

of the bark from the tree, wiped his eye-glasses and examined the specimen with great care. At last he smiled with a placid kind of triumph and exclaimed, "Ah! I thought so." Again climbing the fence, he returned to the group who had been watching him and said: "Now observe. You see that gray colour on the edge of the bark?" They did. "Well, that is called *fungi mortem*, and whenever that deadly sign appears at the root of an apple tree it never bears fruit."

"I don't think you are quite right about it," said Rice; "for that tree was full of apples yesterday, but the owner came this morning and gathered them."

There was a shout of laughter and C— was dumb-founded. It was a dreadful blow, and it had the effect of curtailing the scientific discourses of C— for some time. —Joseph Jefferson, in the *Century* for September.

GREAT MEN AND THE INTERVIEWER.

UNTIL recently Mr. Blaine has been one of the most difficult men in the country to interview, and even now will only talk for publication with his most intimate friends in the profession, and then almost always insists upon revising the interview. Alexander H. Stephens was equally particular. Time and again while Mr. Blaine was engaged in his hardest political struggles, I have tried to get a few words for my papers upon the results he had accomplished. I remember that only two years before he was beaten for the Presidential nomination in 1880, and then became the Secretary of State in Garfield's cabinet, I was a guest at his house in Augusta. He had just won one of the most bitterly contested State campaigns in his political career. I asked him for a statement of the situation, and some little story of how he had won the battle. Senator Hale was present at the moment. Mr. Blaine turned to me quickly, and said, pleasantly:

"Oh, interview Hale. He can tell you all about it. I do detest being quoted in the newspapers in the form of an interview."

Two years later, when he was assailed about his South American policy, one of the most important incidents of his remarkable career, he at once sought the form of an interview, and two long ones from him were printed in nearly every newspaper in the land. He wanted to reach the general public as well as the statesmen of the country, and he acknowledged that the only way to do it successfully was in a conversational form. Since that time he has always sought the interview when attacked upon any important matter which he desires to answer. No greater tribute could be paid to the efficiency of this class of newspaper work.

General Grant was the best man to interview I ever met. He would only talk to a person whom he knew well, and then he could tell you exactly what you wanted to know in fewer words than any man I ever made an enquiry of. He was very pleasant to newspaper men in whom he had confidence; but when one came about whom he did not know or trust, you couldn't get a word out of him with a crowbar. He never cared much to talk for publication, and never did to any extent upon public matters except to John Russell Young, who, by the way, is one of the ablest and most successful interviewers of any time. He alone among scores of daily toilers with the pen of this day is equally able as an editor, correspondent, descriptive writer, or tapper of sap from all sorts of fountains of information.

Roscoe Conkling was the only public man I ever met who never would be interviewed for publication upon any subject whatever. He once told me that he would rather have a mad dog set upon him than to have a newspaper man sent after him for a talk. Two or three times in his life, interviews were printed with him, which he never intended should go beyond the privacy of his room, and he never forgave the men who quoted him. He had one able correspondent discharged from the *Herald* for publishing a talk with him which occurred at the breakfast-table, and Mr. Bennett directed that he should never again write for his paper.

David Davis could not be interviewed. While he was a justice of the Supreme Court it would not have been proper, and after he became a United States Senator he always believed himself to be on the high-road to the Presidency, and was afraid to talk, lest he might injure his chances of getting there. I never approached him but once, and that was for the story of how Lincoln was nominated in 1860. I told him that I had already secured the recollections of two of the men who then operated with him, when he drew himself up and said, very seriously:

"There are only four men who know the history of Mr. Lincoln's nomination, and any one of them would be a fool to tell it."—Frank A. Burr, in *Lippincott's*.

SUCCI'S FAST.

THE completion by Signor Succi of his self-imposed fast of forty days, regrettable as were its surroundings, is undoubtedly a remarkable feat. The penitential fasts of the Church in the Middle Ages, though sufficiently severe, yet permitted bread and water to be taken, with sometimes a refresher of dry cooked beans and small beer, and an occasional small fish in the evening; but we can recall no modern instance in which total abstinence from food has been, we were going to say indulged in, or at any rate practised, for so long a period without serious results. Most physiologists would, we think, before the fact have pronounced it impossible. The loss by the lungs, the skin,

