

The Chess Board.

The Auckland Chess Club meets on Monday Thursday, and Saturday evenings, at No. 38, His Majesty's Arcade, Queen Street.

The Hamilton Chess Club meets in the Public Library, Hamilton, every Friday evening, at 7.30.

Hon. Secretaries of Chess Clubs are invited to furnish items of Club news. Unpublished games, containing special features, notes of critical positions occurring in actual play, and original problems (with diagram and analysis) are always acceptable.

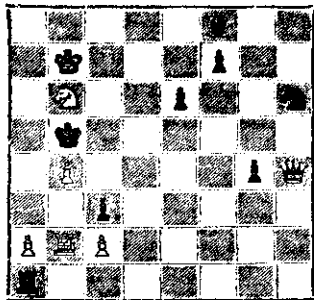
Answers to Correspondents.

"F.K.K."—Thanks for reports.

Problem No. 213.

By B. Semerad.

Black—8 pieces.



White—7 pieces.

5b2, 1K3p2, 1s2p2x, 1k6, 1P4pQ, 2p7, PRP5, r7.

White to play and mate in two moves.

A Missed Chance.

IN the following splendid game Black missed a chance of securing a remarkable draw, which, had it been availed of, would have entitled the game to rank as one of the finest on record. Opening—Four Knights game.

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| White. | Black. |
| J. Brach. | Fr. Dedrie. |
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 |
| 2. Kt-KB3 | Kt-KB3 |
| 3. Kt-B3 | Kt-B3 |
| 4. B-K15 | B-K15 |
| 5. Castles | Castles |
| 6. P-Q3 | P-Q3 |
| 7. Kt-K2 | Kt-K2 |
| 8. Kt-K13 | P-QR3 |
| 9. B-QB4 | P-R3 |
| 10. P-B3 | B-QB4 |
| 11. P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 12. PxP | B-R2 |
| 13. P-KR3 | P-QK14 |
| 14. B-Q3 | P-B4 |
| 15. B-K3 | P-B5 |
| 16. B-B2 | B-K12 |
| 17. Q-K2 | Kt-K13 |
| 18. Kt-Q2 | R-K1 |
| 19. P-B3 | QR-B1 |
| 20. Q-B2 | P-B6 |
| 21. PxP | RxP |
| 22. B-K13 | P-Q4! |

If now 23P-K5, KtxP!

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| 23. Kt-K2 | R-Q6! |
| 24. B-B2 | PxP |
- The position here is: 3qr1k1, bb3pp, p4ep, 1p1p4, 3PP3, 1B1BPSP, P2S1Q11, R4Rk1.
- If now 25 BxR, PxB; 20 Kt-K13, RxB!
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| 25. PxP | R-R6 |
| 26. K-R1 | Q-K2 |
| 27. Kt-KK13 | Q-Q2 |

Threatening RxB.

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| 28. B-K13 | K-R2 |
| 29. Kt-B5 | KtxP |
| 30. KtxKt | RxKt |
| 31. Q-K13 | P-K15 |
| 32. QR-B1 | R-B4 |
- So far we have quite the average vivacity, but from now on the play gets more and more brilliant.
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| 33. R-B7 | RxK11 |
| 34. RxQ | RxRch |
| 35. K-R2 | RxR1 |

If now 36. QxR, B-K11 ch; 37. P-K'3, R-R5 mate.

38. Q-B7 R(K6)-K3 Black misses his chance to win by B-K5, threatening R-K7.

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| 37. RxP! | BxP |
| 38. QxR | B-K16 ch |
| But why not B-K4 ch? | |
| 39. K-K13 | R-K6 ch |
| 40. R-B3 | B-B7 ch |
| 41. K-K14 | |

Now Black played R-K2, which was met by Q-Q5, and White, after a dozen more moves, won; but here is where Black missed the chance of a most remarkable draw, as follows:—

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| 41. | R-K4 |
| 42. R-B5 | R-K8 |
| Threatening mate in three by R-K10, Kt-B5, and R mates. | |
| 43. B-B2 | R-K16 ch |
| 44. K-R5 | P-K18! |
| 45. PxP | R-KR8 |
| Threatening perpetual ch by RxRP. | |
| 46. R-K5 | R-KR1 |
| 47. R-Q5 | R-Q8!! |

If BxK, Kt-B5 ch, and RxP mate, II RxR, R mates.

