

# Society Turns to Backgammon with True Zest

BY THALIA —

**Y**OU'VE never seen anything like the fervor with which everybody is playing backgammon right now. Wars have been fought with less spirit than actuates many of the backgammon battles that are being waged in smart clubs and homes.

The intricacies of "blots," "making points," "chouetting," and "doubling" are so fascinating that a backgammon board acts as a mascot to any one who has succumbed to the charms of the game.

I heard one hostess complaining: "Why, they never even waited for the cocktails to be served—they just dashed into the library and began playing. I think that's going too far."

And at a party Bluford Richardson Spencer gave a few nights ago there were nine boards in operation, and nobody paid the slightest attention to the supper, they were so absorbed in the game.

One proficient player—he's considered one of the best in town—if not THE best—says Mrs. Valentine Bartlett is about the best woman player hereabouts, and others amongst the feminine enthusiasts who are very good are Mrs. Darrow Fulton, Marjorie Letts, Mrs. Frederic McLaughlin, and Mrs. "Kim" Salisbury. Jack Peabody, Tom Gowanlock, "Doc" Van Alvea, rank at the head of the men players, according to general opinion, and Ralph Bond, Jim Peirce, Clifford Rodman, and Russell Kelley are avid and expert players.

The Racquet club tournament—which is protracted because so many of the men are away—is up to the semi-finals, with Larry Callahan, Jim Meloy, and Bernard Rogers qualified for the next to the last round, and some of the preliminary matches still to be played off.

There's so much controversy about the proportion of luck and skill to the game and so much rivalry as to respective abilities at playing it, that the ardor of the game is far greater than with bridge.

There will be another opportunity to observe what clever and busy young ladies the Junior league members are