model mates (W. West). Double pin-mate after 1... Qxb7, 2... Qxb; single pin-mate after 1... KxS.

OTHER COLUMNS

DE WAARHEID. This Dutch periodical aims at cultural relations with other countries and we have received a circular printed in nine different languages. We can recognise French, German, English, Spanish, Dutch and we think Italian and Hungarian. The announcement is a ring-

tournament of the Dutch Union of Chess Friends. Send an original 2-mover and/or 3-mover in duplicate with complete solution as soon as possible to Wijnand J. van de Leeden, Notenplein 29, 's-Gravenhage (Lsd) Holland. Judge G. Smit.

B.C.F. NEWS LETTER. Although this is almost entirely concerned with the game, mention is made of our Society.

ARBEJDER SKAK 2-move Tourney, 1957. 1, A. Ellerman, 2, J. Zalzo, 3, A. Grinblatt.

SAHS announce first informal Tourney, 2-movers. Judge E. Ruchliss. 3-ers and more, R. Cofman, Endgames, V. Koroljko. Send problems with full solutions to U.d.S.S.R., Riga, Postfach 100, U.S.S.R.

We regret having no copy from Mr. Mansfield but those who have moved houses will understand and sympathise.

GIFT OF A PROBLEM LIBRARY

Mr. S. Poole, of Glasgow, has very generously presented us with the problem library of his father, Mr. J. Poole, who died more than three years ago. He was a member of the Society for a number of years and his name is given in 'The Chess Problem.' He was born in Glasgow in 1882.

The Library is given to us to be retained, given away or split up in any way desired. We propose to use most of the books as prizes for members of the B.C.P.S. and we thank the donor most cordially for his generous gift.

OTHER COMPOSERS' PROBLEMS

The Brazilian expert F. Mendes de Moraes asks what is the etiquette to be observed when you improve on another composer's problem.

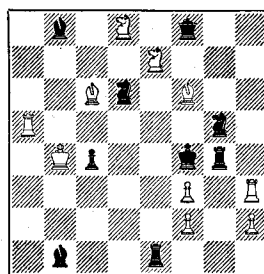
If there are considerable improvements then it is usual to give 'T. Jones After J. Smith' but if the alteration is slight the original composer's name is given alone and marked 'V' indicating 'version'. This latter practice is adopted by G. Hume in many of the Christmas books which he edited when this modest and retiring gentleman eliminated a cook or other defect, and also by Bonner Feast when he made slight improvements. In the case of a living composer who is also available it would be polite to consult him.

It is not permissible to publish as a joint composition without permission.

G. Hume was a master of the last stages in composition and would surmount obstacles which seemed insurmountable.

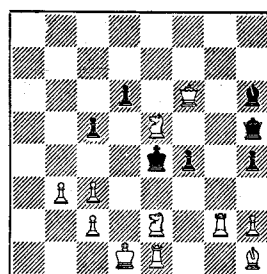
A. ELLERMAN

Arbejder Skak.
1st Prize, 1957 (I).



Two.

Bristol Times and Mirror.
2nd Prize, 1926.

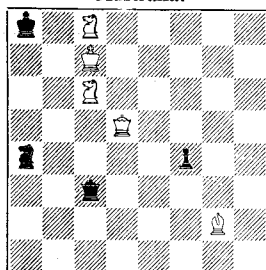


Two.

The great Argentine Problem Master, when sending us an original for Problemist asks us to reproduce his recent first prize-winner which is his 99th (apart, of course, from H.Ms, etc.) and writes: 'This is quite in the old style of 30 years ago with Grimshaw, dual avoidance, no white queen.' To pair up with this we give a problem actually composed more than 30 years ago which we selected almost at random (since all are good) from his 1001 Problems. He also describes his great pleasure at meeting our great 2-move expert at Piran.

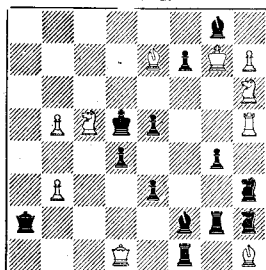
1959 CHAMPIONSHIP AND LADDER PROBLEMS

4060 C. D. Fethers,
Australia.



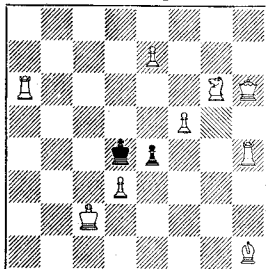
Two.

