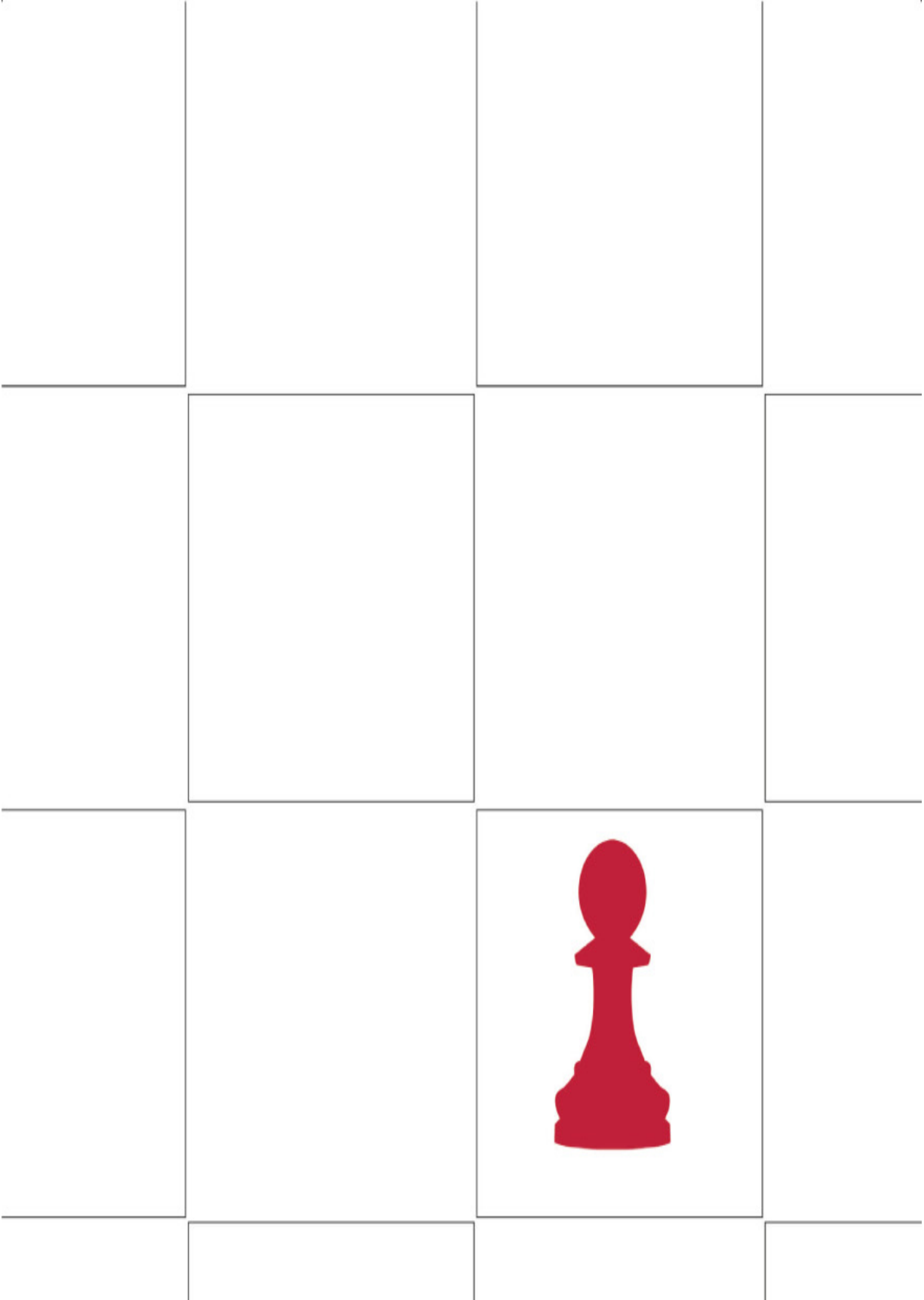




Imagination in Chess

How to Think Creatively and Avoid Foolish Mistakes

Paata Gaprindashvili



Imagination in Chess

How to Think Creatively and Avoid Foolish Mistakes

Paata Gaprindashvili

Imagination in Chess

How to think creatively and avoid foolish mistakes

Paata Gaprindashvili

BATSFORD

Contents

	Foreword
1	Progressive Thinking
2	Reciprocal Thinking
3	Reciprocal Thinking – Logic
4	Reciprocal Thinking – Auxiliary Idea
5	Mental Agility
6	Mental Agility – Reciprocal Thinking – Auxiliary Idea
7	Imagination
	Solutions to Exercises
	Index of Players

Foreword

Chessplayers possess plenty of manuals on tactics, quite a few textbooks on strategy, and stacks of books on the opening and endgame. Yet there are hardly any publications dealing with the main thing—the process of thought, the evaluation and development of the brain’s reflective activity.

It is to these issues that the present work is devoted.

The author would like to share his ideas and the pedagogical material that he has accumulated over many years of intensive labour. Over 700 “fresh” positions are collected in the book, incorporating a variety of schemes of thought. Attention is drawn to the role of logic and resource; light is shed on the problem of imagination. In sum, there is much here that the reader will find useful.

The book is intended for trainers and competitive players.

How should you work with the book? To make the best use of it, we recommend the following:

- (1) Carefully study the introductory article to the first chapter.
- (2) To consolidate the material, solve a few exercises.
- (3) Go on to the second chapter, and proceed in the same way.

In other words, you need to acquaint yourself with all the theoretical material and then extend your mastery equally in all directions.

