to hold aloof from "games on boards with eight or ten rows of squares" and "from the same games played by imagining such boards in the air." This is the oldest known list of games and the old-fashioned historian, who likes to think that Noah relieved the dullness of his voyage nowhither by chess-playing, would have cheerfully taken the second prohibition as a proof that blindfold chess was practised in Gautama's days. But there is not a particle of evidence for accepting the long-discredited Cox-Forbes theory that the two-handed game known as *chaturanga* (="four-membered," referring to the composition of an Indian army which had for its regular arms elephants, horse, chariots, and infantry) originated in a primitive four-handed dice chess practised in India 5,000 years ago. There can be little doubt that the historic chess was the outcome of a long process of evolution and was not one man's invention any more than were the so-called Arabic numerals, which also originated in the brooding Indian mind. But fate has set limitations on the extension of our knowledge backwards.

It is not so difficult, however, to trace the broad lines of the diffusion of chess from India. The history of its eastward and westward advances is much more definitely outlined in Mr. Murray's book than in any previous work, thanks to his wider and deeper survey of the evidence actually embodied in the characteristic peculiarities of the various Oriental forms. (A third of his 900 pages, by the way, are devoted to reasoned descriptions of the many widely varying adaptations to local tastes of what he justly styles "the national game of Asia," and this section really consists of a number of treatises, abundantly illustrated by diagrams, problems, and game scores, which should enable an intelligent reader to follow a bout of *shatranj* or of Chinese chess—to take two of many examples—if he provides himself with the requisite apparatus; a more interesting way of spending time and money, we should say, than buying toyshop games and exploring their complicated futility.) In all probability the earliest advance of chess was westwards to Persia; the eastward advance was along three main lines. One route took the game by way of Kashmir to China, Korea, and Japan. A second, possibly that by which Buddhism travelled, gave chess to Further India. At a later date it spread to the Malays from the south-east coast of India, the route by which it reached Tibet and the northern tribes of Asia. Meanwhile Persia had passed on chess to Byzantium, and Islam learnt the game as a result of the Mahomedan conquest of Persia. Henceforward the Moslems were the chief pioneers and purveyors of chess, carrying their game as far west as Spain, and eastward to India, where they imposed the Arabic nomenclature on the Northern and Central Provinces. Christian Europe had begun to learn chess from the Moors as early as A.D. 1000. From the Mediterranean shores it spread northwards over France and Germany to England, to the Scandinavian lands, and to Iceland. And wherever it went it killed out the older board games (except backgammon) and became the chief indoor diversion of kings and chieftains, noblemen and their womenfolk. Everywhere a knowledge of it was regarded as ennobling; expert players were highly honoured, richly rewarded. It mightily mitigated the manners of the age and provided a means whereby the lover and the beloved, Ferdinand and Miranda, might entertain one another "over the board," so to speak. Its technicalities passed into the ordinary language of everyday life—*Mattus*, for example, which is the medieval term for "mated," has given rise to adjectives which signify "stupefied" or "stupid" in most European tongues.

Perhaps the most original portion of Mr. Murray's survey of the twofold history of chess (the historian must consider not only the diffusion of the game, but also the changes gradually made in long localized types) is the series of chapters in which he deals with chess under Islam. Here will be found a notable collection of games, problems, and end games. He is here working through territory but partially explored or not explored at all. As striking a proof of his untiring industry and exemplary thoroughness—the smallest difficulties are solved in passing—is his exhaustive study (extending over 170 close packed pages) of the medieval (European) problem. Here again he often works to the end of new lines of inquiry. The general reader, interested in chess as an art will be most attracted by the portions of his book which deal with the social and literary annals of the game in Europe during the last nine centuries. It was not until chess entered Western Europe that it took its place in the main stream of modern civilization and progressed in form and rule until it assumed its present perfection. Chess was first played by Christians under the same code that was followed throughout the Mahomedan world, and for a considerable period—down to 1200 A.D. perhaps—there was no serious difference of rule or move "from the Indus to the Atlantic and from the Sahara to Iceland." Thus for a time the present universality of chess, a common language of *joie-de-jouer* all over the world, was anticipated. But the Moslem style stood still, after the brief but brilliant creative epoch of Islamism had ceased; and any change for the better that afterwards occurred in Moslem theory and practice was due to the reflex influence of the progressive chess of Europe. Even the European improvements in the medieval game must have been slow and laborious; still leaving it suitable only for the few that sat above the salt in the ancient halls and had interminable evenings to dispose of in times of peace. Modern chess, in which the forces are at once fatefully in touch, was a product of the Renaissance spirit in all its new radioactivity. When the queen and the bishop received the moves they still retain at the end of the fifteenth century (even Mr. Murray can throw no clear light on the why and how of the change, which may be compared with the transition from whist to bridge), and not till then, was a science of chess at last practicable. If the openings in medieval chess had been scientifically examined—the scientific method was unknown in the Middle Ages, when the game was played by traditional rules of development—the sequences of moves could never have been remembered. One might as well attempt to analyse the openings or, rather, placings in *Go*, the Japanese war-game with its 18×18 board and innumerable men, on a scientific basis.

