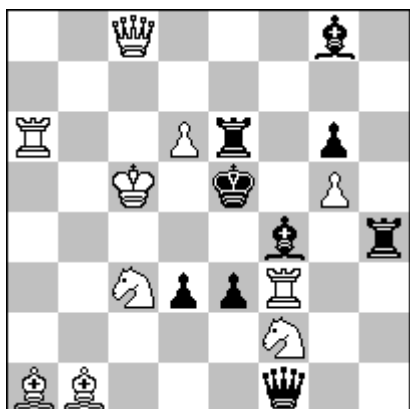


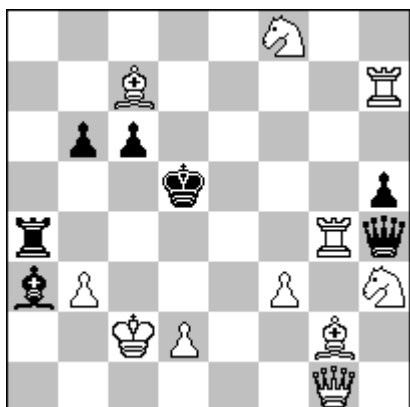
This should be an enjoyable problem to solve-



Mate in 2.

This problem won 5th Prize for Norman Macleod, one of the U.K.'s few composing Grandmasters, in a Yugoslav tourney in 1950. As usual, I'm cribbing from the website of the British Chess Problem Society, so if you want to check the solution before I give it in the next Newsletter enter 'theproblemist' to go to the BCPS website, and under the weekly problem click on the archive of weekly problems. This one appeared on 15th April 2013, and in Steve Giddins' accompanying commentary he reveals that this has (understandably!) always been one of his favourite problems.

Turning to the problem from the last Newsletter –



Mate in 2

Milan Vukceovich, 5th Prize, *Mat Plus* 1997

As I said last time, as a starting point you may like to consider what would happen if it were Black to move and he moved his Rook along the 4th rank. But of course it's White to move, and he has to threaten mate next move, and after the key move it may be that some of the set play is changed ...

The moves of the black Rook along the 4th rank in the diagram position (the *set play*) are all met by different mates: 1...Rc4+ 2.Bxc4; 1...Rd4 2.Qxd4; 1...Re4 2.fxe4; 1...Rf4 2.Nxf4; and 1...Rg4 2.fxg4. The key is 1.Rb4!. Because this intercepts the a3B's guard of d7 and the a4R's guard of e4 (a *Nowotny interference*) there are two threats, 2.Rd7 and 2.f4. In typical Nowotny fashion, these two threatened mates are separated by captures of the b4R: after 1...Rxb4 it has to be 2.Rd7 and after 1...Bxb4 it has to be 2.f4. Neatly, the other capture, 1...Qxb4, while thwarting both threats, allows a different mate by the h7R: 2.Rxh5. But the core of the problem resides in the fact that all

moves by the black Queen along the 4th rank defeat both the threats, and all these moves are answered by the same moves as when the a4R entered the same squares in the set play – 1...Qxc4+ 2.bxc4, 1...Qd4 2.Qxd4, etc., etc.. A grandmasterly construction!