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| 48. R-R5 | R-QR8 |
| 49. BxKt ch | RxR |
| 50. R-KB5 | B-K16 |
| 51. Q-KB7 | R-Q3 |
| 52. K-K14 | R-K13 ch |
| 53. K-B3 | R-B8 ch |
| 54. K-K2 | R-K3 ch! |

Every move is brilliant, but this is specially sparkling. White cannot avoid the draw. Suppose he tries to get away on the Q side,

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| 55. K-Q2 | R-Q3 ch |
| 56. K-B2 | R-B3 ch |
| 57. K-R2? | B-K4 ch! |
| 58. K-R3 | R-R8 ch |
| 59. K-K14 | B-B6 mate |

—'Australasian.'

The chess editor of the "San Francisco Call" writes:—"Edward P. Sharp, whose bright and entertaining chess column in the 'State Journal' of Lincoln, Neb., is read with much pleasure by many chess players outside the Peerless One's State, is, we learn from a recent writer, a shut-in, suffering from a paralytic stroke, which left him barely able to move his arms. But, judging from his keen, incisive paragraphs, it is evident that his brain escaped the cruel stroke. If chess is in any way responsible for Mr Sharp's cheerfulness and abounding good humour, which are weekly reflected in his 'Journal' column, then, indeed, blessed be chess! Commenting on our paragraph about 'The Call's' youthful problem solver, Miss Merle Silvious, aged 9 years, he calls attention to an infant prodigy of Table Rock, Neb., Master Herbert Howe, aged 7 years, who sent in correct solutions to problems in the pending 'Journal' tourney. Sharp says that the California miss is thus not entitled to 'infant' honours, and adds that Master Howe will 'stand up for Nebraska.' Well, it's California v. Nebraska, because the Table Rock phenom has been challenged to contest two games by postal. The gauntlet has been picked up by the youth from the prairies and Uncle Sam will do the rest." Verily, America is a land of prodigies!

Wellington Chess Club.

The Wellington Chess Club opened the season on Saturday, 17th inst., with the customary open night. Sides matches having become stale, and the freshness of lightning tourneys having been rubbed off, the committee had arranged a novelty. This consisted of a joint simultaneous display by the club's two leading players (Messrs R. J. Barnes and W. E. Mason), who encountered sixteen opponents, taking the rounds alternately. Barnes made the first, third, fifth, etc., moves at each board, Mason making the even-numbered moves. The two players were bound not to consult in any way, each having to pick up the cue left by his ally in the previous round. This was found to be not such an easy task as the evening wore on. In order that one may appreciate the difficulty it must be borne in mind that in the interval between the single player's rounds three moves would be made at each board, viz., the reply to his move, his partner's move, and the opponent's reply to the latter. There were, however, very few instances of failure to maintain continuity of purpose, the result being that the Barnes-Mason combination won 11 games (from Mackenzie, Wotton, Booth, Grenfell, S. Gyles, Gyles, aem., Bock, Tanner, Fell, Grantham, and D. F. Mason), drew two

(with Fouly and W. C. Hill), and lost only three (to Croxton, Rev. Braddock, and Kelling). Of the losers, Mr C. W. Tanner (who won the first "Petherick" Tourney ten years ago), made the best stand. The attendance was good. Play ended about 11 p.m. At the conclusion of the match a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs Barnes and Mason, this novel form of entertainment being voted a great success.

Three ladder matches are in progress at present. In the first game for rung 6, Fouly (challenger), James (defender), a second sitting is required. In the match for rung 9, Purchas (challenger) and S. Mackay have each scored 1 win. The first game for rung 13 occupied three evenings, Carman (defender) ultimately scoring from W. Cowper Hill (challenger).

The match shortly to be played against the Wairarapa team is being looked forward to with much interest.

Entries for the club's annual "Petherick" tourney have been coming in freely. The entries closed last Saturday, and play is to commence this week.

Wellington Working Men's Club.

The annual general meeting of the chess and draughts players of the Working Men's Club was held in the clubroom on Monday, 12th inst., nineteen members being present. Mr. W. J. Smith occupied the chair.

The annual report, an extract from which appeared in our issue of the 14th inst., was unanimously adopted.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Mr. J. M'Nee; vice-presidents, Messrs W. J. Smith, J. B. Graham, and J. G. W. Dairymple; hon. treasurer, Mr. Jas. Wilson (re-elected). The following officers also were appointed for the chess sections:—Referee, Mr. A. G. Fell, of the Wellington Chess Club (re-elected); hon. secretary, Mr. F. K. Kelling (re-elected); consulting members, Messrs R. J. Barnes and W. Featonby; match committee, Messrs Barnes, Eton, and J. Reid; delegates to New Zealand Chess Association, Messrs J. G. W. Dairymple and J. Miles (both re-elected). It was decided to support the nominations made in the previous week by the Wellington Chess Club to the Chess Association of Messrs P. Kummer (Wairarapa), O. C. Pleasants (Wanganui), and P. Still (Wellington), as vice-presidents for the southern half of the North Island.