The gradual evolution of the science of the new chess or *scacchi de la donna* (as contrasted with *scacchi al antica*) by the labours of the great experts whose names still survive in the appellations of modern openings is admirably presented by Mr. Murray. He takes his history down to the rise of the "Modern School" of strategy and tactics and then lays down his pen. The feud between constructionists and combinationists, between the posterity of Morphy and the disciples of Steinitz, is not yet by any means determined. So that the time is not yet come to disentangle its history from myriads of recorded games, each in some sense a struggle of styles. Chess is no longer a fashionable diversion; it ceased to be so in England when Parsloe's became merely a chess-players' club and not a rendezvous for Philador's high-placed patrons, among whom were Fox, Rockingham, Mansfield, Erskine, and many other celebrities. The diffusion of the Philadorian analysis and a rise in the standard of play sent this brilliant dilettantism back to—the card-room. Chess is now a truly democratic game (as much so as village cricket), and the number of practitioners has increased tenfold in the last twenty years. It provides a way out of a dull, workaday world into a life of keen intellectuality full of unexpected visions of a beauty which is felt, if it cannot be defined. Since every thought must be translated into action, chess enables the poorest mechanical brain-worker to achieve the mastery of events unparalleled in the history of war. It is the rarest thing for a game to recur; your campaign never happened before, never will happen again; it is your very own. The future of chess may well be as astounding as its past. The only dubious omen is the sudden popularity of a guesswork form of the game known as chess-kriegspiel.

Mr. Murray's book will be regarded by foreign critics as a triumph of English scholarship. Its appearance, following that of Mr. C. E. C. Tattersall's wonderful collection of end-game studies, gives England the first place among the nations as a foster-mother of chess learning. The book should be widely read; no better prize for the winner of a club tournament could be imagined.

DOLLAR DIPLOMACY.

One does not expect to agree altogether with a writer of another country when he treats of such controversial subjects as international policies and trade relations; but when a book is written so well and with so wide (though at times curiously oblique) a vision as is THE TRADE OF THE WORLD (Chapman and Hall, 9s. net), by James Davenport Whelpley, one can get both entertainment and profit from its reading. Trade, we venture to remain convinced, is not yet quite so exclusively the sole governing influence in the foreign policies of the world as Mr. Whelpley evidently believes; and it is perhaps characteristic of the modern American view-point that he should hold as lightly as he seems to hold the ties of religion and of race, with other "sentimental" considerations, as forces in the making of history. The sentiment which binds the British Empire together he calls a "fading illusion." The "geographical and economic dependence of Canada upon the United States" (a phrase which, it may be conjectured, Canadians will hardly relish) is to him so obvious that the not remote absorption of the Dominion into the Republic is inevitable. Already, it seems, there is a reaction in Canada against the recent rejection of Reciprocity, and he is evidently disposed to think that commercial union could have been brought about long ago by a judicious and quite moderate expenditure of American money. So small a sum as two million dollars is suggested by one anecdote as possibly sufficient. He may be right; but we are sure that he is wrong in his estimate of the forces at work and of the influence of "sentiment" in guiding Canada's choice so far. It would doubtless be useless to attempt to convince Mr. Whelpley of his error of view; and it is perhaps as inevitable that we, with all the great administrative problems of the Empire which bring us into continual contact with subject races in which other considerations far outweigh those of trade, should over-estimate the value of sentiment and of ideas in politics as much as the modern American citizen of the United States, nowadays so absorbed in material things, should underestimate them. A characteristic divergence in point of view is shown by the fact that because there continues to be "bitter rivalry between British and Japanese merchants for the trade of the Orient," therefore in Mr. Whelpley's eyes the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is "a failure." To the Englishman this involves a fundamental misunderstanding of the objects which the Alliance was framed to, and did so satisfactorily, attain. In China he believes that "really effective cooperation" between Germany and the United States "might bring about astonishingly beneficial results to both," but it is curious that for the present delicacy of Anglo-German relations he seems to blame Great Britain alone. He sees only an "anti-German agitation in England," prompted entirely by jealousy of the growth of Germany's foreign commerce, while the suggestion of war with England provokes in Germany only a universal and "fervent 'God forbid!'" Not that he means to be unfriendly to Great Britain. "There is no sign of decadence in England," he says; and he pays generous, even lavish, tribute to our commercial strength and qualities of character. But with all his knowledge of us he fails to understand. None the less there is, as has been said, profit as well as entertainment in his book; as when he speaks of the value of a protective tariff as an instrument of barter and of the "incredibly small" amount of effort or of money which is spent by the British Government to assist our foreign trade, and gives in contrast an effective picture of the great commercial organization of the German Foreign Office. It is a book which Englishmen would do well to read. Mr. Whelpley's writing is sometimes careless, but he is never uninteresting, and has a happy knack of illustrating his points with anecdotes of incidents which, whether always literally true or not, are invariably well found.