Asterisks above the diagrams indicate the level of complexity. The exercises should, of course, be solved without moving the pieces, though an exception may be made with positions on level four (****).

We believe that regular solving of these exercises will improve the cogitative action of the brain and raise your standard of play.

The author is grateful to those who helped him collect the material and who collaborated in the production of this book.

1 Progressive Thinking

What should I undertake? How am I to continue? Chessplayers are faced with such questions at every turn. To answer them correctly, you have to perform a specific task which comprises a number of steps:–

(1) Study the position, that is, identify all the tactical and strategic peculiarities of the configuration of pieces and pawns. Note the word *study*. We are not talking about “evaluating” the position but about “studying” it, because an evaluation just by itself (without study) doesn’t supply the key to further action. For instance it may be a case of “White stands better”, and a young player may give the correct assessment—but he won’t know what to do next. What is he to do with this “better” position?

(2) Studying the position generates ideas with their corresponding “candidate moves”. These ideas aim at exploiting some particular characteristics of the situation (the characteristics you previously identified!).

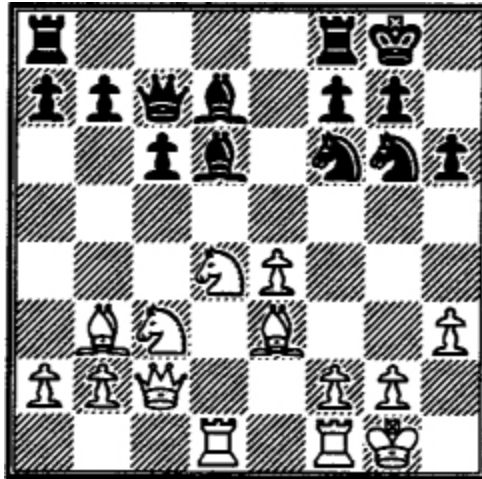
(3) Now calculate the variations and assess the positions to which they lead. In other words, weigh up an idea and assess it for suitability.

(4) If the verdict on the idea is positive, you carry it out, that is you make the corresponding move.

Let us take an example.

Toshkov-Russek

Saint John, 1988



White to move

As we study the situation, our attention is drawn to the following:

(a) the opposition of the queens, and the fact that the bishop on d6 is to some extent “hanging”;

(b) the alignment of the king and bishop on the a2-g8 diagonal (the pawn on f7 is pinned, which means the knight on g6 is unprotected).

Such are the tactical features. Of the strategic ones, we notice:

(c) White’s pawn superiority in the centre, and Black’s on the queenside.

From the above, some ideas and “candidate moves” emerge:

(A) White could try to pick up the bishop on d6 by jumping to b5 or f5 with a knight: 1 ♞cb5; 1 ♞db5; 1 ♞f5.

(B) He might attempt to win the knight on g6 after clearing the pawn from e4; thus, 1 e5.

(C) He could prepare the advance of his e- and f-pawns: 1 ♞de2; 1 ♔d2.

You might ask about the order in which the candidate moves should be examined. The answer is, first of all look at the most

promising ones, those which are forcing and tactical in character. Only then examine the moves which aim to carry out a strategic plan.

So let us proceed to the calculation of variations.

(A) It's clear that knight excursions to b5 promise nothing good, while 1 ♖f5 doesn't lead to a forced line of play, and would require detailed investigation.

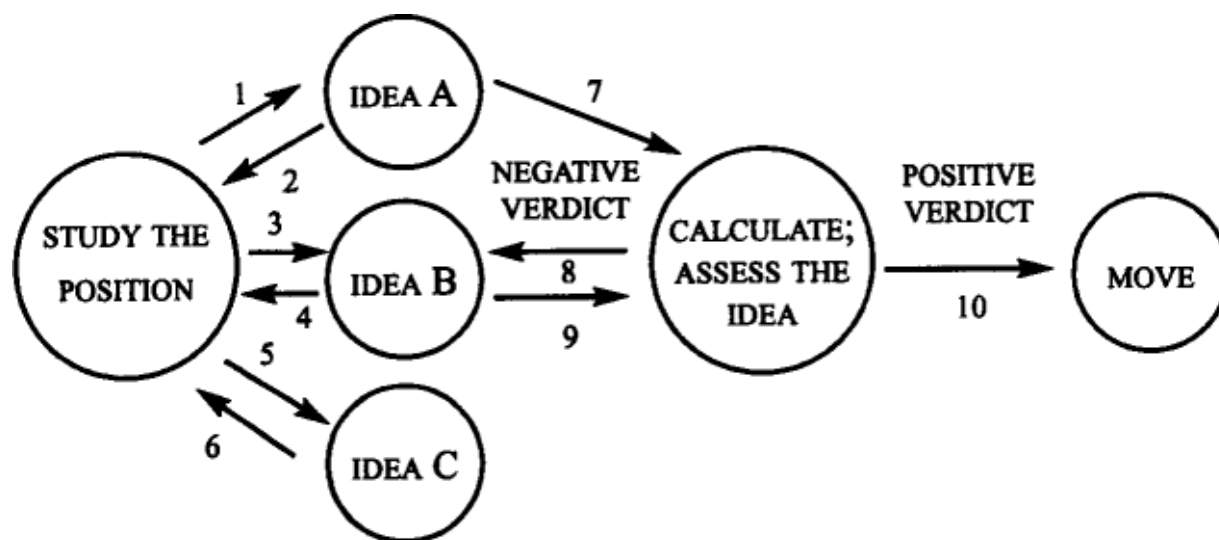
So we switch to the following possibility:

(B) 1 e5 — a fairly straightforward analysis shows that White wins. The verdict on the idea is positive. The move can be played.

