

Chapter 12 Thematic Mates

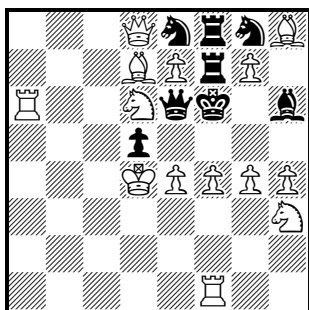
12.1 Some cumulative records for White mating moves were shown in 5.8. In the last four chapters, where we have been dealing with strategic themes centred in White's opening move and in Black's move, all that we have required of White's mating moves is that they should be different. In this chapter we turn to the relatively few strategic themes whose interest lies solely or mainly in White's mating move, but as will be seen these themes are often linked to a particular Black defence or error. For example, in the course of 12.3-12.5 we cover the three ways in which White's mating move can parry a Black check. Very few of the problems shown in this chapter rate a star.

Double Checkmate

12.2 The record is 8 double checkmates. This was first shown in **669** with flight-taking key, but in two cases, after Qe5+ and Bg5, the double check is not strictly necessary since the WP could mate without the WR. **670** shows 8 necessary double checks, but at the cost of an even worse key.

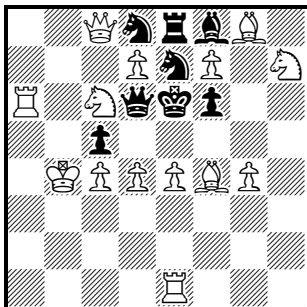
669) N. Petrović

Skakbladet, 1930



1.Ph5	block
1...Qxd7, Qf5	2.Sxe8
1...Qxe4+,Pxe4	2.Sxe4
1...Rxe7	2.gPxf8=Q
1...Rxf7	2.ePxf8=Q
1...eS any	2.Pe8=S
1...Sxe7	2.Pg8=S
1...Qe5+	2.Pxe5
1...Bg5	2.Pxg5
1...Qxd6	2.Pe5
1...B else	2.Pg5

#2

670) J. Fulpius (after N. Petrović)*Journal de Genève*, 1979

1.Kc3

block

1...Q any on diagonal, Qxd7

2.Sxd8

1...Qxd4+,Pxd4+

2.Sxd4

1...B any

2.Pf8=S

1...Sxf7

2.Pd8=S

1...Sxc8

2.fPxe8=Q

1...Sxg8,Qxc6

2.dPxe8=Q

1...Sd5+

2.ePxd5

1...Pf5

2.ePxf5

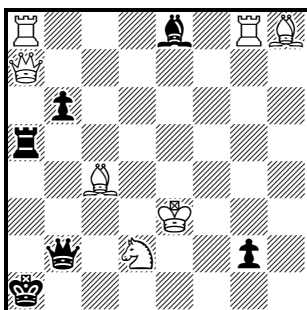
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Royal Battery Check

12.3 The record for so-called royal battery checks, i.e. mates by the WK moving out of check without capturing the Black checking-piece, is 4, already shown in **137***.

Capture

12.4 The record of 21 White mates by capture is shown in **4** and **34**, in the latter with 6 Black captures. Over more than one phase, **314** and **315** show the records of 31 capture mates with minor duals and 30 without duals respectively. The record for mates by recapture (i.e. White captures a Black piece which has just made a capture) is 12 in **472**. The record for mates by en passant capture is 3, already shown in **202**. The record for mates by capture of a Black checking piece, known as direct capture checks, is 14, already shown in **433**. **671** shows 5 such mates changed from set to actual play, and **445** shows 6 from try to actual play.

671) C. J. Morse*The Problemist*, 1977 (V)

1...Qc3+,Qd4+,Qe5+,Qf6

2.BxQ

1...Ra3+

2.Qxa3

1...Pg1=Q+

2.Rxg1

1.Qg7

(>2.Qxb2#)

1...Qc3+,Qd4+,Qe5+,Qf6

2.QxQ

1...Ra3+

2.Rxa3

1...Pg1=Q+

2.Qxg1

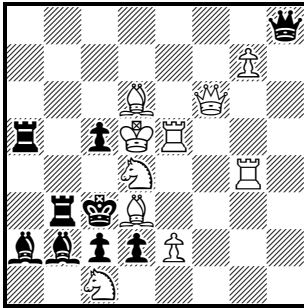
1...Qxg7

2.Bxg7

#2

Interposition

12.5 The third and most striking way in which White can mate after a Black check is by interposition on Black's checking line, the so-called cross-check. The record for cross-checks is 8, shown in **672** with a flight-square but with none of the checks provided for before the key. **673** shows 5 cross-checks provoked by a single BS, again with no provision. We have already seen as many as 6 cross-checks changed from try to actual play in **444***. **674** shows a full wheel of 8 WS crosschecks spread over try and actual play.