62 F. Mendes De Moraes
Brazil.



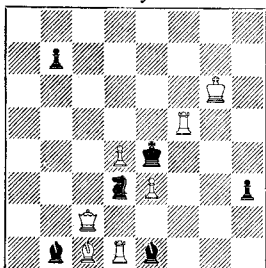
Two.

64 S. Wright Wood



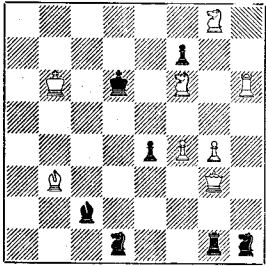
Two.

66 Prof. E. Battaglia,
Italy.



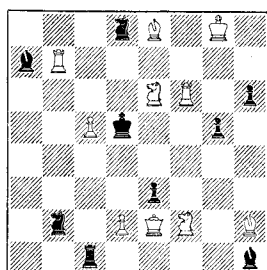
Two.

68 H. Kendry



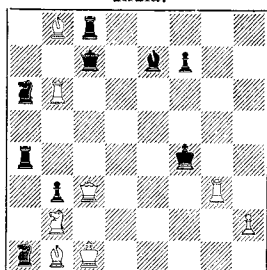
Two.

61 S. Henry



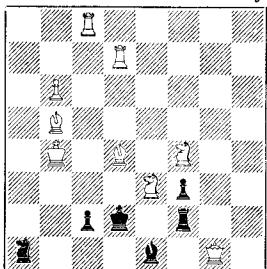
Two.

63 Dr. S. Subrahmanyam
India.



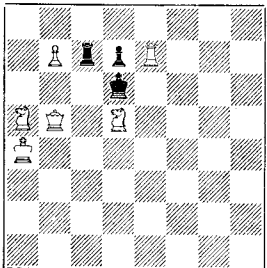
Two.

65 C. Stanley



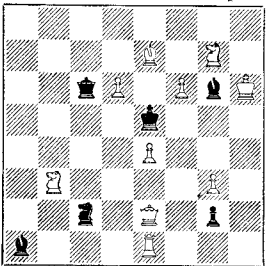
Two.

67 J. Francey
N. Ireland.



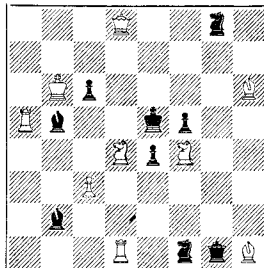
Two.

69 E. Petite, Spain



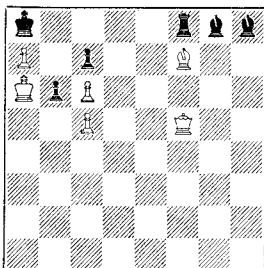
Two.

70 W. W. Wallis
S. Africa



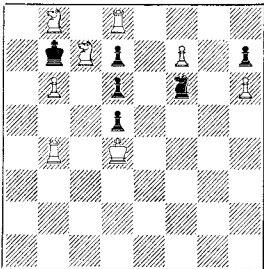
Two

72 C. D. Fethers
Australia.



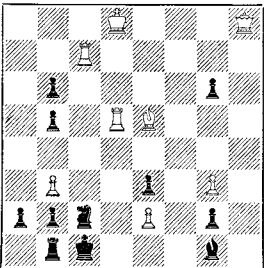
Three.

74 J. Warton



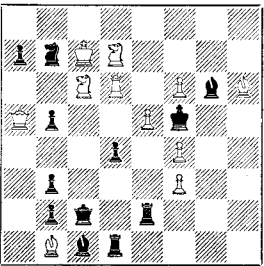
Three.

76 C. Stanley



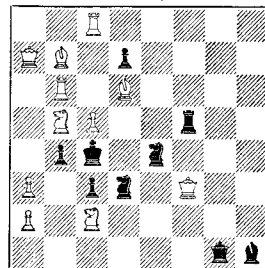
Three.

78 W. A. Whyatt
Australia.



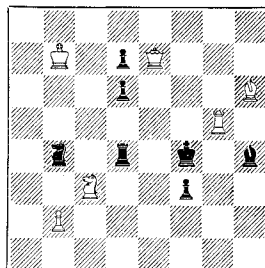
Three.

