

A GAME OF

contraceptive chess

"I'm getting side effects on the pill you gave me."
She opens and moves a pawn to queen knight four.
"What sort of side effects?" I ask.
I move a pawn to queen knight four.
"I've gained a lot of weight," she replies and moves a
bishop to queen rook three.

"How much?" I ask.
Bishop to queen rook three.
"I don't really know but I can feel that I'm overweight."
Pawn to queen bishop four.
"Then I have a very good diet we can put you on," I reply and move a
pawn to queen bishop five.
"No, I've already tried lots of diets, and they just don't work for me."
Pawn to king four.

"Well then, I can change you to this other pill."
Knight to queen bishop three.
"I've tried that one and I get depressed on it."
Knight to queen bishop three.
"Then there's this mini pill, it hardly has any side effects."
Rook to queen knight one.
"I'm very forgetful and I'm afraid I might get pregnant on that one."



Rook to queen knight one.

By Chris Ellis

"What about the 'loop'?" I ask.
Pawn to knight five.
"That's the one I got pregnant on!"
Bishop to queen two.
"There are other I.U.C.D.s," I counter.
Pawn to queen bishop seven, takes the knight.
"Yes, I've tried them and they make me bleed."
Bishop to queen bishop three, takes the pawn.

"Have you thought about 'the injection'?"
Knight to queen knight five.
"Doesn't that take your periods away and besides my friend says
she got cancer from the injection."
Bishop to queen knight four, takes the other knight.

"What about your husband using condoms?" I suggest.
Rook to queen knight five, takes the rook.
"As you've already had three children, do you think he would
consider a vasectomy?"
Bishop to queen knight five.
"No, he's afraid it might make him impotent."
Pawn to queen rook three.
"Well then, have you ever considered sterilisation?"
Bishop to queen bishop four.
"I'm not sure that I want anything so final as that."
Pawn to queen bishop four.

"Have you ever thought of giving up sex?"
Queen to king rook five.
"Yes, doctor, but my husband wouldn't like it."
Pawn to king rook three.
"I give up."
She moves her queen to king bishop seven.
Check mate.

Note: This poem is reprinted from Ruminations from Rural Practice, by Chris Ellis, with illustrations by Louis Hiemstra. Published by Academy Publications, 1994. For your copy please post a cheque for R50.00 made out to S A Family Practice, to: P O Box 3172, Cramerview, 2060