672) A. Chéron*Journal de Genève, 1972*

1.Re3

(>2.dS-)

1...Qh1+, Pxc1=any

2.Sf3

1...Qh5+

2.Sf5

1...Qg8+

2.Se6

1...Qa8+

2.Sc6

1...Pc4+, Qd8, Qf8, Qxg7, Qh2, Qh4, Qh6, Ra4

2.Sb5

1...Pxd4+

2.Bb5

1...bR~+

2.dSb3

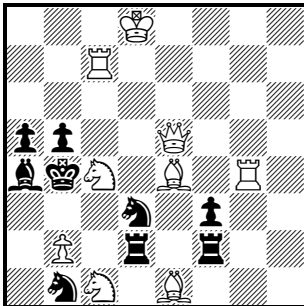
1...Rb4+

2.Bc4

1...Kb4

2.Sxc2

#2

673) H. W. Bettmann*1st Prize, Good Companions, 1922*

1.Sb6

(>2.Qd4,Bxd3,Sd5)

1...Sxe1+

2.Bd3

1...Sxc1+

2.Bd5

1...Sxb2+

2.Qd6

1...Sc5+

2.Qd4

1...Sxe5+

2.Sd5

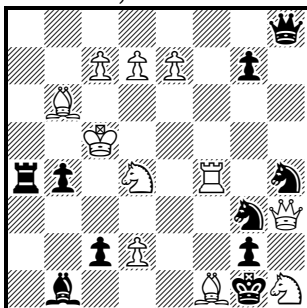
1...Bb3

2.Sxd3

#2

674) R. Wiehagen

Comm. , German Chess Association Tourney, 1987-8

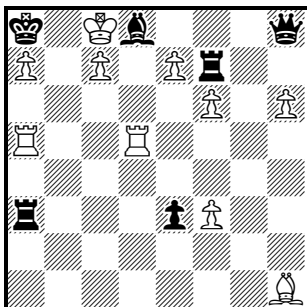


#2

1.Kc4?	(>2.dS-)	1.Kd6?	(>2.dS-)
1...Ba2+	2.Sb3	1...Qh6+	2.Se6
1...Qg8+	2.Se6	1...either Sf5+	2.Sxf5
1...Pxf1=Q+	2.Se2	1...Sf3	2.Qxg2
1...Pc1=Q+	2.Sc2	1...Se4+!	
1...Sf3	2.Qxg2		
1...Pb3+!		1.Kd5	(>2.dS-)
1.Kb5?	(>2.dS-)	1...Ba2+	2.Sb3
1...Qh5+	2.Sf5	1...Ra5+	2.Sb5
1...Pxf1=Q+	2.Se2	1...Qa8+	2.Sc6
1...Sf3	2.Qxg2	1...Qg8+	2.Se6
1...Ra5+!		1...Qh5+	2.Sf5
		1...Pxh1=Q+	2.Sf3
		1...Qb8,Ra6,	
1.Kc6?	(>2.dS-)	Se2,Se4,	
		Sxh1,Pb3,	
1...Qh6+	2.Se6	gP any	2.S(x)e2
1...Pxh1=Q+	2.Sf3	1...Sf3	2.Qxg2
1...Pc1=Q+	2.Sc2		
1...Sf3	2.Qxg2		
1...Qa8+!			

12.6 White's mating move may also interpose to shut off a Black guard on a battery line. **675** shows the record of 12 shut-offs, plus one cross-check to make a second record of 13 interpositions by the WR (all but Rxa5). **676** has interpositions on 15 different lines (14 shut-offs + one cross-check), but there are only twelve different mates (with Rf4, Rf7 and Rg6 each occurring twice). **321** shows 7 shut-offs changed from try (1.Rg4?) to actual play, with 20 interpositions in all (18 shut-offs + 2 cross-checks) spread over four phases.

