

KNIGHTS AND BISHOPS

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Knights and Bishops by Alain C. White

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ALAIN C. WHITE

**KNIGHTS
AND BISHOPS**

KNIGHTS

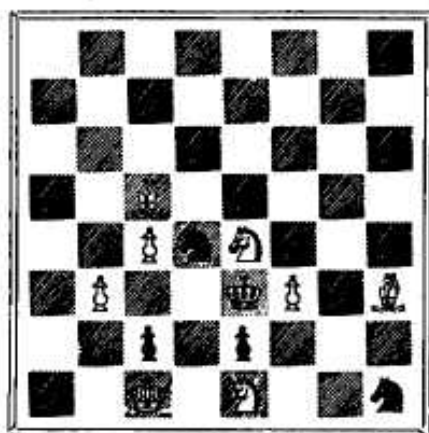
AND

BISHOPS

Knights and Bishops

BY
ALAIN C. WHITE.

S. LOYD.



Mate in four moves.

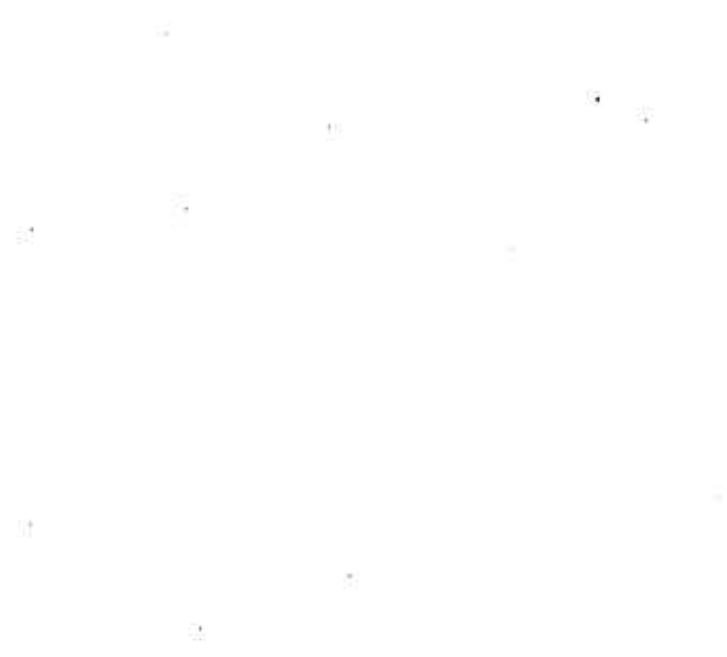
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

TO

M. W. W.



INTRODUCTION.

CHESS without the use of Queens and Rooks sounds impossible. As a game it would doubtless be so; but so many excellent problems have been composed along these restricted lines, that any solver who lost the Queens and Rooks from his set of chessmen would still have material for almost endless study. My good friend and collaborator, H. Staerker of Bournemouth, England, recently sent me 2,500 positions in which White's force, apart from King and Pawns, was limited to Knights and Bishops—the result of only a few weeks' search. This book is largely based on his collection. All problems in four or more moves are omitted, and the restrictions as to force are extended to Black; but even so the work of selection has not been an easy one. The result should at least prove an interesting study of the interplay of the minor officers; and any solver who masters all the problems should become an adept at handling his Knights and Bishops in more complex positions. The problems are graded in groups, according to the number of White Knights or Bishops used. Pawn promotions have consistently been avoided, where they involved the making of the rejected officers. Nos. 1, 19 and 48 are distinctly members of our class. The promotions in Nos. 17, 24 and 78 are rather in-

cidental. Black Pawns cannot, of course, be prevented from claiming Rooks or Queens, but the point of No. 22 turns on the reply to the try, 1. Qsd5, and the problem belongs clearly in the collection.

No regular arrangement according to themes was practicable, as the different problems touch at so many points. The restriction as to force, however, results in certain outline characteristics. The attack of a Knight is essentially diagonal, as is that of the Bishop; consequently problems involving flight squares will for the most part have them diagonally. Indeed, there exists a whole multitude of problems with only minor officers, in which the Black King has three or four diagonal flights, usually on the move preceding the mate. They are very tame affairs, and repeat one another so often as to deserve relegation to the pigeon-hole of worn-out themes. Nos. 32, 38, 49, 54, 55 are the best or earliest examples of the various flight-principles involved.

The most prominent strategic characteristic of the collection is the self-blocks by Black. These occur in every other problem more or less conspicuously. They should especially be studied and compared in the Frontispiece and in Nos. 25, 30, 31, 48, 56, 60, 61, 64, 65, 74, 75 and 79.

Another element to be noted is the way in which the minor officers can be made to play for position according as Black relaxes its guard in various directions or furnishes convenient blocks. Nos. 44, 52, 53, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73 and 87 all illustrate some phase of this form of skirmishing. It will readily be seen from the last two groups mentioned that in general the problems in the