

America at present, over 300 centers, and probably more than 3000 students pursuing a regular sequence of studies. This looks like permanence. The American Association is located at Philadelphia but natural headquarters have arisen at different places, from which the local centers are organized. Thus, Brown University, University of North Carolina, Indiana University, Chicago, Wisconsin, Kansas, Leland Stanford, and, recently, Harvard have become centers, of radiation. In many of these institutions, there is a course in University Extension with its own faculty, who teach at the adjacent centers as they are organized. New York State has officially recognized it by appropriating money for its support, and placing it in the University of the State of New York.

The working of the movement is very simple. A body of people in any community, seeing the number of persons who desire an education higher than the public schools are able to give, or than they have been able to secure, call a meeting, secure names of those who wish to engage in such work, organize a centre, and, after deciding what study the majority desire to pursue, apply to the nearest Association for a lecturer on that subject. The expense is shared by season tickets to the course, generally of six lectures, the large number making the admission fee very small. After the lecture a class is held for those who desire to do more work than simple attendance involves. A systematic course of reading in the shape of a syllabus is given to each member at the opening of a course of lectures.

If it will carry the university or college to those who cannot come to it, if it will teach the use of good reading matter to replace the useless and often vicious, if it will form a permanent bond between those interested in gaining knowledge, it will be worth the effort it costs.

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### CHESS.

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Of the origin of this, the most purely intellectual of all games, little is positively known; and

hence much speculation has been indulged in, and many theories have been advanced.

It is interesting to note some of the attempts that have been made to trace the invention of the pastime to certain peoples, and still further, as some have essayed, to certain individuals. The Greeks, Babylonians, Romans, Egyptians, Jews, Persians, Arabians, and others have all been credited with the invention; and amongst others, Japhet, Shem, King Solomon, Xerxes, Aristotle, and Han Sing, a Chinese mandarin, have been named as possible inventors. The truth is, no positive statement in regard to the birthplace or the inventor is given in any record; the origin of the game is apparently beyond the memory of history.

Some of the earlier chess historians tried to prove by means of certain Sanskrit manuscripts that a game called "chaturanga" was the primitive form, and that this was played in India long before the Christian era. Later writers, however, treat this and other origin theories as mere myths. At present all agree that chess certainly existed in Hindoostan in the eighth century, and that probably that country was the place of its birth. From India it crossed over into Persia, and thence spread into Arabia. The Arabs, it would appear, introduced it into Spain and Italy, whence it was carried northward to France and England.

The history of our modern game dates from about the middle of the fifteenth century. In the work of Ruy Lopez de Segura, a Spaniard, we have the first important treatise on modern chess. His time was about 1560. Now, "the books that have been written upon chess would form a tolerably large library."

In 1562-1575 the first international chess tournaments were held. Nowadays considerable space in the daily papers is given to accounts of tournaments and cable chess matches. Blindfold chess-play was exhibited in the eleventh century by Persian and Arabian experts, and was taken again by English players about 1784, when exhibitions were given in London,