

from 1933 to 1936, and then the Americans, led by Don Budge, claimed it in 1937 and 1938. Australia, defeated in the challenge round in 1938 by three matches to two, reversed the score in 1939 and have been the war-time holders.

Taking the four major Davis Cup contestants—Australia, the United States, Britain and France—it looks as if the advantage at the start will lie with the Americans. While most of the leading American players are either in the armed forces or have been until recently, their opportunities for participating in first-class tournaments have been a good deal more numerous than in the case of players of any other nation at war. The only two members of the United States Davis Cup team of 1939 who will be available after the war will be F. Parker, who is serving with the Army in the Pacific, and J. Kramer, who is an ensign in the Navy. R. L. Riggs, also serving in the Pacific, has joined the professional ranks, and the fourth member, Joe Hunt, was killed while flying with the Navy. Still available are such pre-war headliners as E. T. Cooke, E. Schroeder, Lt. Don McNeill, Lt. G. Mulloy and W. Talbert, while there is a promising crop of new players coming along.

Australia should have the services of J. Bromwich and Adrian Quist for a long time yet, and with this pair as the backbone of the defending team, any challenging combination would have to be powerful to have a chance. Quist and Bromwich have had their chances of first-class tennis restricted by their duties in the services, but they should have little difficulty in reaching top form by the time the next challenge round is due.

France and Britain are the least favourably placed of the four nations. In both countries tennis will need a

lot of reorganising and rebuilding, and the chief problem will be to find players of international class. It may be years before Britain can hope to develop performers of the calibre of Perry and Austin. France's position is even more obscure and possibly more difficult. In both cases it appears as if it will be necessary to start off again from scratch. It is interesting to recall that in the qualifying round at Berlin in 1939 the British team was defeated by Germany, five matches to nil.

When competition for the Davis Cup was resumed after the 1914-18 war the United States refrained from challenging because the other nations had suffered much heavier losses. This time, however, she is certain to be in the Davis Cup arena from the beginning, and at the present stage appears to have a strong hand in prospect. Equally certain is it that she will have powerful representation at the first post-war Wimbledon tournament, to which, in addition to a formidable array of seasoned performers, she will be able to send a number of young players who, though promising enough, have yet to make their reputations in the international sphere. Two who have been mentioned in this connection are R. Falkenberg, brother of the film actress, Jinx Falkenberg, and "Buddy" Behrens, who is only 16 years old, but who has already revealed himself as a potential champion.

There will be some countries which will be less fortunately situated than others when the endeavours now being made to restore international tennis take definite shape, but that is not important. The main thing is that Wimbledon and the Davis Cup contests should be resumed, and that as soon as possible. A start has to be made some time, and if it can be made next year, as leading tennis authorities hope, so much the better.