

The Chess Board.

Correction.

In the Forsyth notation at foot of last week's Problem (No. 194), "4K3" should read "5k2." The diagram is correct.

Answers to Correspondents.

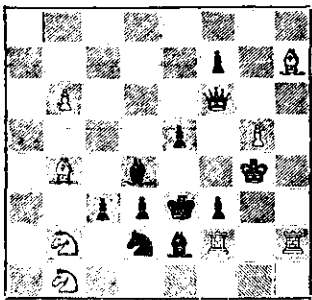
"SCHACH."—Thanks for letter.

Problem No. 195.

By G. Nardotseh.

(First Prize in "L'Italia Schachistica.")

Black: Nine pieces.



White: Ten pieces.

B. 5p1b, 1P3Q2, 4p1P1, 1B1b2K1, 2ppk2, 1S1bR1R, 1S6.

White to play and mate in two moves.

The following highly interesting article is from the November "British Chess Magazine":—

Is Rubinstein a Genius?

According to Dr. Tarrasch, Rubinstein, the victor of San Sebastian, Postoyen, and Breslau, is a chess genius of a very high order. His distinction is due to an imperturbable temperament, and a remarkably clear, deep and sound appreciation of position. "His play," says the doctor, "is to every expert, as for example, to myself, a matter for admiration. Dr. Lasker, also, does not withhold his praise of the Russian champion, and characterises his games as marvellous."

Leonhardt, however, thinks otherwise, and in the "Hamburger Nachrichten" discounts the utterances of these two high authorities.

Dr. Tarrasch's praises are bestowed, he contends, patronisingly, with the idea of claiming Rubinstein as a pupil of his own; and drawing a reflected glory for himself in the fact.

In pleasant contrast to Dr. Tarrasch, continues Herr Leonhardt, "one must concede matter-of-factness in the champion, which is evidenced by the manner in which he keeps his personality in the background. If he now makes exaggerated declamation in honour of Rubinstein, the reason is not far to seek. A match between him and Rubinstein is only a matter of time, and he would like to smooth its way and bring it into the best relief. Lasker recognises weakness better than anyone the individual weaknesses of an opponent, and knows better how to profit by them, and it is incredible that he should consider Rubinstein his equal, to say nothing of his superior. Unless, of course, he feels age is creeping on him."

"The particular weakness of Rubinstein is no longer a secret. After Spielmann had demonstrated the ease with which Rubinstein could be upset by deceiving him on to unknown ground, and pestering him with attacks, newcomers such as Barasz and Lowtzky resorted in the Breslau tourney to the same tactics. Lowtzky, by help of this recipe, was completely successful in disconcerting the Russian master, and won a game from him that even Dr. Tarrasch described as very weakly played by Rubinstein. And Barasz, by similar, but in this case much bolder and more unaccountably conducted tactics, succeeded in so upsetting Rubinstein's equanimity that he played like a novice, overlooked a winning position, and only won because his opponent finally tried to force the game. Now very weak games of this character by Rubinstein are by no means so infrequent. He gave two instances of very weak play against

Freyman and Alapin) at the all-Russian tourney in Vilna. As soon as he is on unfamiliar ground he shows surprising weakness both in the management of the game and in its tactical conduct. . . . He has a wonderful eye for the microscopic in chess, but his pupil is too weak to see at a distance. He therefore confines himself to a few openings, and is a specialist in endings. . . . Rubinstein himself, who is possessed of a clear head, and who is averse to egotism in the Tarrasch, and well knows the bounds of his talents, would be quick to disagree with Tarrasch's appraisal of him as a genius. (Genius is creative, sees and combines visions, is original and catholic, so far as possible. If one may speak of genius in connection with chess, then you may concede it to Morphy, Steinitz, Pillsbury, Loyd. But to call Rubinstein a genius is a perversion of words. Rubinstein has a reproductive, eclectic and critical talent, by means of which, aided by immense industry, an iron will and a suitable disposition, he has climbed to the summit of success. To speak of him as a genius is nothing less than sheer thoughtless worshipping of success.")

In proof of his contention that Rubinstein's power is an expression of technical knowledge, and not of genius, Leonhardt cites and annotates the two following games—the first from the recent Breslau International Tournament, and the other from the all-Russian master tourney at Vilna in September, from which again Rubinstein emerged victor. (In the first game we have added a few notes taken from Mr. F. D. Yates' column in the "Yorkshire Weekly Post.")

Played in the first round of the Breslau International Tournament.

Q.P. Opening—Irregular Defence.

