

The problem is fundamental in nature, and a basic study of it should properly be undertaken from both the biological and chemical control aspects, such a study to occupy a period of several years. The results would have an important application in the control of not only the Japanese beetle, but other soil insects infesting golf courses.

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## Dear Bill Letter VI

Richland Center, N. Y., October 14, 1921.

DEAR BILL:

About this time of year every green committee is getting down to the dregs of appropriations; club treasurers are figuring what the deficits will be; and everyone's nerves are on edge. I suppose you are just like the rest—tired of the job; and you are wondering why in hell you accepted it; and you are firmly resolved that this year is the last.

You are looking back over the year and recalling to mind all the plans you made so carefully, all the problems you and your green-keeper studied out, and all the work you both did, and you are asking yourself, Who, if anyone, in the club appreciated it? Do any of them have any conception of the detail and variety of the work required to keep them happy and maintain the course as it should be?

You count the kickers one by one and consign them to the particular variety of eternal punishment your fancy conceives to be most suitable—none excruciatingly painful enough to suit you. And an eternity of punishment for this, that, or the other kicker strikes you as being just a short forenoon of what you'd like to give them.

I can read your mind, Bill, and I can see your right hand raised so that you can tell the world that the oath you are taking—"Never again"—is too solemn to be forgotten; and you hope awful—I might say horrendous—casualties will fall upon you if you ever do it again.

You can count on the fingers of one hand the club members who have come up to you during the year to say that the work was being well done, or that they were pleased.

Tell me this, when you figure it out: Why are the officers and committeemen of any club imbeciles, and why are the conscientious objectors so omniscient? How can an objector decide offhand just exactly what should have been done, though some poor fool of a committeeman was obliged to rack his stupid brain for days only to do the wrong thing?

Sometimes I wonder how it is that I make a living for one wife and a couple of kids—I appear to be so dull in comparison with the objectors.

There's some pleasure in serving others if there's any appreciation of the effort, even if it must be conceded that greater intelligence would have been applied had some one else undertaken the task.

But I have a remedy to propose. We read advertisements that a certain week is prune week or some other week, and large gatherings of people are often asked to devote a moment or two to silent reflection upon this or that. I'm going to ask the Green Committee of the U. S. Golf Association to announce that at 12 o'clock, noon, Naval Observatory time, on Saturday, October 29, A. D. 1921, all green-keepers and green-committeemen in the United States shall stop wherever they happen to be, face south, and shout in unison, though widely separated, something that the scientists in the Department of Agriculture will guarantee to place as a curse on the kickers for at least seven generations; I shall insist that it must be something awful and shivery; I'd not only curdle their blood, but turn it into cheese. Per-

haps the Green Committee, with the official sanction of the U. S. Golf Association, could devise a sort of a black spot which, when put on a kicker, would let him know that he was done for. You remember your *Treasure Island*, and how Captain Bill Bones shivered in fear that someone would clap the black spot on him, and the death he died when Old Pew did it? That's the kind of stuff I want, only worse.

If I knew I should suffer until Gabriel blows, I could not think a kind or loving thought of a single one of these kickers. There's murder in my heart, Bill. There ought to be an "open season," if only a day, during which committeemen could maim, mutilate, or murder kickers. I'd at least have sort of a callithumpian day, on which committeemen, all over, could gather and, with absolute immunity, call the kickers by their right names.

I trust my present mood will not turn you sour on the world; but the kickers have me winging. I'd be willing to stick another year and stand it all over again if someone would explain why the vocal organs of the kickers have such wonderful development and why, through deep breathing, or what, they can keep in action all the time. Tell me that, Bill, and I'll stay on the job another year and feed you advice.

Yours,

CHAUNCEY.

P. S.—Are there any clubs in your vicinity which do not belong to the Green Section of the U. S. Golf Association? *Get them in.* C.

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#### A NEW METHOD OF APPLYING CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE IN DESTROYING EARTHWORMS

E. J. MARSHALL

The destruction of worms by the use of corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury) is regarded by some as tedious and expensive, because of the time required to distribute the solution by means of sprinkling-cans. At the Flossmoor Country Club, Flossmoor, Illinois, Mr. Harry Collis, the professional at the club, overcomes this objection by putting a few boards on a green, on which he places a barrel, which is then filled with water, to which the corrosive sublimate, in powdered form, is added; the barrel is then tipped over and its contents spilled so as to flood a section of the green. Men aid in the even distribution by spreading the water with the backs of rakes, which they use also for gathering up the worms. This operation is repeated as often as necessary to cover the green. If powdered corrosive sublimate is used in this manner the proper amount would be 1 ounce to the barrel. It would be well to have two barrels at the edge of a green, out of which men could dip the solution with buckets and throw or pour it on the green; while one barrel is being emptied the other could be filled.

Corrosive sublimate is soluble in water only in minute quantity. This can be overcome by making first a stock solution, as follows:

8 ounces corrosive sublimate.  
8 ounces ammonium chloride.  
1 gallon water.

One pint of this stock solution will contain the one ounce of corrosive sublimate to add to each barrel of water.

Corrosive sublimate can, however, be applied easily and effectively in dry form. [See page 81 (May number) of this volume.]