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The death of Dr. Russell A. Oakley at Monrovia, Calif., on August 6 of this year removes from the Green Section of the United States Golf Association its most valued member. He was well known among professional and amateur golfers for his interest in the improvement and more effective use of fine turf grasses. He and the late C. V. Piper were responsible for the creation of the Bulletin of the Green Section of the United States Golf Association and for the inauguration of extensive investigations on fine turf. With Doctor Piper, he was co-author of "Turf for Golf Courses." At the time of his death, he was chairman of the research committee of the Green Section and for many years he had been a member of the executive committee.

Doctor Oakley was born at Marysville, Kans., September 7, 1880. He graduated with the degree of B. S. from the Kansas Agricultural College in 1903 and was awarded the D. Sc. degree at Iowa State College in 1920. Doctor Oakley was appointed, July 16, 1903, scientific aid in what was then known as the office of agrostology of the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1913 he was appointed agronomist in charge of seed distribution. In 1925 he was a special representative of the Secretary of Agriculture in the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in California, and the following year he was sent by the Secretary as a special delegate to the meeting of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. In 1926, upon the death of Dr. C. V. Piper, he was made senior agronomist in charge of the division of forage crops and diseases.

During the war period Doctor Oakley served as chairman of the seed stocks committee cooperating with the War Trade Board and other emergency activities. He had served as vice chairman of the Federal Horticultural Board and more recently was a member of the Advisory Federal Plant Quarantine Board. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, a member of the Washington Botanical Society, the American Genetic Society, and the Cosmos Club, and an honorary life member of the Washington Golf and Country Club.

Doctor Oakley's keen appreciation of scientific work and his unusual skill in planning and conducting important and difficult experiments will long be remembered. His most important contributions to the agricultural and social welfare in the United States, however, in all probability are due to his unusually well-balanced and critical judgment and his aptitude for imparting to others his own vision of the relative significance of different and occasionally conflicting factors. Doctor Oakley will be remembered by a very wide circle of intimate friends as a man whose opinions, wittily expressed, were valuable as well as interesting. He possessed to a remarkable degree the quality of making friends and was endowed with almost superhuman courage and cheerfulness in long years of struggle against arthritis. His associates never ceased to marvel at the indomitable will which enabled him to go about his work day after day efficient and genial. He leaves behind a splendid record of achievement.

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