

compost that will be highly useful in maintaining putting green turf. In fact, the present tendency seems to be in the direction of too much manure.

Probably the ideal compost pile should start off with organic matter, at the rate of the equivalent of one part of good manure to three parts of soil, to be composed of loam or clay loam, and sand, in the proportions required by the soil of the greens to which the compost is to be applied. The more clay in the soil of the green, the less sand, and vice versa. As it is screened and ready to apply to the greens, the compost that is now being used at the Arlington Experiment Farm on bent turf on stiff clay soil, by actual analysis contains approximately only 6 per cent of organic matter on a moisture basis equivalent to that of ordinary manure. An analysis of a sample of compost now in use on the greens of the Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia, was found to contain 8 per cent. Bear in mind that it is easily possible to include too much manure or organic matter in compost, and that good results may be obtained with even a very small percentage. To sum up this feature of the subject, compost poor in organic matter is better than no compost at all, if the proper proportions of loam, clay loam, and sand are used.

While it is not intended here to discuss the effect of compost when applied as a top-dressing to turf, the rate of application is of such importance as to justify a brief reference at this time. Recommendations or instructions have usually been given in terms of depth of application. This is an exceedingly indefinite matter. No two individuals will make estimates of a depth of application of compost anywhere nearly alike. The best way to get at it is to make an application that appears to be suitable, then measure the area, and estimate the quantity of material applied. In experiments at Arlington it has been found that for regular treatments of creeping bent turf, 1 cubic yard of screened compost is sufficient to top-dress 5,000 square feet of turf. For covering bent stolons at the time of planting, 1½ cubic yards of screened compost are necessary for 1,000 square feet of planted surface. You may not agree with the rates here suggested, but surely you will agree that this is the proper way of stating the rate of application.

Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

QUESTION.—One of our subscribers has recently raised the following question based on Rules 31 and 20. Suppose that in a single match both players are using the same make of ball. They reach the putting green, and A, assuming that the ball farther away from the hole is his, plays it and holes out. He goes forward to the hole and picks up the ball, and then discovers that he has played B's ball. Now the question is, Does the statement printed below the footnote to Rule 20, which says, "On the putting green, the ball shall be replaced," mean that B's ball must be replaced and that the hole is then played out in the proper order without any penalty, or does this statement emphasize only the fact that on the putting green the ball is to be replaced instead of dropped, according to the provisions of Rule 20? From the manner in which Rule 20 and the statement above mentioned are printed in the rules, I have taken it that the ball must be replaced and played on the putting green. In addition to this consideration, it would appear to me that it would be fair to replace the ball, since the opponent is put to no disadvantage on the putting green, where the mistake may readily be discovered.

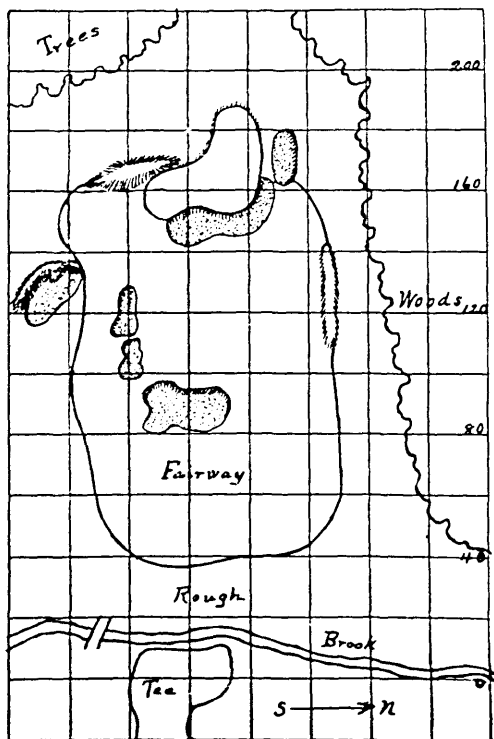
ANSWER.—The Rules of Golf Committee of the United States Golf Association rules as follows: Rule 20, paragraph 2, does not apply to this case. It covers only the case where the ball is not engaged in the match. A loses a hole under the provisions covered by Rule 20, paragraph 1, unless he replaces the wrong ball with which he has played and plays out the hole in proper order; or if each of the players plays the wrong ball, the hole stands as played with the balls thus exchanged. Rule 31, paragraph 2, provides for playing out of turn and does not provide for playing the wrong ball.

QUESTION.—Can a ball in a hazard lying within a club's length of a water pipe in the hazard be dropped back without penalty? Also, if in a deep ditch, say about 5 feet deep, a water pipe runs across the top of the ditch and a ball rests immediately below the pipe more than a club's length from the nearest point of the pipe, could a ball be dropped back without penalty if the pipe interferes with the swing in playing the ball? Our committee was called upon to give a ruling in a similar case, and would feel greatly obliged to have an official answer to the above question.

ANSWER.—Your first question is answered in the affirmative, attention being invited to the footnote to Rule 11. Our answer to your second question is that the ball could not be moved, as it is more than a club's length from the pipe. Your committee should form a local rule to cover this situation.

Instructive Golf Courses IX

No. 15, Hollywood Golf Club, Deal, New Jersey



A beautiful one-shot hole extending due west, whose length can be varied from 160 to 185 yards, thanks to generous teeing ground. From tee to green there is a slight upgrade, every detail of the hole standing out clearly. The green is strongly guarded, particularly by a long bunker in front. Behind, it is flanked by ridges so that a well-played ball does not roll over the rather small green. This measures about 4,500 square feet. Back of the green is grass, from which a pitch of about 8 feet is necessary to put the ball on the green.