

Meditations of a Peripatetic Golfer

Moss on the fairways. This is almost a sure sign that fertilizer is needed.

For a new golf course the most important thing is to get the best possible layout on its land. This requires a lot of time and study, but it is worth the expense. Any single hole can be changed without much difficulty, but to change a whole layout is so costly that it is rarely done. The service the architect renders in determining the best possible layout is the most important service he can render the club.

Crested dog's-tail on a green is likely to make a putted ball jump. True. But no one has yet seen crested dog's-tail on any American putting green.

It is very difficult to grow good grass on a putting green in a seepage basin. In such a place artificial drainage must be provided. Usually it is better to relocate the green.

Fairways mowed in perfectly straight lines. They are not nearly so pretty as those cut in sweeping sinuous curves.

Crab grass on a green in summer time is like interest on borrowed money; "the more it eats the hungrier it gets."

Greenkeeping maxims:

Never put off until tomorrow what should be done today.

Remember, whatever is worth doing on a golf course is worth doing well.

Ignorance and indolence have no place on golf courses of today.

A green with small choppy undulations. Better make them broad and sweeping in contour.

Places to avoid include ponds, rough grass, bunkers, and sand wastes. Don't make all of your difficulties in the form of bunkers—that is, depressions with sand. A variety of difficulties increase interest and make more demand on skill.

Scotch broom scattered about a golf course. It adds what the artist calls atmosphere.

A hole that must be approached directly up a steep ridge of hill is usually a poor hole. It should go up the ridge diagonally to secure visibility.

When your fairways begins to look weak, get busy with fertilizers. Top-dressing weak places is always good practice.

Winterkilling in the low places and in saucer-like concavities. The drainage problem is far from solved on many, many golf courses.

Pearlwort again. Destroy the first few plants or it is very likely to get beyond control except at very great expense.

An impressive bunker is a good bunker. To be impressive it must be visible.

Copying a good hole is commendable. But do not imitate its faults.

A green cut into the face of a steep hill. Of course the boys play for the slope above and let the ball trickle back.