

Mr. Hood tells of the practice of a certain golfer with divots and dandelions. He is quite right in his contention that the gentleman's practice has a good moral effect on his fellow-players. This brings up the question, Why not launch a movement to enlist players in the cause of bettering their golf courses by doing a little improvement work with every game, not enough to make it burdensome but enough to give them an intelligent interest in the course and a better understanding of what it means to produce good turf and keep the course in first-class condition? Get them started to replacing divots, removing loose stones from the paths and fairways, removing weeds from the greens (some instruction should be given in this connection to prevent injury to the turf), and doing other kinds of "police" work to polish up the course. When a player once begins to take a real intelligent interest in his home course he usually becomes a devoted student of the turf end of the game and incidentally a more useful member of his club. Possibly his score may suffer somewhat, but he will get a lot more fun out of golf. Let us hope that players with hobbies similar to that narrated by Mr. Hood will develop by the hundreds wherever golf is played.—EDITORS)

The Folly of Trying to Beat Nature

Patience is still a virtue even in these times when all else seems to be sacrificed to the desire for speed. The waste of haste is perhaps nowhere better illustrated than in the attempts made to build golf courses hurriedly. When a new club is formed, it is perfectly natural for the members to want the course finished as soon as possible, even if it involves much greater expenditure. It is true that the physical features of a new course, the putting-greens, the bunkers, the fairways, etc., can be built more quickly if many men are employed and the work pushed regardless of season or weather. But there are other considerations that no amount of money can overcome.

First, if the soil on the new course is at all clayey, it is very unwise to work on it while wet or water-logged. Not only is such work more expensive, but it necessarily involves puddling the soil so that it becomes baked when dry. No farmer is such a fool as to work heavy soils when wet. The injury done may require years to correct.

Secondly, when the soil conditions are very favorable, grass seed may be sown about September first and a turf good enough for winter rules secured by the following May. If, on the other hand, the sowing is done in spring, as too often done foolishly, it is practically out of the question to produce turf the same season fit for golfing. Nearly always it will involve additional seeding in the fall to fill up the spaces killed by crab-grass and other weeds. Dame Nature can't be hurried, flurried or worried. She must be treated as the diplomatic old negro learned to manage his wife,—
"Whatever my wife don't like, I naturally hates."

If you are going to build a new golf course, be wise. Begin work in spring, with the aim of getting the construction work done so as to seed between August 15 and September 15. Don't work in heavy soils when they are wet. Sowing fine grass seeds in the north except in late summer or early fall nearly always gives disappointing results, and never gives you good turf any sooner.

It is proverbially difficult to save a foolish man from folly, but in these days when we are trying to cut needless waste and extravagance out of golf, it is worth endless labor to try to get the golfing fraternity "to use its bean," as the high-school girl would say. There is a proper time for everything. The proper time to seed fine grasses is late summer, and no matter what else you do, spring seeding will bring you disappointment. Don't let any one persuade you otherwise.