

Meditations of a Peripatetic Golfer

There are three kinds of golf shots—good, mediocre, and poor. Now and then one sees a green to accommodate all three—the putting surface for the good shot, longer turf for the mediocre, and bunkers or rough for the poor shot. It's a good idea to bear in mind in modifying a green that is too large.

All fertilizers are good, but some are immeasurably better than others either in the results secured or in the money saved.

The fetich of 6,300 yards has ruined many a good hole. The ideal for a golf course is 18 holes, each good of its particular type, much more than it is any particular yardage. A good two-shot hole is infinitely to be preferred to a poor three-shotter.

Jim was top-dressing his greens with sand the other day. It looked to me as if someone had sold him fine gravel when he wasn't looking.

All golf courses are good if we judge by the interest the players show. So please don't call any golf course "rotten." In many cases a course can be greatly improved at small expense. If you are able to do it, tell the green-committee how to bring it about.

A green on top of a saddle-back ridge where it was very difficult to hold the ball, reminded me of another green with a rounded mound near the middle. One day, as a joke, the boys put the cup on top of this "chocolate drop" and then listened gleefully to the exasperated players "cuss out" the green-keeper.

Wanted.—Some effective remedy to cure players of the habit of climbing over the backs of bunkers instead of going out the way they went in. They never read and do not believe in signs, and cursing them does no good.

Bill is a mighty good green-keeper and always on the job. He gave me this tip the other day: keep a file of catalogs, repair lists, price quotations, etc., so they will be available at all times; it will save lots of time and some expense.

Consistent and intelligent buying is as important on a golf course as in a business.

Mighty little gray matter seems to be used in choosing sites for golf courses. Not long since we saw one 18-hole course on 80 acres of land, and another on 77. It must require some skill to dodge the flying golf balls. Apparently, too, the idea is abroad that a golf course should be built on the poorest land that can be found. At least that characteristic is the only evident one to account for the sites selected for some clubs.

Old Mr. Dubb the other day insisted that the thing which inspires a country club and keeps it alive is the golf course; also that it is the house which keeps it in the financial shoals most of the time. Dubb is really too brainy a man ever to become a crack player.

The little points count. My friend Jim insists that the tee-boxes and tee-benches be moved now and then. He doesn't like the bare places that develop in the turf if they are not moved occasionally.

"A golf club for golf" is the slogan a new organization has adopted. Fine business! That's what most of the clubs of the future are going to be. It costs too much money to run a marble mansion for social affairs competing with dozens of other purely social institutions in every city.

Some chairmen of green committees are showing signs of really human intelligence. In a recent annual report we read, "The experiments thus far conducted convince us that less is gained from reseeding established turf than most people believe, and that the best results may be expected from fertilizing and caring for existing turf with occasional light seedings on dead or damaged spots."

One club we know prohibits the wearing of metal-spiked shoes on the course, because of the injury to the turf. Hooray! There are plenty of reliable rubber-soled golf shoes now available.