

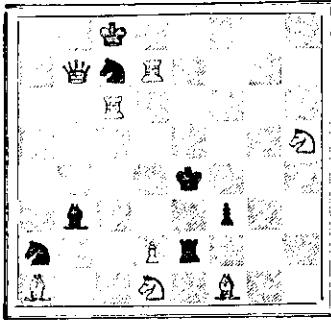
CHESS.

All communications to be addressed to the Chess Editor, "The Weekly Graphic and New Zealand Mail," Auckland.

Position No. 51.

(By J. STENT.)

Black.



White.

White to play and mate in two.

Forsyth Notation:—2K5; 1QkR4; 2K6; 7Kt; 4k3; 133p2; k2Fv3; B2Kt1B2.

Artistic Play.

Game between Morphy and Schulten:—
"Kings' Gambit Declined."

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|---|--------------|
| White. | Black. |
| Schulten. | Morphy. |
| 1. P—K4 | 1. P—K4 |
| 2. P—Kt3 | 2. P—Q4 |
| 3. P×Qp | 3. P—K5 |
| 4. Kt—QB3 | 4. Kt—KB3 |
| 5. P—Q3 | 5. B—QKt5 |
| 6. B—Q2 | 6. P—K6 |
| 7. B×P | 7. Castles |
| 8. B—Q2 | 8. BxKt |
| 9. P×B | 9. R—Kch |
| 10. B—K2 | 10. B—KKt5 |
| 11. P—QB4 | 11. P—B3 |
| 12. P×P | 12. QKt×P |
| 13. K—B | 13. RxB!! |
| 14. Kt×R | 14. Kt—Q5 |
| 15. Q—Kt | 15. BxKtch |
| 16. K—B2 | 16. Kt—Kt5ch |
| 17. K—Kt | 17. Kt—B6ch! |
| 18. P×Kt | 18. Q—Q5ch |
| 19. K—Kt2 | 19. Q—B7ch |
| 20. K—R3 and Black mates in four moves. | |

Notes.

A special general meeting of the chess and draughts section of the Wellington Working Men's Club was held on Wednesday last, there being a record attendance of members, including representatives of the Waterside Workers' Draughts Club, who were present by invitation.

A letter was read regarding the visit of Mr Alfred Jordan, draughts champion of England. It was explained that Mr Jordan was to leave Melbourne for Dunedin. After giving exhibitions of simultaneous play in various centres of the South Island, it was proposed that Mr Jordan should visit Wellington, Auckland, and any other North Island centre that might wish to secure a visit.

Mr Jordan is also a very strong chess player, and an extremely capable billiard player.

An anonymous donor having given £3 for the encouragement of chess in the club, Mr Dalrymple suggested that this should be devoted to a tournament for those who had never won a first prize in the club. The suggestion was approved by the meeting.

The Auckland remits submitted by the New Zealand Chess Association were next considered. Members were in sympathy with the object aimed at by the Northern City Club, though not entirely with the methods proposed for achieving the desired end.

A member present pointed out that as regards chess and draughts Wellington was behind other New Zealand centres, in that its free public libraries did not provide tables for chess and draughts. It was decided to approach the City Council with a view to Wellington being brought into line with other centres in this respect.

Solution to Position No. 51.

This problem gained first prize in the "Kentish Mercury" Tourney. The key move is R—Q5.

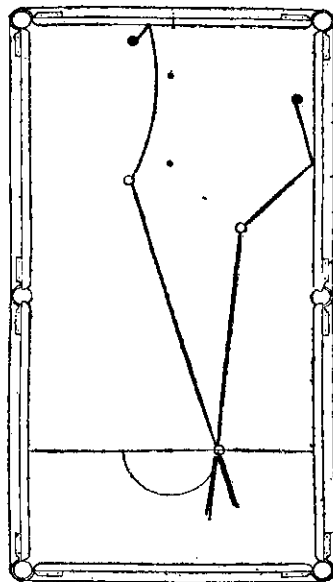
BILLIARDS.

A Spinning-ball as it Runs Along the Cloth from Ball to Ball.

(By H. W. STEVENSON.)

