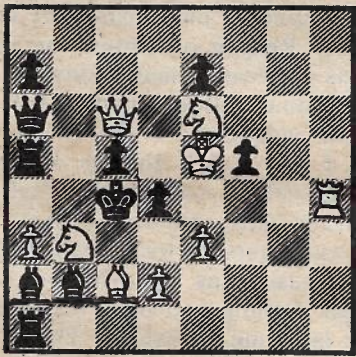


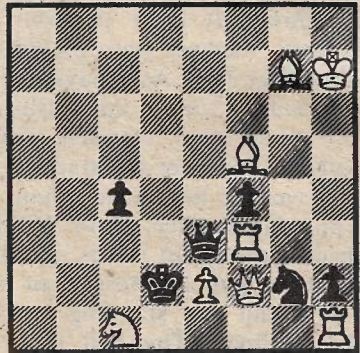
The British problem solved

EXCEPT FOR the massive London daily newspapers, the *New Zealand Listener* supplied the greatest equal number of readers' entries in the Lloyds Bank British problem-solving championship. A press release I have just received from Lloyds lists the number of *Listener* readers who sent in solutions to the first stage, published in this column several weeks back, as a remarkable 87. All 49 who sent in correct entries will automatically receive the second stage of the competition by post, with chances to qualify for finals in London next January. Entrants who sent incorrect entries were notified if they had enclosed a self-addressed envelope; for those who didn't, here is John Rice's original problem once more.

one. Notice that if it were Black's move he would have only one defence, 1...f2, as 1...fxe2 fails to 2.Ne3 mate. Perhaps the composer's intention was a move which allows a mate against this defence as well, while retaining the other mates. Composed by L. Rizcu (Hungary).



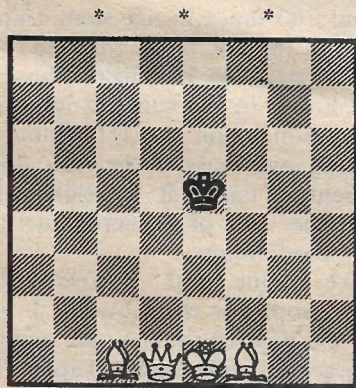
(1) White mates in two moves.
Composed by C. Mansfield (England).



White to move and force mate in two moves.

The correct solution was 1.Bg6.

Problem positions, where one side must mate in a specified number of moves, usually involve situations which are unlikely to resemble actual games. For this reason the general public can often compete with top over-the-board masters in skill and speed of solution. See how well you can do with the following positions before checking with the solutions upside down at end. In each case White must play and force checkmate in a prescribed number of moves.

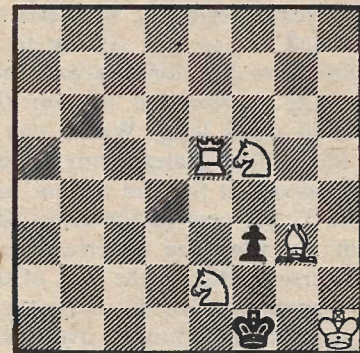


(3) White mates in three moves.

Composed by P. Benko (USA). This one defeated even ex-world champion Bobby Fischer when Benko showed it to him many years ago. Fischer bet he could solve it in half an hour, failed, then lost a second bet claiming there must be a "cook" (second solution). Can you snare the elusive Black king in only three moves, and do better than Bobby?

SOLUTIONS
posed by B. Lincoln, USA).
1. Qg7! threatening Qxe7 mate (comp. solution to last week's problem: mate) 3. Qh6 mate.
mate) 2. Qd6 ch Kg7 (2... Kf5 3. Qe6 mate or 1... Kf5 2. Qf3 ch Kg6 3. Qf7 (3) 1. Bc4! Kf6 (1... Ke4 2. Qd5 If 1... Rxax3 2. Nxa6 mate.
(2) 1. Nbxc5! threatening Bd3 mate. mate or 1... f2 2. Ne3 mate).
(1) 1. Bh4! (if 1... fxe2 2. Ne3

MURRAY CHANDLER



(1) White mates in two moves.
Not so many pieces in this first