

Questionnaires

In this number of The Bulletin will be found two questionnaires, one on Tractors and Fairway Mowers and another on Putting-Green Mowers.

If these questionnaires are filled out promptly by the clubs receiving them, and returned to the Green Committee, a great deal of valuable information will be secured which should prove to be of inestimable value to all members of the Green Section.

It is proposed to follow these two questionnaires with others dealing with problems in golf course maintenance.

A compilation of the answers to these questionnaires will be made, and the results sent out, as confidential information, to all member-clubs answering or which indicate interest in the matter. The success of this undertaking necessarily depends on the promptness with which answers are received by the Green Committee.

Quacks

Every profession has its quacks. Medical practice was heavily cursed with this species of the genus *Homo* until they were legislated out of existence. Theological quacks and quack lawyers are kept within reasonable limits by ordination ceremonies in the one case and bar examinations in the other. One should distinguish between quackery and incompetence. A man may be merely foolish but wholly honest. The term quack implies fraud as well as lack of knowledge. Quacks are not wholly responsible for their existence. But for that credulous streak in human nature, that apparent desire to be humbugged, that proneness to be a sucker, quacks would cease to be.

Green-keeping has developed its crop of quacks. They are flourishing like the proverbial green bay-tree. It would be a waste of breath to say harsh things either to or about quacks. As long as quackery is profitable there will be quacks. In some respects the quacks are more estimable than the gullible green committees who employ them. The term "green" in connection with a golf course committee refers to the color of the grass they are supposed to promote, not to the unsophisticated nature of its members. This, then, is the remedy: Leave quacks and their methods entirely alone and no harm will come from them. Incidentally some golf courses would be considerably better off financially by leaving quacks alone.

There should be no great difficulty in recognizing a quack, whether he is doctoring humans, other animals, or turf. They all carry practically the same earmarks. Each one claims to have a remedy which he has discovered himself and about which no one else has any knowledge. No better evidence should be asked that a man is a quack than such a claim. There is much yet to be learned in regard to growing plants, but no one has a secret key which unlocks Nature's treasures. Another distinguishing mark of a quack is the all-embracing character of his remedy. Let the trouble be brown-patch, grubs, weeds, or what-not, they all respond with equal readiness to this secret cure-all. One treatment is usually the quack's whole stock of remedies. Of course the quack decries all other methods of treatment but his own, no matter how they were obtained or how efficacious when applied.

If the quack does not convict himself of quackery (and few will fail to

do so if given a fair chance), his past record should be looked into carefully and his accomplishments noted. It seems incredible that a green committee should employ a man at a high fee to give expert advice on the care of greens without knowing something about him more than what he has told about himself and the extravagant claims he has made for his methods; yet such bargains are being made continually. All of which goes to prove that Barnum was right.

A Valuable Caddie Book

The Green Committee is in receipt of a copy of the *K. C. G. A. Caddie Book*, a 114-page pocket-size manual containing a complete caddie system, published by Messrs. Price Wickersham and Frank Lauder, President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, of the Kansas City Golf Association. The thoroughness with which the caddie problem is treated in this manual, together with the admirably selected compendium of additional information of value to golfers, moves us to call this book to the careful attention of every one interested in the game. A discussion of the caddie system is followed with 29 pages of *Advice and Instructions*. An extensive caddie's catechism is then featured, and in addition a condensed and simplified set of the rules of golf of the U. S. Golf Association and the Western Golf Association, also an extensive definition of golf terms, some pages on the etiquette of golf, a brief history of golf, and *Emergency and First-Aid Hints for Caddies*. The publishers are to be complimented on getting so much valuable information in so handy a form. The book may be purchased from Mr. Frank Lauder, 708 R. A. Long Building, Kansas City, Mo.; the price is 35 cents. Mr. Lauder writes us that a little over 5,300 copies of the book are in use in the Kansas City Golf Association.

Hickory Trees Dying on Golf Courses

The Green Committee has just received a report from Illinois indicating that the shellbark hickory trees on an Illinois golf course are dying. Hickory trees suffer greatly from the ravages of the hickory barkbeetle. An article is being prepared for the BULLETIN on this subject. In the meantime it is suggested that all golf courses having hickory trees on their land examine these trees to see if they are in sound condition. An examination of the inner bark and surface of the wood of a dying tree will detect the presence of the barkbeetle, which produces a curious centipede-like burrow.

"Efficiency Edgar" on a Golf Course

On a certain New England golf course there are 182 bunkers, all told. The chairman of the green committee thought it might be well to ascertain to what extent these were efficient in trapping balls, as considerable expense could be saved if the greenkeepers raked frequently only those worth while. After an open tournament, in which over 200 men played, the chairman went over the course to study his bunkers. He stuck a blue stick in each bunker that had been much used—the kind that need to be