Whenever a professional, or any good player, uses "side" for a stroke, he does so with a good motive. He would prefer to make every one of his cannons or hazards, and the winning hazards above all, with a plain ball central stroke. This is simply because the cue-ball takes a direct run to the object-ball, and after contact with it, something which it will not do if carrying a side-spin. I should like this fact to be understood by all classes of billiard players throughout the world. It alters the angle of throw-off from an object-ball almost as much as from a cushion—and there are few players, surely, who do not know of the straight and slanting throw-off, which the use of check or running "side" causes.

There is another matter, too, and this is the difference in the speed of the cue-ball at the same strength of stroke from a checking side-spin, as compared to leading "side." There is the same slacking of the ball, whether in its send-off from an object-ball or a cushion, or in moving along the billiard cloth when a check "side" stroke has been played. It will take a curving course on the cloth, and from the object-ball, but come away very straight from a cushion compared with the angle at which it has run there. A very nice example of the way the cue-ball acts when carrying check "side," or running "side," or plain ball, may be had from an object-ball set tight up against a cushion. Try some slow to medium pace on it at short range, and note the clearly expressed variations of the angle as the cue-ball comes off the cushioned ball. The slower the pace of the stroke, and the stronger the "side"—and, as I have previously explained, side-spins tell most powerfully with a slow-moving ball—the more pronounced will be the changes in the returns of the cue-ball. To trace the full limit of one extreme to the other, as dictated by the use of the check or running "side," play

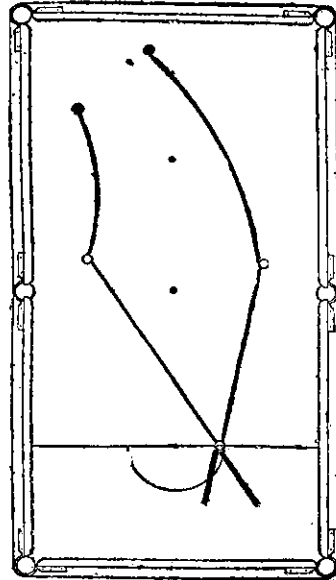


CUSHION CANNONS MADE WITH "SIDE."

off the cushioned ball's centre-point, as the ball faces you, and, as nearly as you can, at one given pace. The plain ball shot will, of course, provide a midway move between the "side" contrasts. Different types of cushions will throw the ball off at varying angles; thin and thick cloths will deal with the side-spins in their own particular ways; but whatever the difference, the billiard ball's run can be estimated to some degree of accuracy by a long acquaintance with its peculiarities under all sorts of conditions. A thick cloth of this kind is forgiving, though. It gets such a strong lodg upon the ball at once that even when the highest speed is used in conjunction with "side," there is some di-

vergence from the straight line to be noted in a very short run.

The billiard cloth enters so much into the matter of "side" that the expert player, when about to play upon a strange table, generally feels the strength of the nap by gently rubbing the back of his fingers up and down the bed of the table. There are so many different qualities of cloth texture, each and all of which exercise their own peculiar properties upon the ball, that a special study in this direction should be part of the professional player's equipment. On the old-fashioned blanket cloth, which



CANNONS WITH CHECK AND RUNNING "SIDE"—LEFT "SIDE" IN EACH CASE.

are seldom, I am pleased to say, to be met with nowadays, billiards are made very hard work indeed to anyone but a regular hard hitter. The ball had to be struck so comparatively hard at every stroke, owing to the heavy, holding nap of the cloth, that there were really few slow shots to be played. And any attempt at "side" had to be made with the utmost caution, as the curving movement taken by the cue-ball up the table or down the table started so early and, if not long lasting, developed in so far pronounced a manner as to give one pause before using any side-spins except for absolutely necessary pocket strokes and cushion cannons.

When you come to think of it, the nature of a billiard cloth may be compared to that of a cricket pitch, a bowling green, a tennis-court or a football field. Every player of these games knows the world of difference which exists between a slow ground and a fast one. Heavy turf is a handicap to the best of players, and drags them back to something near the level of inferior players at all games. The fast, true grounds, however, favour the more skilful hands. It is the same in billiards, where a rough contended cloth makes refined play an utter impossibility. The only hope of scoring in these circumstances lies in double strength strokes, so that the cue-ball shall override all obstacles and overcome the heavy going. A thick cloth, no matter the attention it receives, so quickly roughs up, that it can only be considered as suitable to very ordinary players. The true-running composition balls assist in no small degree to bring the best-playing possibilities out of such cloths, but they are heavy to play upon and tricky almost beyond measure.

