

Sense or Nonsense in Experiments

The average greenkeeper looks with something akin to dread upon an incoming green committee at the beginning of each year. He knows that if the personnel of the committee has been changed he will be asked to apply a lot of new, half-baked notions that are contrary to his practice. There is something so obvious and simple about growing grass that everyone, even the cliff-dweller of the city, thinks he can speak with authority.

Every golf course should be maintained on some definite program year in and year out. The past should be kept as the standard, unless a departure is warranted by some good reason, and the reason should be good. Changes of program should be made sensibly with a clear view of the results that may be expected. There is no sense in trying anything and everything. Many a green has been ruined by that sort of thing. Just because someone learns that the experiments of the Rhode Island Experiment Station have shown that the continued use of sulfate of ammonia induces a soil condition that is beneficial to bent grasses and detrimental to weeds, don't think that this can be accomplished all at once by an overdose, but first learn all the facts about existing conditions, the faults to be corrected, the remedy to be applied, and the results to be expected. Go at it sensibly, with a full knowledge of the situation. If someone says that a moving equipment of some other make is better than the equipment in use, find out why before making the change and getting an assortment of different makes on hand. On one course, we know of four different makes of mowing machines that were in use—clearly a waste of money. Results can never be gained by changing about from one thing to another. While we advise conservatism in changes of program of treatment from one year to another, we insist that it should be progressive conservatism. Every greenkeeper and green-committeeman should keep posted and up to date on all matters relating to turf growing. He should know what others are doing, and particularly what remedies or treatment may be applied to correct conditions that are faulty; but careful study and consideration should precede any change.

Never, in any circumstances, make a change of treatment or attempt an experiment without leaving a check—an unchanged spot to be used as a basis of comparison. The combination of horse-sense and horse-manure is hard to beat, and it will be well to use it as a starting point for everything. There is no obligation to try everything that appears in **THE BULLETIN**. Go along in the old way until by careful study convincing evidence is available that a change is needed, and then make it sensibly and leave a check.

See That Your Greenkeeper Receives The Bulletin

The Green Committee observes that a good many clubs are having at least one of the two copies of **THE BULLETIN** mailed to the club itself. The man who shoulders the bulk of the responsibility for the upkeep of your turf is your greenkeeper. It is he above all who should receive **THE BULLETIN**. Copies should go to him addressed either to his residence, or in care of the club in such manner that they will unfailingly fall into his hands. If your greenkeeper's name and address are not on the mailing list for **THE BULLETIN**, send this information at once to the Green Committee.