71 F. T. Hawes and
F. Ravenscroft, Australia



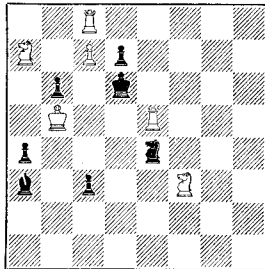
Two

73 J. Aizikowicz
Israel.



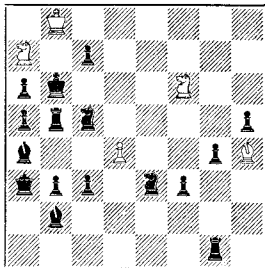
Three.

75 J. N. Maclay



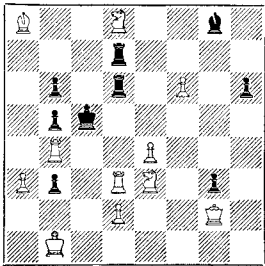
Three.

77 Editor



Three.

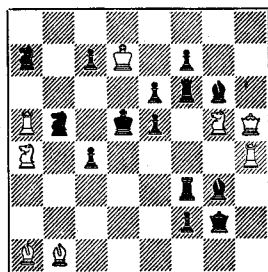
79 N. G. G. Van Dijk
Norway.



Three.

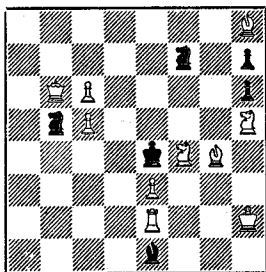
SOUTH AFRICAN CHESSPLAYER

1st Prize, D. G. McIntyre.



Two.

2nd Prize, C. Mansfield.



Two.

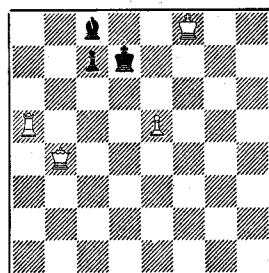
This is the first problem tourney to be conducted by the South African magazine. 3, C. A. Galbraith, 4, F. T. Hawes and F. Ravenscroft, 5, W. W. Wallis, and 6, J. Hartong. The judge, G. W. Chandler, writes: 'There was not much ultra-modern work, and what there was contained little of merit so none of it appears in the award . . . the problems in the award contain some refreshingly bright ideas and excellent construction.'

If more judges would act in this firm manner it would act as a salutary brake on the composition of those problems which show dull set mates changed into even duller ones and tries which would not deceive an absolute beginner.

D. G. McIntyre, who is co-editor of the excellent problem section, has recently celebrated his 70th birthday.

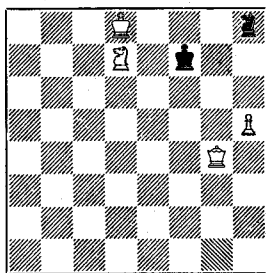
MINIATURE TWO-MOVERS

K. Makovsky (1875?)



Two.

W. A. Shinkman, 1900.



Two.

We are indebted to V. Pachman for sending us the above problem by Makovsky which is really superior to Havel (p.89) because here there are set mates for the two king moves, which are changed after the key-move. We pointed out that P. H. Williams (p.77) preceded Havel and had a flight-giving key. We think the above is better than either of them.

The second position appears as No. 1 in 'All Change Here' by R. Gevers and P. H. Williams. The Belgian expert died in 1954. Shinkman was one of the most prolific composers and his total was somewhere near the three thousand mark. This is one of his simplest.

SOLUTIONS TO MARCH PROBLEMS

4020 (Lipton) Q-e6. Th.QxS. Capture of knights well shown (A). Unfortunately anticipated (sent by B. P. Barnes) by Dr. G. Paros Zaszlonk 1937 which is almost identical.

21 (Eddy) S-b5 Th.S-c3. Good but conventional key (A). Artistic style (B). Two fine long-range queen mates (C). Two good unpins of B.R. (D). Four excellent vars (Hi). Fine economy (P). Very neatly set and some theme with the unpinning.

22 (Barclay) Q-e1. Block. Changed reply to 1 . . . K-e5 from one pin mate to another (A). Not easy to solve (C.W.). Key gives extra flight (E). Try Q-e2 met by 1 . . . S-b6 (Hi, S). Good double-pin mate (Hi). A worthy tribute (T). Not easy to compose (G). This has proved popular and the key giving a lateral flight is unusual.

23 (Bonavia-Hunt) Pxd5 Th.P-d6. Nice play especially after 1 . . . B-d6 (B). Try Qxd7 defeated by 1 . . . B-g7 (C). Interference of B.B. with B.F. and self-block by B.R. (I). The threat is rather unusual.