As you see, then, we never got round to examining the strategic moves 1 ♖de2 and 1 ♔d2.

In the game, the continuation was: **1 e5! ♗xe5 2 f4** (the knight perishes) **2... ♗eg4 3 hxg4 ♗xg4 4 ♖c1 ♔ad8 5 ♗e4 ... 1-0.**

In this case the winning idea was “on the surface”, the variations proved very simple and White didn't need to “dig deep”. Let us visualize the scheme of thought like this:



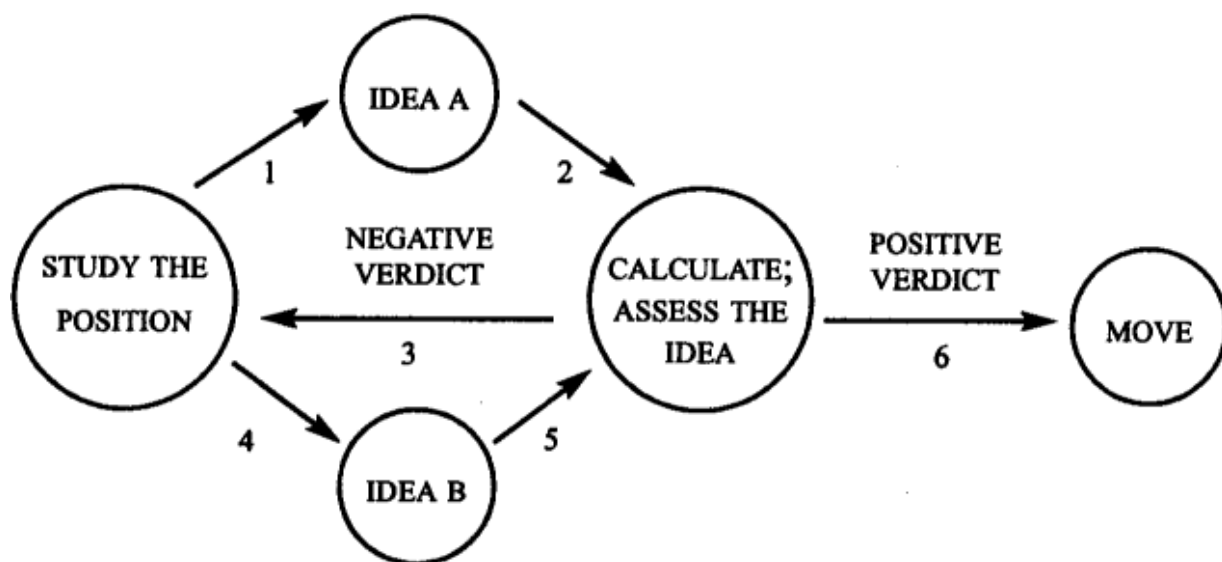
But is what we have said above realistic?

Usually it all happens a bit differently. When a player turns his attention to the placing of the queens and the vulnerability of the

bishop on d6, and notes the corresponding moves 1 ♖cb5 and 1 ♖db5, it's hard to imagine him not looking immediately at the capture of the knight—1...cxb5. In other words, a preliminary, cursory inspection of the elementary forced variations takes place as soon as the idea emerges. In this way, idea “A” is discarded without more ado.

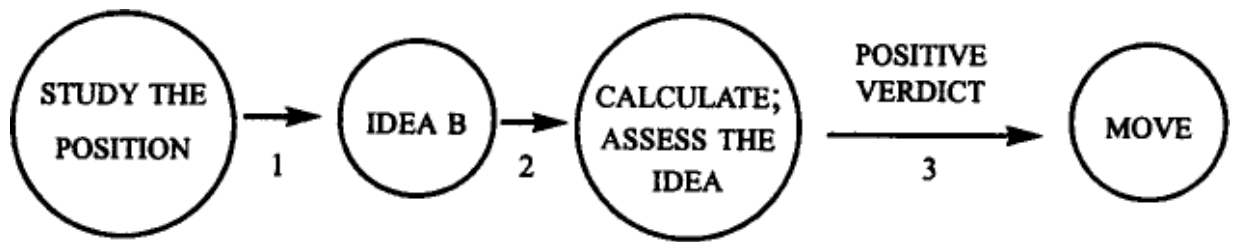
Next, the player will notice the opposition of the bishop and king, the pin on the f7-pawn and the unprotected position of the knight on g6. The move 1 e5 comes into his head, and he immediately starts working out the variations.

With this, the preparatory work is practically finished. The player will dispense with any further investigations. He will re-check his variations and play 1 e5.



It's easy to see that this scheme differs substantially from the previous one.

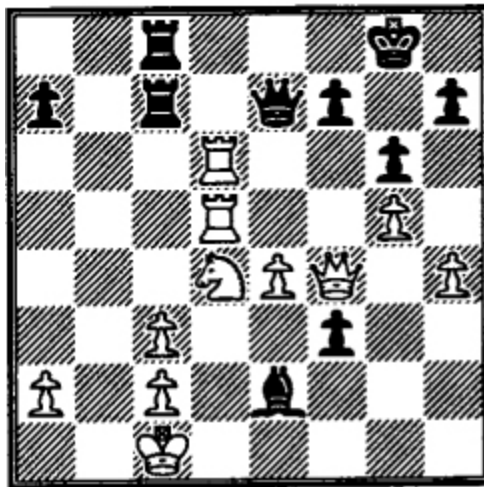
If idea “B” cropped up first (as well it might), the scheme of thought would be simplified still further:



We will agree to classify this scheme as *progressive thinking*, by which we mean a simple, straightforward train of thought.

