

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

fully raked every day; a red stick in those that need be visited more or less—the ones that need partial raking rather frequently; and a white stick in those not used at all, for which only one raking a month would answer. The chairman used 25 blue sticks, 25 red sticks, and 132 white sticks. After he had mulled over his observations, he found that he could safely cut out two men—kept busy mostly in raking little-used bunkers. Incidentally he discovered that sharp sand is not the best bunker sand. Round-grained sand, like that of the seashore, rolls better, and at least partially fills all footprints, while the sharp sand has a pronounced tendency to pack.

Remedying a Muddy Ditch Hazard

E. J. MARSHALL

Nearly every golf course is traversed by a ditch or small brook into which balls are shot by the hundred. The constant stirring up of the bottom of such a ditch is sure to keep it soft and mushy, so that balls sink into the mud and are difficult to find. Each set of players and caddies that look for a ball stir up the water and mud and make the situation just a little bit worse for the next set. When the end of the day comes the ditch looks like a hog-wallow, and the mud is knee deep. Hundreds of balls are thus lost and the play around the course is impeded. Such a situation can easily be remedied by putting a concrete bottom in the ditch.

Dam the water back away from the part of the ditch to be fixed up; remove enough mud to allow concrete to be put in so the top of the concrete will be level with the bottom of the ditch; put in three or four inches of rough concrete.

The cost of fixing up such a ditch in a bad spot should not exceed twenty-five dollars, and it may save each member four or five dollars during the playing season. When the water in the ditch gets high, it should not be much trouble to put a screen of, say, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch mesh across the lower end of the concrete to catch and stop balls that bob along the bottom of the ditch. A stew-pan with holes in the bottom fastened on a stick can be left at the lower end of the ditch to be used to fish out balls. The avoidance of congestion on the course is worth more than the cost of the concrete, to say nothing of the saving to members.

Lawn Pennywort: A New Weed on Golf Courses

By A. A. HANSEN

A number of years ago a plant from southern Asia grew in greenhouses in the United States. During the period from 1890 to 1895 it found some use as a border plant and for flat bedding purposes. On account of its outdoor use, the plant spread and infested near-by lawns, in which the species became very aggressive and abundant.

It is particularly undesirable on golf greens, where it is readily disseminated by the seeds adhering to the shoes of players, especially following rains, when the ground is muddy. Large patches of the plant which recently appeared on the golf greens of the Washington Country Club, near Washington, D. C., not only damaged the turf, but were also obnoxious