United States.—The first California State Championship was held at the Mechanics' Institute C.C., San Francisco, December 27th—January 8th, with 11 competitors, our friend Stasch Mlotkowski deciding after all to enter. The championship was carried off, however, by E. W. Gruer, of Oakland, who made a clean score of 10. Mlotkowski was second with 7, and H. Borochow (Los Angeles) and E. J. Clarke (San Francisco) followed with 6 each. The Mechanics' Institute proposes to send Mr. Gruer as their representative to the American Chess Congress this year.

W. S. Gilman, of Sioux City, has retained the Iowa State Championship, of which he was the holder. On the latest occasion, at Spencer, Iowa, in December, he won with a score of 16 points in 18 games.

THE EVANS GAMBIT.

To the Editor of the *B.C.M.*

Dear Sir,—Since sending you my note with regard to the Evans Gambit, on page 343, I have received your November number, and see that this variation has already been analysed by Mr. Cunnington, who, I find, thought that White has fair attacking prospects and that the game is speculative. After, perhaps, a somewhat more detailed examination of the position than Mr. Cunnington was able to give, I submit the column below, showing that it is Black who has the attack and that a win for him is demonstrable.

1 P—K4	8 PxP	15 Kt—Q5 (2)	22 Q—B1
P—K4	PxP	QKt—Kt5 (3)	Q—Kt6
2 Kt—KB3	9 BxP ch	16 KtxKt ch (4)	23 Kt—Q2 (8
Kt—QB3	KxB	QxKt	B—R6
3 B—B4	10 KtxP ch	17 Q—R5 ch (5)	24 K—R1
B—B4	K—K1	R—Kt3	BxR
4 P—QKt4	11 Q—R5 ch	18 Q—Kt5 ch (6)	25 PxB
BxP	P—Kt3	P—B3	R—R3 +++
5 P—B3	12 KtxP	19 Q—K2	
B—R4	Kt—B3	Q—R5	
6 Castles	13 Q—R6	20 P—KR3 (7)	
P—Q3	R—KKt1	KtxP	
7 P—Q4	14 Kt—B4	21 RxKt	
B—Kt3	Kt—K4 (1)	QxRP	

(1) Instituting a double threat; the obvious Kt—B2; Q—R4, R—Kt5; Q—R3, RxKt, and the prettier as well as stronger BxP ch; RxB, Q—Q8 ch; R—B1, Kt—B6 ch; K—B2, Kt—B5 ch.

(2) If 15 P—KR3, BxP ch; 16 RxB, Q—Q8 ch; 17 R—B1, Kt—B6 ch; 18 K—B2, KtxP ch; 19 KxK3, QxR. If 15 Kt—K2, R—Kt3; 16 Q—B4, Kt—Q6; 17 Q—Q2, KKtxP. If 15 Kt—R3, Kt—B2; 16 Q—B4, BxKt. 15 Kt—R5, QKt—Kt5; 16 KtxKt ch leads back into the main variation.

(3) Stronger than KtxKt or KtxP, either of which is answered by Q—R5 ch.

(4) If 16 Q—R4, KtxKt; 17 QxQ ch, KxQ; 18 PxKt, R—B1. Or 17 Q—R5 ch, R—Kt3; 18 PxKt, Q—B3.

(5) If 17 QxQ, KtxQ; 18 P—KKt3 (best, for if K—R1, Kt—Kt5 is the reply), KtxP. This is the least unfavourable variation for White, but leaves him with an endgame in which he has the inferior development and but one Pawn for his piece. If 17 Q—B4, R—B1. If 17 Q—Q2, Black has several ways of winning e.g., R—B1. Or 17.., KtxBP; 18 RxKt, R—B1 or 17.., Q—R5; 18 P—KR3 (18 Q—B4, R—B sq.), KtxP; 19 RxKt, R—B1 or 17.., B—K3, holding the other threats and menacing R—Q1; Q—K2, B—B5; QxB, QxP ch.

(6) QxP is answered by KtxBP; 19 Kt—Q2, KtxP dis ch; 20 K—R1, Kt—Kt6 ch.

(7) If 20 B—B4, KtxBP; 21 B—Kt3 (21 B—K3, Kt—Kt5, or 21 RxKt, QxB), Kt—Kt5 dis ch; 22 K—R1, QxB.

(8) R—B3 is threatened. If 23 P—K5, B—R6; 24 K—R1, BxR; 25 PxB, Q—B6 ch; 26 K—R2, B—Kt6 ch.

Yours, etc.,
Stasch Mlotkowski.

Los Angeles,
December 7th, 1921.