British Golf Unions' Greenkeeping Research

In previous numbers of the Bulletin references have been made to the plan of the British Golf Unions to establish an organization for scientific research and advice similar to the United States Golf Association Green Section. We received recently a copy of the first number of the new organization's publication entitled, *"The Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research."* The British Golf Unions is a joint organization of the English Golf Union, the Scottish Golf Union, the Golfing Union of Ireland, and the Welsh Golfing Union. The *Journal* is maintained by the British Golf Unions' joint advisory committee for the publication of results of scientific investigation of greenkeeping problems being conducted by the board of greenkeeping research in cooperation with a scientific advisory committee, the latter being composed of seven prominent agricultural scientists of the British Isles. The director of research is R. B. Dawson, previously of the Rothamsted experiment station.

The *Journal* is published at St. Ives Research Station, Bingley, Yorkshire, England. Its first number contains 48 pages of interesting reading matter with 4 full-page illustrations, and will doubtless pave the way for a widespread discussion of greenkeeping problems throughout the British Isles. It is proposed to issue the *Journal* at irregular intervals, with not less than three numbers each year. Included in the first number are several articles, as well as a large number of questions and answers, on various golf turf problems. The introductory article is a brief historical account of the establishment of the board of greenkeeping research, from which we quote:

"The board of research into greenkeeping problems was constituted at a meeting of the British Golf Unions' joint advisory committee held in Liverpool on Tuesday, February 26, 1929, when a resolution in the following terms was adopted: 'That a board of research for golf greenkeeping in the British Isles be, and is hereby established to be elected annually by the joint advisory committee, and that the control and management financial and otherwise of research be vested in the joint advisory committee.' This resolution followed on the preliminary work carried out by the National Unions during the previous year, when they explained to their constituent clubs the full nature of the proposal. Subsequent promises were received from the four National Unions for a sum of approximately £2,000 per annum for a minimum period of 5 years.

"It will be recalled that in 1924 the green committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews endeavored to establish a similar scheme but abandoned their effort owing to the lack of necessary financial support. Following their difficulties in obtaining a full measure of support from the clubs in the country, the green committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club asked the joint advisory committee to undertake the direct management of the project, to organize the work, and generally to develop the scheme. With the consent of previous subscribers, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club handed over to the joint advisory committee a sum of £303 13s. 6d. which they had previously collected from them for research purposes.

"The joint advisory committee invited and have received, in connection with the work of the board of research, the hearty and active

cooperation of the scientific advisory committee originally appointed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and also of Mr. W. Norman Boase, chairman of the green committee of that club. Both Sir Robert Greig and Mr. Boase have been appointed members of the new board. The interest shown by these gentlemen in the aims of the board of research has been of an active nature, and the board desires to place on record its deep gratitude for the advice and help which they have gratuitously given in arranging the many details requiring settlement before the work of research could be commenced.

"Early in March, 1929, the board of research, after careful deliberation and with the guidance of a special report by Sir Robert Greig (which was approved by his colleagues on the scientific advisory committee), agreed upon the site for the principal research station, on the St. Ives estate, near Bingley, Yorkshire. This station is central, convenient of access, has several types of soil available for experimental purposes, and is generally suitable for investigations under average conditions of soil and climate."

The St. Ives research station has over three acres of ground available for experimental purposes and also has ample laboratory and office space within a most convenient distance of the experiment grounds. The location is considered extremely fortunate, since it not only offers average conditions of altitude and climate but also has a good range of soil types and other conditions favorable for experimental purposes within a short distance of the laboratory. Operations on the experiment grounds were begun in May, 1929. The turf garden was planted in August.

The Green Section welcomes this new organization in the field of golf turf research and educational work and will follow with interest the results to be obtained. Science and knowledge, like the game of golf, recognize no national boundaries. No doubt many of the findings of the British board of greenkeeping research will be found of benefit to American golf clubs in their efforts to provide better and more uniform playing conditions.

Japanese and Asiatic Beetle Quarantine

To attempt to move soil or plants out of territory infested with the Japanese beetle or with the Asiatic beetle, without a Federal permit, is costly. In May and June, 1929, the Pennsylvania Railroad moved seven carloads of topsoil from Menlo Park, N. J., to Dearborn, Mich., without such a permit, in connection with the celebration of the Edison electric light golden jubilee. As a feature of this celebration, Henry Ford reconstructed, outside of Dearborn, Edison's laboratory of 50 years ago, transferring not only the buildings but practically an acre of topsoil. This cost the Pennsylvania Railroad $1,400. An examination of the soil by Federal officials in the immediate vicinity of the reconstructed laboratory disclosed 32 Japanese beetle grubs, which had been carried to Michigan in the soil. In an effort to exterminate this newly developed Michigan infestation, the United States Department of Agriculture made plans to treat the area upon which the New Jersey soil had been laid and to thoroughly scout the surrounding territory for traces of the beetle.