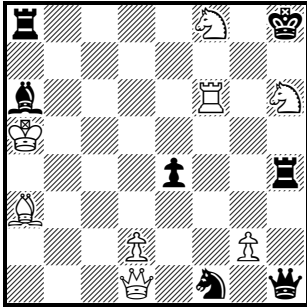
675) R. T. Lewis & C. J. Morse

Problem Observer, 1990 (V)

#2

1.Pf4	(>2.R-)	1...Rxa5	2.Rxa5
1...Ra1	2.Rd1	1...Bxe7+,Bxc7+	2.Rd8
1...Ra2	2.Rd2	1...Qe8	2.Rd7
1...Pe2	2.Rd3	1...Rxf6,Qxf6	2.Rd6
1...Ra4	2.Rd4	1...Qxh6	2.Rh5
1...Rc3	2.dRc5	1...Qg7,Qg8,Rg7	2.Rg5
1...Rb3	2.dRb5	1...Qh7	2.Rf5
		1...Rxe7	2.Re5

676) R. T. Lewis & C. J. Morse

Problem Observer, 2006

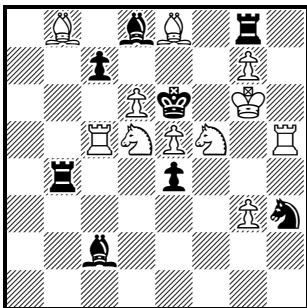
#2

1.Bb2?	(>2.R~)	1.Qa1	(>2.R~)
1...Qg1	2.Rf2	1...S any	2.Rf1
1...Qh3,Rh3	2.Rf3	1...Qg1	2.Rf2
1...Qh2,Pe3	2.Rf4	1...Qh3,Rh3	2.Rf3
1...Rh5+	2.Rf5	1...Qh2,Pe3	2.Rf4
1...B any+	2.Ra6	1...Rh5+	2.Rf5
1...Rb8	2.Rb6	1...B any +	2.Ra6
1...Rc8	2.Rc6	1...Rb8	2.Rb6
1...Rd8	2.Rd6	1...Rc8	2.Rc6
1...Re8	2.Re6	1...Rd8	2.Rd6
1...Rxf8,Ra7	2.Rf7	1...Re8	2.Re6
1...Rg4,Rxh6,		1...Rxf8,Ra7	2.Rf7
Qxg2	2.Rg6	1...Rxh6,Qxg2,	2.Rg6
1...Kg7!		Rg4	

Opening White Lines

12.7 As well as closing Black lines by interposition, White's mating move may open a White mating line (direct battery) or one or more White lines of guard (indirect battery). We have already seen the theoretical maximum of 6 batteries in **198**; the overall record of 18 direct battery mates in **46**; the record of 14 direct battery mates by one man (WR) in **11** and many other examples; and both the overall record of 14 indirect battery mates and the record of 13 by one man (WB) in **28**. In this last case the WB also opens a direct battery at the same time. The overall record for indirect battery mates which do not also open a direct battery is 6 in **677**, and 3 can be shown by one man, as by the promoting WP in **678**. In **201** the WP's mating move simultaneously opens 5 lines (two direct and three indirect), while in **679*** a WS acts as the firing piece for 4 different direct batteries, a seemingly impossible task.

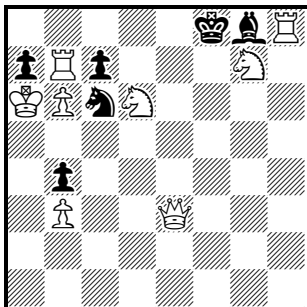
677) C. J. Morse

Problem Observer, 1990

#2

1.Pxc7	(2.Pc8=Q,Pxd8=S)
1...Rxb8	2.Sd4
1...Bxc7	2.Sxc7
1...Rxc7+	2.Sxc7
1...Sf4+,Kxe5	2.S(x)f4
1...Rxe8,dB else	2.Pc8=Q
1...Ba4	2.Pxd8=S

678) C. J. Morse

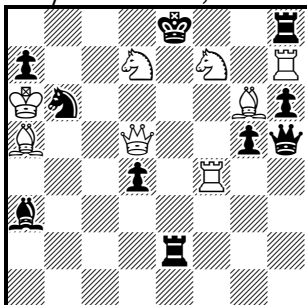
Problem Observer, 1990

#2

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1.Pxc7 | block |
| 1...S- | 2.Pc8=Q |
| 1...Sb8+ | 2.Pxb8=Q |
| 1...Sd8 | 2.Pxd8=Q |
| 1...Se7 | 2.Se6 |
| 1...Kxg7 | 2.Qh6 |