White.	Black.
Rubinstein.	Barasz.
1. P-Q4	P-Q3
2. P-K4	Kt-Q2
3. P-KK43(a)	P-K4
4. Kt-K2	P-KK43(b)
5. B-K12	B-K12
6. Castles	P-KR43(c)
7. P-KR1(d)	Kt-K2
8. P-KB4	PxQP(e)
9. KtXP	Kt-B1(f)
10. Kt-QB3	B-Q2
11. B-K3	Q-B1(g)
12. K-R2	P-KR4
13. PXP	PXP
14. P-KR4	K-Q1(k)
15. R-K1	B-QB3
16. KtXB ch	PxK1(i)
17. B-Q4	BXB
18. QXB	R-KK1
19. Q-B6	Q-Q2(j)
20. R-K33(k)	Kt-K3
21. QR-K1	Q-K17(l)
22. KtK15(m)	Q-B1(n)
23. Q-K6	Q-K12
24. KtXP!(o)	PxKt
25. QXP ch	K-B1(p)
26. BXP2(q)	R-Q1
27. B-K7 ch(r)	KXB
28. R-K13 ch 27(s)	K-B1
29. Q-B5 ch	K-Q2
30. Q-K15 ch	K-Q1
31. R-Q3 ch	K-B2
32. Q-R5 ch	K-K12
33. R-K13 ch	K-B1
34. Q-B5 ch	K-Q2
35. Q-K15 ch	K-Q3(t)
36. Q-K17(u)	Q-Q3(v)
37. R-K13	Q-Q4
38. R-Q3(w)	QXR
39. PXP	QR-K11
40. QX1	RNP ch
41. K-R3	R(Q1)-QK11
42. Q-K3	R(K17)-B7(x)
43. Q-Q4 ch	Kt-Q47(y)
44. R-K5	R(K11)-K17
45. QxK1 ch	K-B2
46. Q-B7 ch	Resigns(z)

(a) A colourless move. The proper continuation was Kt-KB1. After 3. . . . Kt-KB1; 4. B-Q4, Black would be involved in the no longer playable Hanham variation. (Leonhardt.)

(b) P-K14 is to be considered here.

(c) The sense of this move is, of course, no more than that of a subterfuge demonstration, intended to upset Rubinstein's equanimity. Lowtzky also bluffed Rubinstein by P-KR4. (F. D. Yates.)

(d) Providing against P-R6. (Yates.)

(e) The exchange prevents the opening of the Bishop's file. (Yates.)

(f) Kt-Q14 was certainly better. (L.)

(g) Black plays an extremely bizarre game. But he is obliged to move constrainedly, for these are no simple and sound moves open. No wonder Black's position in a few moves should become untenable. (L.) Black has come out of the opening stage with the inferior game. Q-B1 further cramps the Black pieces, as well as retards casting Q, which was the only safe course. (Yates.)

(h) His slight attack being now neutralised, Black must do something for the safety of his King, for the King's file will soon be in the line of fire. (L.)

(i) In order to bring the QR into operation on the K's file, but the move creates a new weakness, avoidable by KtXK1. (L.)

(j) Kt-K13 would have led to 20. R-B3. But a mishap should have attended the text move. (L.)

(The position after this move is:—12K1s1, 1p1q3, 2pp1Q2, 5p1p, 5P1P, 2S3P1, PPP3BK, R3R3.)

(k) The move is of course quite good. But why White failed to end the game by 20. BXP, QXB; 21. QxKt ch, K-B1; 22. Q-B7, R-R1; 23. Q-K17, or Kt-Q5 is a puzzle to us. But stranger things follow. (L.)

(l) Inexplicable! R-QK1 sq was plain enough. (L.)

(m) A combination at last! Black's miserable position cried out for annihilation. KtXBP and Kt-Q4 are now both threatened. (L.)

(n) Q-Q2 would have evoked Kt-Q4; and R-B sq, KtXBP. The text move is only temporarily helpful. (L.)

(o) Removes the Pawn guard, and should render mate easy (L.). A sound sacrifice. White obtains three Pawns for the piece, and brings the King into a hopelessly exposed position. (Yates.)

(p) If K-K1, a Rook is lost. (L.) (The position after this move is:—11K3r1, p3s1q1, 2pQ2s1, 5p1p, 5P1P, 4R1P1, PPP3BK, 4R3.)

(q) Again White lets slip the strongest combination. If Rubinstein had any combinative ability, he would not have missed the opportunity of announcing mate in at most seven moves!—i.e., 26. B-B sq, R-QK1 sq (26. . . . P-K4; 27. R-K1 3, etc.); 27. B-10 ch, R-K12; 28. BXR ch, KXB; 29. R-K13 ch, K-R sq; 30. Q-B7, Kt-Q4; 31. QxHP ch, Q-K12; 32. QXQ ch. However the text move spoils nothing. (L.)

(r) We must protest against Leonhardt's conclusion, which has for its main premise the assumption that combinative players made no over-sights.—Editor B.C.M.I.

(s) Again missing the nail! On Q-B5 the mate was easy, for BXB and B-B4 were both threatened. Black would have had nothing better than 27. . . . R-Q7 ch; 28. K-R sq, Q-Q5; 29. QXQ, RXQ; 30. BXR, and would have certainly resigned (L.).

(t) Knocks the bottom out of the bucket! After 28. RxB ch, KtXR; 29. RxB ch, QXR; 30. QXQ ch, K-B3; 31. Q-K6 ch, followed by QXP, the game might still have been slowly won by help of the surplus Pawns. But the text move seems to finish White's powder, for it is not easy to see how a win can be forced. (L.)

(u) The same position as after the 30th move. (L.)

