into greens, including such well known pests as white grubs, the green June beetle, and the Japanese beetle. Digging wasps and bees also are on its bill-of-fare. Such miners in turf as wireworms, clover-root borers, and leather-jackets (larvae of crane-flies), and such grass eaters as leaf-hoppers, cutworms, and other caterpillars, and grasshoppers, also are devoured. Ants, nuisances everywhere but especially so on putting greens, are freely eaten by the kingbird, probably mostly on the wing when they are flying to new points of infestation.

The kingbird does well, as it also looks well, on the golf course, and should always be protected.

The Most Prevalent Defect in American Golf Courses
By Maynard M. Metcalf

I do not know European golf courses, but have studied 86 in North America and 13 in South and Central America. Almost nowhere have I seen at all adequate provision of practice ground and proper facilities for the giving of lessons.

Practice ground of sufficient size and proper character for driving, for short and long approaching by run up, pitch and run, or dead-stop shots, for shots out of sand traps and out of rough and for putting should be provided in connection with every course which is designed to train good golfers; and ground for lessons with open-front rain shelters for instruction should also be provided.

Members will not practice enough if they have to use the course itself for this purpose. They feel that they are in the way and are a nuisance and they know it is irritating to themselves in practice to be constantly interrupted by players. For the training of good golfers practice is at least equally important with play. It should be encouraged by providing abundant room with opportunity for trying out all kinds of shots.

It isn’t quite reasonable to deprive instructors and players of opportunity for lessons in rainy weather. High, open-front sheds can be built very cheaply and will enable the golf instructor to continue his work on mildly rainy days, a benefit to his own purse and a decided advantage to the players.

It seems strange that nearly all golf courses are lacking in practice ground, in ground for lessons, in teaching sheds, or usually in all three. Probably the provision of these facilities in our clubs would do more than anything else of similar cost to improve American golf.

Variation from Standard Practice

“In the past three years I have used approximately 1,000 yards of topdressing; each year the amount has diminished materially as the putting surface improved. During the growing season I use about a yard of topdressing at each application. I do not go by any set rule as to how often I topdress for I know my soil condition and topdress when necessary. Some of my greens are topdressed nearly twice as often as others, occasionally going as long as seven weeks without showing the need of topdressing.”—C. M. Melville, Greenkeeper, Southmoor Country Club, Chicago, Ill.
The foregoing quotation illustrates the fact that golf course maintenance can not be completely successful by blindly following rule of thumb methods. While a cubic yard to each 5,000 square feet is an excellent average there are conditions which make variation from it advisable, the new green whose surface is not yet true probably requiring more than that rate while the old green with well established turf and a true putting surface will need less.

The careful greenkeeper realizes the need of varying his methods to suit changing conditions. Not only is this true as applied to topdressing, but also to the use of chemicals, fertilizers, frequency of mowing, and most often to watering. On the same course variations in drainage, soil fertility, contour, and so forth lead the observant greenkeeper to depart from what might be called his standard practice, but only after becoming convinced that special methods are required.—Editors.

Mr. Howard F. Whitney, a former President of the United States Golf Association, has been elected a member of the Rules of Golf Committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. Mr. Whitney is the first American golfer to become a member of this committee.

Those interested in golf course architecture, if only slightly, will find The Links, by Robert Hunter (Charles Scribner's Sons) a notable contribution to the literature on that subject as well as very easy reading.

The following quotations from Mr. Hunter's book illustrate the idea emphasized throughout that golf architecture should have two aims, one utilitarian, the other artistic.

"In most of the best work of today ploughs and scrapers are used to fashion and contour the ground so that it may be made to serve the uses of the game. Proportion, symmetry, and uniformity are carefully worked out in the designs, and when the finished product appears it so blends itself into the surrounding landscape that few can tell where nature ends and art begins."

"Some indifferent holes have many hazards; and some of the best have few. Nearly all great holes have a particular terrain which has made their greatness possible."

"Now and then one finds a hole of real distinction which nature herself has modelled, and to add anything artificial would be a crime. That is, of course, rare, but he who can not see such natural features and take full advantage of them is unfitted for work in this field."

"Placing The Hazards," is the title of the chapter which will probably be of greatest interest and value to the layman, although the entire well illustrated volume might profitably be read by most Green Committeemen.

Soil for topdressing.—If compost is not available, loamy soil, well screened, can be used advantageously as a topdressing. It is generally advisable to mix some sand in the soil, in larger proportions if the soil on the course is of a clayey nature, and in lesser proportions if the soil is already sandy.