679*) A. Goldstein

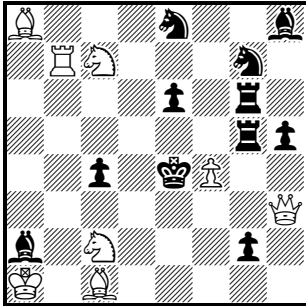
1st/2nd Prize, Holland v. Poland, 1937



#2

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1.Sc5 | (>2.Qd8) |
| 1...0-0 | 2.Sxh6 |
| 1...Kf8 | 2.Sxg5 |
| 1...Ke7 | 2.Sxh8 |
| 1...Sxd5,Sd7 | 2.Sd6 |

12.8 If we turn to changed play, **680*** shows, with the composer's habitual elegance, 3 mates by a single battery changed from set to actual play. Higher figures can be achieved if the battery itself is changed between phases. With completely different batteries, we have seen 4 mates changed from set to actual in **443**, 6 changed from try to actual in **444*** and 4 changed over 3 phases in **446***. With a half-battery, we have seen 15 changes (and 11 changed mates) from try to actual in **303**.

680*) C. Mansfield4th Prize, *The Problemist*, 1962

1...Sf5+	2.Rb2
1...Rg4	2.Rb5
1...Rg3	2.Rb3
1.Sb5	(>2.Sc3)
1...Sf5+	2.Rg7
1...Rg4	2.Rf7
1...Rg3	2.Rd7
1...Kd5	2.Rc7
1...Rxb5	2.Rxb5

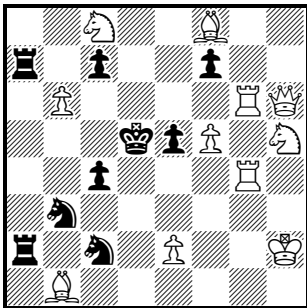
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White Interference

12.9 So far the thematic elements discussed in this chapter have been strengthening for White. We now turn to two themes in which White can play a self-weakening mating move because of a previous error by Black, White interference and unpinning of Black. White interference in tries and keys has already been shown in 8.9, and it is arguably the most important strategic element in White mates. It can follow either a self-block or the opening of a White line of guard by Black, the latter case being sometimes called a Theme B (or Somov) defence.

12.10 The record for White interference mates after self-blocks is 6, first shown in **681***: the key is obvious, but the subsequent play is sparkling and totally accurate. **682*** shows as many as 5 interference mates after opening of White lines of guard, with much variety and additional features of interest. The splendid **683***, with a key allowing two checks, shows 4 interference mates on a single line after self-blocking captures on d3, while **684** shows 4 interference mates by WSs after self-blocks by BSs.

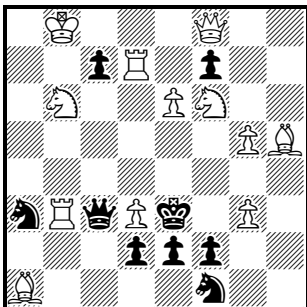
681*) L. A. Isaev

2nd Prize, *L'Échiquier*, 1929

#2

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1.Qg7 | (>2.Qxf7) |
| 1...Sc5 | 2.Se7 |
| 1...bSd4 | 2.Pe4 |
| 1...cSd4 | 2.Be4 |
| 1...Pe4 | 2.Sf4 |
| 1...Pc6 | 2.Sf6 |
| 1...Pc5 | 2.Rd6 |
| 1...Pxb6 | 2.Sxb6 |
| 1...fP any | 2.Qd7 |

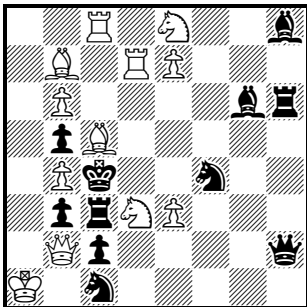
682*) L. I. Loshinsky

1st Prize, *Shakhmaty v SSSR*, 1936

#2

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| 1.Pg6 | (>2.Qh6) |
| 1...Qa5,Qd4 | 2.B(x)d4 |
| 1...Qb4 | 2.fSd5 |
| 1...Qe5 | 2.Pd4 |
| 1...Qxf6 | 2.bSd5 |
| 1...Pxc6 | 2.Sg4 |
| 1...Qc4 | 2.Pxc4 |
| 1...Qc5 | 2.Qxc5 |

