

U.S.A.—Koltanowski has established a new blindfold record by playing fifty games, at San Francisco, winning forty-three, losing two, and drawing five. It took him 8 hours and 45 minutes for this remarkable feat and there were almost 1,500 spectators. It but remains for the previous holder of the record, Najdorf, to go one or two better in the Argentine. It is to be regretted, by the way, that the match between Najdorf and Reshevsky will not take place after all as it appears that Najdorf was not able to raise his share of the purse.

My more mechanically minded readers will be interested to learn that a portable electronic brain, weighing a mere 500 pounds and costing only 80,000 dollars has been developed by the Computer Research Corporation of Hawthorne, California. One of its designers, Richard Sprague, claims it can play unbeatable chess. Donald H. Jacobs, president of the Jacobs Instrument Company of Bethesda, Maryland, and himself developer of a 140-pound mechanical brain, proved sceptical and challenged the CRC-102 (the euphonious and imaginative name of the electronic midget brain) to a

best of twenty games match, offering to bet 1,000 dollars on his ability to defeat the baby electronic brain without consulting his own mechanical brain for assistance. The CRC-102 declined the match hastily on the grounds that the "urgency for this machine in the defence effort makes such a tournament untimely." Clearly history is engaged in its habitual process of repeating itself and we are faced once again with the Morphy–Staunton incident.