24 (Ling) R-h3. Th.B-f3. Piccaninny defences well shown (A). Also self-block at g3 (B). Mate after 1 . . . P-f6 very good (C). Good key (Hi). The pinned W.B. at max. distance (Hamel). It is this curious aspect which produces originality.

25 (Ed) S-g3. Th.S-f1. 6 vars. with clever play on f file (H). No white pawns (Hi). Good defences by B.B. (I, L, S) 1 . . . P-b5 also good (C). Nice open setting (E).

26 (Morra). With bottom rank one sq. right (p.108, col. 2) S-c4. Th.Q-b4. Puzzling key gives flight capture (Hi). Key allows dis. chs. by B.S. (I). Splendid flight-giving key (Hamel). White has two direct mating moves with which to parry the dis. chs.

27 (Hawes, Ravenscroft) P-e4 Th. SxS but cooked by B-e4. The W.B.h1 not necessary and merely gives rise to a cook (G). The problem is as sent to us and we missed this rather obvious defect in company with most of our solvers.

28 (Bakcsi) Kxd6 Th.S-c6. Key allows 6 chs (H). Surprising key (Hi). Little here but the chs. (A).

29 (Petkov) Q-f2. Cooks S-d1 and S-c2 ch.

30 (Vazquez) P-f4 Threat Qxe5. Dull reply to 1 . . . KxS (H). Four mates by two W.Ss. cleverly forced (Hi). Good self-blocks (I). Black line-openings and self-blocks (L). Fine key (P).

31 (Stanley) Q-c1. Th.Q-a3. Good vars. with W.B. (H). Good battery play (Hi). Good self-blocks by B.R. (B.L.). Many sparkling vars. (P). Good withdrawal key (S). Non-threat battery set up by key (D). A very simple setting. Note 1 . . . P-b5.2.Bxa5—an unusual mate.

32 (Witte) B-c7. Block. Well arranged key (Hi). A neat trifle (T). Rather dull vars. (P). Subtle key to provide against 1 . . . R-h7 (A). Triple after 1 . . . Rxxg2 (E). The H.P. is very crude.

33 (Stoyanow) Q-e7. Th.QxS(e5). Good interferences, self-blocks and opening of W.Q. lines (Hi). Two continued defences by each B.S. (L). Try Q-f5 fails against 1 . . . S-c8 (Hamel). These B.S. problems are very popular now.

34 (Henry) P-f5. 1 . . . S-c5.2.S-c2. 1 . . . S-e5.2.S-h5. 1 . . . S-f2 ch.2.K-g2 and two captures of B.S. Good interferences by B.S. (Hi). Pleasing quiet conts. (I). Very nicely done (B). One expects to see a Grimshaw (E). The B.S. has continued defences, causing interferences, in each of the two theme vars. (S). The B.S. moves cause temporary self-blocks with white line-interferences so that the knight must square-vacate at his second move. The B.Q. is very easily controlled.

35 (Montgomerie) P-a4. Th.R-c5 ch.1 . . . S-d7.2.S-e7 ch. 1 . . . P-a6.2.Q-e7. 1 . . . P-b6 2.Q-e8. Excellent key with good sacrificial threat (Hi). Quite difficult (I). Beautiful strategy (D,L). Difficult second moves (G). This has proved very popular. In the two main vars. the W.Q. plays to threaten S-c3 but this is only possible if Black opens a mate for 2 . . . Q-e4.

36 (Dutt) Sxe5. Th.Q-c4 ch.1 . . . K-f5.2.B-e6 ch. 1 . . . B-c5. 2.Sxc6 ch. 1 . . . S-f5.2.Sxd3 ch. 1 . . . R-g5.2.Q-c4 ch. After 1 . . . S-f5 a new W.S. battery is set up (Hi). The two

flights add interest (L). Quite difficult (T). Brilliant problem (P). We shall miss this fine composer's problems (S). 37 (Buschmann) R-h8. Th.Qxh5 ch. 1... Qxh8.2.S-g2 ch. 1... S-h6.2.Bxg5 ch. Sacrificial threat (I). Ambush key (L). Neat lightweight in open position (S). Real beauty (E). 38 (Warton) R-e3 is composer's solution but G. Wood alone shows this is defeated by 1... B.e5. The problem is solved by R-d4 or R-a4. We apologise to the composer for missing these.

39 (Warton) S-f4. Th.S-d3 ch. 1... S-b4.2.K-g5. 1... S-c1. 2.K-h5. 1... S-c5.2.K-h7. B.S. interferences allow W.K. moves (I). 3 fine W.K. vars. (D). Set with good economy. The move 1... S-c5 interferes with B.P. so that it can only move one sq. and this interferes with B.Q.