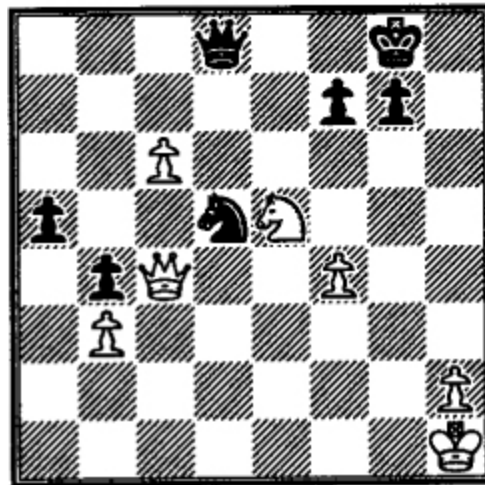
In chess as in life, battles are fought between ideas. As a rule, the more sophisticated ones prevail. We now offer 180 positions for solution, which we hope will help young players to pursue their mental development and conceive new, interesting ideas.

1

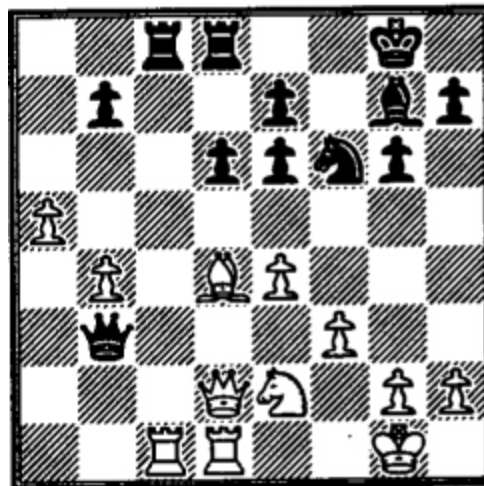


Black to move

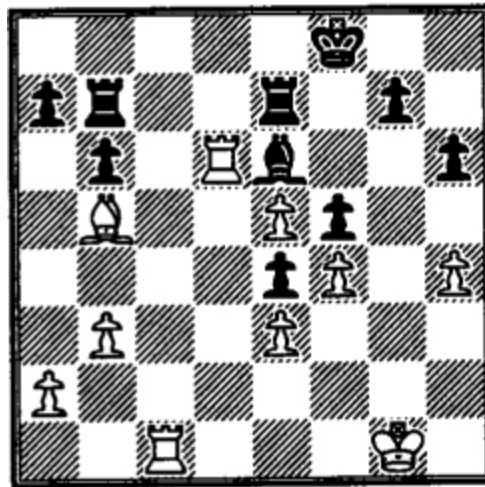
2



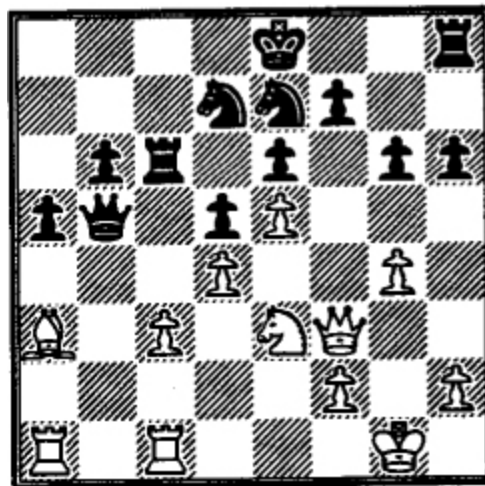
3



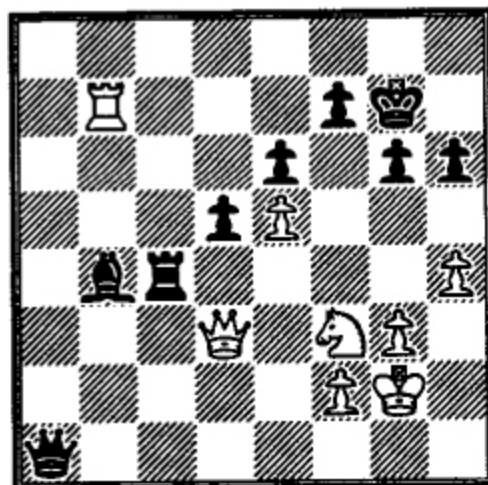
4



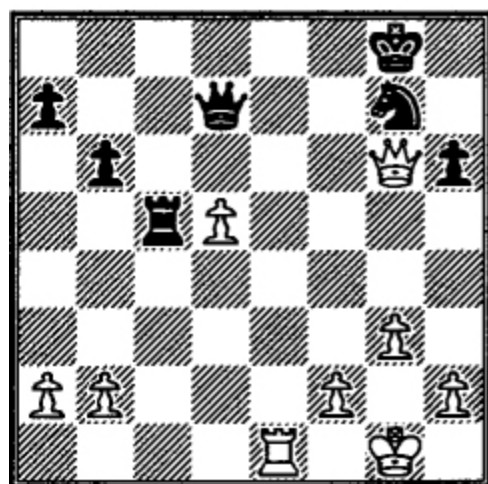
5



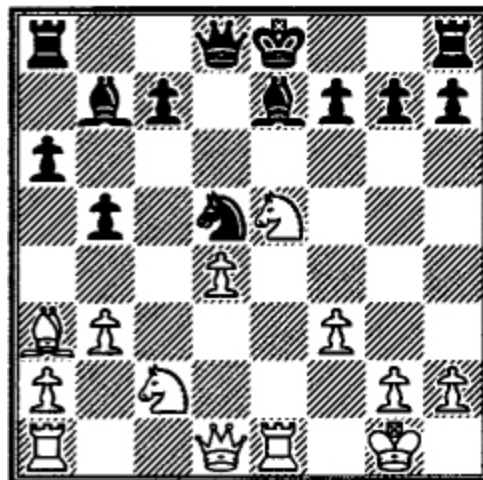
6



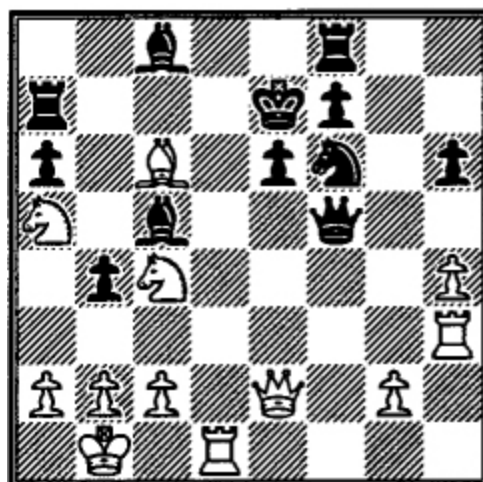
7



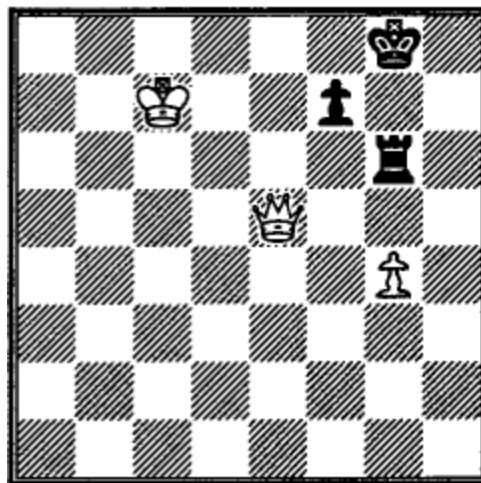
8



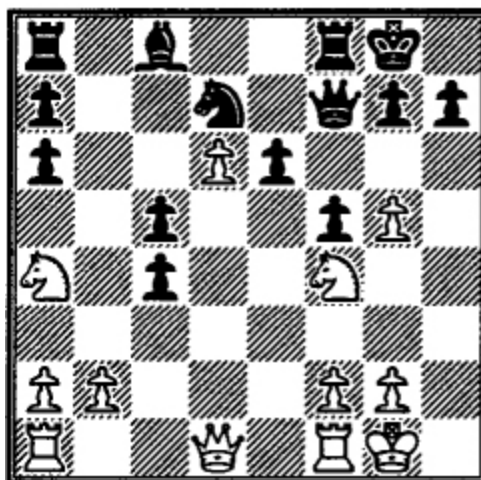
9



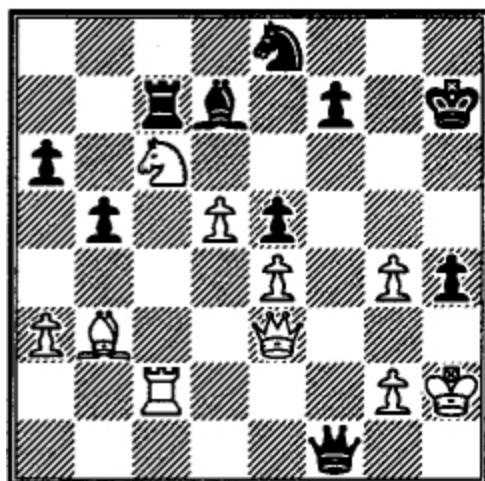
10



11

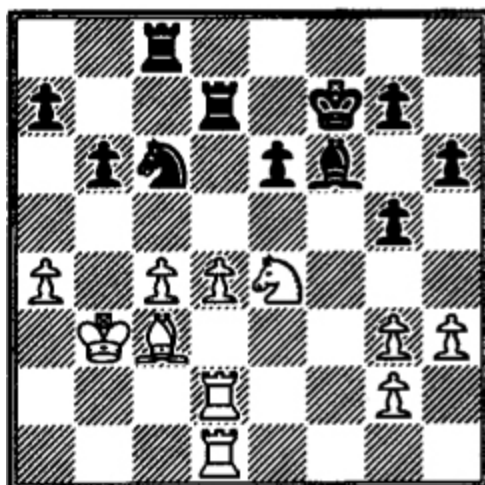


12

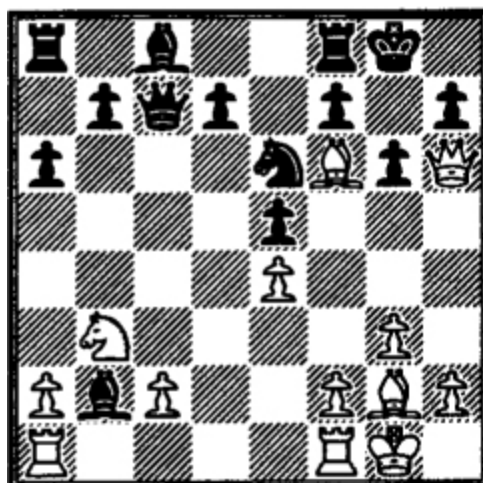


Black to move

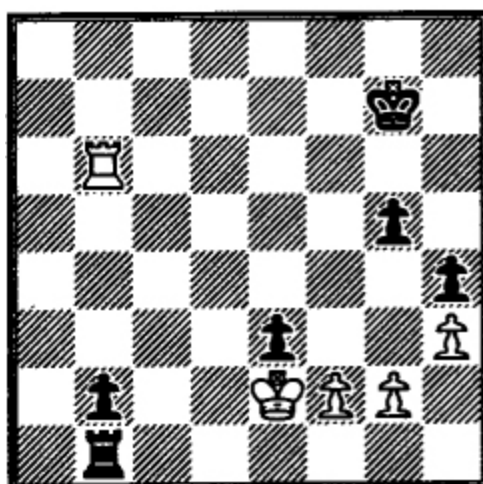
13



