

and blights! How unforgiving the player is when his putts slither off a greasy, slimy green! The poor greenkeeper, who has no voice in the layout, must live for years with an impossible condition; and good money must be spent year after year to keep in indifferent shape greens that might have been perfect if better located.

Boiled down, the point of this article is that the green-keeper, who must live with the course for years, should be consulted in its layout; and the architect should compromise his ideals for the practical; and, first and above all, neither the architect nor the green-keeper should be so strictly and rigidly limited as to available land as to compel them to do things they both know will be a source of dissatisfaction and expense for years.

Another point is, that money spent in advance in consulting one or more good green-keepers is quite as well spent as that paid to the architect. The better architects endeavor to be practical, but we know of none who would object to the helpful suggestions of a practical green-keeper or who would not modify plans to obviate a proper criticism.

What to do when such mistakes are made is another question; and it is believed, in most cases, that the cheapest and best way out will be to abandon the thing that is impracticable from a green-keeping point and start over, having the architect and green-keeper work out some compromise that will fairly well satisfy both. For instance, in the case of the course first mentioned, it would be clearly cheaper to abandon the course, call in the architect, and turn it around and place it where it can be maintained at a reasonable expense. It takes more courage to correct a mistake than to suffer with it for years; but nine times out of ten, immediate and courageous correction is the cheapest means.

District Green Sections

The Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association feels that no more important step can be taken in furtherance of its purposes than the organization of district green sections in every center or city having three or more courses. No particular form of organization is required, but it is suggested that every club should be represented by the chairman of its greens, and such representatives should comprise the section. The actual management and conduct of the section should be taken charge of by a small committee, which may be known as the green committee of the district, and of course there should be a chairman and a secretary.

The district green committee through its officers should see to it that every club in the district is affiliated and that each one becomes a member of the Green Section of the U. S. Golf Association. Whenever any information of benefit to the clubs comes to the attention of any one it should be brought to the attention of the officers and communicated to the members. A meeting should be held say once a month on one of the courses in the district and it should be made the *duty* of every green-keeper to attend. It goes without saying that each club should be represented at every meeting by the chairman of its greens, by its green-keeper, and by such members of the green committee as find it possible to attend. The important consideration is to get together once a month. A green-keeper can serve his club and himself in no better way than by attending these meetings.

Attendance by green-keepers should be made a part of their jobs. The clubs should take turns in inviting the members of the section and green-keepers so that one at a time the courses will be looked over. Good, bad, or indifferent as its course may be, each club should show what it has and explain everything to its guests of the day. It will be found that the green-keepers and members will break up into little groups as they walk about the course and that men will move from one group to another talking over the points or conditions. The chairman of the club under inspection and the green-keeper should act as masters of ceremonies and conduct the party around the course or from point to point, showing and explaining every thing that may be of interest, from the method of construction to the manner of cutting grass. It will be well to have the employees show exactly how they do different items of work, such as top-dressing, applying fertilizers, weeding, and the like; not that there may be anything novel, but to bring out suggestions and criticisms. For instance, at one such meeting rather coarse top-dressing was being applied and was then brushed off the green with the back of a rake, leaving more or less coarse stuff on the turf. A very lively discussion was developed as to the condition top-dressing should be in when applied, how it should be brushed or worked in, what tools should be used, how often it should be applied, and so on through the whole range of the subject. Mere top-dressing looks simple; but it started a discussion that was interesting and which could not be completed in many a day.

These meetings will provide the means of personal contact between green-keepers and the chairmen, and also between the Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association, which is anxious to enjoy the active assistance and cooperation of practical green-keepers.

Every green-keeper will find it to his personal advantage to attend these meetings, as they will enlarge his field of acquaintance, bring him useful information, and perhaps increase his usefulness and earning power. The best men in such a gathering are easily picked out and the "know-it-alls" and "wind-bags" are soon left to herd by themselves. In the Detroit Section the meeting was started with a light luncheon, which enabled the men to be assembled for such preliminary talk as was necessary to explain what was to be done later.

There is no end to the good that may come out of the organization of these district sections, and there are a variety of ways by which the interchange of ideas and information can be brought about; and it is certain that if by meetings, bulletins, and otherwise the members of green committee and green-keepers get together or are put in touch with each other, costly mistakes will be avoided and there will come a better understanding of the work of green-keeping and all its difficulties and problems, and the work which the Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association is trying to do will take practical and effective form.