BROODINGS…

brood: *to ponder morbidly or persistently*   [Collins Dictionary]

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Please be brave and have a look at the three unorthodox problems! The first is a grasshopper version of an idea which is familiar from the orthodox helpmate. The equihoppers in **11** are (as they should always be unless otherwise stated) of the original kind invented by G. Leathem about 70 years ago, i.e. they hop to a square equidistant beyond another unit, but their lines are subject to interference. Thus for example in 1… Re8 2.Kd3 Eg5 3.a4 Re4 the Eg6 does not guard c2 because of the interfering Ef5. That would be a cook with equihoppers of the non-interferable type (non-stop or French equihoppers). In my view those would be better named equileapers. One of the charms of the equihopper is the possibility of mate by moving the pivot into place, which is what happens in **11**. Finally the imitator (a non-capturable piece which must mimic all moves in length and direction, else they are illegal) is a type which should be used with caution, lest one lapse into facility (of composition) or incomprehensibilty (of solution). Naturally I aimed to evade those traps with this imitator- and Circe-specific idea, in which the white king unleashes mate by moving far away from his black counterpart. I throw away most examples of this kind but I hope you agree that this one was worth keeping.   Best wishes to all.
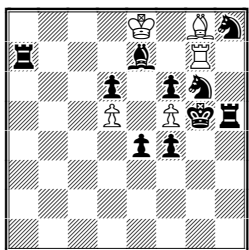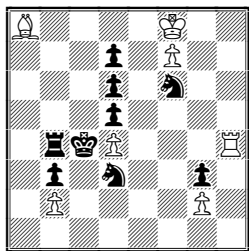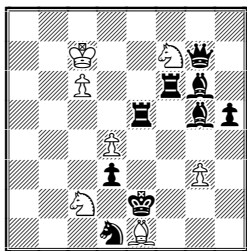
1.
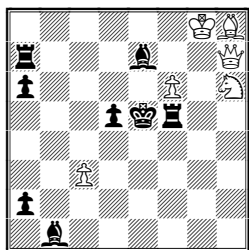
h#2   2 solutions

2.
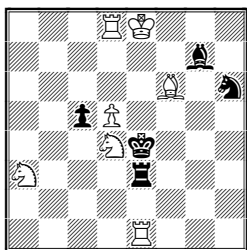
h#2   b) ♙d5>d6

3.

h#2   3 solutions

4.

h#2½   2 solutions

5.

h#3   b) ♟d3>f3

6.
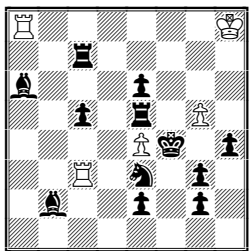
h#3   2 solutions

7.
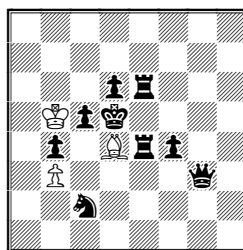
h#4½

8.
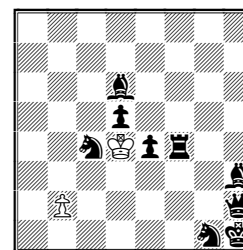
h#6

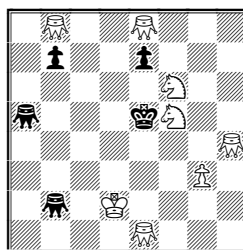**9.**
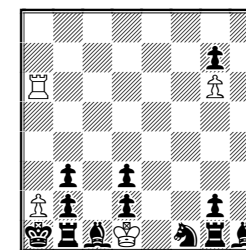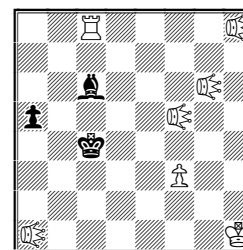

h#8 (set mate)
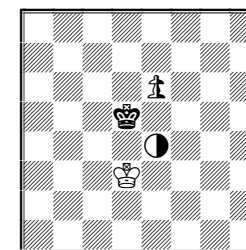
10.

h#2   b) ♘h4>d7

11.

h#2½   2 solutions
       Equihoppers

12.

h#4   2 solutions   Circe
      Neutral Pe6, Imitator e4

SOLUTIONS:

1 1.Rxf6 Qxb1 2.Bd6 Qf5# & 1.Bxf6 Qxa7 2.Rf4 Qe7# I was surprised to find no anticipation.
2 a) 1.Kd3+ Se6 2.Rxe6+ dxe6# b) 1.Kd5+ Be7 2.Rxe7+ dxe7# Like the previous problem, this arose when I checked a problem with a different matrix for anticipation and found nothing.
3 1.Kh6 Rf7 2.Rg5 Rh7#, 1.Kxf5 Bf7 2.Se5 Be6# & 1.Sf7 Kxf7 2.Kh6 Rxg6# Three pure tempo moves to the same square at W1, not previously shown without twinning.   **4** 1…Rh2 2.Sg8 fxg8Q 3.gxh2 Qxd5# & 1…Bc6 2.Se8 fxe8 3.dxc6 Sxd6# Tempo!   **5** a) 1.Qh8 Sxe5 2.Rf1 Sf3 3.Qxd4 Sfxd4# b) 1.Qg8 Sxg5 2.Bd3 Se4 3.Qxg3 Sxg3# The pieces on e5 and g5 seem to be the most economical way of stopping cooks.   **6** 1.Sg4 Rxg3 2.Kxg5 Rg8+ 3.Ke4 R8xg4# & 1.Bc4 Ra4 2.Kxe4 R3xc4+ 3.Kf3 Rf4#   **7** 1… Be5 2.Se3 Bxf4 3.Sc4 Be3 4.Qe5 Bd4 5.cxd4 bxc4#   **8** 1.Rf1 (Rg4?) b4 2.Bc5 bxc5 3.Qd6 cxd6 4.Bc8 d7 5.Sh3 dxc8Q 6.Rg1 Qxh3# In theory there are 16 P-routes from b2 to c8 in 5…   **9** 1… axb3# 1.bxa2 Rf6 2.gxf6 g7 3.f5 g8R 4.f4 Rb8 5.f3 Rxb2 6.f2 Rxd2 7.Rb2 Rc2 8.Kb1 Rxc1#   **10** a) 1.Gxb8 Sd6 2.Gf5 Sde4# b) 1.Gxe1 Se4 2.Gf6 Sed6# With conventional batteries, this idea has often been seen in the orthodox h#2.   **11** 1…Ef4 2.Kd3 Eb1 3.Be4 Rc2# & 1…Ee7 2.Kb4 Ed2 3.Bd5 Rc3# Pure arrival effects by the bishop, which serves solely as a pivot.   **12** 1.Kc6[Id5] nPe7[Id6] 2.Kb7[Ic7] nPe8nQ[Ic8] 3.nQe2[Ic2]+ Kxe2[+nQd8][Id1] 4.Ka8[Ic2] Kf1[Id1]# & 1.Kxe6 [+nPe2][If5] Kxe2[+nPe7][Ig4] 2.Kf7[Ih5] nPe8nR[Ih6] 3.Kf8[Ih7]+ nRd8[Ig7] 4.nRd2[Ig1]+ Kxd2[+nRh8][If1]# Comments on this one would be especially welcome!