14

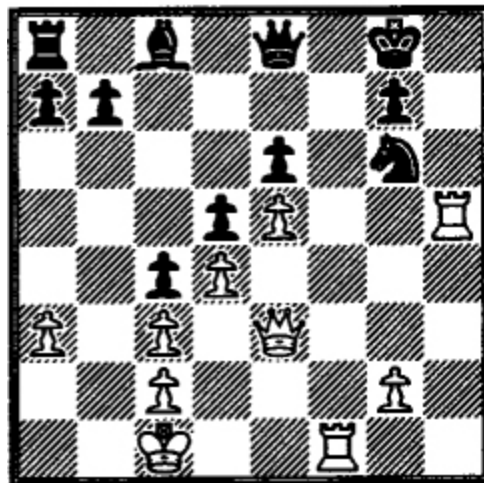


15

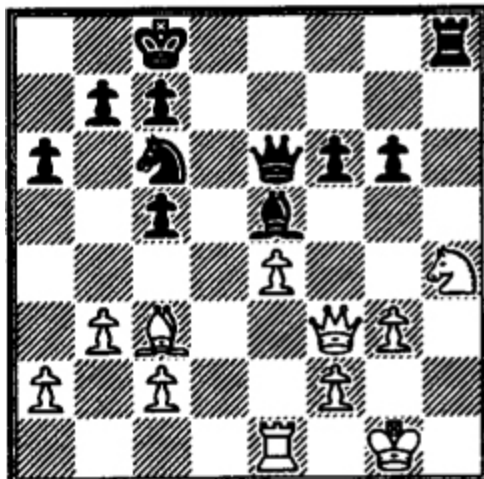


Black to move

16

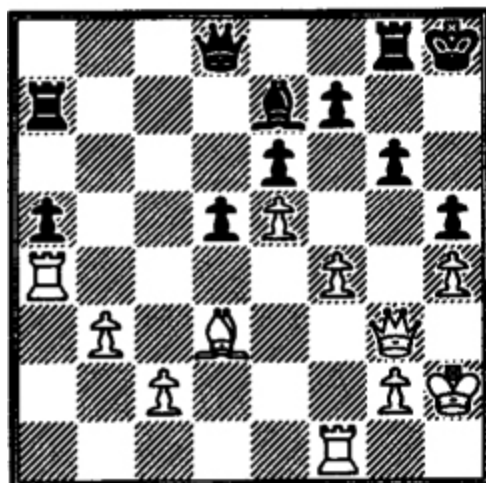


17

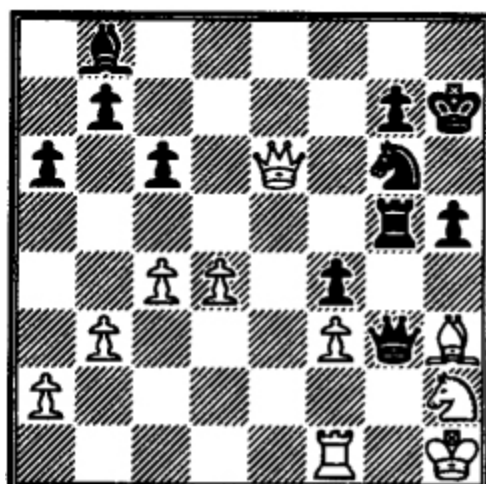


Black to move

18

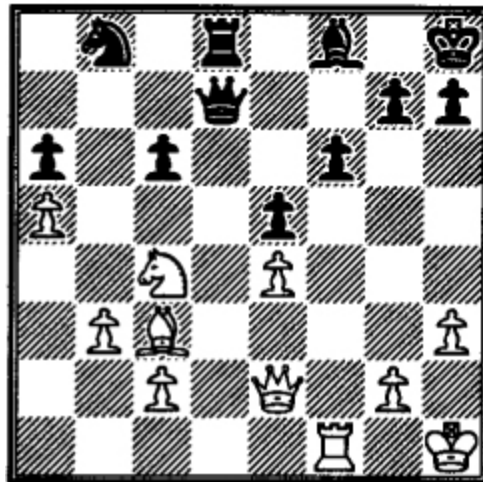


19*

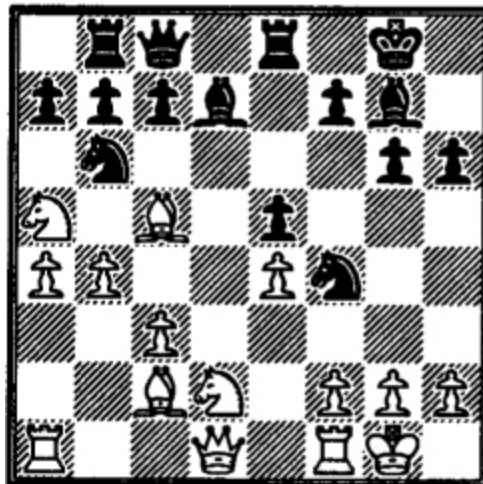


Black to move

20

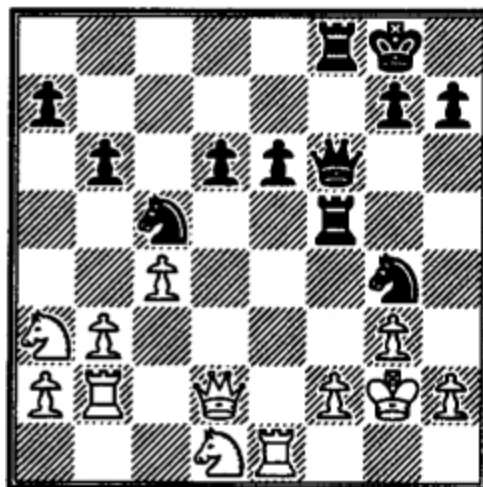


21*



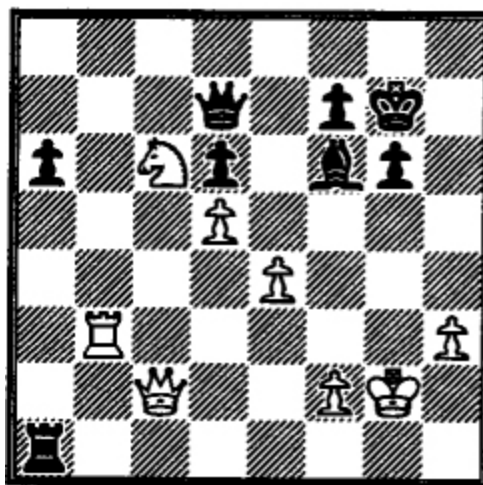
Black to move

22

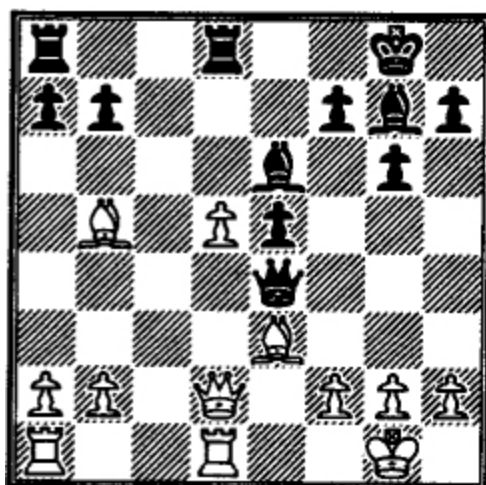


Black to move

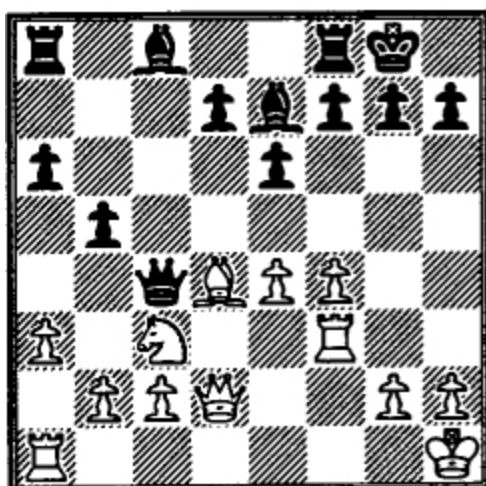
23



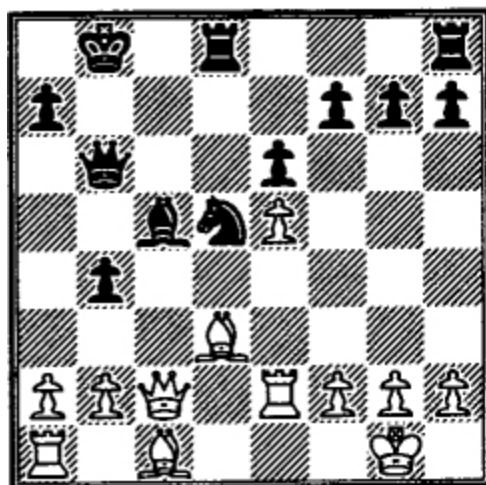
24



25*

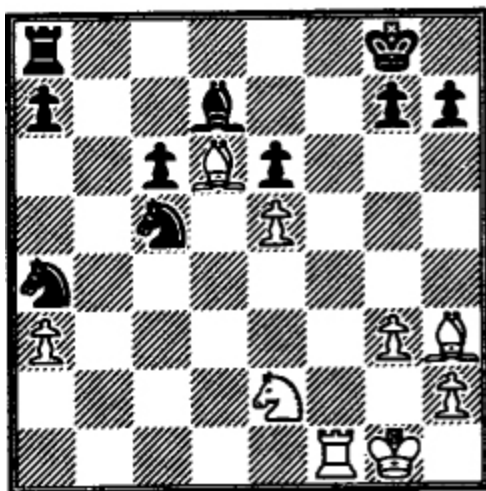


26

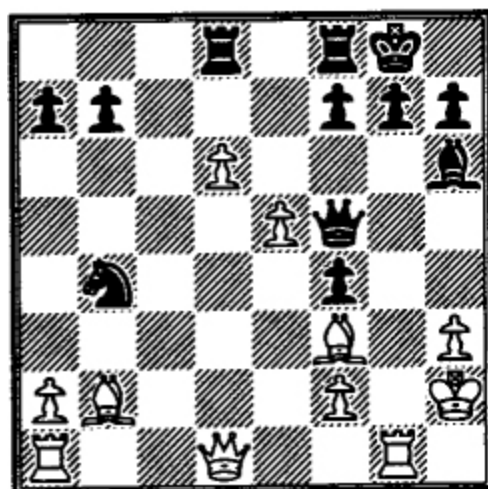


Black to move

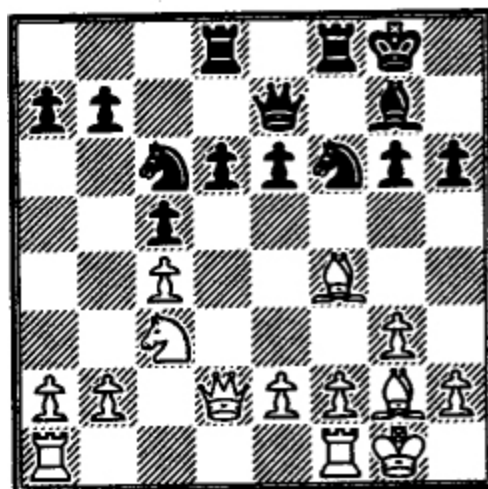
27



28



29



Black to move

Tartakower [647](#)
Tatai [84](#), [114](#)
Terek [732](#)
Tereshchenko [458](#)
Teske [714](#)
Thiellement [466](#)
Thipsay [625](#)
Thorsteins [96](#)
