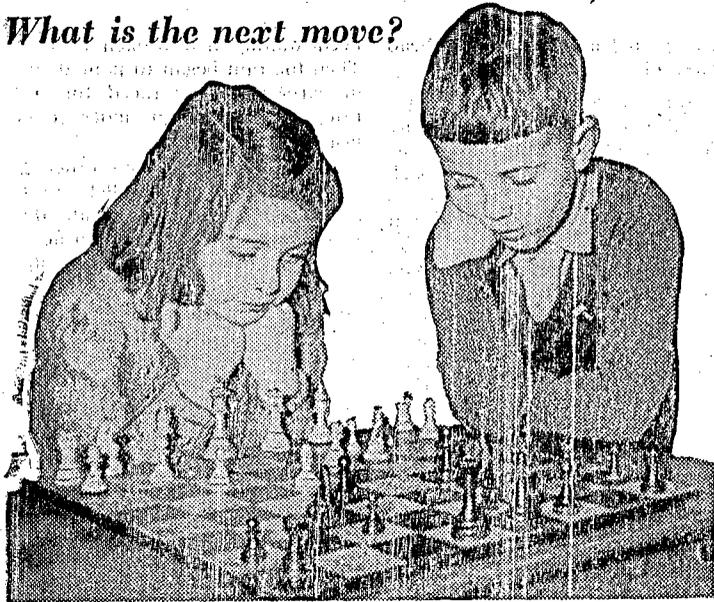


What is the next move?



That chess makes you concentrate is shown by eight-year-old Janet Bailey and Jeffrey Barlett, who is seven, of the Minet School at Hayes, Middlesex.

## Architecture and you

Many fine buildings have gone up in Northumberland, Durham, and Cumberland since the war, and an interesting exhibition of them called Architecture and You, is on view at Newcastle-upon-Tyne until May 26.

The display consists of models, drawings, and photographs showing all that is best in private houses, schools, hospitals, offices, and other buildings. Good examples of bus shelters have not been forgotten.

Boys and girls are as sensitive to attractive design in their surroundings as anyone, and it is hoped that many of them will visit this instructive exhibition, which has been organised to celebrate the centenary of the Northern Architectural Association.

## ROUND-THE-WORLD SCOUTMASTER

A Pakistan Scoutmaster, Taqi Mohsin, has completed nearly half of a round-the-world journey with the object of meeting and talking with Scouts in as many countries as possible.

Mr. Mohsin's mission began in July 1956, when he left his home to attend the World Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield. Sometimes walking and sometimes hitch-hiking, he slowly made his way westward, visiting the world's largest oil refinery at Abadan, the ruins of Babylon and Nineveh, Jerusalem, and Egypt.

Mr. Mohsin left Egypt for Libya and then travelled along the whole length of the North African coast to Tangier, where he crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and continued to England, arriving just in time for the Jamboree.

From Sutton Coldfield he made

his way across Europe, visiting France, Belgium, Holland, West Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, and Yugoslavia. From there he went on to Turkey, Israel, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda, his latest stop.

After a short rest, Mr. Mohsin plans to travel down to Cape Town and then work his passage on a tramp steamer to America. And then finally, after another steamer journey across the Pacific, to return home about the middle of 1960 through Japan, China, Siam, and Burma.

"One thing that this journey has already taught me," he said to a C N Correspondent in Uganda, "is that one of the greatest hopes for world peace is the Scout movement with its teaching of universal brotherhood and its rejection of old-fashioned nationalism."

## Australia's mysterious lake

A freak of nature, a lake which changes colour twice a year, is attracting thousands of tourists this month to Mount Gambier in South Australia. Known as Blue Lake, the three-mile sheet of water loses its summer hue of vivid sapphire every May (autumn in the Southern hemisphere) and assumes a dingy grey shade, returning to its delightful blue the following December.

The mysterious change occurs during a period of three to four weeks, and many theories have been advanced to account for it. The most generally accepted is that of Professor J. B. Cleland, of Adelaide University. He claims that the blue tint of the water is caused by a shrub, a variety of Christmas bush, that grows on the steep banks of the lake. The leaves of this plant, when soaked in water, produce a dye which has an appearance similar to that of any fluorescent substance in direct sunlight.

Another puzzling feature of the lake is that although a million

gallons are pumped from it daily to supply a neighbouring town, the water level remains more or less the same. And it has been found that even in the summer months of December and January, when rain is less plentiful, the level is higher than in the winter months of July and August. This is thought to be due to the presence nearby of the sub-artesian freshwater basin of the ancient Murray Gulf. By way of this, rainfall in the adjoining state of Victoria probably takes from six to 18 months to enter Blue Lake through subterranean channels.