and the urine would have been considered to be too great for the nervous and circulatory systems to bear without the breaking down of some part of the machinery. Cases are on record where an animal has lived a much longer period without food—as, for example, the fat pig that fell over Dover Cliff and was picked up alive one hundred and sixty days after, being partially embedded in the debris; but here little motion was allowed, warmth was retained by the surrounding chalk, and life was sustained by the animal on its own fat. Dogs and wolves, again, are said to be able to sustain a complete fast for a month; but for a man to resist the depressing effects of a forty days' fast with nothing but water, which can hardly be called food, is certainly exceptional. Signor Succi is described as looking wan, thin, and sallow, and it is stated that he lost weight at the rate of about half a pound a day during the latter days of his fast. The loss was no doubt in great part due to the elimination of carbon dioxide by the lungs and of watery vapour by the skin and lungs. His temperature was well maintained. His pulse varied, but was during the latter days more frequent than natural. The room in which he lived was judiciously kept at a high temperature, and he did not exhaust his nervo-muscular apparatus by exercise. Perhaps the conclusion may be drawn from this experiment that a considerable proportion of our ordinary food is not applied to any useful purpose in the economy, but is converted in the intestinal canal into leucin, tyrosin, and other crystalloids, and that many of the inactive inhabitants of cities habitually eat more than is required to maintain their mental and bodily functions in the highest efficiency.—*Lancet*.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

PEACE to the virgin heart, the crystal brain!  
Peace for one hour through all the camps of thought!  
Our subtlest mind has rent the veil of pain,  
Has found the truth he sought.

Who knows what page those new-born eyes have read?  
If this set creed, or that, or none be best?—  
Let no strife jar above this sacred head;  
Peace for a saint at rest!  
—Edmund Gosse, in the *Athenæum*.

THE BENEFIT OF NEWSPAPER TRAINING.

I BELIEVE I have done everything which an editor or publisher ever has to do, from directing wrappers up to writing the biography of a president within an hour after his death. This means, if the training be continued through many years of life, and if one be under a good chief, that one gains, of necessity, the ready use, at least, of his own language. We newspaper men may write English very ill, but we write it easily and quickly. So that to us, who have been in this business, there is something amazing to hear a clergyman say that he occupied a week in composing a sermon, which was, at the outside, thirty-five hundred words in length. One can understand absolute inability to do it at all; but no newspaper man understands how a man, who can do it, can spend thirty-six hours in doing it. If you have to send "copy" upstairs, hour after hour, with a boy taking the slips from you, one by one, as they are written, and you know that you are never to see what you write until you read it the next day in the paper, your copy will be punctuated carefully, written carefully, and will be easily read. That is one thing. Another thing goes with it. You will form the habit of determining what you mean to say before you say it, how far you want to go, and where you want to stop. And this will bring you to a valuable habit of life—to stand by what has been decided. Napoleon gave the same advice when he said, "If you set out to take Vienna, take Vienna." For these reasons, I am apt to recommend young men to write for the press early in life, being well aware that the habit of doing this has been of use to me.—Edward Everett Hale, in the *September Forum*.

THE FAMOUS BLACK MUSKETEERS.

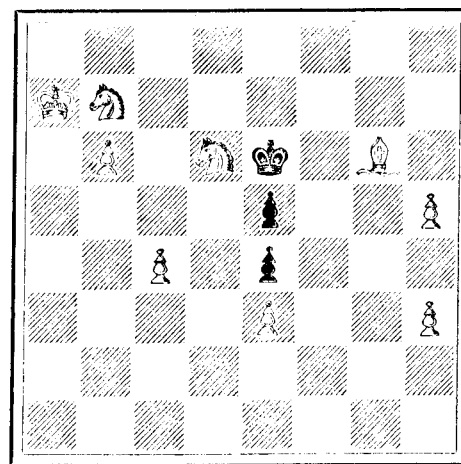
THE Rue St. Denis often heard the trumpets of the Maison du Roi, and saw the famous company, called, from the colour of their horses, the Black Musketeers, riding, one hundred gentlemen in files of four, with Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan in the ranks, their renowned captain, Monsieur de Tréville—right hand of the King and redoubted enemy of two cardinals—in advance, and just behind the scarlet casaque of the trumpeters. At first they were the Royal Carbineers, but soon carried the musket, and under their third commander, Monsieur de Tréville, or Troisvilles, to whom we are introduced in the first chapters of the Musketeers, they became the famous corps of the story—pre-eminently a *corps d'élite*. Sons of dukes enlisted as privates, and D'Artagnan is careful to tell us more than once that the captain of the King's Musketeers had precedence of the marshals of France. Their equipment was splendid, its distinctive sign being a light blue casaque with a large silver cross on breast, back, and sleeves; they also wore the wide plumed hat, and the high soft boot reaching the thigh, while in Bragelonne's time they already had the stiff jack-boots—those enormous boots which ran after the English at Fontenoy and away from them at Blenheim; and which splashed through Flanders, tramped into hostleries and over battle-fields, and bestrode the horses of Vandermeulen's pictures.—From "The Paris of the Three Musketeers," by E. H. and E. W. Blashfield, in *August Scribner*.