Timman [98](#), [290](#), [307](#), [374](#), [388](#), [423](#), [562](#), [656](#), [736](#), [747](#)
Timoshchenko, A. [437](#)
Timoshchenko, G. [81](#)
Tischbierek [115](#)
Tisdall [348](#), [408](#), [731](#)
Tiviakov [628](#) (p. [134](#))
Tol [410](#)
Tolnai [507](#), [571](#)
Topalov [1](#), [122](#)
Torre [47](#), [168](#), [179](#), [187](#), [330](#), [462](#), [677](#)
Toshkov (p. [7](#))
Toth [685](#)
Trapl [140](#), [387](#)
Tratar [500](#)
Tringov [76](#), [402](#)
Trofimov [385](#)
Tsarev [406](#)
Tseitlin [441](#), [641](#)
Tseshkovsky [126](#), [569](#), [585](#)
Tukmakov [101](#), [104](#), [545](#), [548](#), [667](#), [704](#), [712](#)

U

Ubilava [482](#)
Uhlmann [227](#), [343](#), [604](#), [634](#), [702](#), [742](#)
Ujtelky [357](#)
Ulybin [11](#), [215](#), [391](#), [589](#), [653](#)
Umanskaya [750](#)

Unzicker [187](#), [266](#)

Ushakov [471](#)

Utashi [515](#)

V