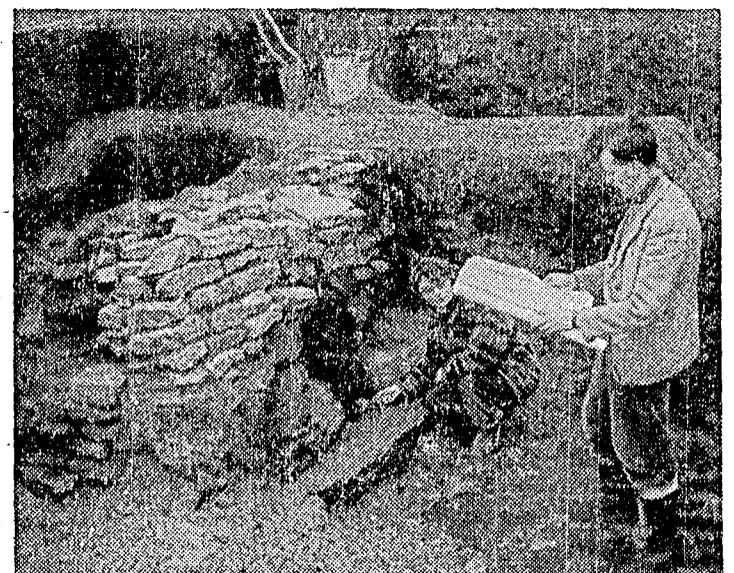
But the Aborigines have a different and more picturesque explanation. Their legend tells that long ago in the "dream time," Mount Gambier had a strange son called Woo who became great friends with the birds and the animals. His death has been an everlasting grief to his mother, and she has shed tears ever since, keeping the Blue Lake filled.

## LABOUR SAVING IN THE TUNNEL

The cleaning of Blackwall Tunnel under the Thames has become more of a problem since diesel engines became common. But Mr. Alfred Brentnall, the Thames tunnel superintendent of London County Council, has designed a machine out of scrap iron and other materials to deal with the situation. It used to take three men 44 weeks to wash the tiles, and they used up 25cwt. of scouring powder. With the new machine it takes them six weeks and only 76lb. of powder. The cost has gone down from £1260 to £210, while the tunnel lighting is said to be improved 100 per cent.

## DOWN IN THE GARDEN

A 12-year-old boy, Robin Baylis of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, found pieces of bone and pottery while digging in his garden. Taking them to the local museum, he was told that he had discovered an Iron Age pot filled with animal bones, and that they dated back to 350 B.C.



From Roman times

During excavations for a by-pass road, remains of the pottery industry of Roman Britain have been unearthed on a section between Water Newton, Huntingdonshire, and Wansford in Northamptonshire. In this picture two university students are examining a kiln.

## MICAH CLARKE—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story of the Monmouth Rising (9)



Monmouth's army went to Bridgwater and from there marched out at night hoping to surprise King James's forces, which were encamped not far away. Encouraged by their preachers, the rebel peasants were eager for battle. Reuben Lockarby, wounded by Major Ogilvy, was obliged to stay behind, and Micah commanded his company. Sir Gervas, dressed up like a courtier, treated it all as grand fun.



Led by local guides, the rebels made their way slowly over Sedgemoor, crossing the drainage ditches by narrow bridges. They came to within half a mile of the enemy without being seen, and exultantly and silently they spread out to rush the royalist camp. But when they advanced again they came to a deep ditch called the Bussex Rhine, and could find no bridge. Their guides had lost the way in the dark.



The alarm sounded among the royalists, and the check to the rebels gave the regiments time to turn out and march to the Bussex Rhine, where a furious fusillade broke out from both sides. Decimus and Micah's men were firing steadily when Monmouth rode up, bareheaded and wild-eyed. "Alas, what an error!" he cried. "Shall we draw off, Saxon, eh?" Decimus replied. "We hold our own here, your Majesty."



But farther along the water King James's cavalry found their way across, and now charged the mass of rebels, cutting them down and scattering them. Decimus, Micah, and Sir Gervas formed their men into a ring, the front rank kneeling, the rear rank standing. "Steady, my brave lads," cried Saxon, "give not an inch!" Then they caught sight of Monmouth and his attendants galloping away from the fight.

Deserted by their leader, what will happen to Micah and his friends? See next week's instalment