

Right out of the Books

Golf instruction appears to be an inexhaustible subject. New books about it appear frequently and many find their way into the "Golf House" Library. Three which we have received in recent weeks seem unusual in their approach.

From these three books we have culled a few random observations or "tips" which may prove of help to the duffer or average golfer, although they may be as second nature to the expert. The following excerpts make no attempt to condense the complete books; they are merely scattered extracts:

THE JONES GOLF SWING, WITH PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS BY MANY EXPERTS, as recorded by John Godfrey Saxe (privately printed):

(Ernest) Jones teaches that a golfer must not consciously attempt to use movements of the feet, legs, hips, arms or shoulders, or even a pivot, in order to create his swing. He must use only *his hands*—p. 19.

Swing the club-head back lazily, low and along the ground. Do not rush any part of the swing. *A swing* times itself—p. 22.

Do not stop at the ball; swing the club-head through towards the target—p. 24.

For a blast (bunker shot), use a wedge, select a definite spot about an inch behind the ball, take a full swing and pay attention to that spot until you hear the ball drop on the green. Out of deeper sand, select a spot farther behind a ball. If sand is not thrown, the ball will not rise—p. 33.

IT'S THE DAMNED BALL, by Ike S. Handy, (Anson Jones Press):

You need think of only two or three things to hit a perfect shot—you can think of millions to make you miss—p. 23.

The principal trouble with the average player is that the one thought that pervades his mind is one that should be completely absent—the result of the shot—p. 43.

Certainly it is true that some speed

is required to make it a swing . . . You can't name very many good golfers who have a noticeably slow backswing. Certainly there are none among the champions—p. 47.

None can gainsay that if you swing the club right the ball will go where you want it to go—p. 57.

100 HANDY HINTS ON HOW TO BREAK 100, by Mike Weiss (Prentice Hall Co.):

You can play golf only when you have forgotten the conscious mechanism of a golf swing and concentrate on stroking the ball—p. 22.

If the aprons of the greens are cut and no traps or obstacles interfere, the run-up shot is the safest of all approach shots—p. 74.

(If you have a habit of being too short with your putts) I recommend *practicing* with a Band-Aid pasted on the face of your putter—p. 68.

Practice moderately and then only practice the shots in which you feel a lack of confidence—p. 106.

In his chapter on trap shots (p. 90), Weiss relates an anecdote in which he went to Fred McLeod for a lesson on getting out of bunkers. McLeod took him out and had him hit a dozen balls to a well-guarded green. Five went into the traps, two others missed the green elsewhere. Then McLeod put down another dozen balls, told him to hit them hard and to try to hit four into each of three traps he pointed out. Result: 11 went on the green, none went into a bunker. Weiss advises: to avoid a bunker, aim for it and hit your shot crisply. Only an expert can hit such a small target.

ARE GOLFERS HUMAN?, by Robinson Murray (Prentice Hall Co.):

You will find no enlightenment on the correct backswing, pivot, choice of club or any other method of play in this book. But you will derive a lot of chuckles from it.