Vaganian [53](#), [192](#), [259](#), [327](#), [596](#), [623](#) (p. [87](#))

Vaganov [593](#)

Van der Tak [691](#)

Van der Weide [162](#)

Van der Wiel [16](#), [85](#), [173](#), [241](#), [307](#), [315](#)

Van Manen [254](#)

Vamusz [540](#)

Vasilchuk [221](#)

Vasiliev [416](#), [585](#)

Vasiukov [377](#), [721](#)

Veličković [20](#)

Velikov [180](#), [583](#)

Velimirović [71](#), [347](#), [721-2](#)

Vepkhvishvili [127](#), [479](#)

Veroci [167](#)

Veres [693](#)

Vernitsky [153](#)

Vidmar [446](#)

Vistanetskis [29](#)

Vitolins [225](#), [610](#)

Vitomskis [94](#)

Vladimirov, E. [46](#), [271](#)

Vogt [116](#), [243](#), [477](#), [517](#)

Vooremaa [43](#)

Vorozhtsov [270](#)

Vukcevic [209](#)

Vyzmanavin [165](#), [341](#), [681](#)

W

Wade [450](#)

Wahls [18](#)
Watson, W. [88](#), [309](#)
Wedberg [322](#)
Weinstein [723](#)
Weiss [663](#)
Weltmander [195](#)
Werner [24](#), [314](#)