CHESS.

PROBLEM No. 493.

By DR. GOLD.

BLACK.



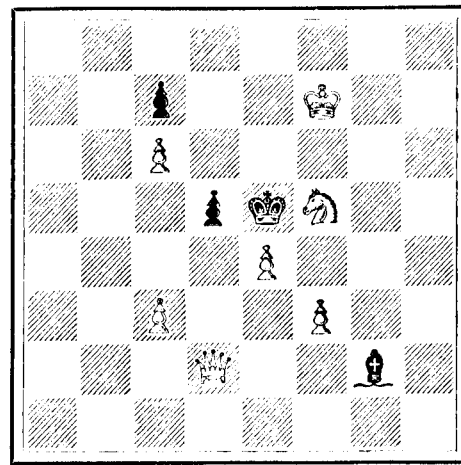
WHITE.

White to play and mate in three moves.

PROBLEM No. 494.

By HERBERT JACOBS.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play and mate in two moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

No. 487.

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| White.     | Black.      |
| 1. Kt-K R1 | 1. K x B    |
| 2. Q x P   | 2. K x P    |
| 3. Q mates | if 1. P x B |
|            | 2. moves.   |
| 2. Q-Kt 7  |             |
| 3. Q mates |             |

With other variations.

No. 488.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| White.        | Black.       |
| 1. Kt-K B 8   | 1. K-B 4     |
| 2. R x P +    | 2. K-K 5     |
| 3. P-B 3 mate | if 1. Kt-K 4 |
|               | 2. Kt x R    |
| 2. R-Kt 5 +   |              |
| 3. R-B 4 mate |              |

With other variations.

SIXTH GAME IN THE MATCH BETWEEN BLACKBURN AND LEE AT THE BRADFORD CHESS CLUB.

ZUKERTORT OPENING.

LEE.	BLACKBURN.	LEE.	BLACKBURN.
White.	Black.	White.	Black.
1. Kt-R B 3	P-Q 4	21. Castles	R-R 7
2. P-Q 4	Kt-K B 3	22. Q-K 2	Kt-B 2
3. P-B 4	P-B 3	23. R-Q B 1	Q-R 1
4. P-K 3	B-Kt 5	24. Q-K 1	Kt-B 3
5. Q-Kt 3	Q-Kt 3	25. Kt-K 2	Kt-Kt 4
6. Kt-B 3	B x Kt	26. Kt-B 3	Kt x Kt
7. P x B	P-K 3	27. B x Kt	K-B 1
8. P-B 5	Q-B 2	28. R-Kt 1	K-K 1
9. Q-Q 1	Q Kt-Q 2	29. B K-Kt 2 (b)	K-Q 1
10. P-B 4	P-K Kt 3 (a)	30. P-B 3	Q-R 5
11. B-K 2	B-Kt 2	31. R-R 1 (c)	R x R
12. P-Kt 4	Castles (K R)	32. B x R	Kt-Q 2
13. B-Q 2	K R-Q B 1	33. B-B 3	K-B 1
14. B-B 3	Q-Q 1	34. B-B 1	P-B 3
15. Kt-K 2	P-Kt 3	35. B-R 5	Kt-Kt 1
16. Kt-Kt 3	P-Q R 4	36. B-Kt 6	Q-R 6
17. P-Q R 3	R P x P	37. K-Kt 2	Kt-Q 2
18. R P x P	P x P	38. B-R 5	Kt-Kt 1
19. Kt P x P	Kt-K 1	39. B-Kt 6	Kt-Q 2
20. R x R	R x R		Drawn.

NOTES BY GUNSBURG.

- (a) Black's best move at this point is P Q Kt 3 followed by P Q Kt 4 and P Q R 4.
- (b) If white had been in a venturesome mood he would have played here P K 4.
- (c) A more advantageous move would have been R Kt 8, with the continuation of Q K-Q B 7, Q x Q-R x Q and so on.

THE wisest, most learned, and intelligent of the medical fraternity do not place the same reliance on drugs that their predecessors did. They are very much more apt to make a patient cure himself by the observance of ordinary and well-settled rules of hygiene than to make his stomach a chronic-house for an apothecary's shop.—*San Francisco Chronicle*.