

U. S. Golf Association Decision on the Rules of Golf

Question.—A and B are playing against each other at match play. A's second shot stops 3 inches from the cup. B's second ends in a trap. B plays his third and does not get out of the trap, and then takes a sort of hopeless swing at the ball, which hits the face of the trap, flies off at an unexpected angle, and strikes A, and from A goes on the green and in the cup for a four. A's ball in the meantime is, of course, still within 3 inches of the cup in two. B claims the hole, and the question is, whether or not he gets it. The rule, of course, says if a player's ball strikes his opponent's, the opponent loses the hole.

Answer.—Rule 18 covers the situation. It is the opponent's duty to keep out of the way until the hole is given up. A hole is given up when contact of the two minds agree, when they then pick up their balls and continue the game.

Spreading Top-Dressing

By LYMAN CARRIER.

One of the important details in greenkeeping is the spreading of top-dressing. Many of the older men in the profession know how to do this to get good results. But some greenkeepers apply top-dressing by such slipshod methods that the greens are damaged as much as benefited. It should be understood that top-dressings are used for two different purposes. If the right materials are employed they promote the growth of the grass. This is perhaps the more important reason for top-dressing. But it is highly desirable to top-dress sometimes even when the growth of grass is satisfactory, in order to fill up depressions and produce a smooth putting surface. We hear much about rolling to make the greens smooth; but it is the writer's observation that it is easier and more satisfactory from a turf-growing standpoint to fill the depressions than to roll out the bumps and ridges. An uneven surface is the cause of several of the ills with which putting greens are afflicted. It is often impossible to mow them without scalping the high points; and pounding away at these bumps with a roller does not do the grass any good.

MATERIALS TO USE.—The subject of composts and top-dressings has been quite thoroughly discussed in past issues of *THE BULLETIN*. It is the purpose of this article to call attention to the methods used by some successful greenkeepers in spreading the materials on the turf. Briefly, any soil is useful for top-dressing turf if it does not run together with water and then bake into a crust, does not contain gravel stones or other coarse particles which will deflect a ball, and does not contain seeds of troublesome weeds, pests of various kinds, or substances poisonous to grass. Top-dressing materials for putting greens should be screened. Screens with a quarter-inch mesh are most frequently used. Sand with a considerable quantity of gravel stones in it should be screened through an eighth-inch mesh. This fine screening is best done with the sand alone before it is mixed with manure or other soils. There are power machines now on the market for mixing and screening compost and other top-dressing materials. These are efficient and save a great deal of hand labor.