A—B. J. Andrade. B—E. Boswell. C—A. R. Cooper. D—D. M. Davey. E—E. J. Eddy. H—H. Handy Hamel. Hi—H. J. Hibberd. I—J. G. Ingram. L—T. L. Lin. P—R. L. Spencer Palmer. S—E. Stevenson. T—H. G. Thomas. G—C. Gaulin. W—W. W. Wallis.

p.89. Havel R-g4. S-f6.

p.93 Kardos K-d6 Ling Q-a8. Solutions from E.B., C.G.

We are sorry to learn that T. East who has been a regular solver for some time has to discontinue owing to ill health and we offer our cordial sympathy.

EDITORIAL

It is apparently almost useless to give problems in notation since nobody will go to the trouble of setting them up. Sometimes perhaps an anticipation which may only be of interest to a few specialists may be given in this way.

There are still some beginners who think they can compose straight away and send us problems starting with checks and have apparently emanated from some game they have played. If they enclose an envelope we mildly suggest that they might study the problems published and that there would be little in problems if anyone could compose without any experience.

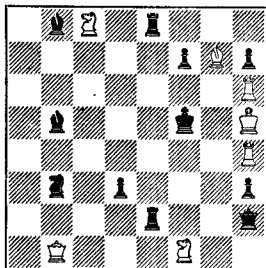
Some write saying that doubtless we shall be interested in their problems (given in notation) and that we can publish them if we like!

It has been suggested that the solutions to reproductions, prize-winners, etc. shall be given in the same issue, but many solvers like to solve for themselves so that we do not want to publish under the diagrams. To give them at the end is rather confusing since they may be inserted on various pages where space permits and last minute cross-references would be confusing.

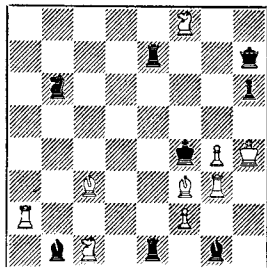
TWO-FOLD ANTIBRISTOL

W. S. Mackie and
D. G. McIntyre
South African
Chessplayer 1959

C.S.K.
Manchester Weekly Times
1921



Three B-c3



Three B-c6

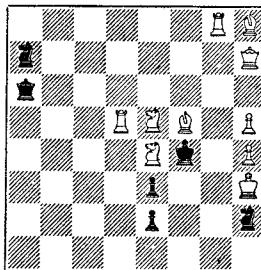
There is always great danger of anticipation in problems showing a definite task and J. Hartong and others worked this idea some thirty years ago. The theme variations and key are identical and even the B.S. inter-

ception which we showed with a W.R. whereas the South African problem uses a very lazy queen. This fringe var. is apparently necessary to avoid a cook. The first problem, as a slight compensation, has no white pawns.

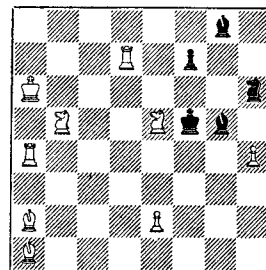
ARBEJDER SKAK

H. L. Musante
1st Prize

L. Scotti
2nd Prize



Two S-g3

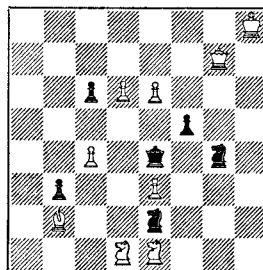


Two S-g6

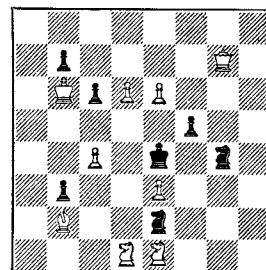
This tourney for 2-movers is for the second half-year 1957. This problem section, edited by J. P. Toft, has four English solvers in its list of about a dozen. Judge: M. Wrobel.

TWINS

F. Mendes de Moraes
Pocos de Caldos 1959



Two



Two

Sometimes it may happen that a cook is a blessing in disguise. In eliminating the cook from No. 988 of Nov. Problemist our Brazilian contributor has produced a twin—the second of the problems above.

Our correspondent is a fine linguist. Not only does he translate the Portuguese text into French but he also writes an explanatory note in excellent English. The knowledge of the technical terms in different languages is especially difficult and he informs us that in Portuguese a 'cook' is 'furo' which in English means a hole.

C.S. Kipping