

These greens had a badly moth-eaten appearance and were rather seriously invaded by crab grass. After the crab grass was weeded out, the greens were thoroughly raked preparatory to top-dressing with loam and sand. Just prior to this top-dressing, creeping bent stolons were scattered thinly over the entire green, and more plentifully applied in the partially bare areas. Top soil was then applied by the hand-screen method and the greens watered and lightly rolled. The stolons are apparently rooting and growing as well or better than the old grass, so that a good putting turf composed largely of creeping bent, seems assured for the coming season.

Moles

By WILLIAM C. GEER, *Portage Country Club, Akron, Ohio*

Every greenkeeper and member of a greens committee recognizes how pestiferous are moles. It happens that in my own yard I have been fortunate or unfortunate enough to have had, perhaps, more of them than have appeared on the greens of the Portage Country Club. Having been trained as a chemist, I have naturally tried a number of substances during the past two or three years to eliminate the moles.

A year ago I obtained a quantity of paradichlorbenzine, a chemical which the Department of Agriculture found exceedingly efficient as an insecticide for the peach tree borer. It is commercially obtainable in the form of a powder which, when placed in the ground, gives off a heavy poisonous gas which penetrates the soil. The thought occurred to try some of this to see what effect it would have on moles. My natural feeling was that since it affects the mucous membrane of anyone who smells of it sufficiently to drive him from its immediate vicinity, it might work out in a way to drive away moles; which is about all we care to achieve. In the fall of last year, therefore, experiments were made in my yard.

The runways were opened at intervals of six to ten feet and about a teaspoonful of the paradichlorbenzine dropped in and the soil put back. There was no further activity of moles in the area thus treated. Again this summer, when the activities of the moles began again, I tried it as a preventive measure. Instead of waiting for them to start into the territory where the working has been most active, little holes were dug in the sod at intervals of about ten feet in a checkerboard fashion over some forty feet along the edge of the lawn, from which the mole activity had evidently come. About four rows of these holes were made about ten feet apart out into the yard. This was done in July, and up to the present, the middle of October, there has been no evidence of mole activity. What has happened to the moles I do not know, but they did not dig up the yard.

Thinking, then, that it might be worth trying further, a small quantity of the paradichlorbenzine was given to the greenkeeper at the Portage Country Club, with instructions simply to open mole runways and inject a small quantity. The report has now come that wherever this substance was applied, no more mole activity has been observed.

This substance is now being tried out on a larger scale, but it seemed unnecessary to wait for the completion of our experiments before letting others know of the results. It is still in the experimental stage and final conclusions can not be available until after a very thorough study over a period of a year. This little story, therefore, is simply a contribution in the hope that others may find this substance of some value.