A good medium class of cloth, neither too thick nor too thin, is nicely suited to all-round play, from the long losing hazard and round-the-table display cannons to the closest of close cannons. It stands on the midway mark between the blanket pattern and the skating-rink class. The latter is too fast for anything and anybody, and is the action of an artificial process, as by dint of much ironing and brushing the surface nap of the cloth has worn away, leaving only the cotton strand, which almost bears a polish from long usage. On a cloth of this kind a ball never seems to stop rolling, nor will it yield any of the customary "side" effects. It is opposed to good billiard playing, for running at the same high

BOXING.

To Fight Jack Johnson.

AMERICA'S HOPE.

THE AMATEUR CHAMPION.

Warren Barbour, amateur heavy-weight champion of America, is considering whether he will leave the amateur ranks in order to endeavour to accomplish the task that proved over-much for Jeffries.

Barbour is known throughout America as the "society heavy-weight champion." He is the son of Colonel William Barbour, a multi-millionaire thread manufacturer, of New York, a man with the facial fascination of a beauty actor, a member of the exclusive Four Hundred, who constitute New York society, and the most sought youth in America today by match-making mothers.

Like many other great athletes, young Barbour owes his prowess to the delicacy of his boyhood. He is now 21, but four years ago, when, as a lad of 17, he entered Princeton University, his health was so uncertain that his parents were afraid to let him take part in strenuous sport. At that time the boy was 6ft high, and weighed 17.0, facts that led the football coaches of the college to seize upon him as a likely player. But he was as soft as butter. He had grown too fast for his health, and football proved so exhausting that, at last, his father cried a halt, took him away from the University, and put him on a high stool in his own office, where his exertions were restricted to hauling on the levers of the copying press.

It was his mother who was responsible for his becoming to-day the idol of athletic America, and the man to whom all America must be looking, after the debacle of July 4, to rehabilitate the physical supremacy of the Caucasian. Mrs Barbour is strong on science. While she agreed with her husband that the rough and tumble of college football might result disastrously for their son, she argued that scientifically-applied physical culture ought to be just the proper treatment for a youngster who could get on to one side of the scale and weigh down two ordinary boys of his age. She phoned an expert, and the expert, knowing the financial standing of the Barbour menage, agreed that physical culture, according to his system, was precisely what was wanted, though his system was so scientific that it was expensive, and apt to weigh heavily on the slender resources of the suffering proletariat. Mrs Barbour said the Four Hundred's equivalent for "hang the expense," and told him to get a move on with little Warry's physique at 8 a.m. next day.

At the marble palace of the Barbour family the expert felt as an Arabian Nights' hero would have felt had he intruded on a caucus meeting of the Giants' Union. Colonel Barbour, who welcomed him in a hail glittering with old masters at £2000 a time, was 6ft 10 in high, and built in proportion. Mrs Barbour, who swept down the rouge marble staircase clad in a £500 Worth gown, rose to an altitude of 6ft; Henry Barbour, the eldest son, who expressed a hope that the expert would put Warry right, looked over the heads of his father and mother

speed, at either end of the table, the player can never gauge "strength" as any time. The beauty of a good and properly laid cloth lies in the fact of the ball running faster with the nap up the table than it does when coming down the table against the nap, from the same strength of stroke; and the "side" tells more strongly against them with the nap.

In the best professional games there is used what is known as a "superfine match cloth," which represents the very last word in the billiard cloth manufacturer's art. Possessing every requisite for the best of play, a sufficiency of nap, while at the same time allowing the ball to travel at the highest possible speed from the slowest of strokes, the "superfine match cloth" demands the most delicate touch of judgment of pace. It can only be fitted to the best of slate beds and cushions, for it will reveal any playing deficiencies, more accurately almost than a spirit-level. But on a true playing surface and a rubber cushion proportioned as fast as the bed, it is ideal billiards to the expert on a "superfine match-cloth." All those narrow of wide ball-to-ball cannons where check and running "side" make all the difference between success and failure at slow speed, are made possible, and a player's skill is given the fullest scope.