West, G. [547](#)
Westerinen [304](#), [310](#), [612](#)
Whiteley [522](#)
Wirthensohn [45](#)
Witkowski [117](#)
Wittmann [549](#)
Wolff, P. [309](#), [411](#)
Wolny [140](#)
Wong [619](#)

Y

Yabra [453](#)
Yablonovsky [250](#)
Yagupov [321](#)
Yakovlev [153](#)
Yanoshi [660](#)
Ye Jiangchuan [41](#), [346](#)
Yijölä [149](#)
Yudasin [59](#), [150](#), [368](#), [580](#), [602](#), [673](#), [741](#), [754](#)
Yukhtman [511](#)
Yuneev [464](#) (p. 58)
Yungkhianel [501](#)
Yurkov [35](#)
Yurtaev [753](#)
Yusupov [130](#), [216](#), [260](#), [462](#), [480](#), [503](#), [531](#), [545](#)

Z

Zagrebelny [246](#)

Zaitsev, A. [342](#), [362](#)
Zaitsev, I. [674](#)
Zakharevich [631](#)
Zakharov, A. [223](#)
Zakharov, V. [136](#)
Zaklauskas [163](#)
Zapata [192](#), [286](#)
Zelčić [675](#)
Zemitsky [153](#)
Zheliandinov [645](#)
Zhidkov [165](#)
Zhilin [222](#)
Zhuravlev, V. [717](#)
Zotkin [590](#)
Züger [550](#)