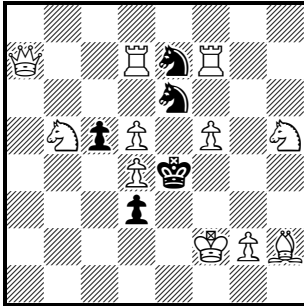
683*) S. S. Levman

1st Prize, *Zadachi i Etyudy*, 1929

#2

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 1.Qa3 | (>2.Sb2) |
| 1...Rxd3+ | 2.Bd4 |
| 1...Bxd3 | 2.Bd6 |
| 1...Scxd3 | 2.Sd6 |
| 1...Sfxd3 | 2.Bd5 |
| 1...Pb2+ | 2.Sxb2 |

684) C. J. Taale

Tijdschrift vd NSB, 1932 (V)

#2

1.Qa1 (>2.Qe1)

1...Sxd4 2.Sc3

1...Sxd5 2.Sd6

1...Sxf5 2.Sf6

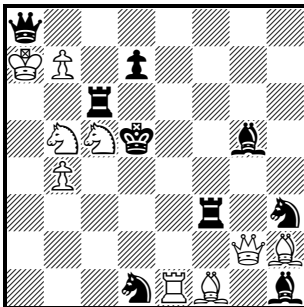
1...Sf4 2.Sg3

1...Pd2 2.Qb1

Unpinning of Black

12.11 White's mating move can unpin a Black line-moving piece if Black has previously interfered with it. **685**, with a worst possible key, shows the record of 5 withdrawal unpin mates of this sort, known as Gamage unpins, the preceding moves being known as Gamage interferences. The equivalent interference unpin mates are known as Goethart unpins, and here the record is 3, uniquely shown with a very strong key in **686**. **687** shows 2 Goethart unpin mates changed from set to actual play, again with unprovided flight and check. These two themes are the counterpart of the Nietvelt and Schiffmann defences discussed in 11.9.

685) E. Ferrón

The Problemist, 2012

#2

1.Pxa8=Q (2.Re5)

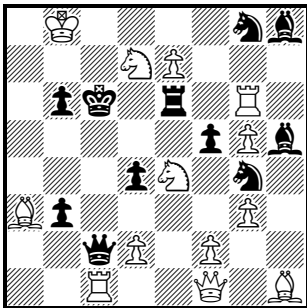
1...Se3 2.Qd2

1...Sf4 2.Qxg5

1...Be3 2.Qa2

1...Bf4,Bf6 2.gQg8

1...Pd6 2.aQg8

686) C. Goldschmeding*Die Schwalbe*, 1962

#2

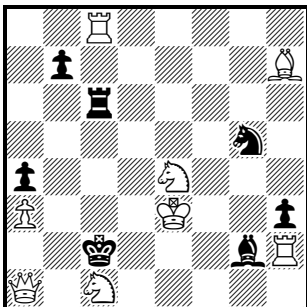
1.Pe8=Q (>2.Qxe6)

1...Se7 2.dSf6

1...Be5+ 2.Sd6

1...Pd3 2.Sc3

1...Qc4 2.Qxc4

687) C. Mansfield*London Evening News*, 1933

#2

1...Se6 2.Sc3

1...Sf3 2.Sf2

1.Sb3 (>2.Sd4)

1...Se6 2.eSc5

1...Sf3,Kxb3 2.eSd2

1...Pxb3 2.Sxg5

1...Rc3+ 2.Rxc3

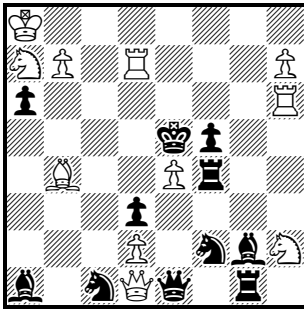
Dual Avoidance

12.12 Dual avoidance may be regarded as a form of virtual play on White's mating move. We have already seen in the Fleck theme in Chapter 5 how the separation of multiple threats can ensure the avoidance of duals. The term dual avoidance is normally restricted to the separation of secondary threats: a Black move contains some element(s) of error which would appear to allow White a choice of two or more mates, but because of some other positive element(s) White is confined to a single mate. We have seen the cumulative records for such dual avoidance in 5.5 under the head of secondary Flecks, 8-fold in **185** where the errors are unguards and 6-fold without battery threats in **186(N)*** where the errors are unguards and the opening of a White line of guard. A strategic theme of this sort, associated with the name of the Italian composer Ottavio Stocchi, shows mates differentiated by dual avoidance after three or more