(v) Despite his weakness in material, White decides to play again for a win. The text move threatens R-Q3 ch, winning the Queen or mating. (L.)

(w) Necessary, or further disasters ensue. (L.)

(x) It's no use; there is no mate in sight, and White must take what is to be had. (L.)

(y) Black has got bold, and plays to win. But from this standpoint the move is a mistake, as the sequel shows. Black should have kept the Rooks together a while, and ensured the safety of his King. It might have been possible to do something for him then. Probably, however, the correct outcome is a draw in any case (L.). A longer resistance might have been made by K-B2, though Black's pieces are so disorganised that loss was unavoidable (Yates.)

(z) A bad blunder. A draw results from 43. . . . K-B2; 44. RxBt, KtXR; 45. Q-K5 ch, K-B1; 46. QXK, R(K11)-K17; for White is forced to give perpetual check (L.).

(A) If an expert were shown this game without being told who the players were, I think he would ascribe it to a second class tourney. (L.)

White.	Black.
Rubinstein.	Von Freyman.
(Lodz)	(St. Petersburg).
1. P-Q4	P-K1

2. P-K4	P-Q4
3. Kt-QB3	Kt-K13
4. B-KK5	B-K15(a)
5. P-K3	P-KR3
6. B-R4(b)	P-KK4
7. B-K13	Kt-K5
8. Kt-K2	P-QB4
9. P-QR3	B-R43(c)
10. PXP	KtXR
11. KtXR	BxKtch
12. PxB	Q-R3
13. Q-Q2	Kt-Q3
14. P-KR4	KR-K1(d)
15. PXP	PXP
16. P-QB4	QxBP(e)
17. R-K5	PXP
18. RXP	R-R1
19. R-Q1	P-K14
20. B-R4(f)	Q-B2(g)
21. P-K37(h)	B-K12
22. Q-K14(i)	Q-B4
23. QXQ	KtXQ
24. B-K2	B-K53(j)
25. K-Q2	Castles QRch
26. K-B1	BXRh
27. BXR	K-B2
28. R-R5	R-R11(k)
29. B-K7	K-K13
30. R-R4	B-Q41(l)
31. R-R7	P-B4
32. BXP	P-K15
33. PXP	PXP
34. K-Q2(m)	R-R4
35. B-K2	R-R7
36. BxKtch	KXB
37. K-B1	P-B6!
38. K-Kt1	R-K7ch
39. Resigns.	

Notes by Herr Leonhardt.

(a) The so-called McCutcheon variation of the French. No clear judgment in respect to it has been formed up to now.

(b) Preference has lately been given to this old method of handling it.

(c) 0. . . . BxKt ch is better, with the continuation . . . 10. KtXB, KtXKt; 11. PxBt, Q-R4; 12. Q-Q2, PXP (or 12. . . . Kt-B3).

(d) Yields the R file to White, and exposes himself to powerful attacks from his opponent's Rook. Hence, P-K15 was quite necessary, although certain disadvantages result from it.

(e) Black will not exchange Queens, for the end-game would be favourable to White; moreover, the Knight could have developed to B3.

(f) Very good! Black cannot take the B, as either mate or loss of Q follows. Up to this point Rubinstein has played the game excellently, and has acquired such a decided superiority of position that it is difficult to understand how he could throw away the game.

(The position after this move is:—r 1 b 1 k 2 r, p 2 s 1 p 2, 4 p 3, 1 p q 1 P 1 R 1, 2p4B, P7, 21q1P1, 3RKB2.)

(g) Black is quite "crippled." It would naturally like to play the B to K12 in order to block the Queen's file at Q4. He can only thank his opponent for allowing the manoeuvre to succeed.

(h) A glaring instance again in proof of Rubinstein's subordinate talent for combination. Who would have missed the decisive move of Q-K14. Black must have resigned at once, for against the threat of B-K1ch, with Q-K7 mate, there is no remedy. If Black play Kt or Q to B4, the piece is simply taken, for mate follows on B8. And if Black seeks defence in Kt-Bsq, then 22. R-K18, RXR (22. . . . QXKch; 23. B-K2); 23. QxBPch! and Black loses the Q. Rubinstein's blunder has changed the whole situation at one stroke.

(i) Too late! Now that Q8 is covered, Black can parry the attack.

(j) The tumbles are turning!

(k) A very good move. Black wants to get through with his Pawns on the Queen's side.

(l) He leaves his BP to force the game on the Queen's wing.

(m) P-B6, with a mating combination, was threatened.

Solutions of Christmas Batch of Problems.

- No. 183 (Carpenter).—1. R-K17.
- No. 184 (Hilthof).—1. B-B5.
- No. 185 (Roegner).—1. K-K12.
- No. 186 (Iversen).—1. B-B3.
- No. 187 (Schoschin).—1. B-B5.
- No. 188 (Tved).—1. R-Q4q.
- No. 189 (Mach).—1. Q-Q6.
- No. 190 (Albott).—1. Q-QK17.
- No. 191 (Shinkman).—1. Q-QR1.

Solution of Problem No. 193.

(Schuster).

1. P-Q4