It was resolved to hold a handicap chess tourney on the same lines as in past years, and to invite entries at once. The impending visit of a team from Wairarapa was also referred to.

In addition to the usual thanks to the chair, the meeting passed a special vote of thanks to the general committee in acknowledgment of valued support accorded in the past.

Spanish Blood.

At the recent Havana tournament the players were seriously embarrassed by the exuberant and uncontrollable enthusiasm of the crowd of spectators, who numbered not far short of a thousand.

"As the progress of the games, shown on the exhibition boards, became more advanced" (says the "New York Sun") "a din started in the big hall of the Athenaeum Club such as is heard on the New York Stock Exchange. Everybody talked and analyzed the games in progress, and it was impossible to stop the noise, much as the tournament manager, the officials of the club, and others who used their stentorian voices, tried. Frequent appeals, even when made by the players, were of no avail, and it may be taken for granted, therefore, that the players scarcely did justice to themselves in the prevailing circumstances."

The Pearl.

On a pleasant day in a gleaming, glowing, rose-coloured ocean, a trusting oyster opens its shell and takes into its system some sea water and its other favourite form of sustenance.

Then, night coming on and the azure and gold of the big pond fading to silver and lavender, the oyster withdraws into its shell and closes up for the night.

All very well, and possibly Mr. Oyster thinks he is entirely safe between his nacreous walls, which have managed to imprison for their own enhancement something of the iridescent beauty of the sea.

But the unsuspecting bivalve has taken in a lodger unaware. A wandering bit of life, of the sort sometimes known to medical students as a "germ," has chosen to seek shelter with it. A parasitic entity looking for a home has ensconced itself within the pearly walls of the oyster or perhaps a promising larva has floated in and found a dwelling place. The loftiest example of the animal kingdom, man, may well take example from the developments which follow.

The oyster naturally resents the intrusion into his home, but he wastes no time in ineffectual lamenting, nor does he institute militant proceedings for the ejection of the parasite.

Instead, the oyster resolves to make the best of a bad situation, and to do all in his power to transform the ugly intruder into a thing of beauty.

The moral lesson involved in this circumstance is to be found in the beautiful result which follows, this noble attitude on the part of the oyster.

Layer after layer of mother-of-pearl secreted by the oyster is thrown around the parasite or larva, which is presently encased in a beautiful pearly shell, that gleams a wonderful greyish white or an exquisite iridescent pink or violet, or perhaps even deepens to a strangely lovely black. In reality the foreign substance has been ennobled.

Time passes, and the intruding parasite or egg has long been dead and buried, nummified in a splendid outer wrapping, when one day certain strange creatures dive down into the sea and snatch the oyster from its resting place. The oyster is borne to a sled with many companion oysters, and at last is opened.

A magnificent pearl has been found in the oyster, and the pearl is nothing more than the beautiful case which the oyster has built around the lowly parasite. As a brilliant French writer has said, "the ornament associated in all ages with beauty and riches is nothing but the brilliant sarcophagus of a worm."

War Correspondents.

We have left far behind the days when it was possible for Matthew Arnold to write this satire of the father of war correspondents:—"Dr. Russell, of the 'Times,' was preparing to mount his war-horse. You know the sort of thing. He has described it himself over and over again. Bismarck at his horse's head, the Crown Prince holding his stirrup, and the old King of Prussia hoisting Russell into the saddle." There was a time within the memory of men still young when it was commonly believed that the war correspondent, even if he did magnify his office, had special qualifications for the hazardous and delicate mission with which he was entrusted. We have outgrown that delusion. To win a popular reputation and to be overwhelmed with editorial bouquets, it is no longer necessary to share the labours, privations, and dangers of an army in the field. It is enough, if, in some distant and safe retreat, he wears romances out of official bulletins, and meets the insistent demand for a daily "story" by inventing battles at any time and place. The British journalist, I hope, is too honest, or lacks the imagination, to attempt these audacities, though there is no saying to what extremes he may be driven by this new form of foreign competition, unless the newspapers that wage perpetual war again untaxed foreign imports hasten to his rescue.—William Maxwell, in the "Nineteenth Century."

Solution of Problem No. 211.

(By Chr. Christensen, Copenhagen.)

Position:—3K4, 8, BR6, k7, pl-5, SQ2, 8, 8. (W:4; B:4.)
White to play and mate in 2 moves.
Key-move: Q-QB8.

For the fourth time in twelve years a proposition to allow Belgian women admission to the Bar is to be introduced. Last year when this was done the number of antagonists to the Bill was found to have greatly decreased—the principal objection seems to be that the inherent shallowness and reserve of woman unfits her for the profession of advocate.