

New Books

The coming of summer has served to stiffen the standards which our reviewer applies to new books on golf. We found him quite tolerant of golfing authors when the snow lay heavy on the ground last winter, but only the most expert writers or players can provide books he will open in this sunny season.

It is, therefore, unusual that he recommends to us now so many books on golf. We can only assume that the literary crop is particularly good this year; we wouldn't know at first hand, of course, because we've been out playing golf in the warm sunshine.

History of British Golf

The first book commended is the heavy, handsomely bound and illustrated "A History of British Golf," by Bernard Darwin, H. Gardiner-Hill, Sir Guy Campbell, Henry Cotton, Henry Longhurst, Leonard Crawley, Enid Wilson and Lord Brabazon of Tara. This was published by Cassell & Company, Ltd., London, and was kindly donated to our Library by Dr. Gardiner-Hill. It has all the attributes of a classic in the literature of the royal and ancient game in Britain, since it covers the early history, the implements, the principal figures, the great matches, the colorful incidents and the best ways of hitting the ball. Our reviewer had hoped to skim through this one between rounds but found it so fascinating that the afternoon fairways beckoned to him in vain.

Another volume which interrupted our reminiscent reviewer's play was "The Greatest Sports Stories from The New York Times," edited by Allison Danzig and Peter Brandwein and published by A. S. Barnes & Company, New York. This includes a collection of golf reports, beginning with the late Harry Cross' on-the-spot report of Francis Ouimet's victory in the Open Championship in 1913 and continuing through 1951. Our reviewer stopped in the office, clubs in hand, long enough to say that the editors achieved such a balance in selecting these

golf reports from THE TIMES that younger readers cannot but be conscious of the greatness of past golfers and at the same time older readers cannot but appreciate the abilities of the current generation.

Tom Scott and Webster Evans have done a similar editorial chore entitled "The Golfer's Year," published by Nicholas Kaye, London. The articles mix the highlights of United States and British golf in 1951 and add touches of history. Our reviewer found Bernard Darwin's remarks on the worth of the Walker Cup series particularly inspiring, and he also liked Francis Ouimet's own story of his own victory in 1913.

Frank Pennink has combined his talents as a golfer of Walker Cup calibre and golf correspondent for the London SUNDAY EXPRESS to turn out a readable compendium on 30 famous courses in the British Isles. The inclusion or omission of certain courses may be questioned, but our man was charmed by Mr. Pennink's anecdotal treatment of the character and history of each club and course. "Golf," by Frank Pennink (Peter Garnett, Ltd., London), is a book for the man about to embark on a golfing tour of the British Isles.

Then two instruction books caught our man's fancy. Ernest Jones and Dave Eisenberg wrote one, entitled "Swing the Clubhead" and published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. Our man found it an extremely simple presentation of Jones' fundamental thesis regarding the unity and totality of the golf swing and says it is a book everyone should read and re-read each spring as a refresher. Oscar Fraley and Charles Yerkow, a photographer, put together the other, entitled "Golf in Action" and published by A. A. Wyn, Inc., New York. This provides a maximum of photography and a minimum of verbiage on various elements of the golf swing. The models are fifteen of the best-known professionals of our day, and the series of stop-action shots had our man enthralled.