

THE GAME OF BRIDGE

“**D**EAR MR. EDITOR,—I am glad to see that you take an interest in social questions, because there is one to which I wish to draw your attention. I am a little afraid you may not think it a very serious one when you find it is only concerned with a game of cards ; but after all, if a thing is bad enough to spoil one's life, it is, to a woman at any rate, bad enough to be considered important. I am really not exaggerating when I say that this year my life has been entirely spoilt by Bridge : and when I say my life, I do not mean any selfish pleasure of my own, but the hopes and interests which are natural to every woman in my position. I have two daughters now growing up ; I arranged that one of them should come out this year and one next. We are all three the greatest friends, and I have been looking forward for ever so long to taking them everywhere with me and sharing their enjoyment and success : for they are both pretty and happy-minded, and good at all the things that girls ought to do. Besides, though they are young and diffident, they have plenty of character and sense, and I feel sure that neither of them would be attracted by the wrong kind of man, so I had every reason to expect that things would go smoothly.

“ In the way I have put it that sounds rather worldly, but it cannot be wrong to wish one's daughter a happy married life ; the worldliness comes in when you put money and position first, and are willing to do anything to get them. I knew