

# Off-the-board incidents

ALTHOUGH the insults traded between Karpov and Korchnoi over the past several years have scandalised the chess world, there is certainly historical precedent for such incompatibility between two leading players. The ongoing feud between Aron Nimzowitsch and Siegbert Tarrasch early this century was equally acrimonious.

The great Dr Tarrasch, a dogmatic German, and Nimzowitsch, an eccentric of Latvian extraction, really didn't hit it off. Tarrasch represented the classical school of chess thought who believed in direct occupation of the centre with pawns. Nimzowitsch and the "hyper-moderns" had their own ideas involving sniping at the centre by means of fianchettoed bishops. From 1904 on these two enriched chess literature by trading biting witty insults in books and articles.

It was sparked off by their first encounter, a semi-serious game in Bad Nuremburg in 1904, when Nimzowitsch was just 18. Tarrasch, according to a 1929 Russian booklet by Nimzowitsch, "folded his arms across his chest and made the following pronouncement: 'Never in my life have I had such a won game after 10 moves as I have now!'" Humiliated, young Aron soon came to regard his renowned opponent as a born enemy. In the same Russian booklet he stated it was a "veritable outrage" that someone as "mediocre" as Tarrasch should stand as a leader of the dominant school.

Matters did not improve after a supposed "reconciliation" in 1907. Of his new-found buddy's last-round game at San Sebastian, 1912, Tarrasch said: "Nimzowitsch has a pronounced liking for ugly opening moves. It is fortunate that he is thoroughly refuted by Rubinstein, whose play is always in good taste, for it would have been an absolute scandal if such unaesthetic play had been crowned with first prize."

Nimzowitsch, however, gave as good as he got and was even spurred on in his revolutionary theories by Tarrasch's goading — thus immeasurably enriching chess knowledge. He comments in his famous treatise *My System*: "Ridicule can do much, for instance embitter the existence of young talents; but one thing is not given to it, to put a stop permanently to the incursion of new and powerful ideas. The old dogmas such as the ossified teaching on the centre, the worship of the open game, and in general the whole formalistic conception of the game, who bothers himself today about these? The new ideas, however, those supposed byways, not to be recommended to the public, these are becoming today's highways, on which great and small move freely in the consciousness of absolute security."

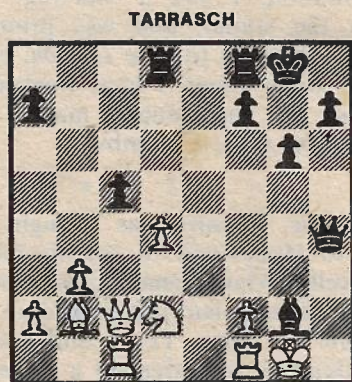
Not surprisingly the 12 clashes be-

tween these two were bitterly fought affairs. Nimzowitsch had the satisfaction of winning the majority, but to Tarrasch belongs the honour of the greatest brilliancy. This game was played at St Petersburg in 1914, and features Tarrasch's own defence to the Queen's Gambit.

## QUEEN'S GAMBIT

A. NIMZOWITSCH	S. TARRASCH
1. d4	d5
2. Nf3	c5
3. c4	e6
4. e3	Nf6
5. Bd3	Nc6
6. 0-0	Bd6
7. b3	0-0
8. Bb2	b6
9. Nbd2	Bb7
10. Rc1	Qe7
11. cxd5	exd5
12. Nh4	g6
13. Nhf3	Rad8
14. dxc5	bx c5
15. Bb5	Ne4
16. Bxc6	Bxc6
17. Qc2	Nxd2
18. Nxd2	d4!
19. exd4	
19. ....	Bxh2 ch
20. Kxh2	Qh4 ch
21. Kg1	Bxg2!

19. Rfe1 could be tried.  
For 22. Kxg2 Qg4 ch 23. Kh2 Rd5 wins for Black.



22. f3	Rfe8
23. Ne4	Qh1 ch
24. Kf2	Bxf1
25. d5	
25. ...	f5
26. Qc3	Qg2 ch
27. Ke3	Rxe4 ch
28. fxe4	f4 ch
29. Kxf4	Rf8 ch
30. Ke5	Qh2 ch
31. Ke6	Re8 ch
32. Kd7	Bb5 mate

Or 25. Rxf1 Qh2 ch, winning the queen.

### MURRAY CHANDLER

### ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.