self-blocks on the same square. The pioneering **688*** (with its striking key and threat excusing the unprovided flight) shows a record 5-fold dual avoidance of this type: if a powerless Black dummy captured the WP on e4, five mates would be available, and these are separated by the five self-blocking captures. **689*** doubles the theme with two trios of self-blocks on different squares, making 6 in all, while the masterly **690*** shows one trio with mates changed from try to actual play and a further change after the flight. **691*** is a different but equally fine example of quadruple avoidance with a sacrificial key: four thematic defences all unpin the WQ which has four potential mating squares, but each defence puts guards on three of the squares so that all four mates are accurately forced.

688*) L. I. Loshinsky

1st Prize, Sverdlovsk Chess Club, 1940

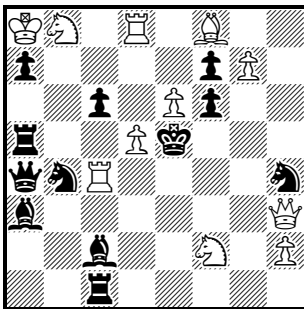


- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1.Qa4 | (>2.Bd6) |
| 1...Qxe4 | 2.Ph8=Q |
| 1...Rxe4 | 2.Pb8=Q |
| 1...Bxe4 | 2.Qxa1 |
| 1...Sxe4 | 2.Sc6 |
| 1...Pxe4 | 2.Qa5 |
| 1...Kxe4 | 2.Bc3 |
| 1...Bd4 | 2.Re7 |

#2

689*) A. O. Karlstrøm

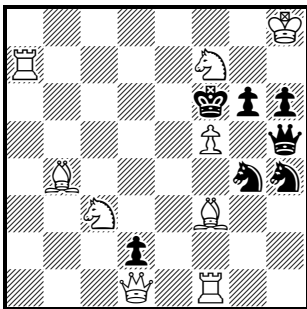
3rd Prize ex aequo, *Problemisten*, 1944



- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1.Pxf7 | (>2.Qe6) |
| 1...Rxd5 | 2.Re8 |
| 1...Sxd5 | 2.Sd7 |
| 1...Pxd5 | 2.Bd6 |
| 1...Bf5 | 2.Qg3 |
| 1...Sf5 | 2.Sg4 |
| 1...Pf5 | 2.Qc3 |
| 1...Be4 | 2.Rxe4 |

#2

690*) H. L. Musante

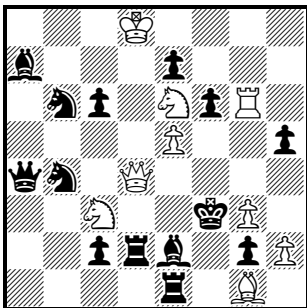
3rd Prize, *Chess Life*, 1957-8

#2

1.Qe2?	(>2.Qe6)	1.Qb3	(>2.Qe6)
1...Qxf5	2.Qe7	1...Qxf5	2.Be7
1...Sxf5	2.Sd5	1...Sxf5	2.Se4
1...Pxf5	2.Qa6	1...Pxf5	2.Ra6
1...Kxf5	2.Bxg4	1...Kxf5	2.Be4
1...Se5	2.Qxe5		
1...Se3!			

691*) E. Jurka

1st Place, Latvian Championship, 1950



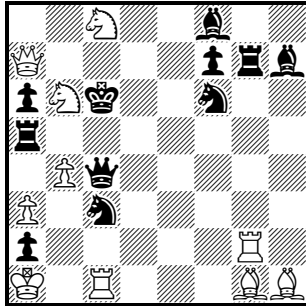
#2

1.Rg5	(>2.Rf5)		
1...6Sd5	2.Qe4		
1...4Sd5	2.Qf2		
1...Sd3	2.Qe3		
1...Bd3	2.Qf4		
1...Rxd4+	2.Sxd4		
1...Pxd5	2.Sxd5		

Removal of Guards

12.13 Finally there is one theme which aggregates the effects of Black's move and White's mating move. In **692** no less than 9 potential Black guards on the WB's battery line are removed in the course of the single variation, five by Black's Sb5 and four more by the mate Rg6.

692) J. Hartong

Good Companions, 1919 (V)

1.Qb8 (2.Sa7)

1...Sb5 2.Rg6

#2